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Breakfast with Cokie

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People who have made it a rule not to "do" breakfast missed a real treat last Tuesday, and I don't mean the tasty omelets that were served. Nearly 550 people were in the Hyatt ballroom by 7:30 a.m. to listen as ABC's Capitol Hill reporter Cokie Roberts talked about Washington and women and politics.

This successful fund-raiser was the brainchild of attorneys Frances Reaves and Susan Gauvey, two Network 2000 members who insisted people would pay to hear Roberts. They were right.

So was Marcellus Alexander, general manager of ABC's affiliate, WJZ-TV (Channel 13), who helped by hyping the breakfast on TV and supplying reporter Kelly Saunders for the Roberts intro. Alexander joined us for breakfast, as did other VIPs, including Alan Leberknight, Baltimore Bancorp; Linda Miller, BG&E; Robert Bowie, Bowie and Jensen; Michelle Tennery, Comsat Corp; Tom Koch, Cummins Chesapeake Inc.; Mary Harrington, First National Bank; John Paterakis, H&S Bakery; Renee Ades, co-founder Neighborcare; Tonya Young, Nordstrom's; Donna Fields, Pepsi Cola; Frank Burch and Bob Watts, Piper & Marbury; Kathy Fitzgerald, Procter & Gamble; and Jim Shea, Venable, Baetjer and Howard.

Roberts' alma mater was well represented by Baltimore Wellesley Club members Kate Chambers, Nancy Norris, Louise Williams, Nancy Hagner, Jane Wilgis, Julie Evans, Ann Clary Gordon, Emilie Myers, Jane White, Louise Hertz, Liz Trimble, Dr. Marian Damewood, Nickie Humphries, Ruthie Albright and Ellie Carey, a Democratic candidate for attorney general.

Others interested in Roberts' remarks were Sen. Nancy Murphy, a candidate for Baltimore County executive; Rep. Helen Delich Bentley, who's running for governor; Dick Bennett, former U.S. attorney who's running for attorney general; Del. Bob Ehrlich, who is considering a run for Bentley's congressional seat; American Joe Miedusiewski, candidate for governor; Stuart Simms, city state's attorney; Judy Sussman, financial director for Lt. Gov. Mickey Steinberg's gubernatorial campaign; Janice Donahue, Industrial Shows of America; Betsy Zaborowski, psychologist; Lois Shofer, Essex Community College; Carolyn Burrigge, lobbyist and chairwoman

of Network 2000; Clarisse Mechanic, the Mechanic Theatre; Channel 2's Rudy Miller and Beverly Burke; Susan White-Bowden, former Channel 2 news anchor; Anne Simanski, Doncaster clothing consultant; Claudenia Burgemeister, Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn; Welby Loane, wedding-party consultant; Linda Godine Long, who has a divine old Anne Arundel County home where she plans to hold outdoor weddings; Mary Ann Saar, secretary of Juvenile Services; Betsy Hayes, Chapin Davis, and her mom, Lou Albert; Carol McGowan, Annapolis lawyer; Tom Koch, Curtis Engine; Bill Fogle, state secretary of Licensing and Regulation; Hilary Aidus and Paula Rome, Paula Rome & Associates; Edie Brown, Baltimore Arena; city Councilwoman Vera Hall, chair of the Maryland Democratic Party; Carolyn McGuire-Frenkil and her husband, Dr. Jimmy Frenkil; Lois Baldwin, arts activist; Floraine Applefeld, director of Maryland You Are Beautiful programs; attorney Shirley Bigley; State Superintendent of Schools Nancy Grasmick; Mary Ann Gray; Debbie Holloway, president of Potomac Physicians; Lisa Renshaw, parking czarina; and Dr. Nancy Ward.

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Fader's, a leading Maryland tobacconist since 1891, held its annual black tie "smoker" at the Engineering Society, where more than 130 men and women aficionados sampled a score of the world's finest premium cigars.

Norm Sharp, Cigar Association of America; Dels. Donald Fry, Michael Gordon, Victor Sullin, Casper Taylor, Paul Weisengoff and state Sen. Mike Wagner were joined by local influentials like insurance magnate Ted Herget; restaurateur Alan Hirsh; Fred Meier and Richard White, First National Bank; and Bruce Fleming, paper recycler.

Guests were also enlightened on the distinctions of premium cognac by Patrick Morley-Fletcher, eighth generation Hennessy family. Plus, Richard DiMeola, Consolidated Cigar Corp. (one of the nation's largest cigar importers), talked about the Cuban cigar situation and what the future may hold for the industry.