

# FOR THE LADIES

## DEBUTANTES STEP OUT IN TALENTS AND FASHIONS

The 1992 Alpha Epsilon Debutantes of Les Femmes Douze presented their talents and fashions at Madison Sixth Grade Center, Monday, September 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Family and friends were entertained by a variety of talents; music (vocal and instrumental), poetry and original writings, lip-sync, dance and modeling. As this activity has become a tradition, these gifted Afro-American young ladies re-affirmed that our youth only need opportunity, encouragement and our belief in them to excel.

Debutantes participating were: Stephanie Arthur, Shakinda Brewer, Marcie Clark, Carla Ellis, Christal Ellis, Sherry Green, Sha'Londa Green, Darlena



DEBUTANTES PERFORM DURING FINALE

Gunn, Raejon Hollowell, Cicely Morgan, Ericka Rockwood, Sharon Schoolfield, Christina Seastrunk, L-Ikera Smith, Arleisha Strauder, Luchana Turner, Ilayna Wright and Jordana Ziebler.

The winner of the talent show will be revealed December 19th, at the Stardust Hotel, in the Avalon Ballroom during the 1992 Debutante Ball. At that time the recipient will be awarded the LaJuana Bailey Talent Award.

## BLACK WOMEN'S POLITICAL CONGRESS HOLDS AWARDS BRUNCH IN WASHINGTON, D.C. DURING CBC LEGISLATIVE WEEKEND

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 1,000 Black women were expected at the Seventh Annual Awards Brunch Awards Brunch of the National Political Congress of Black Women on Sunday, September 27 at the Sheraton Washington Hotel.

Held as one of the highlights of the Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Weekend,

the Awards Brunch was chaired by Dr. Dorothy Height, President of the National Council of Negro Women, and co-chaired by Rev. Willie Barrow, Vice Chair, PUSH Board of Directors, and the Honorable Jewel Lafontant-Mankarious, U.S. Ambassador At Large and U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

The National Political Congress of Black Women (NPCBW) honored former Congresswomen Shirley Chisholm and Dr. Gloria E. A. Tooté for their many years of service and contributions to the success of the NPCBW and to the political progress of African American women. Ms. Chisholm served as chair and Dr. Tooté as Vice Chair of NPCBW from its inception in 1984 to July of this year.

Special guests at the Brunch included Ms. Rosa Parks, the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement," D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly, noted entertainers Dionne Warwick and Melba Moore, and NPCBW founding members Congresswomen Barbara Rose Collins, Maxine Waters, Cardiss Collins, and Eleanore Holmes Norton.

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## CORPORATE LADDER

### Glass Ceiling Keeps Women From Reaching Senior Levels

News USA

(NU) - Although women make up 45 percent of the nation's work force today, they aren't rising proportionately into senior level positions. In a Labor Department review of nine Fortune 500 companies selected at random in 1991, 37 percent of the total employees were women. However, women accounted for only 6.6 percent of executive level managers.

Women come up against a barrier labor experts call the glass ceiling — where women are promoted to middle-management positions and can see the executive suite just ahead, but never quite advance that high.

The Women's Bureau of the Labor Department believes the glass ceiling phenomenon is due to artificial barriers based on attitude or organizational bias that prevent qualified women from advancing in their organization.

#### Women's Potential Untapped

"The glass ceiling hinders not only individuals but society as a whole. It effectively reduces the nation's pool of potential corporate leaders by half. It deprives the

economy of new leaders and new sources of creativity," says Elsie Vartanian, Director of the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Dept. of Labor.

If American businesses expect to compete successfully in the global marketplace, they must be prepared to use the entire work force to its fullest potential, the Labor Department's report on the glass ceiling phenomenon notes.

The department, under the direction of Secretary Lynn Martin, has designed an overall strategy to reach out to workers, employers, schools and businesses to get them to understand the importance of recruiting and promoting qualified women and minorities to senior managerial posts.

The Women's Bureau has been given a leading role to help businesses develop successful strategies and eliminate barriers of discrimination.

For a free copy of the labor secretary's Report on the Glass Ceiling, send a self-addressed mailing label to the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, Box GC, 200 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20210.

## WOMEN'S HEALTH

### Good News For American Women

(NU) - Women between ages 35 and 54 were once considered middle-aged. Today, women in this age category are in the prime of life, and, according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, they make up the largest segment of the population, numbering about 35 million.

Women in this age group are sexually active and continue to be fertile even as their cycles become irregular and erratic. Now they may consider an additional birth control option — the pill.

The labeling for oral contraceptive use has been changed, and there is no age limit for use of the pill by healthy, non-smoking women. Although previously only younger women were encouraged to use oral contraceptives, it has become evident that the benefits of low-dose estrogen oral contraceptives may outweigh the risks in women over

40.

"Presently there is no reason why low-dose oral contraception cannot be utilized by appropriate patients until menopause," says Leon Speroff, M.D., who wrote "Clinical Guide for Contraception" (Williams & Wilkins, 1992).

Benefits of low-dose oral contraceptive use include effective contraception and possibly the reduced risk of endometrial and ovarian cancer, fewer ovarian cysts, and fewer ectopic pregnancies, Speroff says. And he notes that oral contraceptives give women the freedom to continue with their active and healthy lifestyles. Current contraceptives range in estrogen dose from 20-50 micrograms.

For more information about low dose oral contraceptives, contact Parke-Davis Female Health Care, Box 300K, Dept. NU, 301 E. 57th St., New York, NY 10022.

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