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#### Community

## Heritage affects logging dispute

By Pat Malach Emerald Reporter

Students and community members gathered Tuesday to view a film and hear speakers focusing on the heritage of Oregon logging and how that heritage affects the current timber controversy

The event was part of the Oregon Heritage Lecture Series sponsored by the University Survival Center's Opal Creek Committee

Ron Finne, maker of the film Natural Timber Country, addressed the crowd along with Fred Behm, a retired logger, and Susan Applegate, a descendant of a pioneer Oregon family.

"The old-time loggers really had a strong feeling about the love that they had toward the forest itself," Finne said. "They did not believe that they would destroy, that they would shatter, that they would make it disappear."

Finne said when he made the film in 1971 he hoped to create a vehicle for the loggers to present their thoughts, feelings and observations while they were in the woods.

"They became surprised that ultimately they were the cause and personally responsible for the disappearance of that which they loved the most. They didn't expect that because when they became loggers initially, the technologies and tools were not there to make that possible."

Behm, who got his first as when he was seven years old and was working in a logging camp when he was nine, said at that time he felt he was a "real big shot."

However. "Now I'm not so proud of it." Behm said. "I cut down some of the last oldgrowth white pine in Wiscon-

There was no thought of ever running out of timber because there was plenty around. Behm said. He added that he wished the Sierra Club had been started 200 years ago.

Behm said the area in Wisconsin that he logged was left so barren that no one would have wanted to live there. "They called us rabbit chokers, because we ate rabbits... there was nothing else there," Behm said.

Behm worked in Wisconsin. Minnesota, Alaska and Oregon. He said when he got to Oregon he realized that he could not go any farther to cut timber. "The Pucific doesn't grow any." he said.

Behin pointed to forestry schools as a problem in the changing forest industry. "Oregon State (University) is probably one of the best schools in the world for forestry." Behin said. "But they have never had a class in forest ecology."

Applegate said she felt the problem is tied to the fact that not as much direct contact is involved with logging as in the days recounted to her by her father.

"The work was direct physical labor with the tree," Applegate said. "And the trees were

"Something happened in the 1940s when gas and diesel replaced steam and with the chainsaw entering the forest and trees were meant to be taken out in great volume. The mechanization distanced those men from the landscape. And from their direct encounters with the trees."



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### Low heat

James Simon, a second-year sculpture major, prepares to use a Raku low-firing technique on his ceramic sculpture. The Raku method gives the finished piece a multi-colored effect.

Photo by Steve Card



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