

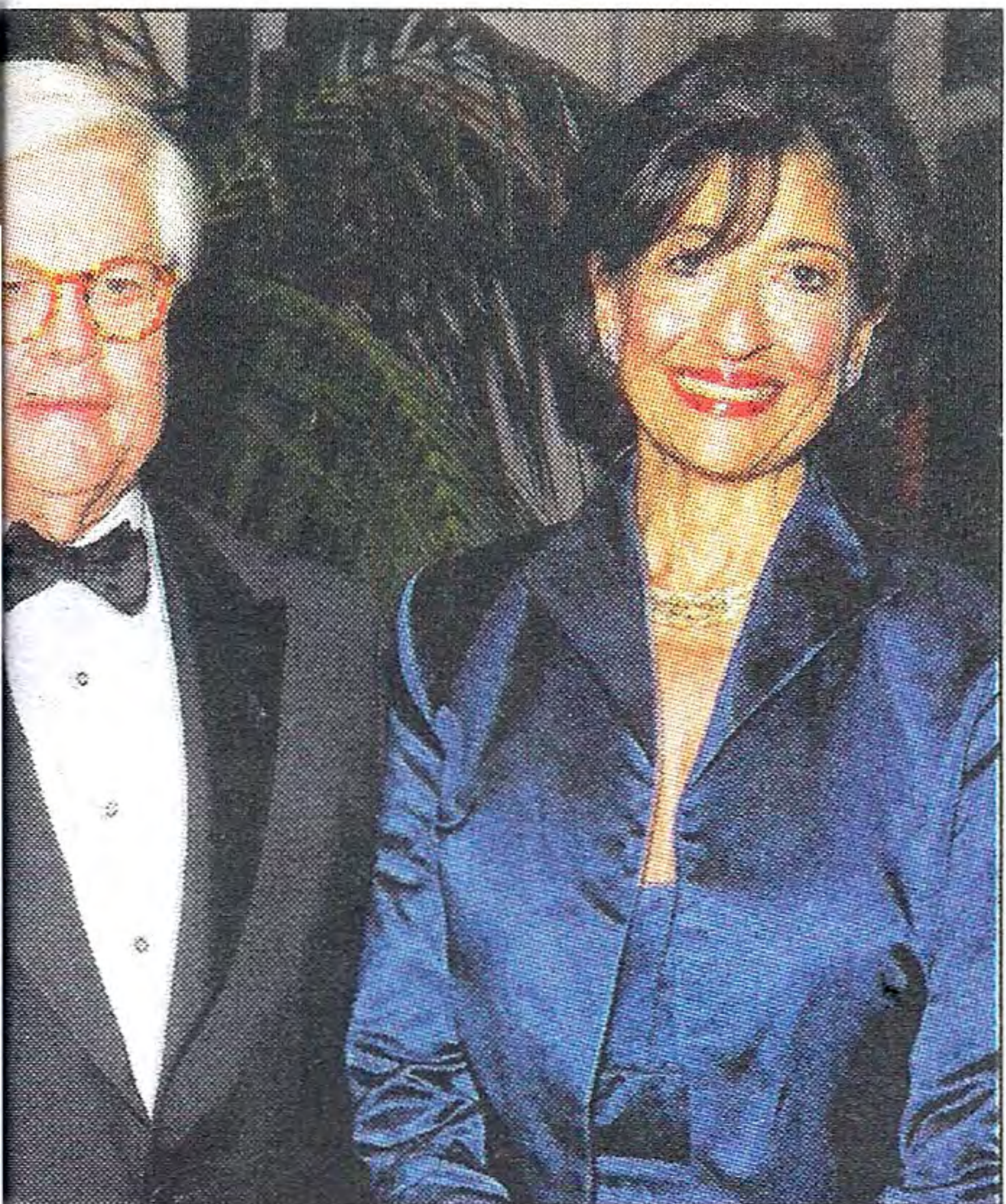
BEHIND the MASKS



Melinda Hassen and Peggy Moore



Martha Hunnewell and John Andreu



Sam and Vicky Hunt

Trumpeters, gondoliers welcome supporters to Venetian Carnevale.

Really, if you pulled up to a party on the lakefront and the person who parked your vehicle was dressed as a gondolier, would you wonder for just the slightest second about where, exactly, they were putting the cars?

Well, more than 500 people had no such hesitation at the biennial dinner dance to benefit The Society of the Four Arts. The event, with its Venetian Carnevale! theme, took place Feb. 23 and began with a greeting by trumpeters.

Guests mingled in the gardens, amid costumed Venetian characters, for the extended — jackpot! — cocktail hour, then entered the dinner tent through an entrance styled from the parted 16-foot skirt of a Carnevale-costumed figure.

Nothing Freudian about that, no siree.

The interior of the clear tent transformed into something out of the Palace of the Doge, with red lights bathing tables set with red or gold and centered with towering centerpieces of fruits and greenery, feathers and frond, or lush flowers, all accented with ornate Carnevale masques.

This event is one of the few on the social calendar that is relatively speech-free. Chairwomen **Melinda Hassen** and **Peggy Moore** said “hello, thanks for coming,” and “please enjoy yourself.”

And that, boys and girls, is what you call a self-fulfilling prophecy. The evening continued with dinner — the fanciest antipasti ever out on a plate, braised short ribs and tiramisu for dessert — and dancing to the music of the Bob Hardwick Orchestra.

Ambassador **Edward Elson** and his wife, **Susie**, were honorary chairman and honorary chairwoman, with **Hillie Mahoney** serving as patron chairwoman.

Denis and **Anabel Coleman** were host committee chairman and chairwoman.

The nearly 600 guests included **Kit** and **Bill Pannil**, **Jane** and **Bill Told**, **Chrissie Strawbridge**, **Maura Benjamin**, **Joyce** and **Bob Sterling**, **Kay Lyons**, **Maureen Donnell**, **Liz** and **John Schuler**, **James Borynack**, **Lisa** and **John Cregan**, **Will** and **Jean Matthews**, **Lesly Smith** and **Jim Walsh**, **Joanne** and **Henry Breyer**, **Mary** and **Marvin Davidson**, **Buddy Bombard**, **Nancy** and **Walter Raquet**, **Carla** and **George Mann**, **Walter Ross**, **Nancy** and **Bill Rollnick**, **Rose Sachs**, **Suzette Smith**, **June** and **Tim Rooney**, **Vicky** and **Sam Hunt**, **Pat Cook** and **Bob Nederlander**, **Ann** and **Philip Ruppe**, **Bill Flaherty**, **Eles Gillet** and a whole bunch more who, at the end of the evening, climbed back into perfectly dry cars.

Proceeds from the event assist The Society of the Four Arts in its mission to meet the cultural needs of a growing community by presenting notable speakers, concerts, films, educational programs and art exhibitions to its members, nonmembers and hundreds of thousands of visitors from throughout the area.

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Nicholas and Maggie Kirkbride



Robert Flemming and Suzette Smith



Mitchell Watson and Patty Lowdon