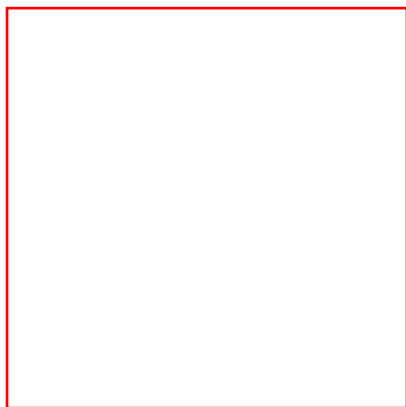


Gifts of Speech Newsletter

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Featured Product



[Tote Bag](#)

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1. Because Women Don't Make the Calls

"A Kansas Roman Catholic high school banned a female referee from officiating a boy's basketball game because, as a woman, she could not be put in a position of authority over the boys. Yes, really." --From Feministing

Is Kansas in [Saudi Arabia?](#)

Read the whole post at Feministing at the link below. Be sure to click to read the original news article at AOL Sports.

Link: <http://feministing.com/archives/008615.html>

2. Benazir Bhutto's Memoir Published



Benazir Bhutto's memoir titled, [Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West](#) was released on February 12th. The London Times Online published an extended excerpt on February 3rd.

"Like most women in politics, I am especially sensitive to maintaining my composure, to never showing my feelings. A display of emotion by a woman in politics or

government can be misconstrued as a manifestation of weakness, reinforcing stereotypes and caricatures.

But when I stepped down onto the tarmac at Quaid-e-Azam international airport in Karachi on October 18 last year, I was overcome with emotion. After eight lonely and difficult years of exile, I could not stop the tears pouring from my eyes. I felt that a terrible weight had been lifted from my shoulders. It was a sense of liberation. I was home at long last. I knew what I had to do." --Benazir Bhutto in The London Times

Read more from Bhutto's book at the link below.

Link: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article3294410.ece>

3. Packaging Abuse of Women

A recent essay in the Toronto Star criticized the AVN Adult Entertainment Expo in Las Vegas for skewing its pornographic offerings toward increasingly humiliating, degrading and dangerous activities involving women.

Antonia Zerbisias writes:

Listen, I am no prude. . . . [snip] . . .
But when I can easily find websites that show women subjected to what can only be described in a family newspaper as waterboarding by ejaculate – or simultaneous impalement on more than one fire pole, or sexual practices that will cause E. coli infections – I have to wonder where the industry gets these ideas.

Not exactly the fun and games most of us enjoy in the bedroom (or wherever your pleasure). It's as if, just like TV reality shows, the fear factor/cruelty/shock value has to be continuously ratcheted up to get them into the tent, especially online. And make no mistake, when you see women being brutalized this way, you are not seeing an act. That woman really is gagging, really is gasping for air, really is drowning.

Read the entire essay at the link below:

Link: <http://www.thestar.com/living/article/296391>

4. National Young Women's Leadership Conf.

On March 8th - 9th 2008, the Feminist Majority Foundation will host its 2nd Annual National Young Women's Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.!

Where? The National Education Association Headquarters in Washington, DC

Who? Young feminists, national leaders and elected officials from all over the country.

Why? This conference is designed to give you an opportunity to share in open dialogue about the world's feminist issues including: reproductive rights, the environment, violence against women, war, and the importance of the young women's vote.

Feminists from around the country will gather for two full days to address crucial issues—from our Get Out HER Vote campaign, to Birth Control Pricing, Exposing so-called Crisis Pregnancy

Centers, and Global Reproductive Rights issues like the United States' deadly Global Gag Rule.

Throughout February, student leaders are demonstrating, hosting teach-ins, and circulating petitions as part of a nationwide build-up for our conference in March. Start hosting events and circulating FMF's global petition today, then join us the weekend of International Women's Day when we take this crucial message to our nation's leaders!

Student delegations from Los Angeles, CA, to Kenne, NH are making the trek to DC. Whether you come by the dozen or by yourself, you don't want to miss this one-of-a-kind conference in an historic election year. Register Today!

For women's equality to really be achieved, we need to ensure that all women are empowered. Your action and your voice count!
--From an email sent by FeministCampus.org

See the link below for registration information

Link: <http://feministcampus.org/leadership/default.asp>

5. February Site of the Month

SisterLove, Inc. is the first and oldest community based non-profit in Georgia to focus specifically upon the needs of women, particularly African American women and those of African descent, who are at risk for contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and infections.

Visit them at the link below!

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

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