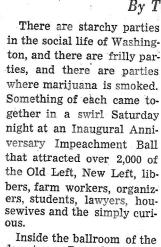
A Capital Impeachment Ball

By Tom Zito



downtown Ramada Inn it was hot and heavy, not unlike some politically charged fraternity costume party.

There was the woman who came as a "sinister force," dressed as the Wicked Witch of the North but bear-Witch of the North but bearing a placard that pro-claimed "Tape Erasing a Specialty." There was the "Confirmed Acrobatic Sec-retary." There was the man inside a giant milk con-tainer, there was Arab oil sheikhs, American oil, ty-coons and hundreds behind Richard Nixon masks on Richard Nixon masks or See BALL, B2, Col. 3

wrapped in magnetic recording tape.

And outside there were protesters, 150 by police estimate, waving tiny American flags and distributing handbills declaring that "the nation itself is being destroyed in an all-consuming hatred and mockery of its President." Members of the National Prayer and Fast for the Watergate Crisis group started by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, they carried signs announcing, "Let Him Who Is Guiltless Cast The First Stone" and "God Loves Nixon." The group marched around the sidewalks of the hotel until about 11:30 p.m., singing their theme, "The Day of Hope," as well as Irving Berlin's "God Bless America." destroyed in an all-consum-

The impeachment ball was organized as a fundraiser by the Washington Area Impeachment Coalition. Until Tuesday they shared sponsorship with the Washington area American Civil Liberties Union. Then



By Gerald Martineau—The Washington Post

A participant in the Impeachment Ball parades through the crowd with a papier-mache Nixon head atop his shoulders.

ingural Anniversary Impeachment Bal

BALL, From B1



By Gerald Martineau—The Washington Post

tee picket and protest outside the Thomas Circle Members of the National Prayer and Fast Commit-Ramada Inn, site of the Impeachment ball.

> reported with pleased surat \$5 each. But on Saturday the crowding in the ballthe ball will be on matters other than civil liberties as-pects of impeachment." All claiming that "the focus of the local ACLU pulled out, room made many tained it had sold 600 tickets week the coalition than the 2,000 the coalition there were over more there main-

seemed to be interested in Now this was advertised as a ball, and most of the throughout the evening. kept screaming "BOOGIE!" people there, aside from po-litical considerations, dancing—particularly ew drowned-out folks who

sisters ..., the reading of the "Nixon 23d Psalm" (indecipherable on the as she put it, off came her singer whose most dramatic system); obligatory cries of events, the fun couldn't beton top; the contingent of "dress for the revolution," moment came when, feminist group, addressing the crowd as "Brothers and ter by the Earth Onion, a mated. These included theafur jacket and lame shirt to "boycott lettuce"; room's preliminaries were consumgin until the ideological But like most political distorting a folk-

> ber of men stand in a row: men's room, where a numand this scenario in

plies a fellow on the verge of cause of the boycott," redrinkin' it, you know, grapes or lettuce or ike wine but I haven't been asking "Yeah, you know I really Gallo be-

ers. That's union grapes." worker. "You can drink Almaden or Christian Brothhave to give up wine, you know," adds the farm "Well mahn, you don't

expression. Dr. Annalee Stewart, 73, said she came with her 77-year-old husband more traditional modes of There were, of course

to the whole thing that drags it down." "There's a certain frivolous quality suit with a brown and white bow tie won with such a landslide if this is impeccably dressed fellow in a brown the best they can get together," said an "I think I can understand why Nixon"

"I'm a farm worker," a fel-low says, bursting in. "We're

swooning.

quality to the whole thing "There's a certain frivolous brown and white bow tie. low in a brown suit with a

"because we support the

on anything," she said. first time I've ever moved Richard Nixon. "This is the an "FBI" wanted poster for things that the young people are working for." "I really Lord & Taylor knits hung ers Union. Over her the American Postal Work-Audrey Caskey, a 35-year-old mother, part-time stuabout the President," said sion of what people feel believe this is a nice expresdent and shop steward for mother, part-time stugreen

they can get together," said why Nixon won with such a landslide if this is the best an impeccably dressed fel-"I think I can understand third-world rock group.

declined to give his name. man, a local psychiatrist,

new at the bulls-eye; and a dart board with photos of including crowd, to the auction items Watergate game. the President and Spiro Ag-Republican Convention; for \$10); a pass to the 1972 ell's telephone" (it went almost exclusively many of the mostly young, rampant, from the outrageous costumes worn by Frivolity certainly was "Martha Mitchwhite

th sarly '60s, revamped the chorus of his tired "Here's to the State of Mississipi," of serious, prolonged p.aus: came when Phil singing: Ochs, a protest singer from Perhaps the one moment

Here's to the land you've Richard Nixon find yourself another country torn out the heart of

music of Zapata, a local it was time to boogie to the Then — at about 1 a.m. to be part of.

and, here and there, an was thinning out and the punctured balloon d on't seem far removed white and blue streamers juana cigarettes, fallen red from a pasture hit by a rock room of the Ramada Inn music was stopping, the balliles, the remnants of maritan glasses, empty wine bot**cans, s**plintered plastic cock By 2 a.m., as the crowd littered with beer