

SNY

By Aileen Mehle



Before it's time to celebrate its 126th anniversary, and before its vaunted dinosaur fossils get another year older, Suzy had better get around to telling you about the American Museum of Natural History and the ball celebrating its 125th. **Gail Hilson** was the chairman of the gala dinner dance, the honorary chairmen were **Ambassador** and **Mrs. Alan Blinken**, along with **Carroll Petrie** and **Connie** and **Stephen**, and **Bob Hardwick** played for the dancing. Of course, you know already that the Museum is experiencing a renaissance under the leadership of **Ellen Futter** and **Anne Sidamon-Eristoff**, president and chairman respectively of the board of trustees. That's one of the reasons there were more than 700 guests at the party, enjoying the soft lighting and the elegant tables. There were violinists in the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, and Gail Hilson and **Philip Baloun** worked together to create a setting opulent enough for the herd of marching elephants — and the guests too — to feel right at home. A lot of damask and gold leaf, antique silver and apricot-colored roses.

Gail Hilson wore a brown satin ballgown by **Vera Wang** and a pearl choker; Melinda Blinken wore gray satin by **Scaasi**; Carroll Petrie (she funded the polar bear diorama in the Museum's Hall of Ocean Life) wore a white **Christian Dior** and **Susan Burke** wore gold leaf with a train, yet. Everyone noticed **Karen LeFrak**, as she climbed the marble stairs in her pink **Oscar de la Renta** trimmed with black bows.