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Miss Bigelow Social City Bears, herbs Rx for health care

Catherine Bigelow
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Be my teddy bear: The Snuggly Soiree held last week at the stately **Getty** manse isn't your typical fussy fundraiser.

Instead, well-dressed kiddies careered around a carnival of delights, from face-painting to french fries, as their folks raised \$200K for the Glogau Teddy Bear Rescue Fund at UCSF Children's Hospital.

The fund was dreamed up nine years ago by Dr. **Richard Glogau** and his wife, **Pam Baj Glogau**, to provide basic comforts for pediatric patients and their families.

Comforts both large, and small, such as taxi vouchers, cafeteria meals, shelter, gas money, seeing-eye dogs, heart medication and ... teddy bears.

In support of the Glogaus, **Ann** and **Gordon Getty** have opened their home for the past six years for their friends' fundraiser, which has helped increase the fund's overall take to almost a cool mil.

Star Radio host **Don Bleu** emceed a pre-party program with honorary event co-chairs, skater **Kristi Yamaguchi** and her husband, former NHL defenseman **Bret Hedican**.

Later, a wide-eyed, pint-size admirer swirled around Yamaguchi while her father whispered supportively to Hedican, "Now an Olympic Gold medal is nice. But a Stanley Cup is really something!"

Thanking gathered grandees, Dr. Glogau announced the Teddy Bear Rescue Fund has achieved a new benchmark: "With all due respect to Speaker **Nancy Pelosi**, this program is the San Francisco version of health care reform!"

Herbal Rx: Though Speaker Pelosi missed the Snuggly Soiree, she was in town Wednesday to join St. Mary's Medical Center supporters at the groundbreaking on a state-of-the-art, \$22.75 million cancer center.

Pelosi assisted in appropriating federal funds for a large chunk of the center, in addition to a bunch of other stuff she's been doing of late in D.C.

Eschewing shovels and hard hats, Pelosi and poobahs (including Catholic Healthcare West COO **Bill Hunt**, St. Mary's Medical Foundation Chairman **Doug Dillard**, St. Mary's Hospital President **Anna Cheung**, Dr. **Richard Podolin**), planted herbs with trowels painted by Star of the Sea students.

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The students serenaded the speaker in honor of her recent birthday, and also provided unintended entertainment.

As dignitaries began digging in the dirt, a little voice dramatically uttered, "Bor-ing."

But when the time came for these little darlins' to have their photo op with, possibly, the most powerful woman on the planet, it became clear what was boring were the herbs, not Pelosi.

Chronicle society correspondent Catherine Bigelow's columns appear Wednesday in Datebook, Sunday in Style and at SFGate.com. E-mail her at missbigelow@sfgate.com.

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