

Liz Smith



Those who lunch

A BREAKFAST without a newspaper is a horse without a saddle. You are just riding bareback. Take away my ham, take away my eggs, even my chili, but leave my newspaper," said Will Rogers.

GO AHEAD, drop the bomb! On one lunch day last week you could have wiped out the Middle-aged Establishment of NYC and the Ancien Regime also. Here's who I saw at the Four Seasons Grill, no kidding — **Barbara Walters, Beverly Sills, Vernon Jordan, Lally Weymouth, Felix and Liz Rohatyn**, separately, **Casey Ribicoff, Pete Peterson, Joni Evans, Mort Zuckerman, Annette de la Renta, Howard Stringer, Tina Brown, Steve Schwarzman, Walter Anderson, Nancy Kissinger, Maureen O'Brien, Shirley Lord, Louise Grunwald, Suzanne Goodson, Sharon Hoge, Lola Finkelstein, Joan Marx** and last but not least — my favorite new newsmen, **Lou Dobbs** of CNN.

I'm sure I missed a few.

WE ALL know **Barbra Streisand** doesn't enjoy singing in public — she tells us this all the time — but you'd never have known it from her demeanor Sunday night at the Kodak Theater in L.A.! In clear, brilliant tones, Streisand, dressed in silver, with diamonds at her throat, took the stage for 45 minutes to rapturous applause. She sang not for her supper, but to raise funds for the Democratic Party.

From "My Funny Valentine" to "Evergreen," Barbra's voice was, well, like buttah. This very serious funny girl actually seemed to be enjoying herself, and when Barbra enjoys herself, you know it and feel it. She built power with each song, and brought her political activism to fever pitch with a new specially written version of "The Way We Were" — changed to "The Way We Are" with lyrics by **Marilyn and Alan Bergman**. This version socked it to **President Bush** and Republican leadership: "Scattered pictures of the 'House' we left behind... "I could sleep nights instead of weep nights." She listed, one by one, each "sin" the Democrats hold Republicans responsible for over the past two years. She didn't hold back (well, when has she ever?), calling the president and vice president "frightening," and shaming Bush for wanting "unlimited power." No matter one's political affiliations, Streisand's commitment and the deft way she handled the complicated new lyrics, was breathtaking. Why, she even recited a bit from William Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," making the point that "400 years later, justice is wearing a shroud."

She topped it all off with a stunning "God Bless America." Miss Streisand believes in the old adage — if you're gonna be a bear, be a grizzly. She was awarded with numerous standing ovations.

Barry Manilow performed before Miss Streisand. He was in terrific voice too. Three Mo' Tenors also gave their all. But nothing could top the very-much-not-retired Barbra.

Manilow said, "I think we should send Barbra to Washington. At least she would properly pronounce 'nuclear.'"

Yeah, well that's going to be the reaction when the Republicans respond to this legend's thrown-down gauntlet.

HERE'S SOMETHING a tad less inflammatory about another gold-throated songbird: **Celine Dion** and her hubby, **Rene**, are selling their estate in Jupiter, Fla., and shipping all their really important belongings back home to Canada. Celine will hunker down in Las Vegas for the next two years, where she's under contract to perform. After that, she and the Mr. will look for another "real" home in Palm Beach.

EMMY NIGHT nuggets are still trickling in. The day after the big TV awards show in L.A. quite a few partygoers no doubt woke up with staggering hangovers and melted wax drippings to deal with. We are told 180 bottles of vodka were imbibed at the Entertainment Tonight/Glamour magazine party at the Sky Bar! And even though the gift bags were stuffed with goodies — including "Burberry Barbie" — the hottest item of



Kevin Mazur/WireImage.com

BARBRA STREISAND Democratic show-stopper.

the night were the Trapp Private Garden candles in Orange Vanilla and Mediterranean Fig scents. These are the most sought-after candles in L.A., and people were snatching them off the tables, some still burning!

Lorna Luft and **Barbara Davis** are two of the most avid fans of these items. (They buy them in such quantities as to make these items even more scarce.) Maybe Mrs. Davis will nail her wax Trapp votives to her tables at her big Carousel Ball later this month.

HAPPENINGS: My neighbors in Murray Hill — **Iris and Ross Jackman** and their pals, **Erin Jackman, Jude** and **Jan Rozenveld** and **Jeffrey Selden** are giving a cocktail auction on Oct. 3, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the New York Palace Hotel. They honor the Brooke Jackman Literacy Program. (Brooke lost her life in the World Trade Center.) None other than "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" **Robin Leach** will handle the winning trips to Scotland, rounds at St. Andrews, skiing in Vail, Caribbean get-aways, etc. Another good deed in a naughty world. Call (212) 972-8980.