

# WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM

## Freud 'catches hell' from women's panel

By GARY LEY  
Of the Emerald

"Usually when you tell women you're going to discuss Freud and feminism, the response is, 'Well, give him hell.'"

So said Mimi Johnson at the beginning of a Women's Symposium panel discussion Tuesday before 30 people in the EMU.

And over the next 90 minutes, old Sigmund and his theories did indeed catch hell from the panel's four members.

Johnson and her colleagues feel Freud contributed to feelings

of male superiority and female inferiority.

"Freud said that the penis is bigger, therefore better than the clitoris," said Jean Stockard of the sociology department.

"And Freud spoke of the fact of female castration, when in fact we have all been castrated by restrictions placed on sexuality by society.

"Freud also said the clitoris is basically a masculine organ," Stockard said, giving the audience a primer in anatomy.

Sandra Gill, another University sociologist, took a more sympathetic view of Freud. Gill said she believes it is possible to appreciate Freud and be a feminist.

"It's not important that Freud was a sexist."

She said some of Freud's ideas are more important than his chauvinism. As examples, she cites his development of psychoanalysis, his theories of social relations and his recognition of the two sex groups.

Gill said one reason for feminist dislike of Freud is that much of his writing on women has been taken

out of context. She thinks it is important to look at Freud's articles about women in conjunction with his other writing.

"Freud was not a biological determinist," she said.

Johnson said Freud believed the "male need for dominance is because they don't want to grow up to become their mother."

She explained the male child has to be persuaded to make a core break with women — his mother — in order to assume his male role, according to Freud.

"Freud also said the father is responsible for creating the sex differences in children," said Johnson, who explained Freud

felt the father was basically a woman, but with added characteristics — aggressiveness for example.

Jeanne McKnight of the English department at Lewis and Clark College said she feels psychotherapists are too conservative and traditional in their views of sexual roles.

Gill agreed but added that psychiatry is one occupation where women are over-represented.

According to McKnight, literature has said what women have done is unimportant. She said this has contributed to women having only "informal power."



As if there was any question of the panel members' opinion of Freud, Johnson said, "There is no doubt in our own minds that Freud was a male chauvinist pig."

## Women's panel on music urges need for acceptance

By WANDA LAUKKANEN  
Of the Emerald

"The women's community must include every woman in the world," declared Bernice Reagon of the musical group Sweet Honey in the Rock, at a panel discussion on women's music as a political medium held Wednesday morning.

"Today, when you say 'women singers,' it has a political connotation that leaves out most of the women singing," she said. She added that women should accept each other as part of a larger group without regard to political beliefs.

"No woman is outside the women's community," she told the almost 50 persons attending the panel.

Sharing the panel with Sweet Honey in the Rock were Alice Gerrard, folk singer and labor movement worker and Chicano Musician Lydia Mendoza. Also participating in the discussion were members of an Oregon women's music group known as Izquierda.

Sweet Honey in the Rock was formed in Washington D.C. in 1974 and Reagon said it is "committed to struggle." The group plays at fundraising events, political rallies and other events for

causes in which the members believe.

In addition to Reagon, the group is made up of Patricia Johnson, Evelyn Harris and Yesmeen Williams.

As black women with families who are also women traveling and singing, Reagon said, "We are aware our mothers did not have that kind of choice."

Gerrard, who plays and sings music from the South, also emphasized that women needed to accept each other without regard for lifestyle choice. She said she came in contact with many women who would not feel comfortable in a feminist setting.

"It's important to listen to them talk before you talk," she said.

Of her music, Gerrard said, "This music comes from people who really had to struggle to survive, so there's nothing in it that isn't political."

Mendoza, who speaks only Spanish, had a translator tell the audience she had seen a lot of changes in the woman's role and in family life since she started singing in 1928 at the age of 12.

The panel discussion, which lasted two hours, was without incident until near the end when one man in the audience stood up and said it was 'pretty funny' to see all these women acting like men. The man left after an audience member asked him to go.

## Sexuality therapists offer insight to personal growth

By ANN TRENEMAN  
Of the Emerald

"The more you get to know yourself, the more your sex will improve," said local therapist Carol Green to more than 80 women during a Personal Growth and Female Sexuality workshop Wednesday noon.

A panel of three therapists, Green, Carol Judge and Susan Rutherford, talked for more than an hour on female sexuality and its relationship to a woman's personal growth, before breaking down the group into small groups to discuss questions on a more personal level.

"Our society is anti-body, anti-feel, anti-pleasure," Green said. "It's important to learn to connect the mind and the body."

Judge spoke of two aspects of female sexuality she encounters frequently in her practice and life.

"The first is the unlearning of old learnings...the second is concentrating on the positive."

She said, "Just changing your language in a simple way — saying 'I haven't yet...' instead of 'I can't...' can make a big difference."

Judge added that the willingness to develop a fantasy life, experimenting with visualization and using self-hypnosis are all "ways to skin the cat."

Her examples of "faulty" learning included unlearning negative models set by parents, getting rid of the performance/achievement outlook on sex, thinking there is a 'best way' to have sex, and overriding the subtle guilt and shame many women tie up with being sexual.

The women promoted women's groups as a method of dealing with their sexuality.

"Women's groups are invaluable," Rutherford said. "You get all kinds of support and grounding...and the group cuts down feelings of alienation entirely."

Rutherford, who does work with bio-energetics, talked of blocks created by tension within the body which constrict the "life-energy force." Green elaborated on the life force by saying it constantly flows through the body and manifests itself in sexual energy.

"People can choose to direct that energy toward work, school, art...It's up to you how you wish to direct it."

Rutherford added that a lot of women develop tension in their pelvises and jaws, which "cuts down on the extent of orgasm."

When asked how women can improve their orgasms, Green said a major thing to remember is that orgasm is not the goal of sex, saying that kind of attitude places too much emphasis on performance.

Awareness of breathing and masturbation were suggested as methods of improving orgasms.

"You can't really love anybody else until you start to love and enjoy yourself," Rutherford said, adding there are no "foolproof techniques" for orgasm improvement.

A problem pinpointed in the presentation was women's basic inability to express what they want.

"Women suffer from the inability to say 'no,' 'I want' and 'I'm angry,'" Rutherford said.

When asked how she dealt with the "no's" that inevitably happen when asking men out, Rutherford laughed and replied, "cry, beat my pillow..." and then added seriously, "I find the 'no's' make me look at areas of my own sexuality that need development."

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