

BATTALION CLASSIFIED

Author sees women's role as 'failures or side-kicks' in male-dominated literature

By JAMES HAMILTON

Although the women's movement has made significant progress in the past few years, literature concerned with the positive aspects of women is in its early stages, said author Rebecca Lukens.

Lukens was on campus to address the fourth annual Children's Literature of the Sea Seminar.

"I swear that there are women just hungry to read about themselves," said Lukens, an associate professor of children's literature at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

She, Alice Fannin and Catherine Hoyer Mann co-authored the book "Woman: An Affirmation," published by D.C. Heath Co.

"Surveys of past literature show that women, when they are not ignored entirely, are portrayed in very limited and circumscribed roles," Lukens told members of Phi Delta Gamma, graduate women's honor sorority and the South Central Women Studies Association.

Lukens said that women in literature are usually shown as failures, mother types, or side-kicks to more important characters.

"It is natural that men, as the primary writers, should be writing out of their experience of manhood, but they write only their experience of their relationship to women," she said. "I see fragments of women, and their relationship to men."

Lukens said that very few works are concerned with "single women. The single life is competent and handles life," she said.

Lukens said that the movement was much like a movement. "Both were rage," she said. "The need to port one another has come this rage and we have discovered ourselves, which has produced women power idea."

Lukens said that "Woman: An Affirmation," developed out of authors' anger and disappointment in literature concerning women. Lukens said that she decided the world needed a book about the affirmation of women.

The book is a collection of stories and biographical sketches concerned with affirmative aspects of women and their lives.

SPECIAL NOTICE

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Featuring: A panel of recruiters from business and industry

March 8, Room 100 Harrington Education Center, 7 p.m.
Information on: Strategies for successful interviews
Featuring: A panel of recruiters from banking, the food industry, government, and life insurance

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