

Gifts of Speech News

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1. Vote as if your life depends on it!

From FeministCampus.org:

Dear Feminist Activist,

URGENT: Deadlines to register to vote are approaching rapidly. With so much at stake in this historic election, [be sure you are registered to vote](#). If not, in most states you must register immediately.

[Look up voter registration rules by state here.](#)

[Take a look at this powerful video and show it to your friends.](#) (Also linked below.) We guarantee that anyone who watches it will be sure to register and vote. Sign the voter pledge and share the video and pledge with your friends.

College students are frequently told that they risk losing their financial aid if they register to vote at their university or college address. That's simply not true! Students have a right to register and vote where they attend college, which eliminates the need for absentee ballots.

Join our Get Out HER Vote campaign by sharing this message with your e-mail list. Make sure your circle of friends and family count in this historic year.

Together we can make sure our votes are a key part of this election.

For Equality,
Wendy Matheny
Campus Program Coordinator

P.S. Be sure you're registered to vote and sign the pledge to vote.

Link: http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1400/t/1714/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=1369

2. Changes at Gifts of Speech

I'm lucky to have three students this fall semester who are working to improve the Gifts of Speech web archive. Soon, new speeches will be added to the site. But the big change I want to let you know about today concerns our decision to link to Wikipedia.

From now on, whenever possible, the names of speakers will be linked to their biographical entry in Wikipedia. This will help GoS users learn about the careers and histories of the women speech-makers on GoS. I hope it will help bring these orators to life for our users and inspire them to learn more about women's contributions to the development of our world and current events.

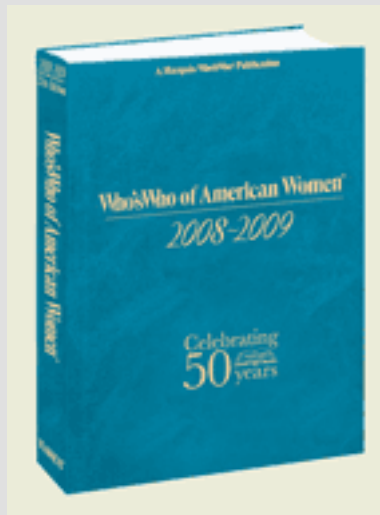
I must add that I regard Wikipedia as a research launchpad - it should never be a final destination in research. But it is a great place to get started. It is easy to move from Wikipedia to real research by using the links at the bottom of the articles or by

moving from there to a Google Scholar search.

Next time you stop by GoS, be sure to check out our Wikipedia links. And don't hesitate to offer your ideas about ways to improve GoS by joining our FaceBook group!

Link: <http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=20539978940>

3. More Gifts of Speech News



Gifts of Speech

developer and director Liz Kent will be included in the upcoming 2008 - 2009 50th anniversary edition of Marquis Who's Who of American Women.

According to Marquis, Who's Who of American Women is:

A single, authoritative source featuring the careers and credentials of

America's most successful women.

Featuring over 38,000 listings, the new 2008-2009 Edition of Who's Who of American Women provides ready access to the credentials and achievements of the most noteworthy women in the country, including:

- High-level federal officials
- Mayors of major cities
- Principal officers of selected businesses
- Specified elected and appointed state officials
- Outstanding educators from major colleges and universities
- Principal figures of cultural and artistic institutions
- Heads of major women's organizations
- Recipients of major awards and honors
- Members of selected honorary institutions

"After years of using Marquis Who Who's of American Women to build the Gifts of Speech website - now I'm going to be in it," Ms. Kent said. "I'm ecstatic and blown away!"

Link: <http://www.marquiswhoswho.com/products/AWprodinfo.asp>

4. '08 Election: Battle to Define Feminism

From Fox News Blog - Fox Forum:

For more than 40 years, the mainstream media has chosen to define "feminism" and "the woman's agenda" through a leftist prism. Then came Sarah Palin. [snip] Now, we see another kind of rebellion: the insurgency against the liberal orthodoxy of feminism.

The article linked below is the second in James

Pinkerton's series and it deals with "traditionalists vs. feminists."

I'm linking this article because Sarah Palin's appeal across gender lines is something that warrants close examination.

You can read his first article in the series [here](#).

Link: http://foxforum.blogs.foxnews.com/2008/09/11/jpinkerton_0912/

5. September Web Site of the Month



Equality Now was founded in 1992 to work for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women around the world. Working with national human rights organizations and individual activists, Equality Now documents violence and discrimination against women and mobilizes international action to support their efforts to stop these human rights abuses. Through its Women's Action Network of concerned groups and individuals around the world, Equality Now:

- distributes information about human rights violations
- takes action to protest these violations
- brings public attention to human rights violations against women

The Women's Action Network is committed to voicing a worldwide call for justice and equality for women. Issues of urgent concern to Equality Now include rape, domestic violence, reproductive rights, trafficking of women, female genital mutilation, and the denial of equal access to economic opportunity and political participation.

Human rights violations against women have historically been denied the attention and concern of international organizations, national governments, traditional human rights groups and the media. Meanwhile, hundreds of millions of girls and women around the globe continue to endure debilitating and often fatal human rights abuses.

India: A 10-year-old girl is rescued by a flight attendant who notices her crying. Her father has sold her to the 60-year-old Saudi Arabian man sitting next to her for the equivalent of US\$240.

Kenya: At a boarding school, 300 boys attack the girls' dormitory. Seventy-one girls are raped. Nineteen are trampled to death in the stampede to escape. The school's vice principal remarks, "The boys never meant any harm against the girls. They just wanted to rape."

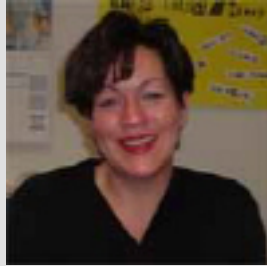
Brazil: A man who confessed to stabbing his wife and her lover to death is for the second time acquitted of murder by an all-male jury. The acquittal is based on the argument that he acted in legitimate defense of his wronged honor.

Ireland: A 14-year-old girl, raped by the father of her best friend, learns she is pregnant. She is prohibited from travelling to England where abortion is legal. Only when she indicates she will commit suicide if forced to carry the pregnancy to term does the Supreme Court allow her to proceed.

United States: A 51-year-old woman is stabbed 19 times and killed by her former boyfriend as she waits inside a courthouse to extend an order of protection. Twice before he had been charged with harassment. Both times the charges were dropped.

These are only a few instances of abuses which occur every single day. Human rights violations against women must be documented, publicized-- and stopped. We need Equality Now.
From the Equality Now website

Link: <http://www.equalitynow.org/english/index.html>



Thank you for subscribing to the **Gifts of Speech Newsletter.**

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--Liz Kent

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