

# "Still I Rise" Honoring Achievement At Annual Ball

(Debutantes continue)

Each of these young ladies work close with advisors the second set of advisors are Ms. Pam Rahsaan, Mrs. Serena Stoudamire, Mrs. Brenda Tripplett and Mrs. Rena Allen. They all have several young ladies that they keep in touch with and make sure they are aware of all activities and any changes that may occur.

"Still I Rise" (passage 4)  
 "Does my sexiness upset you?  
 Does it come as a surprise  
 That I dance like I've got diamonds  
 At the meeting of my thighs?  
 Out of the huts of histories shame  
 I rise  
 Up from a pass that's rooted in pain  
 I rise  
 I am a black ocean,  
 leaping and wide,  
 Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

This issue of The Portland Observer will feature Debutantes, Kelly Dyan Lewis, Maisha Wylycka Raifor, Cobi Kaenika Smith, LaToshia Lynn Washington and Wintress Shauntain Watson.



Kelly Dyan Lewis

Prospective Debutante Kelly Dyan Lewis a senior at Grant High School, is the daughter of Carolyn and Bonnie Lewis.

"I bring to Les Femmes, creativity, leadership skills, sensitivity, honesty and my willingness to achieve. Because I always seem to have ideas that work, I also like to make things happen and to see that they get done the right way. Facing up to the things that you have done wrong keeps you honest and makes up a better person. With my willingness to achieve I feel Les Femmes is an organization that

will put me to the ultimate test. The test that makes me into a woman. The women of Les Femmes give me hope, friendship, guidance, trust and love."

Prospective Debutante Maisha Wylycka Raiford, a senior at Wilson High School, is the daughter of Denise and Charlie Braxton.

"I bring many things to the organization such as, leadership skills, the ability to get along with others, and abundance of energy, personality, sensitivity, very high social ethics, a sense of self and self worth, a strong sense of morality and honest christian upbringing. All these qualities summarize the dedication for excellence that I have tried to live by."



Cobi Kaenika Smith

Prospective Debutante Cobi Kaenika Smith, a senior at St. Marys Academy High School, is the daughter of Cora and Hilton Smith.

"I bring to Les Femmes a strong, determined and intelligent young black woman. This young woman has a mind of her own, her head on her shoulders and a future in mind. Always there to help, responsible academically, socially or in her family. Les Femmes has brought to me a sense of accomplishment and belong-



LaToshia Washington

ing, a goal to achieve and a standard to live up to. It is these criteria that have made this young black woman strong, intelligent, and truly proud to be a 1995 Les Femmes prospective debutante."



Wintress Shauntain Watson

Prospective Debutante LaToshia Lynn Washington, a senior at Benson High School, is the daughter of Brenda Washington.

"I bring leadership and unity. I am a team worker and I enjoy having meetings and parties. Being a prospective debutante lifts my confidence. It makes me feel that I am a special person who deserves to be a part of such a positive group. Most importantly I bring a positive attitude. Being positive is important to me because positivity leads to excellence, and Les Femmes has opened up many doors so that I can share my positivity and leadership with others."

"I bring the qualities of trust, honesty, leadership and respectfulness. I can be trusted to do the things I say that I am going to do and I feel others can confide in me. Through my years in the HOSA program I learned that confidentiality is a good quality. I can be trusted, along with trust I bring honesty. I don't feel it is important for me to lie. I am a leader, not a follower. I can think for myself and when things get rough I am the step in.

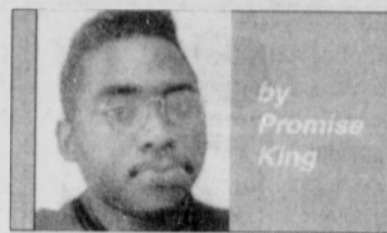
I feel that the type of attitude I hold is something good. I am a well rounded person who is ready to learn and teach.

The Les Femmes Senior Debutante director is Mrs. Rena Allen can be reached at 222-9663 ext 142.

## AFRICAN INSIGHT

# Africans Our Africa II

## Ghana: Land of Gold And Investment Opportunities



by Promise King

Questions that folks often ask me about Africa border on political and economic development.

Some are curious questions on investment opportunities. And as I said in this column before it's time black Americans think seriously of investing their hard earned money in their ancestral land.

Needless to tell you, 90 percent of the foreign investors in my native Nigeria are white folks. They invested millions in oil and mining ventures and are now reaping billions. Don't listen to the western media. Call me if you decide to invest in any part of Africa.

J.J. Rawlings, the President of the Republic of Ghana, was in the United States on official working visit. Here is what he said on the subject:

"If you are looking for the future, it is in Africa. Like other sleeping giants before her, such as China and some East Asian countries, Africa is undergoing fundamental political and economic transformations that merit closer attention from the Western world.

The 21st century will see a new, revitalized Africa, and we in the Republic of Ghana have decided firmly that we will show the world what is positive and successful, what is noble and elevating from our continent.

In many ways, Africa is still "undiscovered." Yes there is the incomparable wildlife. There are the great gorges and famous waterfalls, and unfathomable mineral and other natural resources.

The suffering and hardship that affect parts of Africa has also been thoroughly documented. But this giant of a continent is stirring and I am confident that you who put faith, commitments and your investments in Africa will not be disappointed. In recent years astute business people have been doing just that — looking to the continent as a dynamic region to make sound new investments.

But as we get to the roots of these conflicts, we can clearly see that economic development will contribute immensely to resolving many of these situations.

We in democratic Ghana are proud to be in a country of peace and political stability that offers an ideal haven for foreign investment. We have a stable political and social environment in which the safety of persons, property and investment is assured. We have a government that follows a prudent and disciplined economic program, a liberalized trade policy and an exchange rate regime that makes it simple to deal in foreign currency.

Our stock exchange has recently been ranked among the best of emerging stock markets in terms of capital appreciation. When the New York Times recommended five major African exchanges on which American investors might invest, Ghana's placed at the top of the list.

We have a well-endowed natural resources base of gold, diamonds, manganese, bauxite, hardwoods, oil and gas, as well as large tracts of arable land and a climate that benefits agriculture and the exploitation of sea resources.

Cordial relations between labor, management and government, and a workforce that is better educated and skilled than in many places in the world makes it very promising.

Ghana offers much more. We have ready access to regional and international markets, such as the 200 million people of the 16 member Economic Community of West Africa States. Investors also benefit from the insurance and guarantees accorded to Ghana by the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency of the World Bank Group.

**When the New York Times recommended five major African exchanges on which American investors might invest, Ghana's placed at the top of the list.**

Political stability and security of investment are of paramount importance to investors. I acknowledge that in this respect, the history of conflicts in certain parts of Africa have given some investors pause.

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Maisha Wylycka Raifor



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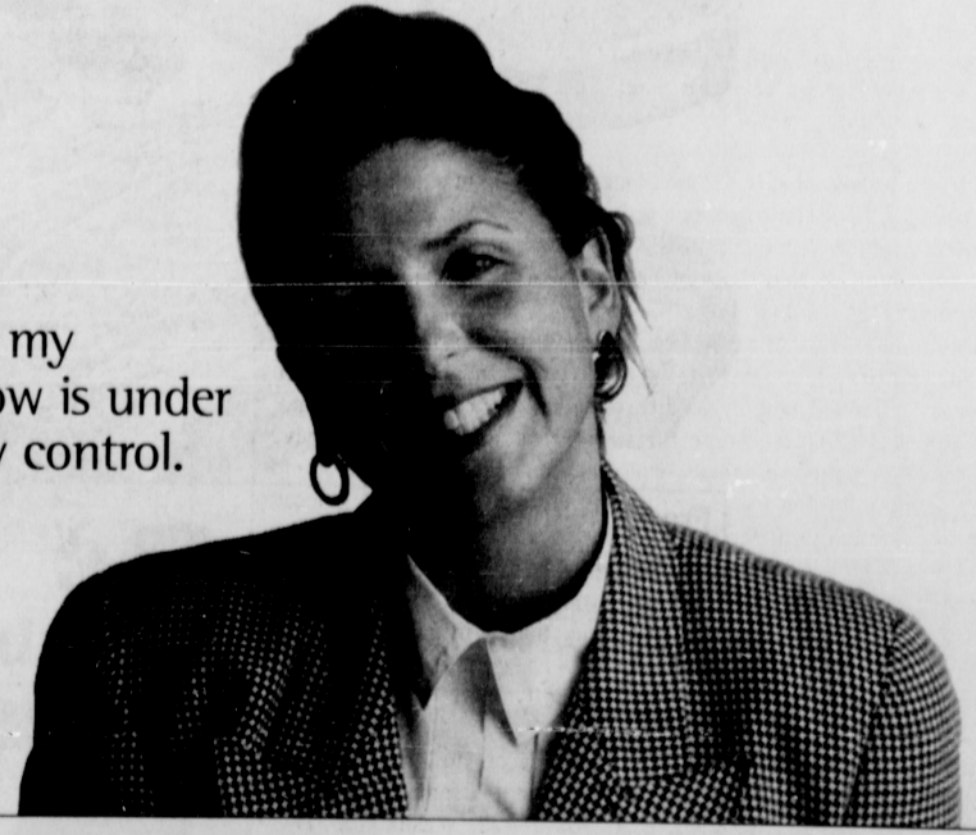
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