Wie feiert man heute Fasching? (How is Fasching celebrated today?)

1. Fasching is not limited to the big cities alone. Throughout Bavaria, even the smallest villages compete with each other in arranging carnival processions and setting up princess of their own.

2. Each region has its own carnival “war cry,” and in Munich it is “Eins, zwei, g’suffa!” This clearly shows the role that drinking plays in the merry-making of Fasching.

3. Today contemporary Germans dress like demons, dolls, and hobos during Fasching, just to have fun before Lent.

4. Ballooning (helium balloons) is another part of the Fasching festival activities.

5. Although sex plays an important part in Fasching for many Germans, there are many who stroll the streets or attend the Fasching parties as spectators.

6. Fasching is a friendly time:
   - Everybody gets along with everybody else.
   - The “Sie” form is dropped, and the “du” form is substituted, or first names are used when talking to people.
   - Common greeting is “Eins, zwei, g’suffa!” in München and most of Bavaria.
   - This Fasching greeting is used to greet anyone you run into, even if it’s a total stranger. It’s called out from floats in the parade and returned by gawking, singing crowds in the streets.
   - Rich or poor, high and low—during Fasching everyone is equal.

7. In Munich, the gateway to the Alps, visitors can readily discover why Bavarians feel their capital is the focal point of Germany’s carnival.
   - By Ash Wednesday, this city will have witnessed some 3,000 costume balls, not counting the impromptu celebrations that erupt spontaneously in the beer and wine “Stuben” throughout the city.
   - Crowds are massive. Tens of thousands are packed together and seem bent on self-destruction.
   - Despite the jostling and “drunken condition” of the crowd, it’s rare to see tempers flare: a smile is the badge of Fasching.

8. All traditions and history come together during Fasching, but it ends abruptly at midnight on Shrove Tuesday when Ash Wednesday begins.