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Women's Symposium opens with mild lecture

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Women's Symposium opens with mild lecture

"I don't know where ladies came from; I do know they've been a problem."

On this mild note, the three-week women's symposium opened Monday night with an address by historian-author Anne F. Scott to an audience of about 100 in Hauck Auditorium.

"The real lives of American women do nothing to sustain the image of a lady; they did everything attributed to American frontiersmen," Scott said.

Tracing women's role in America, Scott, a professor at Duke University, said the image of women as ladies—"fragile, languishing, affable, submissive"—had nothing to do with their real-life experiences.



Women were stereotyped by male historians who thought "women were part of the scenery, not part of the action. They failed to see the women right before their eyes," she said.

"Because the role of women has been ignored by historians," Scott said, "they aren't available to be incorporated into culture definitions." She said many colleges fail to staff positions with women because men still hold the traditional view of women as ladies, not independent persons.