

It was a Grand Old Party

Bush sworn in as 43rd president while father stands by

WASHINGTON (AP) — George Walker Bush, swearing the same oath as his father before him, became America's 43rd president Saturday, pledging to "build a single nation of justice and opportunity" after one of the most turbulent elections in history.



BUSH

"I'm here to tell the country that things will get done, that we're going to rise above expectations, that both Republicans and Democrats will come together to do what's right for America."

— George W. Bush
President of the United States

The new president delighted onlookers when he got out of his car. Protected by heavy security, he walked the last block of the parade holding hands with his wife.

Bush and his extended family watched the inaugural parade with umbrellas overhead during an intermittent hard rain. There were bands, floats, riders on horseback, a precision lawn chair demonstration team — even a group of Idaho women in red house dresses and blue aprons who danced with shopping carts.

It was a pomp-filled end to a campaign that saw Bush finish second in the popular vote but a narrow winner in the

all-important electoral competition. Departing Vice President Al Gore, Bush's defeated rival, watched the proceedings stoically, a silent reminder of the five-week post-election battle that was stopped by the Supreme Court.

Richard Cheney was sworn in as vice president at 11:57 a.m.

Bush followed at 12:02 p.m., then reached for his father's right hand and hugged him, putting his left hand around his dad's head. The senior Bush wiped away a tear and the new president's eyes welled up, too. It was the second time in American history a son had followed his father to the White House. John Quincy Adams traced his father's steps 176 years ago.

A traditional 21-gun salute marked the change of command as Bush fought back tears again — and snapped a salute to the crowd — after the national anthem was played.

In one of his first acts, Bush formally submitted his Cabinet nominations to the Senate. Among those quickly confirmed and sworn into office were Colin Powell as secretary of state, Donald Rumsfeld as defense secretary, Paul O'Neill as treasury secretary and Spencer Abraham as energy secretary.

Bush signed an executive order establishing ethical standards for his new administration and moved to halt Clinton's blizzard of executive orders and rules. Among the targets were new Medicare guidelines and environmental protections.

The president also ordered a temporary federal hiring freeze until his new

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Above: Parade-goer holds a sign welcoming President Bush to Washington. Right: A member of the Ross Volunteers marches along the parade route. Below: The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band marches in the inaugural parade.



TOP LEFT: STUART VILLANUEVA; TOP RIGHT, BOTTOM: PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

Texas Aggie Band, Ross Volunteers represent A&M in inaugural parade

BY MARK PASSWATERS

The Battalion

WASHINGTON — After an 1,800-mile trip and days of anxious waiting, the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band and the Ross Volunteers finally got to do what they came to Washington, D.C., to do — march in the 54th presidential inaugural parade Saturday.

For the Aggie Band, the experience was especially sweet, considering that many members of the band did not expect an invitation.

"We had heard that they were only inviting the (University of Texas) band and Texas Tech's," said Jason Fritzier, a member of the band and a junior animal science major.

Fritzier said that, when the invitation from the inaugural committee arrived before the band left to play in the Sanford Independence Bowl, the band was surprised.

Constant rain, near-freezing temperatures and possible snow caused concern among band members in the days before the inaugural parade, because bad weather would have caused the event to be canceled.

"Everyone was kind of disappointed (when it looked like the parade might be canceled)," Fritzier said. "But then we figured that they had spent so much time and money that there was no way they would cancel it."

The parade, scheduled to begin at 2 p.m., started almost two hours late.

Greg Baird, a band member and a junior electrical engineering major, said the band was scheduled to arrive at 11:30 a.m., have lunch and pass through security.

"Then they told us to get in line, and we waited there for about an hour and a half," Baird said.

He said that once the parade began, the band did not pay attention to the protesters along the parade route. He

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Above left: Bo Wilson, mascot corporal, carries Reveille up the escalator to the Black Tie & Boots Ball on Friday. More than 7,000 people attended the ball. Some attendees paid up to \$3,600 for tickets. Above right: Tara Watson, Miss Texas 2000, poses for pictures with members of



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

the Ross Volunteers. Others in attendance included Troy Aikman, Chuck Norris, Bo Derek, ZZ Top, Tanya Tucker, the Beach Boys and Clint Black. Below: Protesters gathered along the inaugural parade route. There was brief tension between police and demonstrators.

Texans kick up their heels at Black Tie & Boots Ball

BY MARK PASSWATERS

The Battalion

WASHINGTON — For every presidential inauguration, one social event always stands head and shoulders above the rest. In the case of President George W. Bush, the hot ticket was the Black Tie & Boots Ball hosted by the Texas State Society and the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington's posh Adams-Morgan neighborhood.

Some of the ball's more than 7,000 guests paid \$3,600 for their tickets. Friday's ball was billed as having the best of all things Texan.

One of the most photographed ladies at the ball was Texas A&M's mascot, Reveille VI. For more than five hours, Reveille and her handlers from Corps of Cadets Company E-2 posed for pictures. One of those who wanted to pose with Reveille was Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Class of '72.

"It's crazy, but it's a lot of fun," said Bo Wilson, a sophomore business major.

Looking out over the crowd assembled in the hotel, Even Epstein, a freshman political science major, said the reaction to Reveille was "pretty overwhelming."

Jake McCarroll, a sophomore computer science major, said the ball was "one of the best parties I've ever been to."

Celebrities attending the ball included movie stars Chuck Norris and Bo Derek, Dallas Cowboys quarterbacks Troy Aikman and Roger Staubach, and golfer Ben Crenshaw. Musical

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CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

...but not for all Protesters clash with police at parade

WASHINGTON (AP) — George W. Bush's motorcade lurched through the largest inaugural protests since Richard Nixon on Saturday, enduring thousands of protesters who hurled insults, bottles, tomatoes and an egg.

Protesters clashed briefly with police clad in riot gear at a few flash points while Bush remained inside his armored stretch car for most of the parade up a soggy, cold Pennsylvania Avenue.

Police ordered the motorcade to slow in anticipation of some protests — at one point stopping it for five minutes — and then sped it through others.

A couple of protesters threw bottles and tomatoes before the presidential limousine arrived, and one hurled an

egg that landed near the motorcade, the Secret Service said.

But the protesters managed little else to interrupt the festivities in the face of a massive show of 7,000 police officers. As the day grew darker and colder, authorities had arrested only six people and activists began to disperse, said Terrence W. Gainer, executive assistant chief of police. One of them was charged with assault with a deadly weapon after slashing tires and trying to assault an officer, Gainer said.

"Hail to the Thief," read one sign along the parade route questioning the legitimacy of Bush's election win in

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