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ABOUT THE GATEKEEPERS FOR THE RICH & FAMOUS

A Break
in Tradition

BARACK
OBAMA

Ushers in a New Era



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A YEAR OF CHANGE

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ith 2009 upon us, one thing is certain: Change is in the air. With a new President and First Family in the White House, along with an ailing economy that's unlike anything most of us have experienced in our lifetimes, there's no question that this year will present its own unprecedented

challenges and developments. Nevertheless, I am very optimistic that we will pull through as a nation. In the past, we have endured many struggles and have risen above them.

Perhaps the biggest change for our country this year will be having President Barack Obama in office. Not only does his administration augur new directions, but the fact that he is the first African-American president is monumental in and of itself. Also bringing a breath of fresh air to the White House is his wife Michelle, an accomplished professional herself and a proud mother. Obama refers to her as his "rock," and, fittingly, she considers the security and well-being of their family to be her top priority. To commemorate this epic moment in our history, we chose dual covers for this issue—one honoring Barack Obama and the other saluting Michelle Obama (page 68).

Undeniably, one of the government's most pressing tasks this year will be to revitalize the nation's troubled economy. In "Are Employers Still Hiring?," Glenda Ross discusses the effect the current economic crisis has had on the household-staffing industry (page 30).

Because the competition for a job these days is fiercer than ever, it is vital that applicants do everything they can to increase their job candidacy. The question remains: What matters more, education or training? Ute Meier discusses differing views on page 28.

And if you are currently on the job hunt, now might be a good time to examine various opportunities and environments. Laura Bell weighs the pros and cons of working in a home vs. corporate environment (page 74).

Have you ever wondered how crucial table manners are to your career advancement? If you frequent the social circuit or simply want to get ahead, your etiquette (or lack thereof) can make or break you. See page 80 for a list of the dreaded dinner-table no-nos.

Even if you're not looking to make a change in your vocation, for many, job security is at the forefront of our minds. Why not take the initiative to



start spring cleaning early in your workplace this year? Keeping your employer organized will make you an invaluable asset. Carol Scudere provides tips for getting your employer's estate into tip-top shape (page 39).

And, if you have been fortunate enough to receive a promotion during this economic crisis, you may be able to relate to "The Process of Replacing Me" (page 32). In the article, Mia Pitts addresses the feelings of conflict she experienced upon being promoted to a higher title.

We hope you enjoy this issue, as we took a lot of care in putting it together. May this year bring positive changes for you, as an individual, and for the nation as a whole. ©

Elizabeth TenHouten
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