Fifty-second Anniversary

International Debutante Ball

Photos by: Elaine Ubinia



Kimberly Whitman, Krystal and Myrna Schlegel



Pierce and Ashley Bush and Cadet Michael Wolk



Cathy, Octavia, Natalya, David Obolensky and Parker Brickley



Krystal Schlegel and Robert Schlegel



Nancy Prall and Elizabeth Cullen Talton

Leslie and Natalie Waring



Frances Cannon, Courtney and Christen Levering



Ashley Bush and Sharon Bush

The International Debutante Ball to benefit The Soldiers, Sailors, Coast Guards', Marines' and Aimen's Clubs as well as other International Debutante Foundation charities was held at the Waldorf Astoria on the 29th of December.

One of the Vanderbilts started it all by noting that in the Jet Set Age, it's a small world. Reminiscing about her own debut, Consuelo Vanderbilt, future wife of the Duke of Marlborough, recalled it took two weeks for her to get to England for her debut, then another seven or eight days of exhausting travel to Paris for another ball in her honor. "Girls don't realize what a wonderful opportunity they have today to fly around the globe to attend each other's parties." That remark sparked Beatrice Dinsmore Joyce, a New York socialite with a dramatic flair for parties and pageantry, to create the first International Debutante Ball.

The International Debutante Ball provides a social context where young women and men from all over the world meet one another, have a wonderful

and romantic time, and form lasting friendships. Over the past three decades, heiresses to ancient European titles, daughters of Diplomats, Ambassadors, Governors, Presidents and distinguished Americans from all over the country have been brought together by the Ball and the various parties associated with it.

Altogether some two thousand young women representing seventy-two countries and forty-four states have ben presented at the Ball over the past four decades. And how do young women today look at the tradition of being a debutante? :They want to take advantage of every opportunity that comes their way," says Margaret Stewart Hedberg, who inherited ownership of the Ball after her aunt, Beatrice Joyce died in 1983. "Young well-educated women of today want to experience all life has to offer, from career, to family, to the opportunity of meeting wonderful young people from all over the world. For more information please call 212 861 5911.