## Men's role in feminist movement unclear; argued by men, feminists

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

In the face of the changing feminist movement, men may be wondering where they fit into the scheme of things.

University Women's Referral and Resource Service Director Becky Bilyeu said men are generally supportive of the goals pursued by women's groups.

During the Eugene "Take Back the Night" march, which usually takes place each winter, men aren't allowed to march along with the women. "If men want to be supportive, they stand and hold signs and meet us at different points along the route," she said. "If men are alongside, it defeats the purpose."

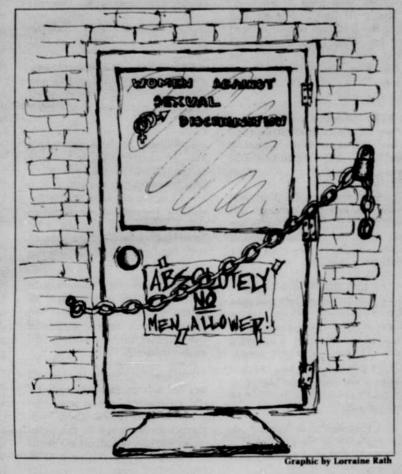
Bilyeu recounted a friend's experience in a similar march in Portland where men were allowed to march along. "She marched right behind a man—she was angry. It's not very often women get to do that—have a space that's just theirs."

There are some women's groups that are very receptive to working with men, Bilyeu said, while other groups don't want men involved at all. This schizophrenia in the women's movement is harmful to both sexes' causes, she said.

This being the case, how do men decide where they fit in respect to a movement that's unsure if they fit at all?

"Separatist movements are part of the ongoing political struggle — a stage the movement goes through," said Randall McGowen, a University history professor and former advisory committee member for the University's Center for the Study of Women in Society. "I'm more willing to accept that stage because I see the final goal as desirable.

"The problem is that men



define the women's movement as a movement for women. If you re-define the movement as a movement changing the world, we are trying to work together to create a world that is richer and fuller," McGowen said. "Men's alienation from the women's movement is a problem for men."

But Jim Petersen, Playboy Adviser columnist at Playboy magazine, said he believes men are not trying to find a niche in relation to the women's movement.

"The only two men really seriously troubled by it are Phil Donahue and Alan Alda," he said.

In the early 1970s, when the modern women's movement rose and took hold, men tried to respond with a cooperative "men's movement."

Local artist Andre Carpenter was a member in one of the very first men's movement groups at Berkeley, Calif., in 1970. Carpenter currently is involved in men's groups in Eugene and wants to write a book titled, "A Call for a New Kind of Man, Not Brute, Not Wimp."

"Men were trying to make amends for what women were accusing men of: being chauvinistic pigs when we should be nice and supportive," Carpenter said.

"At that time we were working on developing our nurtur-

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