



AFP / Long Photography

Oscar winner Hilary Swank, center, with mom Judy Swank and husband Chad Lowe.

## After the Show, a Much-Needed Break

### Governors Ball

By BOOTH MOORE  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Guests may have lingered longer than usual at the Governors Ball, the first pit stop on the post-Oscar party circuit, if only because they needed to refuel after the four-hour Oscar broadcast.

"This is incredible," said "American Beauty's" Wes Bentley, of the tented space decorated with sail-shaped banners reminiscent of the Sydney Opera House. "Last year, I was sitting at home worrying about what I was going to buy for lunch the next day."

Best actor Kevin Spacey, who seemed overwhelmed by the media crush, had to

sit down en route to his table to send an e-mail on a hand-held gizmo. "What I really need is a good vodka tonic," he said. (E-mailing his order to the bar?)

Every year, the Governors Ball outdoes itself with bizarre desserts. And this year's was a Stonehenge-like concoction, complete with blinking lights.

Although Angelina Jolie was not surprised by comments that her black dress looked like something Morticia would wear, she was taken aback by her best supporting actress win. "It's hard to imagine people would be rooting for the black sheep in this film," she said.

Outside, in the hall of the Shrine, Oscar hero Willie Fulgear, who found the missing statuette in a dumpster, looked dapper in a top hat and tails. "I'm not a

dumpster guy," he said. "I was an engineer for years before I got laid off." And if anyone's interested, he's now looking for someone to publish his story.

**The Party Line:** Michael Caine's acceptance speeches were soooooo gracious! "I don't write speeches, I just speak from my heart," Caine said. "I thought about it when I was watching [all the film clips]. I was seeing the best bits of all of us and I sat there and thought, there is no real winner here. It's not like I'm there with four lemons."

**Also on the Ticket:** Harvey Weinstein, self-described as "happy and healthy," Ed Norton and Salma Hayek snuggling at the "American Beauty" table, Annette Bening and Warren Beatty, Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, Fiona Apple and Paul Thomas Anderson, and Faye Dunaway.

## Where Elite Keep an Eye on the Prize

### Vanity Fair

By KATHLEEN CRAUGHWELL  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Minutes before the best picture winner was announced, Vanity Fair editor Graydon Carter said his pick was "American Beauty."

"But I have to say that; David Geffen is at my table," he said with a laugh.

When the odds-on favorite cinched the award, the glamorous crowd at Morton's erupted in applause, and the others at Carter's table—Jane Fonda (who left the awards immediately after she presented an honorary Oscar to veteran Polish director Andrzej Wajda), Diane von Furstenberg, Barry Diller, Fran Lebowitz and Carrie Fisher—raised their glasses to the DreamWorks principal.

So elite is the magazine's fete that even a power player like Geffen chose to watch the awards there rather than schlep to the Shrine Auditorium.

And sometimes even the stars get star-struck. "Wow, look. It's Brad," whispered Trey Parker to "South Park" partner Matt Stone (sans the Jennifer Lopez and Gwy-

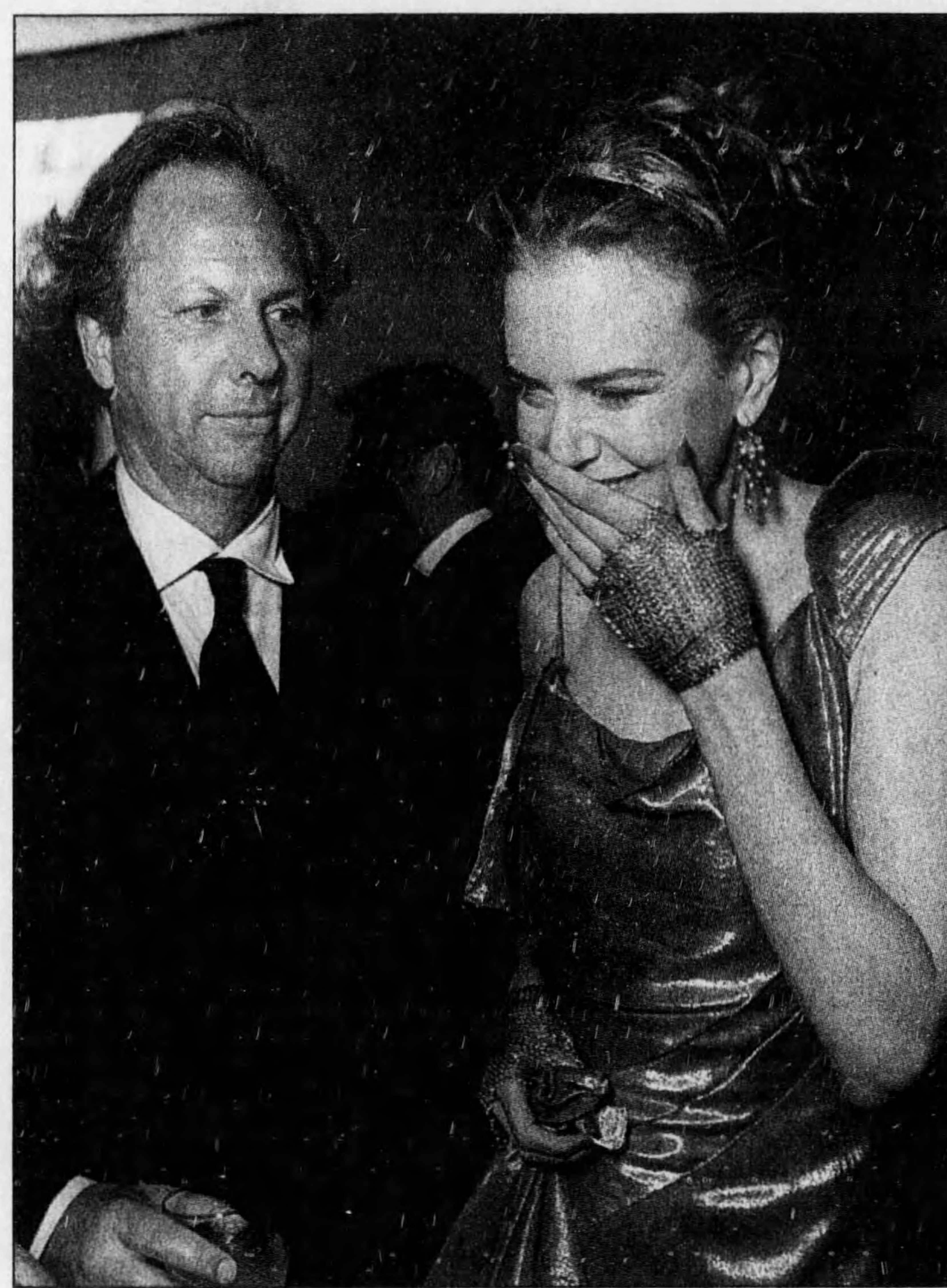
neth Paltrow frocks they wore to the awards) as they moseyed up to the bar.

**Who was there:** The starry throng was like the glossy mag come to life. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman; Elizabeth Hurley and Elle Macpherson; Dominick Dunne and Betsy Bloomington; Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston; Cher; James Woods; Angie Dickinson; Minnie and Kate Driver; George Hamilton; Rod Stewart; Ron Howard; Regis and Joy Philbin; Art Shaw; Maria Shriver and Arnold Schwarzenegger; Paltrow and Ben Affleck.

**Quote:** "He's like Moses in the Bible, people keep making reference to him," Tony Curtis said of Billy Wilder, whom best director Sam Mendes singled out in his acceptance speech.

**Scene:** Raven-haired Jenny McCarthy snapped a spaghetti strap in the ladies room hugging a friend. The solution? She ripped off the other strap and turned the dress into a strapless gown.

**Suggestion for next year's telecast:** "Instead of highlights, I think they should show clips of bad career moves," quipped Jay Leno.



ERIC CHARBONNEAU / Berliner Studio

Magazine editor Graydon Carter and Nicole Kidman are among guests at Morton's.



ERIC CHARBONNEAU / Berliner Studio

Headed for the Vanity Fair party are Kate, left, and Minnie Driver. The party was a hit for those who wanted to avoid the Shrine.

## At Spago, Everything Comes Up Roses



Berliner Studio

Kevin Spacey and Haley Joel Osment at DreamWorks' party at Spago.

### DreamWorks

By BOOTH MOORE  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The DreamWorks "American Beauty" bash at Spago Beverly Hills cornered the market on Oscars and red roses, which blanketed the ceiling, burst out of centerpieces and were strung in garlands and wreaths by party guests.

"This night makes our company, because this was a very risky movie. We didn't expect it to go beyond 250 screens," gushed head gardener Steven Spielberg.

David Geffen arrived early, possibly hoping to dodge press inquiries about a certain thorn in his side, Tom King's "The Operator." He was overheard saying: "There's this book out right now that makes me look like the biggest scumbag."

Arriving closer to the end of the rose bowl was Alan Ball, who took the Oscar for best screenplay. "I had this whole speech written," he said, producing a typed sheet. "But I forgot to take it out of my pocket. Being on stage was

surreal, like an out-of-body experience."

Also at the soiree was cancer patient Matthew Hunter, 14, from Dallas. Attending the Academy Awards and the DreamWorks party were part of a wish granted him by the Children's Wish Foundation. His overall impression? "It's pretty sweet."

**The "Buds":** After last year's funeral for "Saving Private Ryan," it was time to *part-ay*. No one had to mention Miramax by name; the rose garden romp was clearly a victory for the home team.

**Petal Pushers:** Team players Spielberg, Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg; "American Beauty" beauties Mena Suvari, Thora Birch and Wes Bentley; Kevin Spacey with girlfriend Diane Derain and Peter Gallagher. Also spotted: Kevin Pollack, Roberto Benigni, Val Kilmer and Haley Joel Osment with a cheese pizza made especially for him by Wolfgang Puck.

Warren Beatty and Annette Bening were no-shows at the floral fest, but they were expecting a delivery of their own. For a girl's name, may we suggest Rose?

## Movie Stars Pack Spago for Kids' Benefit

### Rolling Stone

By MICHAEL QUINTANILLA  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Politics, royalty and movie stars packed Spago restaurant in West Hollywood on Sunday night for a Rolling Stone magazine Oscar bash that raised \$250,000 for Children Uniting Nations. The Los Angeles-based nonprofit group promotes the international welfare of parent-

less, abused and homeless kids.

The party included a sit-down dinner of smoked salmon, goat-cheese-stuffed chicken and a chocolate dessert topped with an edible Oscar statuette that many guests had wrapped to go. Later, the crowd danced to the lively music of Gypsy Magic and patiently waited for the arrival of Oscar winners and nominees. But by 1 a.m., none of Oscar's biggies had made an appearance.

**Glam Guests:** Gov. Gray Davis and his wife, Sharon, were the evening's honorary chairs and made the rounds, greeting more than 200 guests, including Jon Voight, Olivia Newton-John, Jeff Bridges, Maria Conchita Alonso, Jacqueline Bisset, Elizabeth Berkley and Ed Begley Jr.



Berliner Studio

"The Cider House Rules" writer, John Irving, left, and actor Tobey Maguire.



Berliner Studio

Best supporting actor Michael Caine and wife Shakira at Miramax party.

## Outcome Doesn't Dampen the Mood

### Miramax

By ELAINE DUTKA  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The mood at Miramax's post-Oscar party at the Beverly Hills Hotel Polo Lounge was upbeat despite its Oscar contender, "The Cider House Rules," being upstaged by DreamWorks' "American Beauty" in a reversal of last year's race.

"Though we compete, those guys are my friends," said the company's co-chairman, Harvey Weinstein, of DreamWorks' Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen. "And 'American Beauty' is a great movie, clearly the favorite. My brother, Bob, said that if we won, we'd have to wear flak jackets or turn ourselves into the witness protection program."

**Who Was There:** Among the 800 guests mingling among massive ice sculptures on the dimly lit patio: Walter Cronkite, Jane Fonda, Quentin Tarantino, Michael Caine, Patrick Swayze, Mike Myers, Malcolm McDowell, Harvey Keitel, Dominick Dunne, Dylan McDermott, Tobey Maguire, Roberto Benigni, John Irving, Wes Craven, Lasse Halström, Lena Olin, Don Rickles, Gloria Estefan, Anthony Minghella, Charlize Theron.

**The Buzz:** Few surprises, most agreed. But the academy drew praise for honoring off-center work such as the "South Park" song "Blame Canada" and Hilary Swank in "Boys Don't Cry." "The '90s have been a real improvement," said a boisterous Tarantino. "No one suggests that the academy is cutting-edge, but this night proves that it's grown up."

**Let 'Em Dance:** Swayze was dismayed by the lack of production numbers on the Oscar telecast. "They're... effectively killing an art form. Dance is an endangered species—this is the only venue in Hollywood in which it still exists."

## Singer Raises \$500,000 for AIDS Battle

### In Style / Elton John

By KATHLEEN CRAUGHWELL  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The decor at the In Style/Elton John party at the tending Paganini restaurant—red tenting, sisal rugs, Japanese lanterns—was minimalist, but not the guest list.

Musician Gloria and Emilio Estefan, Debbie Harry and R.E.M. member (and "Being John Malkovich" producer) Michael Stipe helped John raise more than



KEVIN MAZUR

Elton John, left, and Robin Williams take a moment at the singer's In Style party.

\$500,000 for the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

The location, across the street from the Vanity Fair party at Morton's, ensured a steady stream of celebrity, and the crowd seemed to metamorphose every hour.

Actors James Woods and Laurence Fishburne, director John Waters, Dwight Yoakam and girlfriend Bridget Fonda, Jon Voight, Natasha Lyonne and Clea Duvall were among those who did the celebrity bunny-hop back and forth.

Holding court at a back table, John said he was pleased with DreamWorks' big win for "American Beauty." "Some other favorites of 1999? 'I really enjoyed 'Being John Malkovich.' Spike Jonze is just very talented. And that film he acted in last year, 'Three Kings,' was just brilliant and, I think, quite overlooked."

**Overheard:** When a guest spotted "Who Wants to Marry [and Then Divorce] a Multi-Millionaire?" bride Tara Conner being interviewed by a news crew inside the party, she nudged another guest. "Is that who I think it is?" she asked. "Yeah," replied a young man. "She's complaining about her lack of privacy—again."

## A Reunion of Sorts

### 100 Stars

By ELAINE DUTKA  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The ninth annual "Night of 100 Stars" viewing party, held in the Crystal Ballroom of the Beverly Hills Hotel, attracted nearly twice that number of celebs. Hosted by former agent Norby Walters and underwritten by Canadian clothier Peter Nygard, the event benefited Martin Scorsese's Film Foundation, which is committed to film preservation.

The party, heavily skewed toward stars of yesteryear and past Oscar contenders, had the feeling of a reunion. "All the usual suspects are here," said "Sports Night's" Robert Guillaume. "This gives us the feeling we're still 'in it.'"

**Who Was There:** Dennis Hopper, Esther Williams, Red Buttons, Brock Peters, Fred Williamson, Mickey Rooney, David Carradine, Tony Curtis, Jermaine Jackson, Troy Donahue, Cliff Robertson, Jack Klugman, Janet Leigh, Shelley Long, Trini Lopez.