

Gifts of Speech News

Issue Nine - December
2006

December 4, 2006

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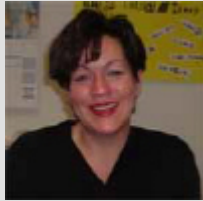


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1. Open Letter to All GoS Site Users



Dear Readers:

This month I have a big favor to ask of all the **Gifts of Speech** site users who work at a college or university. I am in the process of applying for a promotion, so I'm asking teachers at the college and university-level who enjoy using Gifts of Speech for their classes to let me know if you are willing to write a letter supporting my promotion. Even if you simply enjoy receiving this newsletter, and would be willing to say so in a letter to our personnel committee, I would very much appreciate it.

All you would need to do is email me with your contact information. Later this school year you would be contacted and asked for your input about why you think I ought to be promoted based on the usefulness of GoS and/or this newsletter.

Thank you in advance for all who will be so kind as to help me in this process. Gifts of Speech is a labor of love. I don't get paid to build or maintain the site. Putting the newsletter together every month is a community service I very much enjoy.

I deeply appreciate your time and thoughtfulness in this matter!

Sincerely,
Liz Kent

Email: [lizkentgos at gmail dot com](mailto:lizkentgos@gmail.com)

2. Basketball Coach is a Hero for Girls

Roderick Jackson, an Alabama high school coach, won a case before the Supreme Court after he was fired from his job for suing the school under Title IX.

He claimed the firing was retaliation for his repeated complaints that the basketball facilities for the girls team were dismal compared to those for boys. The gym the girls used for practice had no heat, wooden backboards and bent hoops, and the team relied on inferior transportation to games, including car pools, while the boys used buses.

As part of the deal, Roderick Jackson will keep his job as head of the girls basketball program at Jackson-Olin High School in Birmingham.

Read more at the link below.

Link:

<http://www.cnn.com/2006/LAW/11/29/alabama.suit/index.html>

3. Afghan Teacher Murdered

Men and women who dare to teach girls in Afghanistan are still being murdered by members of the Taliban. An item in the U.K. newspaper, **The Independent**, last week described the murder and mutilation of Mohammed Halim, a 46 year-old schoolteacher who instructed girls. He was one of four teachers killed recently near Ghazni.

His cousin, Ahmed Gul, said: "They killed him like an animal. No, no. We do not kill animals like that, it would be haram (forbidden). They took away a father and a husband, they had no pity. We are all very worried. Please go now, you see those men standing over there? They are watching. It is dangerous for you, and for us."

Read more at the link below . . .

Link:

<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/asia/article2023831.ece?taliban>

4. Holla Back NYC

Holla Back NYC is a photoblog and grassroots initiative to raise awareness about and combat street harassment by posting photographs and narrative accounts of individuals' encounters with offenders.

The organization was founded by seven New York City residents in reaction to a well publicized event in August 2005 when Thao Nguyen, another NYC resident, photographed Dan Hoyt, a raw-foods restaurateur, masturbating on a New York City Subway. Ms. Nguyen published Hoyt's photo on Flickr, and subsequently the photograph was published in the New York Daily News.

In addition to the photoblog, Holla Back NYC has held several events in the NYC area designed to raise awareness about street harassment, including film screenings, lectures, and book talks. The Holla Back concept has spread to include Holla Back sites located in other U.S. cities and parts of the country. These are linked from the Holla Back NYC site. (Description from Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holla_Back_NYC)

Because Holla Back is not censored in any way, the language on the site is raw. Some may find it offensive and it is probably not appropriate for children.

See Holla Back NYC at the link below.

Link: <http://hollabacknyc.blogspot.com/>

5. December Site of the Month

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign promoting the idea that violence against women and girls affects everyone.

The 16 day period runs from November 25th through December 10th every year. That period extends from the International Day Against Violence Against Women to the International Human Rights Day. The 16 Days of Activism is sponsored by the sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership, which began the campaign in 1991.

Visit the **16 Days** site at the link below.

Link: <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html>

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