

Women speak of inspirations, influences at Authors' Night

by Tracey Roozenboom
Staff Writer

"I became interested in journalism when I was 6 years old. I wanted to be Lois Lane," stated Margie Boule' at Authors' Night Feb. 3 at the college. She said she chose Lois Lane because there weren't a lot of women role models who were out there in the work force making a difference. Boule' also added, "I could identify with her."

In truth, Boule' may have more in common with Lois Lane than she realizes. Lane is ever pursuing that unique story angle, just like Boule' does.

Boule' gets her ideas from friends in the police department and district attorney's office. For instance, if a case gets pushed to the back burner, Boule' can light little sparks by using it in her column. In her words, "sometimes the white heat of public attention gets an answer."

Aside from her column, her life reads like a good piece of short fiction. "I came from a very poor family of five. My mother went away when I was young," Boule' said. At this point she skimmed the surface and mentioned that her mother had to

have electric shocks and became real vague about the reasons. She went on to tell of her accomplishments in school and how she became editor of her high school and college newspapers.

Then she showed some facial tension when discussing her "shallow" television years. Apparently right after the Anita Hill trial, Boule' wrote an article in *The Oregonian* saying she could understand Hill's decision in not going public right away because she, too, had been sexually harassed by her boss while working for KATU and "management said they would make trouble for her," Boule' explained.

Another reason why Boule' disliked her work atmosphere was the fact that, "one manager played porno movies" and some of her male co-workers would saunter in and watch them with him.

Then her face began to soften as she spoke of her *Oregonian* boss, Fred Stickel, and how he stood up for her when KATU wanted a retraction printed. "*The Oregonian* said we didn't need to print a retraction if we told the truth," Boule' stated proudly.

Consequently, she mentioned that five months after that article

appeared, a certain KATU manager retired and three women were hired for management positions.

It looks like *The Oregonian* has its own Lois Lane in Margie Boule'.

Besides Boule', Sandra Scofield and Katherine Dunn were the other two writers highlighted at Authors' Night.

Scofield, a former teacher turned writer, won the American

Book Award for her novel, "Beyond Deserving." She also won the New American Fiction Award for the novel, "Gringa."

People often criticize her work, she says, because "my characters don't always triumph over circumstances." The reason being "when you have a character behave a certain way, fiction would be boring," Scofield explained.

Scofield works hard to make her characters unpredictable by

spending three hours in the afternoon and four hours in the evening writing.

Scofield said she gets her ideas from the past. "Memory is the source of what I write about."

Memory is also the source that Dunn writes about. Dunn was the columnist who started "The Slice" in the *Willamette Week* newspaper.

When a person wrote a letter to "The Slice" asking what a fly roper was, imagination took hold and Dunn penned a reply. A reply that somehow ended up in her novel, "Geek Love."

"Geek Love" became a book-of-the-month selection. But before "Geek Love" or "The Slice" there was Dunn's reason for writing. "I grew up in a family of talkers and storytellers. Every meal was a punch line. I started writing at a very early age. Things that I felt would disappear with me if I died," Dunn said. She then mentioned the reason she felt her own mortality at such an early age "after my brother killed a cat in our tree with a sling shot."

Well, whatever inspires Dunn, Scofield and Boule' to write, it must be working due to the prominent attention they've received.



photo by Tina McFarland

Margie Boule' speaks to a group of CCC students, staff members and community members at Authors' Night in the Gregory Forum.

Letters to the Editor

Writer presents misguided viewpoint

Dear Editor:

Your reporter Daniel Mala attempts to justify the merits of the Oregon Citizens Alliance and its executive president Lon Mabon ("OCA agenda includes more than 'anti-gay' initiative," Feb. 3) by suggesting that this organization has as its primary goal the protection of "standards and values that our nation was founded upon."

If my understanding of American history is correct, the founding fathers of our nation took care to articulate the standards and values that they held dear. Our Constitution and Bill of Rights confirm that the architects of our democratic republic intended to build a nation in which all citizens might enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Mala errors in equating a political philosophy with an economic theory--federalism does not equal capitalism. He confuses social theory with historical continuity--socialism does not preclude traditionalism. Thus, an anti-socialism, pro-traditionalism OCA does not necessarily define an organization intent on protecting our nation's standards and values.

For 200 years, leaders in all branches of the United States have been striving to uphold the noble intentions of our forefathers. With slow and measured steps, our society has moved ever closer to fulfilling the dreams of peace and brotherhood upon which our nation was built. These steps have been taken in coordinated harmony rather than with acrimonious force.

It goes without saying that Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and the other patriots who set forth our principles of freedom did not envision a society in which

uniform behavior was sanctioned through repression, intolerance and intimidation. Such policies would represent the very antithesis of the government that they so much wished to create.

Rather than following the precepts of our founding fathers, the OCA and its leadership have consistently promoted mean-spirited policies that have sown misunderstanding and distrust among the citizens of this state. Significantly, the OCA has consistently been repudiated by both the electorate and the courts. Therefore, to contend, as Daniel Mala does, that the OCA has the object of protecting the "standards and values that our nation was founded upon" is not only misguided, but laughable.

Very Sincerely,
David Wardell

Response from Mala

I really enjoyed reading your letter. You have a great deal of insight, and I was happy to see that the overall point I was trying to achieve occurred in at least one reader.

The Oregon Citizens Alliance, in my eyes, seems to be confused over what our Constitution and Bill of Rights stands for, as you stated. I find it frustrating that so many people give in to their fears instead of just dealing with reality and progression of human rights, all human rights.

In response to your feeling that I was trying to "justify the merits of the OCA," I must ask you to re-read my article. My article was designed solely to make people think about what the OCA is attempting and to do this without kicking anyone to the curb, including the OCA. Important elections often leave people feeling more than thinking, justifying their own fears instead of working toward a better future.

But you did understand and articulate the overall point of the OCA, just be careful about who you point the finger at. I just told both sides of the story in a way that would

help those that don't understand the factual issue put their emotions aside so that maybe the rest of us could get some sleep.

Thanks for the letter,
Daniel J. Mala

Hibberd's article illustrates his hypocrisy

Dear Editor:

This letter is in regards to Robert Hibberd's article on the morally-reprehensible behavior of Packwood and our esteemed Blazers.

It's a shame that Mr. Hibberd, a man so adamantly against hatred and judgmental accusations, finds the time to point fingers and make accusations himself. The exact opposite of the philosophy he preached during the Measure 9 campaign. Seems a little hypocritical, doesn't it?

The fact that he even used the word moral has shocked me. During the Measure 9 campaign, no one had the right to say what was or was not moral behavior, nor could the "right-wing" inflict their version of morality on anyone else. All of a sudden, when it's in Mr. Hibberd's best interest, he has passed moral judgement.

I thought no one had the right to do that. Oh, but you do, if you're on the left or "politically correct" side. Again, seems a little hypocritical.

Mr. Hibberd, you have passed judgment on these men, influencing people and probably misleading them, before the outcome of an investigation and/or trial. Do you remember that old phrase "innocent until proven guilty." Not according to your article. These men might as well be hauled off to the electric chair.

Maybe the women who have accused Senator Packwood are lying.

Not inconceivable, look at the Anita Hill trials. Maybe the girls that certain members of the Blazer team were accused of having sex with said they were old enough. What if these are the final results of the investigation and/or trials? Will you open your mouth and insert your foot? Or maybe you should zip it right now until you can write an article based on facts and honesty instead of accusations and stereotypes.

Kristi Mabon
CCC Student

Response from Hibberd

Kristi, Kristi, Kristi. You ASG senator, you. So innocent, so naive. Still upset over that bitter defeat? How difficult it must be, being the daughter of the most white man in Oregon.

Oh, about my Blazer/Packwood article. If you had taken the time to read past the headlines, you may have noticed that I didn't accuse Senator Packwood of anything other than his bizarre actions since the accusations of sexual harassment surfaced. I never said that the women were telling the truth or not telling the truth. I chose only to focus on how he has been reacting to the accusations; the hiding out, the rehabilitation home, the smear campaigns and the lack of interest in Oregon's needs.

I don't know what your idea of a good senator is, but when the guy will not talk to the people he represents, admits himself into a hospital because he knows that he has a tendency to hit the bottle a bit too much and tries to smear the women who once worked for him, (that's right, worked for him and his "conservative" republican agenda) I have to think the guy's a bit off-base. I have to think that he's a bit "morally-reprehensible."

As far as the Blazers, no one wants them to get off the hook more than I. Hey, I know the value of a good basketball team. I suppose the

issue will come down to (as you said) whether or not the girls lied about their age, whether or not these troubled teenage girls lied in the face of wealth, fame, fortune and all that America is based on. To me and my belief system, it doesn't make it "right" to sleep with young girls from the mall regardless if they lied or not. Kristi, if you think it's alright, then I have no choice but to call you a hypocrite because I know this behavior isn't listed in your book of "traditional family values."

Personally, I think the Blazers accused are doomed. I think Packwood stands a better chance of getting off the hook. I think white Los Angeles police officers videotaped beating the crap out of a black man would stand a better chance. Why? Because the courts are still run by the "conservative" people that "conservative" Reagan and Bush filled them with. The courts are still filled with white people who see blacks as animals and whites as divine beings.

And a final note, Kristi. When you came to my office all hot and bothered over something I had written about Measure 9, I encouraged you to write a letter. I wanted to get it straight from the horse's mouth, so to speak. You could have talked about "morality" or "traditional family values."

Although the word may scare you, here at *The Clackamas Print* we believe in diversity. All writers are encouraged to write any opinion about any topic in any manner which they feel. Also, we have never not published a letter which is evidence that we support the free flow of ideas.

I opposed Measure 9 because it would have tried to destroy the concept of individual freedom and diversity. It was immoral.

Love,
Robert A. Hibberd
Co-Editor-in-Chief