

# Gifts of Speech News

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### 1. Back to School



September is here already and school is in session at [Sweet Briar College](#) in central Virginia. The weather is cooling and students are breaking out jackets today. Work on **Gifts of Speech** slows down this time of year as I teach more classes. But I found some interesting tidbits about women in the news for you over the past few weeks. Check out the links below and share any interesting stories you

hear with me. My email is:

lizkentgos at gmail dot com

### 2. Katie Couric Instant Makeover!

You may have heard that Katie Couric is scheduled to debut as the news anchor at CBS on Tuesday, September 5th. What you may not have heard is that the CBS owned [Watch](#) magazine took it upon themselves to give Katie's photo an instant makeover for their pages. Apparently there was too much Katie to love!

You can see the original photo side-by-side with the nipped and tucked version at the link below.

Link: [http://www.mediabistro.com/tvnewser/couric\\_watch/katies\\_extreme\\_makeover\\_42842.asp](http://www.mediabistro.com/tvnewser/couric_watch/katies_extreme_makeover_42842.asp)

### 3. Chinese Women's Suicide Rates are High

"In China, one woman kills herself every four minutes."

The BBC reported this summer that according to World Health Organisation statistics, China is the only country in the world where more women commit suicide than men. In rural areas of China women drink pesticides to end lives of

desperation and abuse.

Chinese women in rural areas often are given to their husbands in arranged marriages. Once they leave their parent's home, they often are not allowed to see or communicate with their families again and they are often subject to physical and emotional abuse at the hands of their husbands and their husband's family.

See the link below for more details.

Link: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/5086754.stm>

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#### 4. Doll Revolt: Art by Girls

In May the [National Women's Studies Association](#) called for submissions to a digital exhibition of art works made by girls.

They said, "Send us your own artworks about the glories and frustrations of being a 21st century girl. Self-portraits with your favorite stuff, action shots of everyday events, contemplative drawings from the inside of your head, video/audio diaries, or animated futures - it's all up to you."

The resulting gallery is linked below. I wish the artist statements included some info about the age of the participants. Some of the work seems too mature to have been done by girls. But I like the idea of an exhibition based on a doll revolt so much that I had to share it with you.

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

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#### 5. September Site of the Month

[Misfortune 500](#) - Challenges corporate malfeasance against women worldwide and reclaims their rights to decent work, a clean and healthy environment, and access to quality public services, land, water and food.

Dig into the site a little and you'll be shocked to learn what top companies have been doing to hurt men, women and children in third world countries. These are stories you won't hear on the evening news.

Link: <http://www.misfortune500.org/>

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