

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 10, 2006 LB 853

And somebody might ask, well, why do you tell such a tale that nobody is going to believe? She would say nothing is believable anyway; I may as well tell anything because it's not going to make anybody any difference anyway. They know it's true, we all know it's true, so why is it not going to be addressed openly and forthrightly? All of us had mothers, all of us. Not everybody who carries the name mother is going to inspire in her offspring feelings of affection, love, or consideration, just as the man who carries the name father, meaning the procreator, not the designation for a priest, is going to be respected, honored, loved, or even trusted by his offspring. But, in general, we owe our existence to our mothers. Those of us who have sisters know how we don't want our sisters mistreated. Then let everybody's child who is a female be our sister. Those of us who have daughters know how we want our daughters to be treated, so treat everybody else's daughter the way you want yours treated. But I know that's a high order in America, because even when people go to church they hear the preacher talk about a woman staying in the background, being submissive, subject herself to her husband. Let me continue: And in some ways, Pozner said, the way women are portrayed on television is an indicator of where the women's movement is today. Pozner fears that women's...the women's movement actually has slid backward since a decade ago, when girls referred to themselves as, and then there is g-r-r-r-l-s, to signify a growl, rather than girl, but "grrrls." If you read it, you would see it. When young women publish "zines," in parenthesis (sic), z-i-n-e-s--you know what that is short for...well, I'm not going to tell you, ask somebody--and listened to empowering singer-songwriters such as Ani DeFranco and Tori Amos, when Gwen Stefani was, quote, stomping around in combat boots, unquote. Now, she said, she sees less of that empowerment, though she pointed out it's still there. She hopes her presentation, which she has given on college campuses throughout the country, gets students thinking about the way women are portrayed and what they can do to avoid buying into the images they are bombarded with on television. That is a large part of the problem. Oppressed people buy into the story of the oppressor. Malcolm X is a black man whom you may or may not have heard of, but in trying to explain to black people why we need to throw off the vestiges of slavery, he drew a picture based on the attitude of the so-called house Negro and