

Gifts of Speech News

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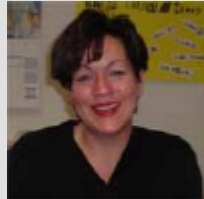


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1. Women's History Month



Dear Readers:

At Sweet Briar College, Women's History Month was kicked off by a visit from non-fiction writer A. Louise Staman who came to discuss her new biography titled, [Loosening Corsets: The Heroic Life of Georgia's Feisty Mrs. Felton.](#)

Rebecca Latimer Felton was the first female secretary to a congressman of the United States AND she became the first woman senator in the United States at the age of 87 in 1922. Her lifetime saw both the flames of Sherman's Army at her door and U.S. women gain the right to vote. I have not yet read Loosening Corsets, but from the excerpt read at the dinner lecture Wednesday night, it promises to be a very readable and revealing slice of American women's history.

Don't let the illustration on the cover of the book fool you. The cover makes it look like a tepid romance. Nothing could be further from the truth. Loosening Corsets is a non-fiction biography about a powerhouse of a slave-owning woman from Georgia who became a dedicated abolitionist and campaigner for women's rights. Learn more about Rebecca Latimer Felton at Wikipedia via the link below.

Link: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rebecca_Latimer_Felton



2. Clinton & Jackson Lee Honor Truth

On Thursday February 15th at a Capitol Hill news conference,

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton and Representative Sheila Jackson Lee announced they had co-sponsored a new law that recognizes Sojourner Truth's contributions to history. The new law requires that a bust of Truth be placed in a "suitable, permanent location in the U.S. Capitol." Truth would be the first black woman so honored.

"It is past time that we honor a woman who, despite all of the hardships she faced, was a tireless advocate for women's rights. Sojourner Truth deserves to be represented in the United States Capitol Building along with others who have been recognized for their work in the women's suffrage movement," said Senator Clinton. "I am very pleased that the House and now the Senate have approved this legislation so that we can establish a permanent memorial in the U.S. Capital to this true American hero and role model."

Learn more [about Sojourner Truth at Wikipedia](#).

Read Sojourner Truth's speech titled "[Ain't I a Woman?](#)" at **Gifts of Speech**.

Link: <http://clinton.senate.gov/news/statements/details.cfm?id=266449>

3. Turing Award Goes to a Woman



"One of the most prestigious prizes in computing, the \$100,000 Turing Award, went to a woman on Wednesday February 21st, for the first time in the award's 40-year history. Frances E. Allen, 74, was honored for her work at IBM Corp. on techniques for optimizing the performance of compilers, the programs that translate one computer language into another."

From the AP

The [Turing Award](#) is the Association for Computing Machinery's most prestigious technical award is accompanied by a prize of \$100,000. It is given to an individual selected for contributions of a technical nature made to the computing community. The contributions are of lasting and major technical importance to the computer field. Financial support of the Turing Award is provided by the Intel Corporation. The award is named after Alan Mathison Turing, a British mathematician considered to be one of the fathers of modern computer science.

Read more about [Fran Allen](#) at Women in Technology International.

Another interesting article at [IBM](#).

Link:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/TECH/02/22/computing.award.ap/index.html>

4. Delta Zeta Girls Booted for Looks

Declining membership led the National organization of the Delta Zeta sorority to boot twenty-three of the thirty-five members of the DePauw University chapter out of their rooms at the sorority house in the middle of the school year. The National organization unceremoniously advised the twenty-three that they "should plan to relocate from the chapter house no later than Jan. 29, 2007."

The 23 members included every woman who was overweight. They also included the only Korean and Vietnamese members. The dozen students allowed to stay were slender and popular with fraternity men - conventionally pretty women the sorority hoped could attract new recruits. Six of the (remaining) 12 were so infuriated they quit."
From the New York Times

The national organization claims the 23 memberships were declared inactive due to a lack of fervor for recruitment, but the members themselves could not overlook the fact that all who were asked to leave were either over-weight or ethnic in appearance.

Read more at [Bitch Ph.D.](#) and be sure to follow her link to the New York Times!

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/276hjl>

5. March Site of the Month

"The Feminist Art Project is a collaborative national initiative celebrating the Feminist Art Movement and the aesthetic, intellectual and political impact of women on the visual arts, art history, and art practice, past and present. The project is a strategic intervention against the ongoing erasure of women from the cultural record. It promotes diverse feminist art events and publications through its website calendar

and facilitates regional networking and regional program development throughout the U.S."

The site sponsors an [event calendar](#) from which you can link to the web pages of feminist art projects all over the country.

Link: <http://feministartproject.rutgers.edu/>

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