



Karen Feld

What's in a name?

Rita Jenrette, the former congressional wife who boasted about having sex on the steps of the U.S. Capitol with her ex, John Jenrette of Abscam fame, has decided to use her maiden name, Rita Carpenter, in the hope of breathing some life into her fledgling acting career. The name Jenrette was an entree into the pages of "Playboy" and a guest shot on "Divorce Court" but apparently not onto the New York stage. Rita Carpenter will star in a play, "Full House," in New York this fall.

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Actor Sidney Poitier was in Washington the other day researching his role for "Separate but Equal," which will be filmed outside the Supreme Court building next month. Interior scenes will be shot elsewhere, since cameras are forbidden inside the building. Poitier lunched at the Georgetown Club with Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. The actor paid close attention to every mannerism. In the film, Poitier plays Marshall, who in 1954, as director of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, argued the landmark desegregation case Brown vs. Board of Education before the U.S. Supreme Court.

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When war broke out in the Middle East, Prince Turki Bin Faisal and his family cut short their vacation at the Four Seasons Hotel in the nation's capital to return home to Saudi Arabia, but not before they completed a week-long shopping spree. King Fahd's cousins hired a Hertz rental truck to load the more than 100 suitcases, the boxes, the three exercise treadmills, a mini-jeep, a Weber grill and a satellite dish.

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Oh, what problems some women have trying to juggle career and motherhood, or wannabemotherhood. Connie Chung has canceled a scheduled appearance to speak to the Asian-American Journalist Association at its annual banquet at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City later this week because that's the day she'll be ovulating, and Chung, 44, wants to concentrate fully on conceiving a baby with hubby Maury Povich.

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Ollie North is a good advertisement for his own product. Not one to take chances, he's revealed that he wears one of the bulletproof vests he's manufacturing every time he goes out in public. The lieutenant colonel says his interest in the garment was sparked when one saved his life in Vietnam. The need for the item was reinforced in his mind when he did public service for his role in Iran Contra. He noted that D.C. police officers in the inner city aren't as well-prepared as he thought they should be.



First, Jordan's King Hussein flew to Kennebunkport to meet with President Bush at Walker's Point. Now, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney is expected to visit the president at his summer home the week before Labor Day. The White House won't confirm the get-together, which will likely be an informal one. Last year, Mulroney, his wife and four children visited President Bush at Kennebunkport. That's when the two leaders discussed an acid rain treaty and Panama and then agreed to end the conflict between the two countries over the size of lobster catches.

These are the "Capital Connections."