



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

Carnival goers pack clubs, Samba parade on first day

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil -- The first feverish day of Carnival exploded Saturday with thousands of revelers jamming costume balls, bars and samba parades to indulge in four days of drinking, dancing and sexual abandon.

In Recife, about 1,536 miles northeast of Rio, lavishly decorated trucks pumping highly amplified samba music from their loudspeakers inched down dancercracked avenues.

Meanwhile, in the coastal cities of Fortaleza and Salvador, sunbathers packed beaches and revelers went wild dancing "the crocodile," hopping back and forth along boulevards behind throbbing samba bands and music trucks that headed parade processions.

But spirits were hardly high in Belo Horizonte, the nation's third-largest city about 288 miles northwest of Rio. After the municipal government canceled the city's main Carnival festivities because of a lack of funds, thousands packed bus stations and airports to enjoy the festival in other cities.

In Rio, however, little seemed able to dampen Carnival euphoria - not last year's record 1,000 percent inflation, nor charges of corruption and nepotism in the government, nor the closing of schools and hospitals because city employees hadn't received their December paychecks.

After the official opening ceremonies Saturday, in which jolly and fat King Momo, Carnival's symbolic sovereign, received the keys to the city from Mayor Marcello Alencar, crowds of thousands accompanied by bands and parades started singing and dancing down the streets of downtown Rio.

Poorer Brazilians banged out rhythms on pots and pans and frolicked in the falling rain, while the city's well-heeled donned glittering beaded costumes and danced the samba all night in luxurious ballrooms.

On Friday night at the Sugar Loaf Ball, the first of a number of ornate, celebrity-studded balls at the base of Rio's famed Sugar Loaf Mountain, the crowd went wild dancing beneath statues of Marilyn Monroe and Lenin.

And at Rio's famed Scala nightclub, the site of some of the rowdiest Carnival balls, party-goers ate and drank from a stock of 1 ton of filet mignon, 650 pounds of shrimp, 210 cases of scotch and 2,600 gallons of draft beer.

Behind the merrymaking, authorities are concerned about uncontrolled sex and a sharp increase of AIDS cases. Brazil, with about 4,946 registered cases since 1980, is third in the world in the number of AIDS cases after the United States and France.

Newspapers report

Botha could retire soon

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa -- Newspapers Sunday said President P.W. Botha, who stepped down as leader of the ruling party last week, may retire soon.

Botha, who suffered a stroke Jan. 18, resigned Thursday as head of the National Party and was replaced the same day by National Education Minister F.W. de Klerk, who is considered Botha's heir apparent as president.

Botha said he will stay on as president, but he has appointed Constitutional Development Minister Chris Heunis as acting president while he recuperates.

Doctors say the 73-year-old Botha is making a rapid recovery but will need at least another month before he can consider returning to work.

Botha was not present for the opening of Parliament in Cape Town on Friday and has not been participating in the government's day-to-day operations, officials have said.

The Sunday Times, the country's largest paper, said in a front-page story that Botha's decision to step down as party chief "is a prelude to complete withdrawal from public life."

The newspaper, citing unidentified sources within the National Party, said Botha may retire "within weeks."

Khamenei says ties are blocked

NICOSIA, Cyprus -- Iranian President Ali Khamenei said Sunday that diplomatic relations with Washington will not be possible until the United States abandons its hostile posture toward Iran, Tehran radio said.

"There can be no change in our stance against America, unless there is a change in American foreign policy toward Iran," the official broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Khamenei as saying.

"What forces us into our present stance against the United States is its hostile and extremely conspiratorial behavior toward the Islamic Republic and the revolution . . ."

"What can cause change in the present situation is surely a change in this hostile attitude, and a change in America's policy of domination," Khamenei said.

After virtually isolating itself from the international community during the Iran-Iraq war, Tehran has been opening doors to both East and West bloc countries since the Aug. 20 cease-fire.

But anti-Americanism still is a cornerstone of Tehran's foreign policy.

Khamenei also condemned Israeli actions in the occupied territories and South Africa's policy of race segregation. He said Iran would not establish ties with either of those countries.

The Sunday Star of Johannesburg said in its front-page story that Botha's decision to relinquish his party post has sown confusion, because National Party members now owe allegiance to three leaders - Botha, de Klerk and Heunis.

"Botha has to retire from the presidency soon to solve the crisis," the newspaper reported, also citing unidentified sources within the National Party.

As president, Botha still has control over policy-making, while de Klerk will be responsible for the fun-

damentals of partisan politics, such as organization and fundraising.

Botha has refused to divulge his retirement plans, and both newspapers said he needs to give a clear indication of his intentions.

"He deems it unnecessary to offer any clue as to how - or how long - he proposes to wield power," The Sunday Star said in an editorial. "Not even (de Klerk) knows how it is all going to work."

The government must call an election before March 1990 and there has been widespread speculation it could be held as early as April this year.

Goodwill is shown of U.S.-Soviet citizens in recent opinion poll

NEW YORK -- A U.S.-Soviet public opinion poll has found good will among residents of Moscow and four American cities, despite fears over their nations' longstanding rivalry.

Majorities in Moscow and in the U.S. cities saw the superpowers as friendly, the survey found, and more than eight in 10 agreed the two nations were entering "a new era of peace and cooperation."

At the same time, nearly four in 10 Muscovites saw the United States as a serious threat to their nation, and as many or more of the Americans saw the Soviets as a threat to the United States, the survey found.

The poll was sponsored by WCVB-TV in Boston, the Detroit Free Press, the Daily News and WCBS television and radio in New York, and KRON-TV in San Francisco. It was conducted by telephone Dec. 15-25 among approximately 1,000 adults each in Moscow and New York and about 600 each in Boston, Detroit and San Francisco. It had a three-point margin of error for the larger samples, four for the smaller ones. The results were published last week.

The survey measured social as well as political views, providing for comparisons of the beliefs and life-

styles of the Soviets and Americans in the cities where it was conducted.

Muscovites, for example, were considerably more confident in their government, with 37 percent saying they always can trust it to do what's right. Just 6 percent of the Americans said the same of their government.

But more of the Americans had great pride in their nationality. Depending on the city, about seven in 10 said they were very proud to be Americans. In Moscow, four in 10 were very proud to be Soviets.

The Americans were far more content with the goods and services available to them and more positive about their economy. More than half said their lives had improved in recent years, compared with 37 percent of Muscovites.

Whatever their nations' differences, at least three-quarters of the Americans in each city said they had a generally favorable impression of the Soviet people. Similarly, eight in 10 Soviets thought well of Americans.

The survey was conducted in the United States by two polling companies, Market Opinion Research and Marutia & Kiley, and in Moscow by the Institute for Sociology, a branch of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, with monitoring by the U.S. pollsters.

Human bones sold in Nigeria

LAGOS, Nigeria -- Police arrested three people for trading in human skulls and other body parts in a local market, the Sunday Concord reported.

The newspaper said police recovered five human skulls, including jaw bones, and several leg, hand and arm

bones. The arrests were made Saturday after police were tipped about the sales.

One of those arrested told police that most of the body parts were bought from cemetery attendants.

Human skulls and bones have been used in some West Africa rituals.

34-year leader leaves for Brazil, but polls are to be in 3 months

ASUNCION, Paraguay -- Former President Alfredo Stroessner, who ruled this nation 34 years until he was ousted in a coup two days ago, boarded a jetliner Sunday and flew into exile in Brazil.

Virgilio Moretzsohn, a councilor at the Brazilian Embassy, told The Associated Press earlier that Brazil had agreed to Paraguay's request that it accept Stroessner.

The Roman Catholic radio station Radio Caritas reported that Stroessner would go to the Atlantic coastal resort of Guaratuba, in the Brazilian state of Parana. Stroessner, 76, has vacationed there often.

The presence of a plane surrounded by soldiers at President Stroessner International Airport drew hundreds of onlookers to see in person, perhaps for the last time, the man who took power in a 1954 coup.

Stroessner had been under house arrest near the capital since he was captured early Friday, after a night of fighting.

Earlier Sunday, Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana announced that elections for president and Congress will be held in three months.

"Within a few days, we will decree a new election law and a new electoral system which will dissolve

both houses of Congress, and call for elections within three months dating from last Friday," Argana said.

Gen. Andres Rodriguez, who led a coup against Stroessner that resulted in the president's ouster, was sworn in as president later that day. It was not immediately clear if he would run in the elections.

The death toll from the coup has been estimated at up to 300, but no official figures have been given.

Rodriguez had been Stroessner's second-in-command in the army, and his daughter is married to one of Stroessner's sons.

Daily Nebraskan

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