

Secretaries plead for recognition

By PATRICK SULLIVAN
Of the Emerald

The one about the dean's secretary who was taught how to wax the inside of her wastepaper basket for easy dumping drew the biggest laugh.

And the one about the student who wouldn't talk with a secretary about his administrative problem because he needed to speak to "someone who knows," drew the biggest sigh of disgust.

The stories were part of the discussion "Secretaries are People, Too" held yesterday as part of the Women/Speak series.

Panelists for the discussion, all secretaries, were Anne Kelsy of Koinonia Center; Joanie Coots of the University Recreation and Park Management department; Helen Hemmingsen of the University YWCA, and Bev Murrow of the University Fine Arts department.

The panelists and secretaries in the audience discussed job conditions that make them feel bad and then tried to offer solutions to the problems.



Drawing by Jim Payne

Bosses who pat their secretaries on the head and call them "nice gals" received great verbal abuse. Murrow said such bosses "have a demeaning effect...no one wants to be treated that way."

"I think it's condescending and a way of establishing power," she

added.

Students also need to be sensitive to the feelings of secretaries.

"I hear students say, 'I am going into a professional career and don't want to end up being a secretary.' And I'm wondering...don't we all need to be a little careful

about how we treat people and about what we say," said Coots.

Another secretary abuser is the ungrateful office staffer. Sometimes a secretary's problems are ignored even though secretaries are an essential part of the work of the office, said Coots.

Of the things I've received the most praise for (by the staff) is changing the brand of coffee this year," Kelsy noted.

The rising number of male secretaries could raise the wages and lower the abuse of office workers, according to Murrow.

"I think that traditionally female jobs have been improved when males began doing them. As soon as males begin doing the job, salaries improve," she said.

Secretaries can combat some of the abuse they suffer by simply not putting up with the unreasonable demands some bosses make of them. A woman in the audience said that experience has taught her if the boss finds out his Christmas cards arrived late one year he won't ask his secretary to mail them again the next year.

Even though one woman said she often calls herself an office worker to avoid the demeaning title of secretary and no panel member admitted choosing secretarial work as a career, the group ended the discussion with the idea that their jobs were enjoyable.

Language prof attends French colloquium

Prof. William Calin, a University expert in French verse, recently returned from France enthusiastic about his discussion at a colloquium held in the village of Reims.

The workshop focused on the

works of Guillaume de Machaut, France's leading poet of the 14th century. Calin believes Machaut is one of the first in Western Europe to use highly sophisticated narrative technique in litera-

ture. His realization of narrative structure and of writing fiction have helped shape the development of fiction in the West, Calin says.

Calin, who is the romance languages department head, expounded these and other theories with other noted European scholars during the week-long event.

Paul Imbs, director of the University of Nancy in France, and Daniel Poirion, professor at Sorbonne University, personally invited Calin to attend the conference as a guest of the French government.

Calin had done critical study and analysis on the poet Machaut, as well as extensive research and a book written on narrative medieval verse.

Calin was the only literary professor from outside France to participate in the event. The only other American was a Yale music professor.

Included in the group were four major musical specialists from

Eastern Europe. Calin says it was fascinating to have an interdisciplinary conference where literary as well as musical specialists could exchange ideas.

He describes the musicians as being interested in the more traditional aspects of manuscripts and musical history, and the literary specialists as taking a more modern and critical approach to study.

Calin also describes the con-

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ference as being "politically different." He says the Eastern Europeans are different from Western professors.

"They are so dynamic, so alive...and," he pauses, "much better tourists."

He recalls an evening session organized by one of the Eastern European musicians who played

tapes of music that he had conducted and showed movies of Prague.

Calin says most of the personalities blend quite smoothly. However, he recalls a particular conflict involving a contemporary composer who participated. He explains the other scholars were outraged that an "amateur composer and not a professional scholar like themselves," should be invited to attend such a conference.

"I think it was good because it gave us all a different perspective," says Calin. "It shows how sensitive professors can actually be," he adds.

Calin describes the conference as being "extremely intensive." The daily sessions lasted from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with hours of "pure discussion — which was very argumentative," he says.

Calin plans to spend some time in Spain this summer to present another paper on a topic to be announced.

Rec program needs summer music teachers

The Cultural Arts program of the Eugene Parks and Recreation Department needs someone to teach a class entitled "Let the Good Times Roll," part of the Summer Music Education Program. The class will explore the combinations of music, writing, art and movement for children ages 10 to 13. The class will be held from June 19 to July 28 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to noon.

Contact Vivienne Friendly at 687-5353 for interview and information.

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