

INAUGURAL TWO-STEP

Local celebration draws political figures and A&M students, features Texas-style dancing and music

By KENDRA KINGSLEY
The Battalion

For 9-year-old Garrison Liles, the Brazos County Republican Party's inaugural ball meant more than just politics.

"I didn't really care who won president," he said. "I was just really nervous about performing my song and dance [routine] in front of everyone at the ball."

Liles was one of many children to perform at the inaugural ball.

For the rest of the guests, President George W. Bush was the toast of the party.

Though the party's location in the Student Recreation Center's Archery room was no match for Washington's Black Tie & Boots Ball on Friday, Republican spirit ran high throughout the program.

Fred Brown, state representative and the program's master of ceremonies, said he thought Bush's new administration was a reason for celebration in itself.

"For the first time in eight years, integrity has been restored in the White House," Brown said.

State Board of Education member Dr. Don McLeroy gave the invocation and statesman Emil Ogden delivered the

keynote address. Guests witnessed the swearing in of President Bush on a widescreen television.

From the live auction of Campaign 2000 memorabilia (a "Sore-Loserman" T-shirt brought \$210), to patriotic traditions such as singing "The Star-Spangled Banner," crowd participation showed loyalty to the Republican Party. The guest list included some of Brazos

feasting on hors d'oeuvres and champagne, guests joined in a conga line against a backdrop of balloons and lights.

In spite of the popular belief that males go into hiding at the mention of social functions, cadet and junior nuclear engineering major Jason Cezeaux said he is proof this belief is a misconception.

"It was actually my idea to come, not my date's," Cezeaux said. "This is such an important time in our national history, and I wanted to be part of it."

Though the attendees were primarily post-college citizens, A&M students made an impressive showing.

Students were offered tickets to the ball at a special rate. David Rushing, a junior political science major and College Republican president, was responsible for getting students in his organization those value-priced tickets.

"I really thought [our members] would enjoy the ball," Rushing said. "It's definitely more fun than sitting at home, watching [the inauguration] on TV. And this way, we can finally celebrate our 43rd president entering office."

Though the fourth Brazos County Republican celebration lacked the obvious authenticity of Washington, the guests' dedication to the president could have matched any of those attending the Washington ball.

Anne Horton, the Brazos County Republicans co-chair, said the group was so sure Bush would be elected the next president, it began planning the event early.

"We started planning this event in August," Horton said. "We had faith George W. would be the next president, and by golly, he is."

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—Brittany Harrington
freshman business major

County's political figures.

Freshman business major Brittany Harrington said she went to Saturday night's ball because she knew these people would be there.

"You never know who you'll meet at these kinds of parties," she said. "It's great for meeting important people, and since I want to be involved with public policy later on, I know everything I go to can make a difference."

In addition to rubbing shoulders with Brazos County's elite, Republicans of all ages appreciated two essential elements of a memorable party: great food and music. After



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

The Midas touch

Julia Roberts, Tom Hanks, Gladiator win Golden Globes

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The Roman arena epic *Gladiator* was named best dramatic motion picture at Sunday's Golden Globes, while *Almost Famous*, Cameron Crowe's fictionalized story about his experiences as a teen-age rock journalist in the '70s, won best comedy film.

Julia Roberts won as best dramatic movie actress for *Erin Brockovich*, and Tom Hanks won as best dramatic actor for *Cast Away*.

No one film dominated the night's awards. *Gladiator*, a bloody re-creation of ancient battles in Rome's Coliseum, came away with two, including one for music.

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, *Almost Famous* and *Traffic* also won two each. So if the Golden Globes hold true as an indicator of how the Academy Awards will go in March, the field is wide open.

"For a few anxious minutes I didn't think I'd get to take this baby home," *Gladiator* director Ridley Scott said after the final presentation.

Roberts said of the real-life lawyer's aide whose battle over water pollution inspired her film: "Erin Brockovich, the real gal, is awesome and should be a lesson that we are all powerful individuals that can make a difference in the world."

Hanks, naming two other stars honored earlier in the Golden Globe ceremony, said: "I watched Al Pacino movies, and I wanted to be an actor. That went hand-in-hand with listening to Bob Dylan songs."

George Clooney won best actor in a comedy film for *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* and Renee Zellweger of *Nurse Betty* won best comedy film actress.

"I think when you list the names of the actors in this category that you've got to figure I'm going to win this," Clooney deadpanned to the audience. Listing his competitors — Jim Carrey, John Cusack, Robert De Niro and Mel Gibson — he cracked: "What have they done?"

Zellweger, who played a delusional soap opera character in *Nurse Betty*, almost missed her award because she was outside the auditorium in the re-

stream, a fate that befell Christine Lahti in 1998 when she won for *Chicago Hope*.

Presenter Hugh Grant vamped until Zellweger walked from the back of the room, first in tears, then screaming for joy.

"A moment I'll never forget," she finally said. "A moment I almost didn't have."

Taiwan's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, won the foreign-language film Globe, and Ang Lee was named best director for the epic combining martial arts fury with the heroines' love stories.

"I really want to thank my wife for being a role model of the tough women I portray in the movie," Lee said.

"Usually I come here and eat a very casual two-minute meal and then sit and watch everybody else walk off with these."

—Kelsey Grammer

Benicio Del Toro won best supporting film actor for his role in the drug war drama *Traffic*, and Kate Hudson won supporting film actress for *Almost Famous*.

"Well, I got lucky," Del Toro, who played a Mexican police officer, told the star-studded audience. "I'd like to congratulate all the nominees. I love their work. If they want a recount, they can talk to my lawyer."

Traffic won the screenplay Globe for Stephen Gaghan, and *Gladiator* picked up the original score honor for Hans Zimmer and Lisa Gerrard. Dylan's "Things Have Changed" from *Wonder Boys* won original song.

NBC's "The West Wing" was named best television drama series, and its star, Martin Sheen, won best actor in a TV drama for playing charis-

matic President Jeb Bartlett.

"God willing, you're going to have Jeb Bartlett and company to kick around for four more years," Sheen said.

Sela Ward, who plays a divorced mother re-entering the dating world, was named the top actress in a TV drama series for ABC's "Once and Again."

Robert Downey Jr., who faces another drug possession trial, won best TV supporting actor for his role as Calista Flockhart's boyfriend on "Ally McBeal."

"Sex and the City" won best comedy series, and star Sarah Jessica Parker won for a second consecutive year as best actress in a comedy series.

"I'm ill-prepared again," Parker said. "It's just like high school. I am the most content employee ever. I love working for HBO."

"Frasier" star Kelsey Grammer won best actor in a comedy series.

"Usually I come here and eat a very casual two-minute meal and then sit and watch everybody else walk off with these," Grammer said.

Showtime's *Dirty Pictures* won the best miniseries or TV movie, and Judi Dench, whose husband actor Michael Williams died this month, was the category's best actress for *Last of the Blonde Bombshells*. She last won a Golden Globe in 1998, drama film actress for *(Her Majesty) Mrs. Brown*. Vanessa Redgrave won supporting actress for *If These Walls Could Talk 2*.

The Golden Globes are notorious for attendants' freewheeling behavior. And a touch of the old looseness was displayed by Brian Dennehy, who won for best actor in a miniseries or made-for-TV movie, for *Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman*.

Al Pacino was named in advance as winner of the Cecil B. DeMille Award, which honors outstanding contributions to entertainment.

Nominees are chosen by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's roughly 90 members, who cover Hollywood for overseas publications. The association hands out 13 movie and 11 television awards.



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION