

Roberta Flack is singing for a plumber

Roberta Flack is in search of a good plumber.

She lives in the famed Dakota, on New York's trendy Upper West Side, sandwiched below Yoko Ono and above newsies Connie Chung and Maury Povich. A recent guest of the vocalist was bewildered as to why she insisted he not flush the back toilet at night.

After much persistence, she finally explained the problem. It leaks onto Connie Chung's bed, which doesn't please Connie and Maury. They can't seem to find the leak.

Roll Call, the wee congressional biweekly which American Stock Exchange Chairman Arthur Levitt purchased just a few years back for half a million, is on the market again, say insiders, who also say it can be yours for \$8 mill.

Congressional Quarterly is a serious looker. Also interested is Washington Journalism Review founder Roger Kranz, who has just come out with a prototype of his own for a DC metro daily trade paper, The Washington Reporter. But he's apparently having difficulty raising the \$40 million needed for his projected fall launch.

John Riggins, the former Redskin who fell asleep on the floor during the vice president's talk at a formal press dinner a few years back, was thrilled to run into his hero, ex-Sen. George McGovern, now the proud owner of a New England inn, at a Georgetown pub the other evening. The out-of-work Riggins will apply for Gary Hart's old job, that of campaign manager, if McGovern makes another run for the White House.

A CBS exec confided that even the holier-than-thou Kennedy Center Honors aren't above a little politics.

CBS airs the annual award show each December. The network suggested honoring a country-western star, such as Roy Acuff. But KennCen big shots, who last year bestowed honors on Harry Belafonte and Mary Martin, nixed the idea.



CAPITAL CONNECTIONS

By
KAREN FELD

Country-western stars don't play the Kennedy Center, and opera buffs don't recognize country music as an art form in the same class, the network exec was told off the record.

It looks as if Democrats will either descend upon Broadway or the French quarter in 1992, if insiders are correct. New York and New Orleans are leading in their bids for the next Democratic National Convention. Both cities are willing to contribute \$15 million to prepare for the event.

Chicago industrialist Bill Farley, the chairman of Farley Industries (makers of Fruit of the Loom) and constant companion of former Miss America Gretchen Carlson, backed out of sponsoring the Horatio Alger Awards, an annual event held in Washington in May.

Farley, who has his own Horatio Alger story, is having financial difficulties, say insiders. Guys are still wearing Fruit of the Loom, but the trouble is with the other parts of the biz.

Farley, who ran for president in the Iowa primary in '88, gave a lunch in Chicago last fall for the Horatio Alger board. He secured

commitments from various vendors to provide pro bono goodies, but many of them have backed out as well.

Harry McQuillen, vice president of MacMillan, Inc., says it plans to publish Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell's book on the environment. "It's not often that (Robert) Maxwell (the media mogul who owns MacMillan) calls at 4 a.m. from London to do a book," says McQuillen, referring to the upcoming Mitchell book.

Lexus adds pizzazz to tournament play

The Kidney Association's third annual golf tournament at Admirals Cove today, May 5, promises to be the best of the bunch, according to President Bob Wilson.

Lexus Champions for Charity will sponsor the 14th hole-in-one prize — a new Lexus model LS 400 Luxury Touring Sedan, valued at more than \$35,000.

The winners will also have the opportunity to send a two-person team to the National Championship to compete on behalf of the Kidney Association for a total purse of \$60,000, plus individual performance prizes.

Telephone the Kidney Association at 844-0579 for more information.