

# Celebrity chefs stir up a Gourmet Gala

Celebrity chefs — Transportation Secretary Sam Skinner, Sens. Howard Heflin, Sam Nunn, Alan Simpson, Tom Daschle, Strom Thurmond, Dan Coats and Dick Lugar, House GOP Leader Bob Michel, and House Chairmen John Dingell and Les Aspin — whipped up their favorite recipes for guests at the eighth annual March of Dimes Gourmet Gala at the Sheraton Washington Hotel.

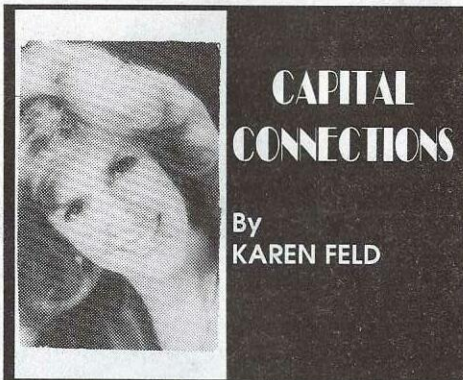
Each chef prepared his recipe in a specially designed mini-kitchen decorated on the theme of developments in Eastern Europe. Secretary Skinner's kitchen was a recreation of the Berlin Wall, tumbling down, complete with graffiti.

Only a few Democrats grabbed Armed Services Chairman Les Aspin's broccoli served with bleu cheese dip, now a no-no in official circles. Rep. Aspin told John Kyl, a pro-Strategic Defense Initiative Republican from Arizona:

"Broccoli is sort of like SDI." Rep. Dingel preparing spring rolls, referred to all broccoli lovers across the aisle: "George Bush is in charge of broccoli." Sen. Simpson, preparing artichoke delight, still insists that President Bush should reconsider and try his recipe for broccoli with hollandaise.

A Washington florist, not to miss a marketing opportunity, has created the broccoli bouquet in honor of America's No. 1 hater of the green veggie. "Broccoli belongs in the White House," says Victor Kamber, a Democratic political consultant who is part-owner of the flower shop. "It's outrageous that the man who claims to be a 'green' president won't even eat his greens, Kamber charges.

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world, the 1986 episode where she slapped her social secretary allegedly because Office of Management and Budget Chief Dick Darman didn't show up for a dinner party.

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The Reagan administration

had an astrologer, Joan Quigley, who gets even with her new book, "What Did Joan Say?" The Bush administration has a palmist, Surgeon General Antonio Novello. The only difference is that presidential schedules aren't dependent on life lines.

The Notre Dame Club of Washington has scored a coup in scheduling one of its '53 graduates as a luncheon speaker early next month. The former director of the resistance, Contra head Adolfo Calero will talk about the current political climate in Nicaragua, quite topical now with the Sandinistas stepping down later this month and the Poindexter trial in connection with Irangate.

These are the "Capital Connections."