

Miller's 'Fishbait' big catch for anglers of D.C. gossip

By Ron Ruggless

Fishbait/William "Fishbait" Miller/Prentice-Hall/1977/ \$12.50

In yet another of the influx of post-Watergate - this book - tells - all - about - the - people - in - politics books - readers are baited by *Fishbait*.

The latest fish in the Washington, D.C., sea is a book by the Democratic Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives, William "Fishbait" Miller.

Although *Fishbait* was not in one of the more illustrious positions in Congress, he was in a position to open up a whole new can of scandalous worms.

And that he did.

Fishbait Miller was the Democratic Doorkeeper for 28 of his 42 years on Capitol Hill (1933-75), and was in the prime position to literally watch the comings and goings of House members.

Names sometimes withheld

They seem to come and go in style, marked by humorous incidents, mischievous misgivings and sexual exploits.

puts a twinkle of humanism into the politics.

Beyond human capabilities

From accounts of the Congressional staff members, the people go beyond human capabilities when it comes to sexual prowess.

Fishbait also recounts working with women representatives and the inflated egos of other congressmen. He recalls:

"I'll never forget the day a committee of three irate congresswomen came storming into my Doorkeeper's office and demanded, 'Get that blasted girl out of our washroom!'"

"With all of them talking at once, like a Greek chorus, I finally got the story that Congressman Albert Thomas of Texas, was showing his displeasure by sending one of his secretaries into the ladies' room to do her typing.

"It wasn't easy to do—I really felt sorry for the girl when I saw her working in there, after I timidly opened the door. She confirmed that the ladies were definitely right. It was their rest-room. But she had her orders.



'Welcome Wingding' today

A "Welcome Wingding," sponsored by the Nebraska Union Program Council (UPC), will bring things ranging from music to skateboards to UNL today.

Sara Boatman, program manager, described the schedule. At 4 p.m. the local band Sour Mash will play, followed at 6:30 by Hotfoot, a Kansas City-based rock 'n' roll group.

Strolling puppeteer Sam Rich, of the Puppet Theater Museum in Omaha, will give roving performances from 4:30 to 5:30.

Skateboard and Frisbee competitions are being organized by Union recreation director Rollie Hughes.

Hughes said the Frisbee contest would include distance and accuracy tests.

Hughes said skateboard contestants will race through an obstacle course against the clock. Penalties will be scored each time a contestant's foot touches the ground. Registration deadline for both events is 4 p.m. at the recreation booth in the Union.

Boatman said the site of the events will be the area surrounding Broyhill Fountain north of the Nebraska Union. In case of rain, she said most events, except the Frisbee and skateboard contests, would move to the Union main lounge. Booths will provide information and sell food.

book review

Fishbait told his account to author Frances Spatz Leighton, and, thus, was spawned *Fishbait: The Memoirs of the Congressional Doorkeeper*.

Although the book darts from one scene to another, spastic recollections of sexual encounters and valiant endeavors add spice at the right points to make the 381-page book tasty and tasteful for the subject matter, reading.

Names are sometimes withheld to protect the guilty and frustrate the reader. But in the majority of the recollections, the names are enough to shake your concentration.

Everyone from a brash Bella Abzug to exiled Richard Nixon provide enough bait to hook a reader.

The book adds a new perspective—a light one—to the otherwise staid, business images of the Congressional stars. *Fishbait*

"By the time I got back to my office, House Speaker Sam Rayburn had sent for me, and when I hurried to his office, he in turn spewed his wrath at me, telling me, 'Fish, get that girl out by tomorrow morning or you are going to be smelling the south end of a northbound mule.'

Influence was high

"When it came to playing the heavy or doing the dirty work, the leadership always made Fish do it."

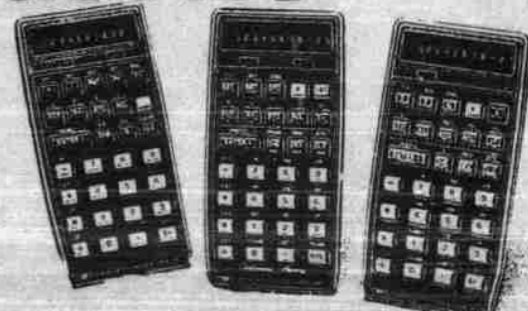
One would expect the Congressional Doorkeeper to be a peon among political powers, but his influence was high.

He had a yearly income of \$40,000 by the end of his tenure and was the a master of 357 House employees and a \$3 million budget.

This book does lack the coherence of a good, sit-down-and-read novel, but for anyone interested in politics and the people behind the faces this would be an interesting book.

For gossip, *Fishbait* is a big catch.

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crossword puzzle

Edited by WILL WENG

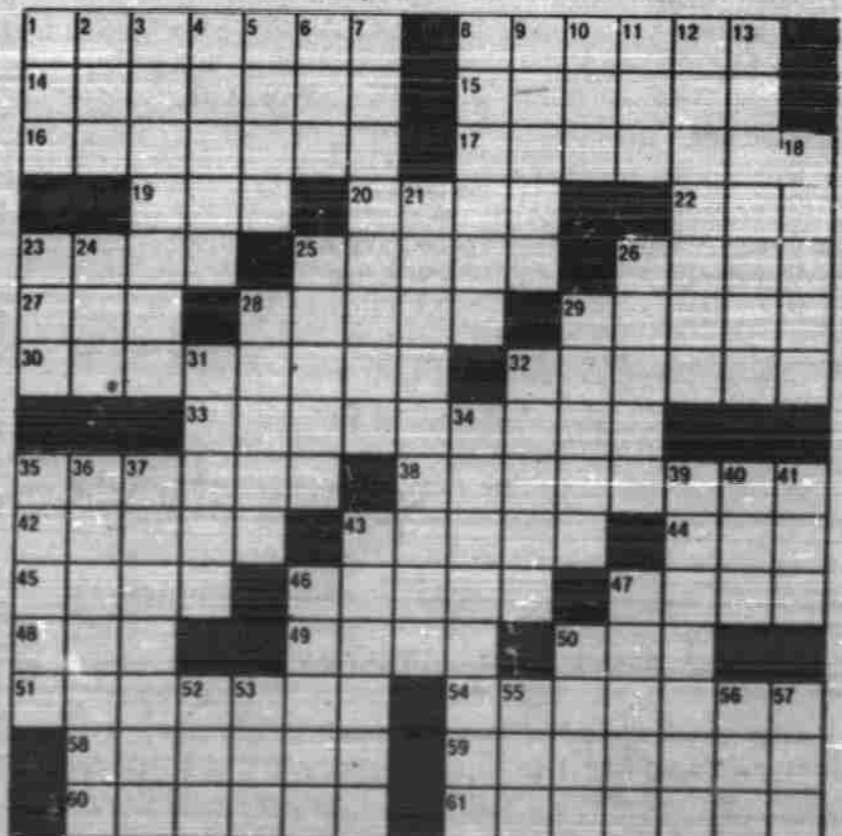
ACROSS

- 1 Petulant
- 8 Plants evidence on
- 14 San —
- 15 Rebel
- 16 School of writing
- 17 Jacks or better, usually
- 19 Court divider
- 20 French pronoun
- 22 Hit-man's weapon
- 23 Takes a spouse
- 25 Thrash about
- 26 Glass piece
- 27 Much-traveled fighter
- 28 Mont —
- 29 Cowboy's habitat
- 30 Mobster's domain
- 32 "— Skelter"
- 33 Corot specialty
- 35 Observation
- 38 Section of Scotland
- 42 Clerical vestment
- 43 Almost besotted
- 44 Zsa Zsa's sister
- 45 Bulrush
- 46 Dipper
- 47 Hearty gulp
- 48 Wallace
- 49 Territory
- 50 Seat in an oratory
- 51 What Miss Muffet did to the tuffet
- 54 City in Kenya
- 58 Herbal medicine
- 59 Aspired to

- 60 When bunnies abound
- 61 — reason (make sense)

DOWN

- 1 Cold or Civil
- 2 Chemical suffix
- 3 Star's alter ego
- 4 Frigid zones
- 5 Monogram unit: Abbr.
- 6 Spanish yeses
- 7 One's native heath
- 8 Play
- 9 Ward off
- 10 "— Maria"
- 11 Calendar abbr.
- 12 To the manner born
- 13 Quaint
- 18 Beef on the hoof
- 21 One-sided plurality
- 23 Jokester
- 24 High note
- 25 Cut of steak
- 26 Plant scale
- 28 Exclaim loudly
- 29 Retort
- 31 Candied
- 32 Part of a ship's bow
- 34 Composer Aaron et al.
- 35 Ranks
- 36 Pattern after
- 37 Standing army
- 39 Neologism
- 40 Roman 506
- 41 Lose resiliency
- 43 More sour
- 46 Musician Frankie
- 47 European bird
- 50 City on the Arno
- 52 Donovan's agency: Abbr.
- 53 Singer Cole
- 55 At the age of: Abbr.
- 56 Play the nags
- 57 Bachelor's last words



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