

Wednesday, December 12, 2007



ALAN PEPPARD

apeppard@dallasnews.com

White House for the holidays

As the George W. Bush administration winds down, Bush friends are seizing what may be their last opportunities to see the inside of the White House without taking the public tour. Each December, the president hosts a series of holiday parties — some big cast-of-thousands events, some intimate dinners.

Sunday night's gathering was an intimate dinner in the State Dining Room filled with many friends from Texas.

After photos with the first couple, the approximately 70 guests were escorted into the dining room, where they ate under the gaze of Abraham Lincoln, whose portrait hangs above the fireplace.

Dallas billionaire Gerald "Jerry" Ford attended with his wife, Kelli. Jerry, a former chairman of the SMU board (home of the future Bush library), was seated at the president's table along with country music star Alan Jackson.

At the first lady's table, billionaire Henry Kravis sat on Laura Bush's left, while opera tenor Andrea Bocelli sat on her right.

Among the Dallas guests were Hunt Oil VP Jeanne Johnson Phillips (a former Bush-appointed ambassador) and her husband, David; investment guru John McStay and his wife, Ellen; Silverleaf Resorts CEO Robert Mead and his wife, Judy; private equity exec Marshall Payne (longtime partner of W.'s baseball partner, Rusty Rose) and his wife, Dee

Community chests

Local plastic surgeon John Tebbetts is about to come out with the book that will be an invaluable resource to those ascending the Dallas social pyramid.

Brown Books is publishing *The Best Breast 2: The Ultimate Discriminating Woman's Resource for Breast Augmentation* by Dr. Tebbetts and his wife, Terrye.

Denzel in Marshall

American Gangster star Denzel Washington won't be hanging out at the Ivy on Thursday; he'll be deep in East Texas. The Oscar-winning actor is flying into Marshall to attend a special screening of his new movie, *The Great Debaters*, with the rest of the cast.

The film is a fictionalized account of the true story of the winning Wiley College debate team in the early 1930s. Their professor, Melvin B. Tolson, led the all-black team to greatness in the Depression-era Jim Crow South.

Hippie Circus is a go

Rock bands that launched careers of many Texas rock legends will reunite at the Lakewood Theater on Dec. 29.

The fourth annual Rock and Roll Hippie Circus is being organized by rocker Kenny Daniel.

Fans who gathered in the Pit Club at the Bronco Bowl in the early '60s can come hear Floyd Dakil and the Original Pitmen play their hit "Dance Franny Dance."

Marc Benno, who first won a talent contest at the State Fair and went on to record with the Doors and Eric Clapton, will perform. Other acts include Denny Freeman (formerly of the Casa Linda faves the Corals), Billy Joe Shine and the Nightcaps, Kenny and the Kasuals, Freddie Steady 5, James Ferris and the Voodoo Lounge, the Dead Pyrates Society and Apes of Wrath. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster or at www.hippiecircus.com.