

Gifts of Speech  
News

Vol. 2, #2 - Feb. 2007

February 15, 2007

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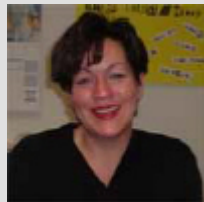


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1. Deconstructing V-Day



"**V-Day** is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls . . . V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual slavery." So reads, in part, the "About V-Day Mission Statement" on the web site.

Founded by Eve Ensler, the author of *The Vagina Monologues*, in 1998, V-Day is now active in 12 countries. But not all feminists are fans of *The Vagina Monologues*, or of Eve Ensler. Like Ann Friedman of the Feministing blog, I have many reservations about the effectiveness of the play outside the United States and about Ensler's role as the Keeper of the Words, and this leads me to question some of the methods used by V-day.

Read Ann Friedman's very insightful [Feministing](#) post about V-Day and Ensler at the link below.

Link: <http://feministing.com/archives/006530.html>

2. Oprah Named One of 10 Greatest Speakers

Richard Greene of the **Huffington Post** named Oprah Winfrey number six on his list of the 10 Greatest Speakers of 2006.

The **Huffington Post** story links to AN MSN video of Oprah speaking at the Dedication of The Martin Luther King Memorial, Nov. 13 2006, Washington, D.C. The [video clip](#) is 6 minutes and 38 seconds long, and well worth every second! Click the link below to read about Oprah and the other 10 Greatest Speakers.

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/35b3ms>

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### 3. First Woman President at Harvard

"Drew Gilpin Faust, a current Harvard dean and history professor, has been named the first woman president of Harvard University. The election of Dr. Faust by the seven-member Harvard Corporation comes after Harvard's former President, Larry Summers, resigned in February 2006. Summers, who came under criticism for saying at an academic conference that women have less innate ability to perform in science and mathematics than men, sparked a public commitment from Harvard to developing women academics and to develop task forces on the status of women at Harvard."

From Feminist Daily News Wire

**[Learn more about Dr. Faust at Wikipedia.](#)**

Link:

<http://www.feminist.org/news/newsbyte/uswirestory.asp?id=10148>

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### 4. Komen's Funding Nears \$1 Billion

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation was founded in 1982 by Komen's sister, Nancy Brinker, after Komen's death from breast cancer.

As the Foundation's funding nears the \$1 billion mark, CNN.com writes "The nonprofit is celebrating its 25th year with a new name -- Susan G. Komen for the Cure, an edgy new advertising campaign that includes T-shirts reading: 'If you're going to stare at my breasts, you could at least donate a dollar to save them,' sales of pink promise rings and a pledge to raise another \$1 billion in the next 10 years."

See the whole article at the link below.

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/yu4aq9>

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## 5. February Site of the Month

**Press Institute for Women in the Developing World** - This non-profit Institute was founded on the belief that journalism is an empowering tool that can bring voice, strength and light to issues that are hidden, and people who are oppressed. The Institute trains women in developing countries to serve as reporters and writers in their own communities. These journalists are dedicated to telling untold stories and empowering themselves and other women through education and journalism. The Press Institute emphasizes reporting on six core issues that most affect women in their communities: HIV/AIDS, violence against women, poverty, reproductive rights, political oppression, and community development.

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

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