

Gifts of Speech News

Issue Four - July 2006

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Featured Product

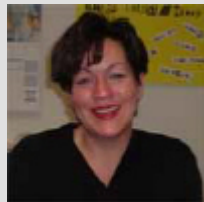


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1. Hot & Happy July from Virginia!



Summer is here! This is the time of year I get to do the most work on the **Gifts of Speech** site. If you tour the site, you'll notice that speeches by women whose last name begins with A - K have all been updated with a cleaner, more compact look. More

importantly, I'm adding the speech's source to the bottom of the screen of each speech. This is an improvement I've been putting on the back burner for years, but by the end of August, ALL of the speeches on the site will have a source listed.

In some cases speeches on the GoS site were found online and archived at **Gifts of Speech**, but the original web page no longer exists. Even government documents have vanished from the web in some cases! Fortunately, these speeches are in the minority and I will begin a project in the fall to locate legitimate sources for all of these orphaned speeches.

Over the past month I've found positive news items concerning women. I've shared them with you below. Stay cool and enjoy your summer celebrations!

2. Chile and Jamaica's First Female Leaders

Chile and Jamaica inaugurated their first female President and Prime Minister, respectively, in 2006. **Michelle Bachelet**, President of Chile, won her election on January 15th, 2006. **Portia Simpson-Miller**, became the Pime Minister of Jamaica on March 30th of this year.

You can read more about [Michelle Bachelet, President of](#)

[Chile](#), and [Portia Simpson-Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica](#) at Wikipedia.

3. First Female Vice-President in Syria

Najah al-Attar is the first Arab woman to hold the position of vice president in Syria. The 68 year old Attar was named to the position in March of 2006. Click the link below for further details.

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/s4aqq>

4. Little Brown Dress Project

"365 days. one brown dress. a one-woman show against fashion."

Almost a year ago feminist performance artist **Alex Martin** embarked on a year-long performance. (July 7, 2006 is the final day of the project.) Her stated purpose is to make one small, personal attempt to confront consumerism by refusing to change her dress for 365 days.

In this performance, she intends to reject the sweat-shop-supporting economy of over-consumption, and the bill of goods that has been sold, especially to women, about what makes a person good, attractive and interesting.

As a brand new working mom with a new family budget, these economies came into sharp focus for Alex. Even second-hand shopping required time, effort, and energy that sapped her attention from the more vital parts of her life.

Her response was to make one simple brown dress by hand and to wear it every day for a year. The final day of the project will be Alex Martin's 30th birthday. Read more at the link below.

Link: <http://www.littlebrowndress.com/>

5. July Site of the Month

The Society for Women's Health Research is the nation's only non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the health of all women through research, education and advocacy. The Society encourages the study of sex differences between women and men that affect the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Link: <http://www.womenshealthresearch.org>

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