

Gifts of Speech News

Issue Five - August 2006

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Featured Product

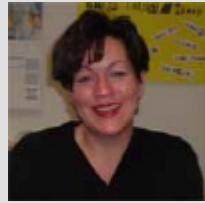


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1. Apologies



This month I apologize to GoS newsletter readers for being late with the August Newsletter. I try to get the newsletters out on the first of the month, but things have been hectic at Sweet Briar College this month. Sorry for the delay!

Since school is starting next week for students and teachers of every age, I wish you all a wonderful start to the 2006/2007 school year!

Link: <http://www.sbc.edu>

2. Desperate Grandmas

In a recent issue of the [City Journal](#), Kay S. Hymowitz reviews a genre of autobiography written by sexually-active women over 60. These memoirs record the progress of the sexual revolution as it continues to unfold in the lives of aging female boomers. Hymowitz disparages the authors by calling them "Desperate Grandmas."

This article is not friendly to feminists, but I chose to link it because it pokes at some feminist sore spots, or weak points, that need to be addressed rather than ignored by those of us who are self-identified feminists.

Not only is this article potentially inflammatory, it also contains language that some may find offensive. So, if you're in the mood for a bit of an opposing viewpoint today, just click below.

Link: http://www.city-journal.org/html/16_3_urbanities-grandmas.html

3. Brick Lane

Brick Lane is the title of the bestselling debut novel by Monica Ali. Ali is a British citizen of Bangladeshi extraction. The novel takes place in the Bangladeshi London neighborhood called Brick Lane.

The novel caused controversy within the Bangladeshi community in Britain because of what they saw as the negative portrayal of people from the Sylhet region, saying the novel made them appear uneducated and unsophisticated. Parts of the community are particularly opposed to plans by Ruby Films to film parts of the novel in the Brick Lane area, and have formed the "Campaign Against Monica Ali's Film Brick Lane." Even Germaine Greer opposes the making of the film.

But is the issue "freedom of expression" or the "right" of a community to be free from criticism for the way it treats women?

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/fu8sz>

4. Site of the Month for August

Women's Environment Development Organization advocates for women's equality in global policy. It seeks to empower women as decision makers to achieve economic, social and gender justice, a healthy, peaceful planet and human rights for all.

Link: <http://www.wedo.org/aboutus.aspx>

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