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Editor raps 'pale male' media

Shanti Soslienski
For Oregon Daily Emerald

It's no longer a mystery how women are buried in the world of print, considering the media are run by the "pale and male," *MS.* magazine's editor-in-chief told a University audience of about 600 people Thursday.

"If there's one word for journalists to hold onto, it's audacity," said Robin Morgan, this year's speaker for the annual School of Journalism Johnston Lecture.

Morgan has taken audacity to heart through her feminist activism and writings that take on an international perspective.

"All issues are women's issues because women are the majority on this planet not the minority," Morgan said.

"We need to blow away the cobwebs of the myths of feminism and address the issues," Morgan said.

The women's movement has struggled with many media biases for the past 25 years, Morgan said.

"The myth that this is the second wave of feminism discredits any other women's movements," she said. "Our experience reflects only a small portion of a world mosaic. And



Robin Morgan

since the sixties, we've been battling this 'bra burners' image that came out of a fluke in the *New York Times* 20 years ago," she said, provoking a round of applause from the audience.

She attributes these myths to the media, which she said she believes has disregarded women.

"Every year for the last 25 years, the media has tried to declare that feminism is dead. It's not," Morgan said.

After battling with advertisers over content of the magazine for

18 years, Morgan said, *MS.* magazine was declared finished. But in 1990, it was resurrected because of massive reader response demanding the restart of the magazine.

Morgan had worked on *MS.* for a number of years but believed it was being taken over by the advertising industry in the mid-1980s. Fed up with *MS.* evolving toward glamour magazine status, she removed her name from the masthead. In 1990 she returned to the magazine, but on her terms.

"That's why I'm here today," she said, "to say you can have your principles and your cake."

Two years after it's resurrection, *MS.* still adheres to the changes Morgan made. The magazine is run entirely on sales, there is no advertising. International articles are written by women from the countries the articles are about, and *MS.* is currently in the process of being translated into other languages.

The success of the magazine is evidence of Morgan's sense of personal vision of the past and future feminism.

"If we do not write our own history, who will," she said, receiving a standing ovation from the packed auditorium.

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