

Capital Connections

By Karen Feld
Columnist

Jimmy Carter used to have difficulty with his word processor (it took a byte out of his first book), but now his office believes in technology. When General Donald Dawson called the former president's office in Plains, Ga., to confirm his attendance at the Eisenhower centennial, Pres. Carter's secretary told him, "We don't discuss those things on the phone; just fax it."

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Volunteers in the White House are grumbling that they aren't being treated well in the Bush administration. A retired doctor who's been working for the Republicans for several decades says he resigned as a White House volunteer after a reprimand for taking two days off to attend his 50th Princeton reunion.

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Singer Mel Torme and talker Larry King rank high on the list of famous feuders joining Nancy Reagan and Don Regan, and George Bush and George Will. During his show at Anton's 1201 Club, Torme, who's just completed a book on Buddy Rich entitled "Traps, The Drum Wonder" (Rich's childhood name in vaudeville), said he won't be promoting it on the Larry King show when it's published next year. "We were extremely good friends," explained Torme. "But I have no use for people who don't honor markets."

"Larry does not stand by his friends. We're definitely estranged."

Both King and Torme say the falling out occurred about two years ago when Torme was promoting his



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singers on his TV show. "Torme thought I should overrule the producers and book him," explains King, but his policy is "I don't book or cancel guests, and they don't tell me what question to ask." The next thing King remembers was that a peeved Torme canceled the radio appearance and wrote King "a strong letter."

"If it's a feud, it's a one-way feud," says King. "I love Mel."

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Samantha Kluge, the daughter of John Kluge, the richest man in the United States, has started at the bottom. She's just taken a position as an intern for a N.Y. entertainment public relations firm where she earns \$7.10 an hour. Cromarty and Co. counts among their clients "Bugs Bunny," "Happy Days" and the Rainbow Room. Some of Samantha's co-workers were embarrassed when during her first week on the job, the New York Times ran a Page One story about her father donating \$25 million to Columbia University. She'd need to work a lot of hours to match that.

autobiography. He was booked on King's syndicated radio show but not his TV show. "I'm minimally bitter about it," says Torme, who says it's a complicated story, but he would definitely call it a "feud."

Larry King calls Torme "one of the three great singers in the world." King said at the time his producers would not book individual

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There's still talk about President and Mrs. Bush missing the lavish 50th birthday bash in Del Rey, Florida, for his close pal and hunting companion, Kentucky horse breeder William Stamps Fairsh III, who owns the Houston investment firm that once managed Bush's blind trust. The president is the

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godfather to Farish's daughter, Laura.

The Farishes do know how to entertain and be entertained. It was Mrs. Farish who bought different china for each meal when Queen Elizabeth II stayed with them on their Kentucky horse ranch.

The president did call to wish his pal Happy Birthday. But when the butler came to tell "Mr. Bill" that "Mr. George" was on the phone, Farish, who's accustomed to a rich and powerful circle of friends, told the butler to ask "Mr. George" to call back

after dinner.

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Guests at a dinner at the Australian embassy the other evening were amused by a drawing of a duckbilled platypus. The platypus is an unusual animal that lays eggs and then nurses her young like a mammal. One guest commented that the platypus was nursing. Jim Schroeder exclaimed, "They're not big enough." To which his wife, Rep. Pat Schroeder, retorted: "It's not Dolly Parton. It's a platypus."

*What do you know that someone wishes you didn't?
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