

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 10, 2006 LB 853

swept away by their Prince Charming, who was an idiot. I added that. She described an American Idol judge criticizing a black woman's curly hair style as weird. She pointed out that a judge on America's Next Top Model described a contestant who was 5'8 and weighed 128 pounds as fat. She showed a clip of a judge on a show called Are You Hot? using a laser he called his flaw-finder to point out a slight bulge on an extremely thin woman's leg. He also used it to point to another woman because her thighs were too far apart for his liking. All of these shows, Pozner said, lead viewers to believe that, quote, women will always be judged first and foremost for their looks, unquote. And that's true. Many of the contestants, particularly on the makeover shows, buy into that way of thinking, she said. They smile in postsurgery interviews as they talk about all the ways in which their lives will change now that they're beautiful. It's as if looking pretty is a vocation, not a trait, Pozner said. Pozner, who has been monitoring reality television for years, said she could not think of a single reality show in which women were not stereotyped. In almost all of them, she said, women are rewarded for being pretty and submissive instead of smart, independent, and interesting. Pozner, who is founder and director of Women In Media & News, encouraged her audience to be aware that stereotypes represented in reality television are just that--stereotypes. Doane senior Christina Hall was among...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...the many students in the audience. Hall, who is interested in women's studies, said she had watched her fair share of reality television over the years. For her, she said, it's been a guilty pleasure, even though she has picked up on hints of sexism in such shows in the past. Now, she said, she expects gender stereotypes will stick out even more. "It will be harder to enjoy reality television in the same way," she said. Once somebody is awakened from one of those deep sleeps, they can never go to sleep again or rest as profoundly. Sometimes people need to have things brought to their attention so they can be made aware that they're worthy of something better than what they are being subjected to. This is why