

Feminist urges women not to fear differences

By Mary Lichtenwalner
Of the Emerald

"Feminists are rewriting the world," Prof. Marilyn Frye said Tuesday night as she attempted to explain feminist theory in Room 167 EMU.

The lecture, "The Meanings of Difference," was part of The Center for the Study of Women in Society's winter speaker series. Frye is a visiting philosophy professor from Michigan State University.

The idea of rewriting evolved from a group of women in the 1970s who had "heads full of knowledge and ideas of how people tick and economies tick," Frye said. Those women began to question that "standard knowledge" however, and went to work to put together a project based on feminist theory.

But those world-writers are having difficulties, she added. The problem lies mainly in limitations.

"A lot of the world-writing women are doing their work on company time," she said, "and those not working don't get much time at the word processor."

Many of the women's opinions who world-write at work are discouraged by their employers, Frye said. To keep their jobs, those women edit their thoughts accordingly.

"The problem is that there are too few voices, too many world-writers close to the company" and too few who can communicate clearly their own thoughts as well as those of others, she said.

"For a long time women weren't aware of these problems. They were just writing the book 'The World According to Women,' putting women in the picture. Before that there was only Marie Antoinette and Eve," she said with a laugh.

Frye stressed the point that "nobody fits anybody's picture," adding that generalizations are a problem when observing society.

An option to feminists is to give up world-writing and "radically rethink and revise what we need to do when we think of the concept of woman," she said. "Nobody is simply a woman — that's an overgeneralization."

Recognizing differences in humans is the key, she said. Frye referred to author Audre Lord's book "Sister Outsider" to support her point.

"Lord puts the concept of difference at the center of racism, sexism and homophobia," Frye said. "She says to her audience that they must stop fearing difference."



Marilyn Frye

Group claims it drove spikes to protect old-growth timber

By Cynthia Whitfield
Of the Emerald

Another Willamette National Forest area slated for a timber sale has been spiked with nails to discourage U.S. Forest Service officials from going ahead with plans for a spring clear-cutting, according to a group claiming responsibility for the spiking.

The group made the claim in letters received Monday by The Register-Guard and the Albany Democrat-Herald.

The Forest Service plans to investigate the area, but "there's still too much snow up there," said Jerry Mason, public affairs officer for the Willamette National Forest.

"We're not even sure if this is a hoax or reality," he said. "If the action was done recently, the group must have had a unique way of getting over the snow."

The group said 50 pounds of 20-penny nails were driven into standing timber in the Pyramid Creek area of the Middle Santiam Cathedral Forest, an area rejected by Congress for the Wilderness Bill, and the site of about six demonstrations organized by the Cathedral Forest Action Group this summer.

The protesters attempted to block logging

trucks from leaving the Middle Santiam. More than 40 demonstrators were arrested.

But members of the environmental group say tree spiking, capable of causing physical harm when a logger's saw meets the hidden nail, is going too far.

"I'm angry about it," said group member Mary Beth Nearing. "We believe in non-violent direct action, communication, and finding new solutions. We've worked hard on our relationship with the Forest Service and the loggers. Something like this might compromise the progress we've made so far."

"I know the Cathedral Forest Action Group lives and breathes non-violence," said Doug Norlen, Survival Center director, who says he has often worked with the group. "I do not support tree spiking, but what the Forest Service is doing is a crime in itself."

Norlen says the Middle Santiam area is the second largest standing biomass (volume of concentrated plants, trees and vines) in the world.

But Mike Morris, coordinator for National Environmental Policy, said this claim has never been documented.

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