KAREN On Tuesday

Who said the rich control political elections? "Political Tightwads" — that's what the current issue of the O'Leary/Kamber Report calls a half-dozen of the 26 billionaires in America listed by Forbes magazine.

The six — **H. Ross Perot** (who GOP fund-raiser **Brad O'Leary** has nicknamed "America's patriot for profit"), **Barbara Cox Anthony, Harry Brakmann Helmsley, S.I. Newhouse Jr., Donald Newhouse** and **Margaret Hunt Hill** — didn't give a nickel to candidates for federal office within the last four years.

Federal election-campaign reform allows each to contribute $25,000 a year, or $100,000 over this four-year period. Their spouses are permitted to do the same. The Newhouse publications did, however, run stories on civic responsibility. Barbara Cox Anthony, who holds controlling interest in Cox Communications, knows about campaign contributions first-hand. Her dad was governor of Ohio and a 1920 presidential candidate, but that was before the days of multimillion-dollar electronic media campaigns.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, the most politically generous billionaires are **Henry and Elsie Hillman** ($93,000 to Republicans), **Edgar Bronfman** ($86,000, mostly to Democrats), **David Rockefeller** ($68,000, mostly to Republicans), **Lester Crown** ($67,000, mostly to Democrats), and **David Packard** ($61,000 to Republicans).

First Friend **Walter Annenberg** contributed $14,000. The only local Mr. Moneybags listed among America's billionaires, **Forrest Mars,** the secretive McLean candy man, contributed $22,800.

Some conservatives are boycotting it, but **President and Mrs. Reagan** will attend the AIDS benefit honoring Surgeon General **C. Everett Koop,** at the Potomac restaurant May 31. They'll be joined by **Liz Taylor,** who recently criticized the president because he recommended abstinence, which is against the law in Hollywood, as a solution to halt the spread of the deadly disease. **Marvin Hamlisch** and **Roberta Flack** will share the stage that evening at **Warner LeRoy's** glitzy restaurant on the Potomac. But nobody will partake of the river view. The Secret Service will cover the enormous glass windows.

Sondra Gotlieb, the wife of the Canadian ambassador, doesn't give up easily. Now she's writing a weekly, less-than-controversial, personal humor column for the Canadian newspaper chain Southam. She hopes to syndicate it in the States. Canadian humor is very different, though, from the "Dear Beverly" letters she once wrote for the OP.

There's nothing like an opportunity to take your frustrations out on a tennis ball. Congressional tennis players including Sen. **John Breaux** and Reps. **Norm Dicks, Mike Oxley, Bob Kastenmeier, Howard Coble,** and **Bill Frenzel,** met on the courts at McLean Racquet Club Saturday night for the second celebrity bash to benefit cystic fibrosis. **John Dingell,** who just had the cast removed from his foot, had to be content to cheer from courtside.

Between sets, John Breaux, the freshman from Louisiana, told his former House colleagues: "In the Senate there are rules, and there are senators; when there's a dispute, the senators win."

It's not often that politicians laugh at themselves, but **Barney Frank,** the Democratic congressman from Boston, joins local pols tonight at Nick's Comedy Shop in Boston, one of his favorite hangouts. Barney's comedy debut takes the form of a five-minute stand-up routine.

In Friday's early editions of The Times, an editor who will no doubt go nameless (if not blameless) allowed his fantasies to creep into this space. Although **Fawn Hall's** dress at the White House Correspondents' dinner plunged boldly without benefit of shoulder straps, it was by no means "topless" — much to the disappointment of pressies of the male persuasion.

— Karen Feld



Marvin Hamlisch