

UNIVERSITY

Women's Center sponsors forum to cultivate ideas

By Rain Sussman and
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For the Oregon Daily Emerald

A discussion on the activities of an ideal Women's Center will take place today at 6:30 p.m. in the EMU Gumwood Room, offering those in attendance the opportunity to help make visions for the center become reality.

The ASUO Women's Center is entering the final stage of a restructuring process that began in July of 1993. Today's forum will provide an occasion for open discussion and exchange of ideas regarding the future of the Women's Center.

Some possibilities for the future include a newsletter, a weekly women's coffee hour, cross-cultural social events, a women's backpacking club, support services for Lane Community College transfers, and a continuation of the services that have been successful in the past.

Until last July the Women's Center was comprised of four autonomous programs: Project Saferide, Women in Transition, Women's Diversity, and Women's Resource and Referral. However, increasing tensions within the center became obvious in spring 1993 when hiring for many positions in these programs was rendered impossible because of a lack of applicants.

A confluence of problems led to this decisive moment. The center lacked structural cohesion, power relationships among the staff were poorly defined and personal differences eroded work relationships. Furthermore, many returning students, mothers, women of color, and women who did not subscribe to the prevailing feminist ideology felt uncomfortable at the center.

ASUO President Eric Bowen decided to temporarily close the Women's Center, and in July, a committee of women was formed to investigate existing

problems and to restructure the center.

Throughout the summer, the restructuring committee's membership remained fluid and was open to all interested women who were able to volunteer time and energy. After a series of brainstorming sessions, an interim structure for the center was formulated and implemented in early October.

For the remainder of fall term, the committee sponsored a forum on the theme "What is feminism to you?", solidified committee membership, organized a retreat, and began to establish a more stable, efficient structure for the committee itself.

The new formalized committee of about 20 volunteer members contains faculty, staff, international, returning and traditional students, mothers, lesbians, bisexuals and straight women, women with disabilities, and women with varied

socio-economic backgrounds. However, racial and ethnic diversity is severely lacking on the committee. Recruitment from under-represented groups continues, but achieves limited success.

There are still positions available on the committee, and all interested women are encouraged to call the Women's Center for details.

Early in January, it became clear that diversity was the central issue needing to be addressed in the restructuring process.

This realization led the committee to change its strategy from one of recruitment to one of networking. In addition to recruiting new committee members, the networking strategy aims to establish more permanent relationships and channels of communication between the Women's Center and a wide range of groups on campus,

which will continue after the restructuring committee is disbanded.

At the same time, the committee is researching various other women's centers around the country, finalizing next year's budget, and investigating the possibility of expanding the space the center currently occupies.

Above all else, the restructuring committee desires to create a vibrant, integrated organization that reflects the needs of the surrounding community and provides space for building cross-cultural bridges. Today's forum is seen as a stepping stone toward this goal.

The Women's Center is currently open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is staffed by a receptionist, a women's advocate, and two assistant receptionists. Saferide is in operation after 6 p.m. nightly and can be reached at 346-4239.

UNIVERSITY UPDATE

- Susan Feiner, a visiting scholar for the Center for the Study of Women in Society, will give a free lecture about feminist economics at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in EMU Cedar Room A. For more information, call 346-4545.

- The Solar Information Center will present the lecture "Communities vs. Commuting Entities" by Michael Peas at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in Room 177 Lawrence. For more information, call 346-3696.

- Old growth ecologist and teacher Sharon Teague of Nearby Nature will present a free slide show on ancient forest ecology at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in Room 110 Willamette. For more information, call Dan at 346-4365.

- The video *Karakom*, which chronicles the American effort to reach the summit of K2, the world's second-highest peak, will be presented in a free showing at noon Wednesday in EMU Room 37. For more information, call Dan at 346-4365.

- The University Symphonic Band and Campus Band will present a concert at 8 p.m. Wednesday in Beall Concert Hall. Tickets, available at the door, are \$4 for general admission and \$2 for students and senior citizens.

- Kent Kulby will present a free lecture about "Restaurants, Cafes, Coffeehouses and Taverns: Anchor Stores for Specialty Retail Development in Downtown Areas of Eugene and Boulder, Colorado," at 4 p.m. Thursday in Room 106 Condon.

For more information, call 346-4555.

- Tom Connolly, chief archaeologist of the University Museum of Natural History, will present the lecture "Rockin' Through the Holocene: Lithic Procurement and Land Use Patterns in Newberry Crater, Central Oregon" at 4:30 p.m. Thursday at the Museum of Natural History. A \$1 donation is encouraged. For more information, call 346-3024.

- The play *The Illusion*, performed by the University Theatre, will begin at 8 p.m. Thursday at Robinson Theater. The production runs March 3-5 and March 11-12. Tickets are \$8 for general admission, \$6 for seniors and staff, and \$4.50 for students. For more information, call 346-4191.

- "Teen Pregnancy: A Seminar for Parents" will be presented by Wendy Lang, RN, at noon Thursday in the EMU Walnut Room. The free seminar is part of the "Babies and You" series presented by the University Child and Family Services in conjunction with the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. Call 346-2962 to register and for more information.

- Marv Newland of Vancouver, B.C., will give a visual design lecture at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Room 115 Lawrence. The free lecture is part of the University Department of Fine Arts Visiting Artist series. For more information, call 346-3610.

- The University Symphony will perform at 8 p.m. Thursday in Beall Concert Hall. Tickets are \$4 for general admission

and \$2 for students and senior citizens.

- Marian Smith will present a lecture "The Marriage and Divorce of Opera and the Ballet" at noon Friday in Room 159 PLC. The lecture is part of the Oregon Humanities Center Work-in-Progress Series. For more information, call 346-3934.

- Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy of the State University of New York at Buffalo will present a free lecture "Readings from Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community" at 7 p.m. Friday in Gerlinger Lounge. For more information, call 346-5015 or 346-5529.

- The Seventh Annual DANCEABILITY project, which encourages exploration of dance between able-bodied, physically disabled and visually or hearing impaired individuals, will open Friday with an introductory lecture and demonstration. The award-winning documentary on the project, *Common Ground*, also will be shown. The project continues through Sunday and will end with a performance at 7 p.m. Friday at Dougherty Dance Theater. For more information, call Jennifer Craig at 346-3386.

- The University Vocal Jazz Ensemble will give its winter concert at 8 p.m. Friday at Beall Hall. Tickets are \$4 for general admission and \$2 for students and seniors. For more information, call 346-5678.

- The University East European Folk Music Ensemble, Slavey and Zivo, will perform an international folk dance for free at 8 p.m. Friday in Room 220 Gerlinger. For more information, call 346-5678.

- Third- and fourth-year German students will perform Bertolt Brecht's one-act play *Die Kleinbuergerhochzeit* (*The Wedding*) at 7 p.m. Friday in the Arena Theater in Villard Hall. The play also will be performed Saturday, and the \$2 tickets may be purchased at the door and reservations can be made through the German department office in Friendly Hall. For more information, call 346-4056 or 346-4083.

- Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy will conduct a free research seminar "Constructing an Ethno-History of Lesbian Communities" at 2 p.m. Friday in the new Jane Grant Room, Room 340 Hendricks. For more information, call 346-5015 or 346-5529.

- A free workshop covering the fundamentals of Internet for the sciences electronic database will be 3 p.m. Friday in the Conference Room of the Science Library. Sign-up is required and may be made at the Science Library reference desk. For more information, call 346-1925.

- "Communication Outside the Classroom" will give international students and faculty a chance to talk at 3:30 p.m. Friday in Room 102 Gerlinger. For more information, call 346-1238.

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