

KAREN FELD



Capital connections

Whoopee was 'top secret'

D.C. Mayor Marion Barry's drug bust at the Vista Hotel wasn't his first visit there. Loyal readers of this column may remember an item which appeared in this space in early May 1987:

"Afternoon delights may be the secret of what keeps our hardworking mayor going. With some regularity over the past year, a member of his staff has called the Vista, one of the finest downtown hotels, requesting one of the top-of-the-line suites for a 'top-secret meeting.' Mayor business has to be kept confidential, of course. The hotel billed him at the reduced government rate and sent the bills to his office. A hotel employee says his honor always arrived with a young woman after lunch, eager to get to work for the taxpayers, and left a few hours later at happy hour, apparently satisfied with how the day went.



MARION BARRY
The suite life

Curiously, Effi has told pals that the evening in question wasn't particularly memorable. She had anticipated a romantic evening alone with the mayor without their young son, Christopher. Alas, the hardworking mayor fell asleep in front of the TV, despite her constant nudging."

The mayor has favored the plush Givenchy suite, but ironically he was busted in a cheaper, more modest room. Not to worry. He'd visited his favorite suite on many occasions during the past couple of months, according to a Vista employee who violated the gag order imposed by management. But the mayor never actually registered at the hotel. The room was always pre-booked and registered in another name.

The mayor has always made a big deal about not going to events at non-union hotels. He used that excuse for declining many functions. Not surprising. After all, the local hotel and restaurant workers union organized its support behind him. Obviously, he made an exception when it came to his personal life. The Vista is a non-union hotel. Perhaps comic Dick Gregory can advise him on this too.

Political satirist Mark Russell told the 2,000 people gathered at the Touchdown Club's gala at the Washington Hilton Saturday evening: "Our leader the mayor couldn't make it here tonight. He's at the Vatican embassy."

Sylvester Stallone, who may be the richest actor in the world, is giving a boost to the local Philadelphia economy during the six-week filming schedule there of *Rocky V*. Rocky films have done more to



SLY STALLONE
Stallion in Philly

put Philadelphia on the map than anything since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The original *Rocky*, shot in Philly in '75, cost less than a million dollars. This one is budgeted for \$29 million, and that doesn't count Sly's salary, which is reportedly about \$35 million.

Surrounded by bodyguards who intercepted anyone who approached him, Rambo stormed the city, dining several times at both the award-winning Le Bec Fin and Hesch's, a Jewish steak house, where he was spotted talking boxing with former Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo. Marion Barry was nowhere in sight.

Sly has honed up at the posh Four Seasons hotel for six weeks with his son, Sage, 13, who plays his son in the latest version of *Rocky*. That's a busy place. Billy Joel was there last week as well, and the president of Turkey will be arriving this week.

The twice-divorced superstar wears glasses now, but he says he refrained from wearing them for a while because "I didn't think I could get a date if I wore glasses." Now that he's a star, of course, there's no need to worry about that. His fans would never be disillusioned.

Sly says this is his last *Rocky*. He says it's time to be taken seriously. He's not just a fighter, he insists.