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Washington Whirl

A newsy, gossip report of Washington personalities and happenings. Anecdotes, behind the scenes lobbying that both inform and entertain. A bright, 750 word weekly item column.

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Those Shrewd Arabs are going all out to ensure that any joint business venture with the Americans is not overlooked. Washington lobbyist have been inundated in the past couple weeks with invitations to seminars promising to show them "How To Do Business With Saudi Arabia," and "How To Insure U.S. Investments In Foreign Countries."... South Dakota's former Sen. James Abourezk, who retired after a single Senate term last fall, is practicing law in Washington. One of his clients is none other than Ayatollah Khomeini and the Iranian Embassy. Abourezk made a name for himself in the Senate in 1977 when he held up adjournment to filibuster against natural gas deregulation. "I have to make a living. My name is well-known here and that's what it takes for lawyers," says Abourezk. "It doesn't matter how good you are. It just matters how well your name is known," he adds...The former junior Senator from S.D. is making a name for himself, but one who appears unimpressed is his wife Mary Ann, who recently left him. He has been spotted around Washington with Ellen Berhan of the Consumer Federation of America.

They're Off and Running. 1980 is not too far away. Republicans have been tossing their hats into the ring, one by one. While they have been attracting the attention of the media, California's Governor Jerry Brown has been wooing a fellow Gov. for the second spot on a Brown presidential ticket. Brown's choice is rumored to be Louisiana's Ed Edwards, a one-time Congressman with a liberal voting record in Washington. Edwards, who has the support of the Cajun parishes in Louisiana, has never been a Carter supporter and was one of those who nominated Brown two years ago. His wife served as an interim Senator following the death of Allen Ellender. She admitted accepting cash from Tongsun Park — remember Koreagate? Edwards' appearance is very slick, but his personal finances under careful scrutiny may not match that clean cut image.

The First Reverse Chic of The Campaign Buttons are Already on Lapels. A splattering of sunny yellow "Ted Kennedy For Lifeguard" buttons are showing up on clothing sported by Washington youth and those who have decided it's no longer fashionable to be liberal... Anti-liberals elsewhere have already raised a million dollars to defeat Idaho's Sen. Frank Church in '80, who was first elected to the Senate in '56 at the age of 32. Church was on of the first Senators to take a stand against the Vietnam war. He ran for President in '78 and was considered by Carter as a running mate. It appears that the beat Frank Church treasure chest may go to conservative Representative Steve Symms, a fruit rancher who was first elected to The House in '72. The irony that the liberals seemed to have failed to consider is that if Church, who is now Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is defeated, his successor will be the even more liberal George McGovern.

The Bean Bag is not a fancy name for a peanut sack or soybean caucus. That's what Rep. Paul Findley (R-Ill) has named his newsletter. Findley, who represents the district that first sent Abe Lincoln to Washington, and a state which is the number one producer of soybeans, will use this monthly newsletter to brief his constituents on everything they ever wanted to know about soybeans — and even some trivia they could have lived without... But all Findley's time is not spent counting soybeans. He has written a book on Lincoln's years as a Congressman which will be published this Spring... Findley is a true Lincoln buff. He even sponsored a measure that marked the place where our 16th president's desk sat in the House Chamber.



Karen Feld, 31, is a native Washingtonian who has an insider's perspective of the legislative and executive branches of government and the people at the helm of each. She has covered the Washington political and social scene for the past ten years. Her journalistic career was launched with a weekly column in "Roll Call" the Congressional newspaper. She is currently a freelance writer and frequently contributes to a variety of newspapers and national magazines. Her credits include: The Washington Post Magazine, Parade, The Los Angeles Times, Washington Evening Star, Chicago Tribune, Detroit News, American Way, United Mainliner, California magazine, Carte Blanche and other magazines.

When a Congressman Needs an Attorney, Who Should He Turn To? Why not an ex-Congressman? That's exactly what Robert Sikes (D-Fla) did when he was being investigated by the House Ethics Committee in 1976. He asked Larry Hogan (R-Md) to represent him. Hogan, a former FBI agent, gave up his Congressional seat to run for Governor. He was defeated but went on to become Prince George's County executive. Hogan charged Sikes \$100 an hour for his services, including the hourly fee for each of the eight hours he waited outside the committee room waiting for the Member. Sikes was later reprimanded by Congress for financial conflicts of interest. His constituents elected him to one more term, probably because of his seniority on the Appropriations committee and for the Defense Dept. money which he kept coming into the district. He did retire last year. But Hogan filed suit to collect the unpaid portion of his \$28,770 bill for legal services. Sikes has only paid Hogan \$12,030. The two former Congressman just settled out of court for a compromise fee.

enough to omit 47 candles from the cake...She was recovering from a broken finger, an ice skating accident.

Even in Washington, TV viewers tire of game shows and reruns which local network affiliates generally offer in what's called access time, the half hour following the news and leading into primetime. The CBS affiliate has another alternative now. The new show, called "P.M. Magazine" stars Susan Goldwater, the blond ex-wife of Rep. Barry Goldwater, Jr. (R-Ca). She's been prepping for this debut for a year in Columbus, Ohio, preferring to make her mistakes outside of the Washington establishment. On the opening show, Goldwater interviewed Walter Cronkite, who complains to her about local stations hiring news personalities based on looks and bubblyness. She continued to bubble as the comment floated over her head... Barry Jr. turned 40 and rushed back to L.A. during the break between sessions of Congress to have his eyes done. "When I looked in the mirror in the evening and realized I looked just like I did in the morning, it was time," says the Congressman. He also let his hair grow and it's coiffed in a boyish cut. He could pass for a Capitol page now...

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