

Style isn't one of those things you can find hanging on a rack

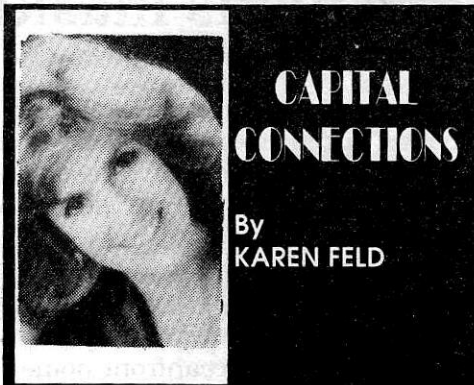
Grace Mirabella, the talented Vogue editor who launched "Mirabella," at the suggestion of Rupert Murdoch 10 months ago, told a group of style-conscious Washingtonians gathered at the Willard Hotel the other day that "style" is about the way you present yourself. "You can't find it on the rack."

She cited Coco Chanel and Fred Astaire as having "style," but was hard-pressed to come up with a contemporary name to fit the bill. When asked to describe first lady Barbara Bush's influence on style as compared to that of her predecessors Jackie Kennedy Onassis or Nancy Reagan, Ms. Mirabella tactfully replied: "Sometimes the arrival of certain kinds of people is a message in itself. The exaggeration of the past few years is waning."

The film "Blaze" may be the talk of movie fans, but former Louisiana Governor Long is yesterday's news. Today's hot gossip around the Capitol is about the very married member of Congress who's currently keeping company with the stripper.

Blaze, now approaching 60, has teased auburn hair and still wears heavy false eyelashes. She lives in nearby Baltimore. She says she hung up her G-string six years ago, and describes her relationship with the politician as a "dating" one.

"We both know how to work the crowd," she says.



The Washington Vista Hotel, Hilton International property, is in need of an image change since its controversial publicity surrounding the FBI "sting" that led to the drug bust of D.C. Mayor Marion Barry.

Ironically, in a recent issue of the Washington Business Journal, a headline for an ad for the Vista reads: "When It Happens Only Once, There's Only One Place."

Despite recent studies questioning the benefits of oat bran, Barbara Bush is still a staunch believer. She not only swims 94 laps daily in the White House pool, but she also watches her diet. White House executive chef, Hans Raffert says the first lady didn't bring any recipes to the White House except one, her recipe for bran muffins made with Miller's unprocessed bran. The president starts the day with juice and coffee, but the first lady enjoys her freshly baked bran muffins.