

The Washington Post

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2003

OUT & ABOUT

By Roxanne Roberts

For Heart's Sake: Grape Expectations at the Corcoran

Friday's "Heart's Delight" Grand Cru dinner was the perfect win-win event: a chance to drink first-growth Bordeaux wines ("All the more delicious because the wine is good for you," said emcee **Bill Plante**) and to raise \$600,000 for the American Heart Association. The dinner at the Corcoran Gallery was Part 1 of the two-night benefit created four years ago to honor Bruce Bassin, one of Washington's most beloved wine sellers, who died of a heart attack at age 40.

"Mrs. Bassin, I'm here tonight because of your son," said honoree Sen. **Bill Frist**, who spoke more as a heart surgeon than as a politician to spread the message of cardiac disease prevention and care.

The festive black-tie dinner was pro-French (no politics when it comes to wine), with eight different wines served to the discerning palates of Solicitor General **Ted Olson**, philanthropist **Jim Kimsey**, AOL's **George Vradenburg** and 250 other wine lovers.

Frist was presented a "very collectible, not very drinkable" wine with a Frist label by DaimlerChrysler's **Rob Liberatore**. Vintage 2008, we presume.



PHOTOS BY REBECCA D'ANGELO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Pro-Bordeaux: Ruth Bassin and Sen. Bill Frist, above, and Cassidy Schagrin and Grae Verlin, left, helping out the Heart Association on Friday night.