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Picture Story



Villager photos by Toni Dalton

Bush whacking in Washington Sq. on the Fourth

Downtown satirical artist and activist Joey Skaggs (right) and his troupe of pranksters staged an elaborate, two-hour send-up of President Bush and his cabinet members in Washington Sq. Park on Independence Day. The spectacle included a “faux pro-Bush parade” — a group seemingly in support of the Bush-Cheney ticket marching into the park, only to hand out money on which was written, “Be proactive — Hold your leaders accountable while you still have your rights.” The Saudi royal family doled out money to buy votes for Bush, while Bush’s cabinet — four actors in rubber masks — looked on approvingly. Finally, in what Skaggs called the piece de resistance, the front of a model of the White House that had been brought in on a



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bicycle flew open to reveal a mannequin of Bush not in the Oval Office but on an oval of another sort, a toilet. Although the Saudi connection angle of his skit closely parallels allegations in "Fahrenheit 9/11," Michael Moore's new documentary, Skaggs said he started working on the production over a year ago. Skaggs, a Soho resident, charged that — aside from The Villager — there was a media blackout of his event. "You're it man," he said. "The media didn't want to cover anything that was critical of Bush on what is supposed to be a patriotic holiday."



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