

Dear Superfly

Over the past year, I've transformed myself into an addictive hair dyer. First it's brown to black to red to blonde. Now the detrimental effects have come. My hair is falling out, it's gross and frizzy, and I don't know where to turn. It feels like yarn, yet I do not want to shave it off. Is there a solution. (I'm too broke for professional SALON advice.)

— Tangled

Dear Tangled,

You have a common problem, you should have coffee talk with Madonna. Have you ever considered using a wig? It's RuPaul's secret, shh! Don't tell anyone! The cheapest and best remedy to untangle your mop is using hot oil, found at any local Safeway. Get ready for Wigstock 1994!

— Superfly



Dear Superfly,

Every time I go in for an interview, I become a living catastrophe. My stomach churns, my tongue twists, and my sweat glands do overtime. I really need a job, and I know I'm capable. I just need to know how to get through the interview.

— Tongue Tied

Dear Tongue Tied,

We'll go through all the steps with you (just like in La Maze class). First buy yourself some great deodorant and a breathable cotton shirt. Then take a couple deep breaths and try and stay relaxed. Remember to just

be you, though we know it's hard when you don't really know who you are. Write some notes of impressive vocab words and one-liners to knock them dead. Make sure you practice being confident.

Don't be too modest about yourself, we know you can do something! Make sure you don't leave out abilities such as fax-sending, photocopying and coffee making. Certainly don't forget to shower and groom before you leave the house. No toothpaste stains on the side of your mouth. The End.

— Superfly

Dear Superfly,

Does anyone believe in anything anymore? Michael Jackson? Tonya Harding? Bill Clinton? Can I depend on one little thing? Please give me something!

— Searching

Dear Searching,

You can always depend on Superfly. The question is, whom can we depend on? In this day and age we have no great role models. My role models are the Solid Gold dancers. That's what gets me through every day, you should check it out. I've got it on tape. Write in for a copy!

— Superfly

Dear Superfly,

My conscience is bothering me. Recently a guy voiced his extreme interest in me. The problem is that he's engaged to be married in a couple of months. Although I don't plan on pursuing this guy, I feel obliged to tell his fiancée that she is about to marry an unfaithful dustball. Should I tell her or should I not say anything at all?

— Sick of men who cheat and get away with it

Dear SOMWCAGAWI,

We'll draw this answer from the many afternoon talk shows that discuss this very topic. Oprah says, tell her! Marriage is a long, long mess. She deserves to know about it before he advances on all of her colleagues. It's definitely not a clean matter. This one will be messy but there's no other way to go about it. Spill your guts to her and hope the best (for her) that in the end she does make the right decision!

— Superfly

Dear readers, please send us your very important letters at the Emerald, it's a simple hop, skip and a jump up the stairs from the Ballroom in the EMU, or address them to Superfly, P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403.

National women's month ignites search for history

By Stephanie Sisson

Oregon Daily Emerald

When Elizabeth Reis was in college in the 1970s, there was very little written record of women's history in any textbooks.

Just two decades later, the month of March was chosen as National Women's History Month. Now in its sixth year, National Women's History Month involves schools and communities in a search for information and ideas about women in history.

University history Professor Elizabeth Reis says more researchers are trying to find out about women in history, but original sources of information are hard to come by.

"The emphasis on writing history was on politics, economics, foreign relations, where women weren't involved," Reis said. "The problem with teaching women's history is that it's hard to find source material. (Researchers) have to be creative with their use of sources."

One often-used source of material about the Revolutionary War is a diary by a 18th

century midwife, Martha Ballard, who lived in Maine and "knew everyone and wrote about everybody," Reis said.

Although the diary contains a lot of information about midwifery in the 18th century, it wasn't until just a few years ago that a researcher named Laurel Thatcher Ulrich recognized the book was more than a Revolutionary War source. Ulrich ended up writing a book called *A Midwife's Tale* based on the diary.

Although diaries are a primary source of information about women, Reis said other sources include wills, probate records, newspapers, conversion narratives and Congressional Records.

Reis said finding out about women of color and lesbian women is especially hard. Some women of color were slaves who could not write their experiences. Reis said that most of our information today about them comes from slave songs, which tell researchers the things women slaves were concerned about, and master's inventories of their households.

"We kind of construct these women's lives based on a list of artifacts in the house," Reis said.

Little can also be found about Native American women's history. Reis said this is mostly because of the Native American oral tradition, which, although the Native Americans had a strong sense of history, means that much of it was not written down by them or by white men.

The largest source of information about Native American women comes from missionary accounts. Reis said missionaries who were trying to convert Native Americans wrote volumes to the organizations who supported them and their missions, recording every detail about the Native Americans and often exaggerating the Native Americans' conversions to Christianity in order to keep receiving their funds.

Lesbian history is also difficult to trace, for another reason. Until recently, lesbian women didn't write about their relationships because such relationships were not acceptable to society. Reis said the most helpful sources of lesbian history are letters written between women which contain vague passages that imply a romantic relationship. Reis said there is much debate among researchers about how

to interpret these 19th century letters. "Lesbians had to keep their lives secret for fear of losing their jobs," Reis said. "It's difficult, but also rewarding to uncover lives that would otherwise be lost."

Reis says she and other researchers like her have two goals: Giving women back their history, and giving the history of women to the larger field of history.

"A lot of members of the history department make a conscious effort to integrate women's history into their history classes," Reis said. "I believe it's also important to have separate women's history classes."

In her classes, Reis tries not to portray women in history as completely victims or heroines, but instead she tries to teach how women "coped with prevailing ideology, and resisted and sometimes even encouraged it."

Most of all, Reis says she tries to find a balance in her classes between famous women — "women who made it" — and the lives of average women.

"Women are half the population," she said. "To not include women's history means you're not getting the full picture."

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