

## Author brings incest topic home

### BOOK REVIEW

By Ed Klopfenstein

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Ever enter a mall and wonder who's the walking wounded, haunted by memories of incest?

Ever think those people aren't as close as next door?

Think that and you would be wrong.

University graduate and now Springfield resident Heather Harpham is just such a person and writes about her trek toward inner peace in *I Went To The Animal Fair: A Journey Through Madness To Meaning* (Pinon Press, May, 1994).

The work is a flip-flop of journal entries that reflect Harpham's journey from the hollow life of a dysfunctional incest survivor to a life with some sense of peace.

With references to God and rape, most of *I Went To The Animal Fair* isn't about either, but instead is about one woman — one human being — coming to terms with her past, and with that life itself.

This is a memorable work of journal writing, excellent for its short, punchy paragraphs that take little Polaroids of the author's exploration: The realization that she has a problem; dredging up the rape; and forgiving.

The writing brings home much of the work by flowing poetically within each paragraph and by offsetting the jumbled placement of the paragraphs found in most journal writing with mini-stories that flow like modern haiku.

Best, Harpham's poetic style brings home her message of forgiveness. She doesn't beat the

reader over the head with her rape memories; she uses her poetic voice to show how deep her rapist's deposit of pain infiltrated her life.

But, sometimes the author goes ape on narrative poetry, making confusing reading for some. It also makes one wonder if she doesn't have farther to go in her quest for peace.

Lost for an ending, the big question before closing the book and going to bed was, "Did she find her peace?" She doesn't seem to have an answer.

Looking to the bigger question, though, this is a good book for adults who are incest survivors because it shows one person's chosen path and how the hunt for answers affected her adult life.

The fact that this was done by a University grad makes the work even closer to home.

## 'Wolf' is just a sheep in wolf's clothing

By Greg Hamilton

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

I love Jack Nicholson.

I don't care that some say he's a washed-up, middle-aged has-been with a sagging gut and liver spots. He does his job and he does it well.

That's why it bugs me to see him turn out a dynamic performance and then have it hashed by a film that suffers from what can best be described as impotency.

Enter *Wolf*, directed by Mike Nichols and the latest addition to the circle of Hollywood odes to the classic monster tale, this time adapted for the 1990s.

Nicholson plays Will Randall, a book editor at an East Coast publishing house who finds his physical abilities enhanced after a rather close run-in with an unfriendly wolf. At first, he really doesn't pick up on this new gift, with the exception of some rather unsightly hair growth and a new, intense craving for meat products.

This initial period of discovery is where Nicholson shines. After Randall begins to catch on to this newfound strength, he finds some rather animalistic and aggressive means to deal with competition at work.

### CINEMA

### WOLF

★★

**STARRING:** Jack Nicholson and Michelle Pfeiffer  
**DIRECTOR:** Mike Nichols

**RATING:** R  
**RUNNING TIME:** 120 min.  
**PLAYING AT:** Movies 12

On top of all the animalistic bravado in the office, Randall fosters a relationship with his boss' rebellious daughter Laura, played by Michelle Pfeiffer, who takes a shine to "the old guy," as she calls him, and finds a kindred spirit in Randall's ever-hairier arms.

Randall's feral instincts do not come without a price, though. It's the price of power, and the dilemma from which Nicholson hangs a humorous and roguish performance. Unfortunately, the theme of the inner man-beast struggle is squelched by efforts to turn it into a cheap-jack horror film with mediocre special effects. It's disappointing and frustrating when you consider the movie it could have been.



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