

Women's Symposium

Feminist lawyers needed, says forum 'The legal system won't change until more women get in there'

By DINA MILES
Of the Emerald

If art is the morningstar of the revolution for women, as feminist author Rita Mae Brown said Monday night, then, as Mary Ann Bearden of the Women's Law Forum said Thursday morning, "Law is the afterglow."

The legal system is slow and imperfect, she said, but, "in some isolated instances, it does lead the way."

Bearden, along with Michelle Ryan and Jeanne Atkins of the

forum, discussed the system and the ways women can use it to their advantage, in an informal question-and-answer session as part of this week's Women's Symposium. The audience was small — about 12 women in all — but the issues they raised did not focus on traffic violations.

One audience member told of her recent legal frustrations suffered while getting a divorce. She said she got no help from Legal Aid, a local service for persons who need legal assistance but who cannot afford lawyers. She

finally had to hire a private attorney who, she said, didn't offer much worthwhile assistance anyway.

Bearden said that a major problem with the process of obtaining legal help is that it is controlled by men.

"The legal system is set up by men, exclusively — in everything from divorce, criminal law, rape and prostitution — and Legal Aid can only help the rich and the very, very poor," she said. She added that the many women who barely earn the minimum wage aren't

able to get help from that service. "One of the things this community needs is a lot of good feminist lawyers," Bearden said. "It's how you deal with your clients that will make the difference."

Another woman in the audience, formerly a doctor's wife, told of her dismay in the way her lawyer handled her divorce case. She said he charged her \$4,000 for the settlement, which she believed was unfair because the proceedings were not complicated enough to warrant such a fee.

"I just felt very victimized," she said. "He just saw a dollar sign. My attorney also propositioned me the night before we went to court."

Atkins said a good way for women to find the right lawyer for their needs is to call some feminist organizations in the area and ask for referrals. It's also a good idea, she said, to take a friend when seeing the attorney because the friend can provide moral support, and help a woman deal with any angry or upset feelings.

But many women still harbor the misconception that having an attorney will automatically solve the

problem, she said.

"We have to stop thinking attorneys will take care of you," Atkins noted.

Other women asked about retaining property rights, and Ryan said the best ways to insure that a woman can keep her own real property is to keep accurate records of all transactions and to make certain the property has her name on its title.

The group told the audience that many of the problems women face when dealing with male attorneys stem from lawyers' insensitivity to the woman's situation — financially or emotionally — and because some lawyers practice with an aim to make a lot of money as well as status.

"I think the legal system needs to be changed," Atkins said, "and it won't change until women get in there."

Many women lawyers choose to work in government agencies, she explained, because it is so difficult for them to get started in private practice. Problems such as high overhead costs, and discrimination among law firms with an all-male staff, discourage women in this area, she claimed.

ERA (Continued from Page 6)

rather than the 50% usually charged to a partial owner.

As far as family and homelife go, supporters of the ERA explain that, although it may frighten us as mothers, child support would be carefully considered and granted to the parent better suited to meet the needs of the child. "Men have babies too," pointed out Linda Wilson.

In opposition, Helen Lake claimed that the ERA would lead to "Intervention of the Federal

Government in our homes."

Eva Adkins pointed out that "Hitler's Germany was run under equal rights," which meant "equal responsibility." Adkins, who was raised in Nazi Germany, further explained that "women were drafted just as men were."

Betsy Merck rebutted with "Congress already has the power to draft women." Merck also said no country in the world has ever actually achieved equal rights.

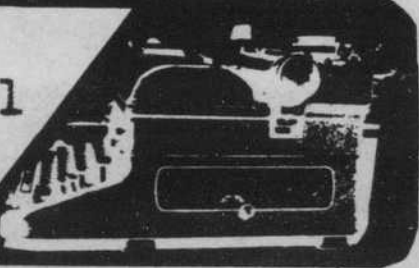
In response to the draft ques-

tion, an audience member questioned whether we should allow half the population to be slaughtered, or all of it.

Adkins said, "The way it (the ERA) is written up I cannot accept it...it is a mess." She further added, "I am a feminist...but I enjoy my rights. I want more rights, not less." Adkins stressed educating the voter, and commented that most people don't take the time to find out who or what they are voting for.

A Typewriter Warmed In Hell

By JOCK HATFIELD
Of the Emerald



The constituency of ASUO president Gary Fieldhand petitioned the court Monday to have him taken off his respirator so he can be declared officially dead.

"You have no idea how trying it is having something like this around," explained one student. "It's grotesque. As far as we're concerned he died eight months ago."

Students say all the arrangements have been made for Fieldhand's funeral. They say Fieldhand will be buried in the peach-colored formal he made for his high school senior prom. Oliver Jan will deliver his eulogy.

The following sermon was broadcast Wednesday night over a local station. It appears exactly as broadcast, with only minor changes.

"Hello friends. I've come to talk to you about my lord and yours. The Southern Baptist Church of Lynchburg, Virginia has a dream. We want to build a college. We want to turn out champions for Christ. In this sick nation, with its emphysema of misery, god could use some help. Donate \$500 now and help us build this dream. Send your money today and we will inscribe a brick with your name and stick it in the building. It will read as follows: "(Your name) helped erect this edifice for Christ. You will be immortalized in brick. Be sure and spell your name correctly. We will be inscribing it in the

brick with a laser. Laser inscriptions are hard to correct, and we wouldn't want to send you into posterity misspelled. We will send you a felt-bottomed copy of your brick, for your own enjoyment. Help churn out some champions for Christ, send for your brick now.

\$500 may seem like a lot to pay for a felt bottomed brick from Lynchburg, but these Christians should nevertheless be commended for their originality. Until now no one has known what to do with an inscribed brick. Bricks do not make good centerpieces. Bricks do not go well on coffee tables. Felt-bottomed bricks do not even make good walls. But never before has anyone tried to achieve immortality with an inscribed brick. If this thing catches on, every Christian in the nation may soon be carrying a personalized brick. This could be big.

THUR & FRI
BANANA
SPLITS

59¢

Dairy Queen

13th & Hilyard
Dairy Queen

SALE 20% OFF PLUS SPECIALS

All in-stock items except scales BOOKS 25%

WSTC (formerly SWOMSI) SCIENCE STORE 686-5099
In the UO Museum of Natural History OPEN Tues.-Sat.



Double Tee and Albatros Productions Present
Former Fleetwood Mac guitarist

Bob Welch

With Special Guests: Les Dudek
Mike Finnigen, Tim Krueger
Sunday, April 23 8:00

L.C.C. Gym

Tickets:

Advance \$6.00

Day of Show \$7.00

Available At:

Everybody's - Eugene & Corvallis, Sun Shop, Budget Tapes & Records, Sheldon Plaza & the L.C.C. Gym Box Office

-Listen to 1600 Kash for details-
(from Oregon - for Oregon)

WHEATFIELD

MAGIC ACTS ☆ JUGGLING ACTS & OTHER TREATS

Sunday April 16th 8pm to midnight Eugene Hotel (KING COLE ROOM)

TICKETS \$5 @ DOOR

WE HAVE \$15,000 IN ATTORNEY FEES. SO FAR WE'RE WINNING! THERE WILL BE MORE STRUGGLES - SO PLEASE COME AND JOIN US - PLEASE HELP!

PRESENTED BY: PEOPLE TO PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL LANDS, INC. & GRAND ILLUSIONS ENT.