

Eco-feminist to speak on patriarchal abuse

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Associate Editor

Marti Kheel, a prominent author and activist in the eco-feminist movement, will be on campus tonight to speak about the connection between the abuses of women, nature and animals.

Kheel's presentation, which takes place at 8 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room, is co-sponsored by Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and Men Against Rape.

Kheel is the founder of Feminists for Animal Rights, a group that started in the Bay area in 1982. She contributed to the 1991 book *Reweaving the World*, co-edited by University political science Professor Irene Diamond.

Her presentation will include a slide show in which Kheel will show what she calls the "commonalities of the treatment of animals and women in nature under a patriarchal society."

Kheel said she will attempt to draw together images and photographs from a wide variety of sources, including mythology, pop culture, pornography and pictures of animal abuse.

"I try to create a composite picture of the ways in which women and animals are perceived under a patriarchal society," she said, "and what I try to show is that women and animals have been objectified in similar kinds of ways."

Kheel said she focuses on the ways in which both women

and animals are perceived as something to be conquered and subdued.

One series of slides shows an animal being tied down in a rodeo, followed by a picture from a pornography magazine of a woman being tied down.

"There's a similar agenda there," Kheel said. "I try to show that behind these different images is a single agenda and that is the need to assert masculine self-identity in opposition to women and nature and animals."

"I sometimes say that the slide show is about the psycho-sexual roots of our environmental crisis, because it's about the male journey to masculine self-identity and that that has historically been a quest to establish self in opposition to nature."

Kheel said the premise of eco-feminism is that there is no need for any such forms of abuse and that women, animals and all of nature have an independent existence.

Traditionally, a division has existed between the animal liberation and environmental movements, Kheel said, with the animal liberation movement concerned with the suffering of individual beings and the environmental movement concerned with the biotic community as a whole.

"My hope for eco-feminism is that it will help bridge the gap," Kheel said, "and show there is a commonality about developing compassion for all of the natural world."

Panel: Date rape convictions difficult

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Associate Editor

Lawyers from both sides of the fence agreed at a Monday night "Rape and the Law" panel that date rape cases are difficult to prosecute, but they disagreed over who is truly innocent until proven guilty.

Defense attorney Terrence Gough said the burden of proof is not on the prosecution but on the accused rapist, largely because of public pressure and lobbying by women's groups.

"This area of the law has been changing rapidly in the past 5-10 years," Gough said. "It's been changing in the way of making it easier to get a conviction."

Joe Kosydar, a senior attorney in the Lane County District Attorney's office, disagreed. "I think it's an uphill battle for the victim. It's a real ordeal."

Both agreed that jurors are most likely to find a guilty plea if the survivor and the accused did not know each other, because date rape cases often provide little tangible evidence, resulting in a "his word vs. her word" situation.

"It's not all black and white, there are many

shades of gray," Gough said. "The more gray there is, the more doubt there is in the minds of the jurors."

This grayness is amplified when alcohol or drugs are a factor. These cases are difficult to prosecute because the survivor may not remember exactly what happened.

"You have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt what you are theorizing," Kosydar said.

Cases like this fall into the category of sexual abuse, which classifies the bulk of the sexual assault cases prosecuted in Lane County. Sexual abuse involves sexual intercourse or contact without consent.

Kosydar said intoxication is not a legal defense, per se, in Oregon.

Rape cases become more difficult to prosecute when the survivor delays reporting to the police, consents to some sexual activity, or willingly goes home with the alleged rapist.

Gould said deals are made on many of the ambiguous cases, especially if the survivor is unsure about continuing with the trial and the accused is afraid his attorney won't be able to get him off.

Bev Collins of the Eugene police department said rape survivors are not locked into prosecuting if they notify the police.

RAPE

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sault issues

Erin Collier, assistant director of Sexual Assault Support Services, said the relationship between SASS and EPD has been positive.

"Both police and SASS have worked very hard to form a collaborative effort with both agencies having the victim's interest at heart," Collier said.

As part of EPD training, officers learn that when responding to a violent crime the most important thing is to protect the victim from further injury, Collins said.

The victim is the number one priority, then the preservation of evidence, and then the arrest of the assailant, Collins said.

Once at the hospital, a nurse of the same gender takes the victim to a private room, said Lola Fritz, nurse manager at Sacred Heart General Hospital's emergency room.

Any immediate injuries are treated and the victim is then asked if he or she wants evidence gathered for possible prosecution of their attacker.

If the victim and the police want evidence gathered, the nurse takes blood, saliva, semen and hair samples, and puts the victim's clothing in evi-

dence bags, Fritz said.

A physician, with the nurse present, does a pelvic exam, takes samples for a venereal disease screening and answers any questions the victim may have, Fritz said.

The hospital then offers to call one of the two organizations offering support services to sexual assault victims.

Before the patient leaves, he or she is given new clothes and a packet containing information about support groups.

The next day, the hospital's Social Services department gives the victim a follow-up call to find out if he or she is doing all right, Fritz said.

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