

# Ronnie Virgets: Unreeled!

BATH (TUB) -- Some people are "unplugged". Some are unhinged. But Ronnie Virgets, star of "Real New Orleans" and famous Yat Philosopher/King, is unreeled.

"Unreal is the only way to describe the feeling of being King of Krewe du Vieux," said his Eminence. "Most people never dream this could happen to them -- in fact, most people pray that it never happens to them."

After the ceremonial kiss of certain sudsy frogs ("ancient Indian power medicine," according to our leaping lord), the King will lead his troops from the sanctity of his royal bathtub as they reel through the French Quarter. Fortunately, King Ronnie has undertaken rigorous training for the ardors of the trip. "As the first King of Vieux to do the entire parade on his back, I have spent two hours a day practicing throwing beads and cups from a reclining position," quoth the prostrate potentate.

Additionally, stumbling through some twenty Italian-American parades, and a like number of St. Patrick's Day marches -- not to mention playing silent trombone in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Elementary School marching band -- have left the

magnificent monarch ready to brave the rigors of the ride.

His Highness will be accompanied by his consort Queen, Lynn Jenkins. Queen Lynn will costume as a sort of combination mermaid/Roman bath attendant, a concept that leaves king and spectators alike drooling at the possibilities.

Waxing Yat-philosophical, the supine sovereign remarked of the Krewe du Vieux's 10th French Quarter sashay, "This is where Carnival started. So much of the city is going into slickification -- I'm proud to be part of such a glorious retro movement."

When not indulging in Carnival capers, King Ronnie actually has a real job in the reel world, having recently switched channels to WWL-4. "This is my first regular paycheck in five years," he revealed mournfully, "but I regard it as only a temporary setback."

Krewe du Vieux is proud to honor such an accomplished king of comic decadence. While commercialism and politics rear their ugly heads in so many other Mardi Gras events, the Krewe invites you to enjoy the real New Orleans thing.

# Decade-ence: Krewe du Vieux, Ten Years After

ONLY IN THE FRENCH QUARTER - Jerry old buddy, you were right, and we only wish you could be here to see it. What a long, strange trip it has been.

The Krewe du Vieux was born out of the ashes of the much-loved, ill-fated Krewe of Clones. When, in 1986, Clones imploded under the weight of too many funky egos, a few dedicated sub-krewes got together to stage a clone funeral. Despite having the constabulary called on them by certain forces of evil, all participants agreed it was too good to let die, and lo, unto them a Krewe was born.

Dedicated to the time-honored traditions of Carnival as a chance for everyman to satirize the elite and let it all hang out, the group obtained permission to march in the French Quarter -- Vieux Carre -- and Krewe du Vieux was baptized. A year-by-year list of themes and royalty:

1987 - Lovers of the Stage and Screen; Charmaine Neville and Harry Lee dummy

1988 - Krewe du Vieux Eats Out; Paul and K Prudhomme

1989 - Krewe du Vieux Predicts!; Lois Simbach and a 12-foot ju-ju doll

1990 - Krewe du Vieux Smells Something Fishy; Al and Sarah Scramuzza

1991 - Lost Conventions; Ricky Graham and Becky Allen

1992 - Krewe du Vieux Rights the News; Angus and Anne Lind

1993 - Posthumorously Yours; Henri Schindler

1994 - The Ballot of New Orleans; Danny Barker

1995 - Unnaturally New Orleans; GiO

1996 - Krewe du Vieux Achieves Decade-ence; Ronnie Virgits

As the threat of imminent commercialization of Mardi Gras grows ever stronger, we wonder how much longer it will remain a party of the people. Regardless, Krewe du Vieux is forever dedicated to the pure spirit of Carnival: satire, music, fantasy, fun, and naked public intoxication.

