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the holiday
blues.
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puree and
pulverize
them.

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you & me

Gifts are us



You give enough; let us give to you!

My husband, Jeff, is a great gift giver. He's good at catching the not-so-subtle hints I toss out weeks before Christmas about not needing anything at all this year... though I did see a wonderful tiny ring at the jewelry store the other day and it made my heart go flutter. Just when I think he's totally missed my message (I feel no woman has a right to be angry about the gifts she gets if she doesn't ask for what she wants first!), there it always is, floating among the tissue paper that holds an okay-for-kidtime bit of lingerie. Once, he even taped a bracelet I'd been covering to a \$5 bathbomb my kids gave me—I almost tossed it down the drain!



We sent writer Joyce Maynard (above, center) to Uganda to report on mothers and children with AIDS (page 134). It's a moving story you shouldn't miss.

Some of us aren't so lucky. I've heard reports from friends and readers about Dustbusters and blenders given by loving spouses in an attempt to be practical and about how it makes you feel—just a little bit let down (even though it's not PC to admit it). But nothing compares to the loving gifts that missed in "The Worst Gift I Ever Got!" (page 74). You'll definitely laugh. Our holiday cookies are more gorgeous than ever; thanks to the creative work of our new food editor, Jackie Mills, they're perfect for giving. And our final gift to you: What harried woman hasn't thought about sending a generic holiday letter just for the sake of speed? Well, we've got one all written for you (page 90). Hope you enjoy it.... On this and the next page, another treat: the wonderful pictures from our Mothers & Shakers 2000 awards. Naomi Judd was a hilarious and moving speaker; Erin Brockovich Ellis was unbelievably inspiring. And Gen. Colin Powell, the keynote (*continued*)



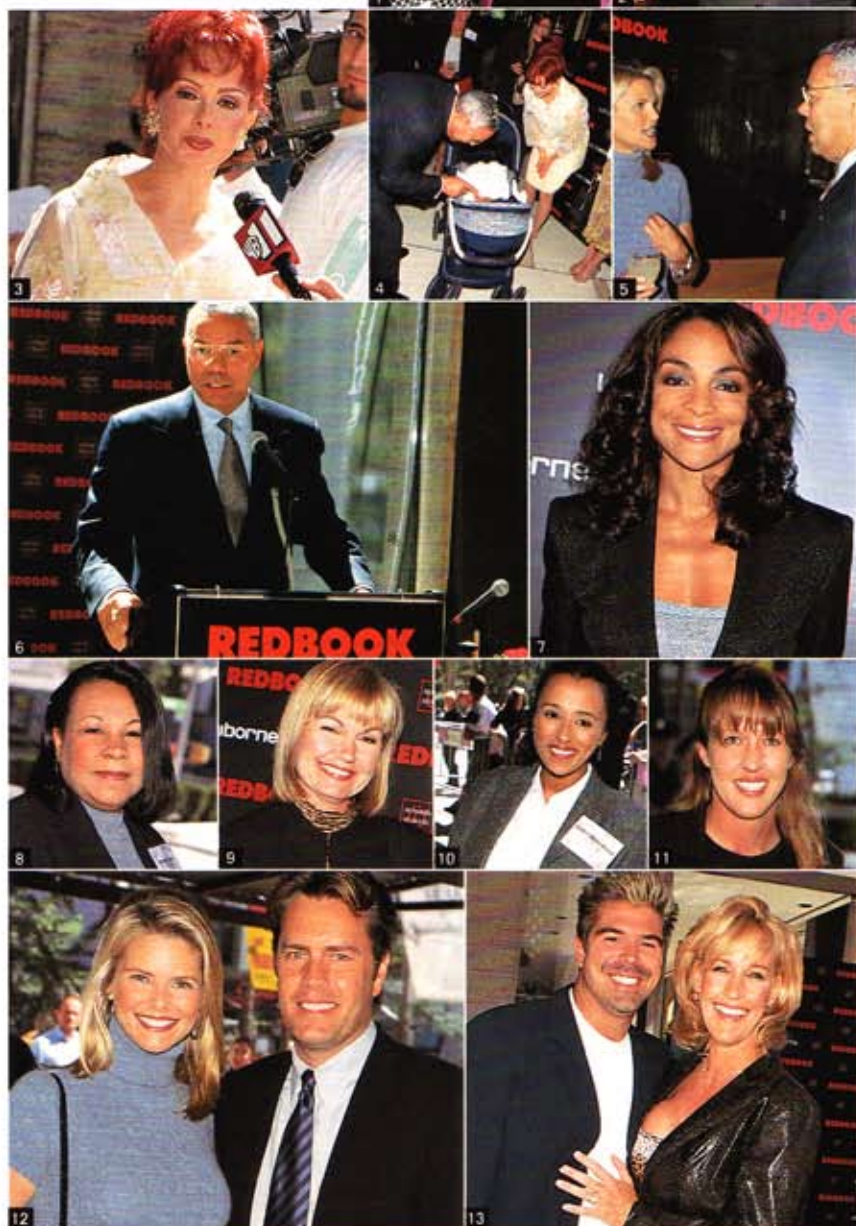
Gen. Colin Powell and me (center) with some of our celebrity Mothers & Shakers. See page 17 for more photos from our awards luncheon.

you & me

(continued)

speaker, blew us all away with his personal stories about how the women in his family made him who he is. Every award winner was a star.... See you in 2001. Write to me at: lesley@hearst.com or 224 West 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

Lesley Jane Seymour
Editor-in-Chief



1. Me with Lisa Belzberg. 2. Redbook publisher Jayne Jamison and chairman and chief executive officer of Liz Claiborne, Paul R. Charron. 3. Naomi Judd talking to the press about daughter Ashley's wedding plans. 4. Gen. Colin Powell and Naomi getting up close and personal with Amber Stime-Kassa's new baby. 5. Christie

Brinkley chats up General Powell. 6. General Powell talks to us about his mom and aunts and his deep love for them. 7. Jasmine Guy. 8. Hannah Oakman. 9. Donna Dees-Thomases. 10. Amber Stime-Kassa. 11. Judi Clark. 12. Christie Brinkley and husband Peter Cook. 13. Erin Brockovich Ellis and husband Eric Ellis.



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