

# Style

C

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2006

M2



## THE RELIABLE SOURCE

A Night for Women  
at the Kuwait  
Embassy

## THE RELIABLE SOURCE

By Amy Argetsinger and Roxanne Roberts

### At the Piano: Condi and What's-His-Name

**W**ho says Washington is a man's town? To celebrate International Women's day, the Kuwait-America Foundation honored two of the world's most powerful: First Lady **Laura Bush** and Secretary of State **Condoleezza Rice**. Okay, they threw in an award for **Michael Douglas** to keep things balanced, but it was the ladies who topped the guest list at the Kuwaiti Embassy last night. **Roberta Flack** sang, and Rice - slipping into her concert pianist alter ego - surprised everyone with a duet alongside composer **Marvin Hamlisch**.

The black-tie dinner, hosted by Ambassador **Salem Al-Sabah** and wife **Rima**, had a little glitz, (actor **Michael Douglas**) and a lot of gravitas: Supreme Court Justices **Anthony Kennedy** and **Samuel Alito** (making his first black-tie appearance since his confirmation), White House Deputy Chief of Staff **Karl Rove** and most of the Cabinet, including Attorney General **Alberto Gonzales**, Homeland Security Secretary **Michael Chertoff** and National Intelligence Director **John Negroponte**. The evening, which also celebrated the 60th anniversary of UNICEF, raised \$1 million (with the help of underwriters

Chevron, Dow Chemical, ExxonMobil and Shell International) to build and repair schools in Afghanistan.

There were plenty of heartfelt speeches never-ending O's and a few light moments: Before dinner, 12-year-old **Vanessa Campagna** wearing a cowboy hat, sang "The Yellow Rose of Texas" for the First Lady. After dinner, Hamlisch introduced his new partner: "I invited a friend of mine to play tonight . . . This person's probably a little nervous but I know we can give her a great welcome." Rice and Hamlisch then played selections from the Gershwin songbook to great whoops and applause.

**Michael Douglas** (sporting a gray beard that made *him* look like Robert E. Lee) said he has even higher ambitions for **Carys**, his 2 year old daughter. In a nod to the august women in the room, he said "My daughter's opportunities are boundless. Perhaps - as she will not be 35 years old until 2038 - she will achieve a dream that no one here has yet achieved. For maybe, just maybe, she will be one of the first female presidents of these great United States of America."