

Party lines: *people, places and politics*

'Going Beyond' at Corcoran

900 turn out for fund raising, uninhibited fun

By Christian Toto
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Those saucy "Sex and the City" gal pals would have tittered for weeks.

No, the scene didn't involve some trendy Manhattan nightspot. The Corcoran Gallery of Art's "Going Beyond . . . an Odyssey" benefit was the place to be Friday night.

The evening, hosted by the Friends of the Corcoran, raised funds for art acquisitions while giving Washingtonians a glimpse of the gallery's playful bent.

The museum's impressive stone entrance, bathed in magenta light, only hinted at the visual delights inside, where pink balloons hung heavily over the bars as the nearly 900 guests filled up oversized drink glasses brightened by "electric" ice cubes.

For one male reveler, the sardonic spirit of "beyond" meant wearing a full Scottish kilt ensemble. Less adventurous gents settled for traditional business suits emboldened by vibrant ties.

Ladies were less inhibited, of course. Pink fuzzy slippers and some Nancy Sinatra-esque boots were sighted walkin' down the marble halls.

"D.C. has so many facets, said Corcoran Director David C. Levy as he surveyed the scene with quiet pride.

"Washington is a curious city," added Mr. Levy, explaining why some people couldn't fully join in the night's irreverent air. "Everyone over a certain age is a buttoned-down type."

Members of the Membrane Ensemble and Maida Withers Dancers, clad in white, their hair roasted silver, struck "vogue"-ish poses, sometimes arresting par-



White-clad members of the Membrane Ensemble and Maida Withers Dancers twisted and turned during a soul and light phantasmagoria at the Corcoran Gallery of Art Friday night.

