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GRACE BROS

More than 500,000 come out to watch the parade go by 'Record' Mardi Gras

SYDNEY: Thousands of members of Sydney's homosexual community continued to party yesterday as council workers cleaned the streets of litter left by the record crowd at Saturday night's annual Mardi Gras parade.

An estimated 500,000 people watched the world-famous parade, leaving city streets awash with bottles, cans, paper and scores of milk crates used as makeshift viewing platforms.

Mardi Gras president Susan Harben said the celebration of the community's gay pride went off without major incident, although a 35-year-old woman was shot in the shoulder as she walked along Flinders Street, which had been the centre of the parade.

Police said yesterday they did not believe the 2.30am shooting was directly related to the Mardi Gras, which officers reported had been orderly.

The woman was reported to be in a stable condition in nearby St Vincent's Hospital.

Witnesses said the shooting occurred after an argument in the street.

Thousands of gays and lesbians continued celebrating yesterday, many spilling out of the popular party at the showgrounds well after 10am. The party was capped off late yesterday morning by an impromptu singing performance by flamboyant British star Julian Clary.

Saturday night's parade took more than two hours to wind from its beginning in Elizabeth Street, along Oxford Street, and on to the showgrounds at Moore Park.

Leading the spectacle by some 20 minutes was Clary, surprisingly understated in a tight-fitting white satin jumpsuit with pink spots, a jewelled dog collar and brown lace-up boots.

He waved regally as float companions comedian Wendy Harmer and actor Maggie Kirkpatrick appealed through loud-hailers for donations to



Flamboyant: A Mardi Gras performer celebrates the theme of gay pride during the weekend parade

community-based AIDS charity, the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation.

The "cash collection" was followed by a group of MPs showing their support for the gay and lesbian community, including gay MP Paul O'Grady and Clover Moore, whose seat of Bligh covers Sydney's inner-city area.

The Labor MP for the federal electorate of Phillip, Jeannette McHugh, acknowledged one supporter in the at times 20-deep crowd, who had called out her name, with a solidarity clasp above her head.

Some of the biggest cheers were for the FAGS, or Fairies Against the GST, float, and for one by Veterans Against Discrimination, featuring a 5m-high effigy of Victorian RSL President Bruce Ruxton in a gold lamé 1940s swimsuit.

Several walking and dancing groups also were loudly cheered, including a dozen or more couples in their early 60s, calling themselves the Proud Parents of Gays and Lesbians.

The parade also featured Batman and Friends, a group on a butterfly

float urging gays and lesbians to come out, and dancing bodies dressed in everything from hot pants, to bright body paint and G-strings.

Not so impressed was the morals campaigner Fred Nile, who yesterday made his annual call for a boycott of the parade, claiming most participants had the AIDS virus.

About 30 people gathered at a truck along the parade route, helping Mr Nile pray for those in the parade and for Sydney's gay and lesbian community.

Nyet yet for Foreign Affairs in Moscow

By FRANK CRANSTON

Canberra isn't the only place the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is having bother with new buildings.

The Russian Government is just as indifferent to DFAT's plans for erecting new edifices as is the federal Opposition.

The problem in Russia is complicated. There's no disagreement about building the place, as there is in Canberra; it's just that nobody seems prepared to sign on the dotted line.

The Australian Government has a block of land on which to erect its little bit of Canberra on the Moskva but it can't get anybody interested in seeing it built.

The Russians, it seems, have other priorities on their plate than the desire of the Australian Government to put up a better face than it can in the old backstreet building now Her Majesty's Australian Embassy but which pre-revolution (the 1917 one) was the home of a wealthy banker.

Regardless that the job would inject much-needed foreign currency and jobs into Moscow, officials are not interested.

Nobody has objected or said we can't build the thing (which is why they allowed us to get the land) but it seems that nobody can give permission either.

"We don't think they are being deliberately obstructive," a Foreign Affairs spokesman explained last week, "but they do appear to have other things on their minds right now."

There is also the possibility the Russians realise that once we get a new embassy on their home turf the Australian Government will put on the hard word that it's time Moscow build a new home here in Canberra and got out of the residential zone.

Meanwhile a wary eye is being kept on Russian numbers in Australia now that it's only part of what used to be a much larger outfit.

At last count Moscow had 34 people in Canberra plus three trade representatives in Sydney who don't seem to sell much. That's well down on the 89 they had here in the heady Cold War days.

We have about 28 people in Moscow which is about the same as before the economic nationalists took over there.

But it's not all nyets. The Russians have lifted restrictions on Australian diplomats travelling more than 50km out of town without giving advance warning.

War-crimes trial today

ADELAIDE: The Australian League of Rights said yesterday it would protest outside the Supreme Court in Adelaide today when 76-year-old pensioner Ivan Polyukhovich stands trial for war crimes.

Polyukhovich is to face the court charged with murdering a Jewish woman in the Ukraine in 1942 and with being knowingly concerned with the murder of 850 other people.

Two charged over alleged \$1.6m drugs

SYDNEY: Two men have been charged over the possession of a substance believed to be heroin and estimated to have a street value of \$1.6 million, police said yesterday.

Police said the men were arrested about 11am in Parramatta Road, in inner city Glebe, by Task Force Five detectives from the Drug Enforcement Agency who allegedly confiscated 766g of heroin.

A 36-year-old man and a 39-year-old man, both from Bankstown, were charged at the Sydney Police Centre with supplying a commercial amount of a prohibited drug and possession of an unlicensed pistol.

They were refused bail and will appear in Central Local Court this morning.

Police said a third man, 33, who was arrested on foot, while the other two had been arrested in a car, had not been charged.

He was under police guard last night in a Sydney hospital after suffering a fractured elbow.

Athletes died after 'illegal' steroid use

SYDNEY: Australia's first two people reported to have died of heart attacks after using anabolic steroids were the first found to have taken a rare steroid, according to a Sydney consultant physician.

The two apparently fit young footballers who died had been taking the illegal anabolic steroid oxymesterone, Dr Michael Kennedy, of St Vincent's and Manly hospitals said.

Oxymesterone had never been approved in Australia and was rarely used.

Dr Kennedy, an honorary research fellow at St Vincent's, and forensic pathologist Dr Christopher Lawrence, of the NSW Institute of Forensic Medicine, reported the cases in the latest *Medical Journal of Australia*.

Their article says that the 24-year-old, who collapsed and died while playing football, and the 18-year-old, who died while training, both had enlarged hearts with thickened and scarred tissue.

Neither had been known to be taking steroids, but one of them had

recently put on a lot of muscle and become irritable and prone to sudden rages.

The first fatal heart attack associated with anabolic steroids was in 1990 in America.

According to Dr Kennedy, steroids have not been proved to cause cardiac death, but nor have they been proved effective as performance-enhancing drugs.

"They don't do much to make you fitter, stronger or better but they do have side effects," he said.

Side effects included increased aggression, acne, baldness, shrunken testicles, and breast growth in men.

Steroids could stunt children's growth by fusing their bones prematurely and in women they increased hairiness, enlarged clitorises and could cause a possibly permanent deepening of the voice.

He hoped the two cases would prompt doctors to investigate possible steroid abuse when considering young people with acute heart problems or stroke.

NT Govt gets praise from a land chief

BATCHELOR, NT: One of Australia's most powerful Aboriginal leaders gave rare praise yesterday to the Northern Territory Government for its new conciliatory approach to Aboriginal issues.

Garrwuy Yunupingu, chairman of the Northern Land Council, described newly appointed NT Aboriginal Development minister Steve Hatton as "a man of strength".

Mr Yunupingu was speaking at a land hand-over ceremony at Batchelor, 100km south of Darwin, also attended by the federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Robert Tickner.

Mr Hatton was appointed last November as the NT Government's first minister dealing specifically with Aboriginal affairs.

Relations between the NLC and the Country Liberal Party NT Government have traditionally been hostile.

However, Mr Yunupingu told about 500 people gathered at the ceremony that Mr Hatton offered new hope to Aboriginal people in the territory.

IN BRIEF

Engineers back new nuclear reactor call

The Institution of Engineers Australia has come out in support of a new nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights near Sydney, saying Australia needed to replace the research reactor to stay ahead of nuclear science.

The institution's submission to the Federal Government's inquiry into whether a new reactor is needed says that without one Australia could risk losing its seat on the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, in its submission, says a new reactor could cost up to \$330 million to build, on top of the cost of shutting down the existing reactor, but that it would more than pay for itself in research and industrial benefits.

Murder probe

PERTH: Detectives said yesterday they were keen to speak to a man seen hitch-hiking on the day after the brutal murders of a family of four in Western Australia, although he was not a suspect.

Police have confirmed that the murdered mother of three had earlier expressed fears for her safety.

Baby abandoned

SYDNEY: A newborn baby boy was found abandoned in a car at Orange in central-western NSW yesterday. The baby, who was less than an hour old when found, was "doing well" in hospital.

Air show star

The only Soviet-designed MiG 17 jet fighter in Australia is expected to be a star attraction at the Canberra Festival Air Show on March 13 and 14. The veteran Soviet fighter will be joined by a stablemate MiG 15 and vintage machines.

The ACT Society for the Physically Handicapped will benefit from the weekend's proceeds.

Ainslie theft

Police have arrested a man following an armed robbery of a man and two women at 5.15am on Saturday at the Mount Ainslie lookout by a man alleged to have been brandishing a knife. Police said a man had approached the three and demanded money.

Police said last night he would be charged today with armed robbery as well as an attempted burglary and assault allegedly committed at the Watson Newsagency also during the early hours of Saturday.

LAW LIST FOR TODAY

FAMILY COURT

Before Judicial Registrar Ramsdon in Court 2: Blackmore, McMahon/Smith, Brown, Brew/Capanni, Condon, Cant, Chopra, Garing, Petty, Maly, Cheng.

Before Registrar Davis in Court 3 the Registrar's Duty List as follows: Dunkley/Pollock, Rule, Cranmer, Marquis, Stokes, Pripic, Valeri, Smith/Fairhall, Subasic/King, Excell, Beckett, Bennett/Cullaghan, McLachlan, Ross, Vidler, Chey, Robby/Essai, Dengate/Stockman, Golby, Lording, Donovan, Watt, Rowland/Cox, Clarke-Bruce, Richardson/Thompson, Maly, Shields, McDonald, Baric/Hayes, Kisigory, Cumberland, Horn/Leung.

Before Deputy Registrar O'Rourke in Court 4: At 2.15pm Boyle.

Before Deputy Registrar Morrissey in Chambers: At 9.30am Constant. At 2.15pm Callaway.

A.C.T. SUPREME COURT

Before Chief Justice Miles in Court 1: ACT Law Courts, at 10.30am: Trial: R v Gordon Anthony Boye (part heard).

Before Justice Gallop in Court 2: ACT Law Courts, at 10.30am: Calloway - Criminal List: Trials: R v K.S. R v Galvin; R v Phantassies; R v Bowerman; R v Eastman; R v Butler; R v James; R v Reeves; R v Eastman; R v Eastman; R v Eastman; R v Buggy; R v Bresser; R v Li; R v Eastman; R v Booth; R v Brumby; R v Longmore; R v Dionisio; R v O'Neill; R v Grame; R v Howell; R v Towse; R v Eastman; R v O'Connor; R v WJ; R v Linfoot; R v Pagler; R v Ames; R v Ticken; R v Atkinson; R v Clearman; R v Henderson; R v Eastman; R v MS; R v Budge; R v McInerney; R v Ausserlechner; R v Stunham; R v Hazell; Sentences: R v Hannigan; R v Blackley; R v Sinclair; R v Hollingshead; R v Rodgers. At

11am: Trial: R v Phillip G. Gelding. Before Justice Higgins in Court 6: ACT Law Courts, at 10am: Hearing: Paul Dally and another v Rocco Onorato.

Before the Master in Hearing Room 1, 4th Floor AMP Building, at 10.00am: Hearing: Patricia Andreatta v Owen Pudley Dennis; Eva Takacs v Scott Brown. Dawn Jeannette Gibson v Westfield Shopping Centre Management Company (ACT) Pty Limited.

Before the Registrar in Hearing Room 3, 3rd Floor AMP Building, at 10.00am: Motions - Civil Jurisdiction: Rogerson v Grafen; In the matter of Skylark P/L and the Corporations Law; Martin v Goodwin Retirement Villages P/L; ANU v McGuire; In the matter of Pajongly P/L and the Corporations Law; Cole v Allied Asphalt Co. P/L; Robson v Heaton; In the matter of Lentrax Holdings P/L and the Corporations Law.

Before the Deputy Registrar in Court 6 ACT Law Courts, at 9.30am: Return of Subpoenas: Pollock bnf Pollock v Robinson and another; McLean v McLean; D'elia v Adriatic Bookbinders P/L; McLean v Sekav; Lippatt v Coles Myer Ltd; Slavica v Skewes; Butters v Taira (T and D) P/L; Erindale Supabarn; Dixon v Butler and another.

NOTICE TO JURORS
Jurors serving in the trial of R v Boye are required today at 10.30am. Persons who were summoned to attend the Supreme Court today are required at 10.30am.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION
Before Commissioner Hodder, in hearing room 1, at 10.30am: Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Association, and John McCredy Enterprises re collection of shopping trolleys.

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