

Business

Thursday, May 22, 2008 ■■■

Documentary guru here helpin' tout area history

I chatted with the genius sprite of PBS, **Ken Burns**, on the rooftop patio of the uptown Mint on Tuesday night. Hosts of the party: The May 20 Society – passionate patriots proclaiming their love of our bold “Meck Dec” Declaration of Independence in 1775.

Jan Boylston, the BofA biggie who helped bring the great documentarian here, told me it's important to note local history like this “since we don't have old buildings anymore.” (I miss the Athens!)

Charles Jonas and **Scott Syfert**, the two overgrown local boys who gleefully lead the May 20 Society, were there, and Jonas was hilarious introducing Burns for his speech afterward in the gorgeous McGlohon Theater – a wonderful exception to the “no old buildings” rule. **Michael Teden**, the Brit

THE INSIDER



JEFF ELDER

Who's that with Jeff?

charmer and big-time insurance guy, represented the Redcoats at the tea party.

Burns told me BofA, a sponsor of his “The War” miniseries, is also supporting a new documentary on Vietnam. “Bank Of America has been extraordinarily generous getting my

voice out there,” he said. Note the words “extraordinarily generous.” Hey, what better cause to fund?