

UNIVERSITY

Sexual harassment awareness not gone, author says

By Suzanne Marta
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill hearings in 1991 brought the issues of sexual harassment in the workplace into the public eye. In the end, Hill's allegations were discredited and Thomas was confirmed as Supreme Court Justice — but sexual harassment awareness has not gone away.

"What we're doing is moving toward a redistribution of power between the sexes," political author Celia Morris said at a Brown Bag lecture in Gerlinger Hall Wednesday. "We're moving toward a world where men share power rather than impose it ... the momentum of the movement will wax and wane but the direction will not change."

About 40 students, faculty and community members attended the last of the Brown Bag lecture series.

Morris' lecture was based on her latest book *Bearing Witness: Sexual Harassment and Beyond — Every Woman's Story*, which chronicles the experiences of women dealing with sexual harassment in the workplace and in life.

"I wanted to make sure that everyone who wants to could understand sexual harassment ... it's not astrophysics," Morris said.

In the book, Morris shares the personal stories and feelings of 45 women, representing a cross-section of Americans from every class, region and ethnic background.

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In *Bearing Witness*, Morris explains why we're experiencing sexual harassment through the use of Shakespeare and the roles portrayed by women. Morris claims that "what we're doing now is challenging all those traditional roles that women are supposed to perform."

Morris emphasized the need for change in the way our society deals with sexual harassment.

"We need to change the questions from 'What did she do to deserve it?' to 'Why did he do it?' and 'Why did other people allow him to do it?'" she said. "The struggle is about men and women treating each other with dignity in the workplace."

Bearing Witness, which took a year and a half to write, is the third of Morris' books about strong women.

"It was an emotionally exhausting book to research, but it was an ultimately exhilarating book to write," she said.

Morris points to the literary works of Maya Angelou and Toni Morrison as landmarks in instituting awareness

about women's issues and sexual harassment.

Morris said we are in a backlash period right now and pointed to books like Katie Roiphe's *The Morning After: Sex, Fear and Feminism on Campus*, which say that rape is not as frequent as people claim.

"I've never been so aware of so much anger through public dialogue and viciousness," she said. "We're not talking about a fantasy land, we're living in a culture where women operate at a disadvantage to men."

Gena Hutton, who is one of the women bringing sexual harassment allegations against Sen. Bob Packwood, commented on *Bearing Witness*.

"When I read the book, I felt affirmed that I'm not the only one ... I saw myself in many of the women in the book and could relate to the feelings they shared."

"It's an important work for men and women in understanding the issues of sexual harassment," Hutton said.

Morris' other works include: *Storming the Statehouse: Running for Governor with Ann Richards* and *Dianne Feinstein and Fanny Wright: Rebel in America*.

After her lecture at the University, Morris spoke in Portland on the "Celebration of Courage" at a fund raiser for the Women's Legal Advocacy Fund, which is currently assisting the women who've made allegations against Packwood.

The lecture was co-sponsored by the Sexual Harassment Network, the Center for the Study of Women in Society, the Unwanted Sexual Behaviors Task force and the Women Faculty Resource Network.

POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to the University Office of Public Safety and the Eugene police department May 4-10.

- A student was cited for second-degree criminal mischief on 13th Avenue and Alder Street April 23. According to police reports, the suspect got into a confrontation with a student and kicked his car. The damage to the car was \$200.

- A student was cited for furnishing liquor to minors and a high school student was cited for drinking and trying to escape from the police on the 1400 block of Alder Street April 30.

- A juvenile male was cited for second-degree theft at 15th Avenue and Agate Street May 5. According to police reports, the suspect stole a \$20 tire pump off a bicycle.

- A student was cited for second-degree theft at 13th Avenue and Agate Street May 5. According to police reports, the suspect stole a \$100 tire off a bike.

- A male was cited for second-degree theft at 13th Avenue and Agate Street May 5. According to police reports, the suspect stole a \$55 bike seat.

- A male was cited for drinking in public at 13th Avenue and Alder Street May 5.

- A student was cited for minor in possession on the 1000 block of Patterson Street May 5.

- A student was cited for minor remaining on unlicensed premises at 13th Avenue and Alder Street May 6. According to police reports, the suspect had been found in Guido's. Another student was cited outside for open container.

- A male was cited for furnishing liquor to minors and noise disturbance on the 1500 block of Hilyard Street May 6.

- A student reported someone had spray-painted her car with gold paint, causing \$200 worth of damage at Westmoreland Housing May 6.

- A female was arrested for possession of drugs on the 1300 block of Ferry Street May 7.

- A student reported his driving window broken on the 500 block of East 19th Avenue May 8. According to police reports, the damage amounted to \$500.

- A student reported some of his clothes stolen from his clothesline on the 400 block of East 18th Avenue May 8. According to police reports, the loss included a pair of Levi's jeans and a black T-shirt worth \$34.

- A student reported her \$400 bicycle stolen from the 1500 block of East 15th Avenue May 9.

- A male was beaten and robbed on the 1500 block of Alder Street May 9. According to police reports, the victim was contacted by four men on the street, who suddenly started to hit him, causing his elbow to bleed, and robbed him for \$20.

- A male student was assaulted by two

males on the 1300 block of Kincaid Street May 7. According to police reports, the student was out at 2 a.m. and was suddenly attacked by two men who hit him with their fists. The injuries were a possible broken nose and swelling on one of the eyes.

- A student was cited for open container and a student was cited for minor in possession of alcohol on the 1600 block of Hilyard Street May 7.

- A student was cited for noise disturbance on the 300 block of East 18th Avenue May 7.

- A male was arrested for second-degree trespassing on the 500 block of East 13th Avenue May 8.

- A male was arrested for violating the privacy of another on the 900 block of East 13th Avenue May 8. According to police reports, the suspect was looking at girls from outside of their window.

— Compiled by Susanne Steffens

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