

roll, but the ever-frisky Grams, divorced in 1996 and playing the field, is now romantically linked to a "hot" GOP contributor described as a "cross between Jackie Kennedy and a young Elizabeth Dole."

So that's where he gets his inner strength.

Low note...When The Washington Opera hired **Placido Domingo** to be its artistic director in 1996, its euphoric board of trustees gave the tenor just about anything he wanted. The results, according to a case study of the opera by Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, were better performances, a higher profile and mounting debt. Faulting the trustees for a lack of foresight, the study says the opera almost ran into "serious trouble" between 1995 and 1998.



Domingo's presence certainly gave the company international cachet. And when he added operas and imported world-class singers, attendance soared. But so did costs.

The opera's 1997-98 season posted a \$658,000 deficit, according to the study, which was commissioned and paid for by trustee **Hilda Ochoa Brillembourg**. The following year, that figure had grown to \$1.26 million.

As one staffer observed, "Domingo is a visionary when it comes to opera. But it's hard for us to tell him about financial constraints."

The opera's productions now cost the company an average of \$2.6 million, the study found. And while most performances are sold out, box office receipts cover only 60 percent of the company's costs. The rest must come from contributions and fundraisers, which is why this month's Domingo gala, expected to raise more than \$2 million, is so crucial to the opera's financial health.

The study does credit Domingo with becoming more sensitive to costs. And the trustees, who include socialite **Betty Scriggs-Harvey**, chocolate billionaire **John Mars** and powerful PR operative **Michael Deaver**, win praise for selling the former Woodward and Lothrop department store — a gift from opera devotee **Betty Casey** — when it became clear that converting it into an opera house would cost close to \$200 million.

News Babes

Continued from page 9

News, where Lynne Russell presides for six amazing hours of air time.

Russell has taken news babe-osity to the next level by choosing to embrace her status as a sex symbol. Sporting luscious, quivering red lips and an alluringly deep voice, she breaks the mold of perky blondes with multi-ethnic names on Fox and MSNBC. And when Russell wears her glasses, she looks like the naughtiest li-

brian you've ever seen. In her new book, *How to Win Friends, Kick Ass & Influence People: A Memoir*, she writes of her compelling life story and illustrious journalism career, but also takes on more adult-oriented topics, like "The Virtues of Garter Belts" and "The Power of PMS."

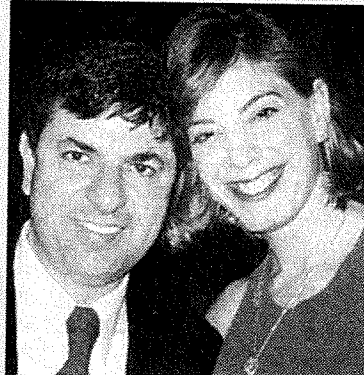
Russell is all business on the air, but off-camera she's a real handful. And a tattooed one, at that. She's even posed provocatively for a *Playboy* photographer. She wrote the book, she says, to help

[SIC] Political Consultant Lands Cutting-Edge Dreamboat

Jennifer Laszlo and Dr. Victor Mizrahi to Wed

Nancy Warner Laszlo of Durham, NC and Dr. John Laszlo of Atlanta, GA are pleased to announce that their daughter, Jennifer, is to be wed to Dr. Victor Mizrahi on February 13th in Jerusalem, Israel. Dr. Mizrahi is the son of Lynn (nee Racheline) Mizrahi of Canada and the late Gaston Mizrahi.

Miss Laszlo is a well-known Democratic strategist who has done work for President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, as well as prime ministers and presidents of Russia, the Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Trinidad & Tobago, and other nations. The founder and president of Laszlo & Associates Inc., she works on issues concerning public education, racial fairness and health care. She also trains leaders on strategic communications.



Victor Mizrahi and Jennifer Laszlo

Laszlo serves on the Cabinet of the United Jewish Communities, the YL Board of the National Jewish Democratic Council and the Board of Directors of the International Association of Political Consultants. She is the founder of the "Ella Laszlo Bache Brummer Memorial Fund for Community Service" at the District of Columbia Jewish Community Center. Recognized as a "Point of Light" by President Bush, Laszlo is also a weekly columnist for The Daily Record, and ran for Congress from North Carolina in 1994. She has degrees in Judaic studies and international relations from Emory University.

Victor Mizrahi, PhD, is the chief scientist for CIENA Corporation and a leading expert in optical technologies for telecommunications systems. CIENA develops and manufactures cutting edge optical networking systems, deployed by leading carriers around the world to carry voice and Internet traffic. CIENA's success made possible the creation of the Mizrahi Family Fund, a charitable endowment fund to help those in need.

Dr. Mizrahi holds 35 patents on optical technologies, and continues to invent. He has co-authored over 60 scientific publications in various fields of modern optics and made over 50 presentations at technical conferences. Before joining CIENA, Dr. Mizrahi worked at Bell Laboratories where he advanced fiber grating technology. Fiber gratings are optical components that are key to certain state of the art telecommunication systems used to power the Internet. Mizrahi did his post-doctoral work at the Optical Sciences Center at the University of Arizona where he worked on photo-induced effects in glasses. He received his PhD in physics from the University of Toronto in 1985, specializing in the field of nonlinear optics. He received his MSc degree at the Weizmann Institute of Israel and his undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto.

The wedding will take place at the world renown King David Hotel, overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem in Israel. Rabbi Mordechi Gafni of Jerusalem, host of an Israeli television show on Jewish issues, will officiate at the ceremony. Guests are coming from seven countries to attend the wedding. The couple will reside in Annapolis, MD.