

Beyond War group believes war is obsolete

By Michael Rivers
Of the Emerald

War is obsolete.

This statement is the underlying premise behind the foundation of an organization called Beyond War. Beyond War is an informal, nationwide organization whose members espouse the belief that war is no longer an option because a war would destroy the planet.

Tom Sermak, a local attorney and one of the founding members of the local chapter, said the purpose of the group is to work toward the elimination of the nuclear problem.

"Our aim is to change people's thinking about ways to deal with conflict," he said.

The Eugene chapter was first formed during the early part of 1983 by Richard and Stephanie Cleveland, Sermak and other local individuals. The group recruits new members by inviting them to "interest evenings" that are held at the Eugene Public Library on the first Monday of each month.

The meeting usually lasts about two hours, and consists of films, group discussions and presentations that are designed to dispel three illusions, Sermak said. The illusions are "we can continue to war and survive," "they won't let nuclear war happen, and 'I don't make

a difference," he said.

Another activity that new members participate in during the interest evening is the "BB experience," Sermak said. "It's an audio experience designed to drive home the state of the world in terms of nuclear weapons," he said.

Kline describes the experience as being "very effective." Everyone present is asked to close their eyes, she said. The speaker then drops a few metal pellets into a metal pan and compares the sound of the pellets to the sound of the bomb in Hiroshima, she said. Next the speaker drops pellets into a bucket for "what seems like five minutes," describing the sound as the amount of nuclear weapons currently possessed by the United States, she said.

"It was like, 'Oh my God! How could we have created all these things? Why did we do this? What is the point in creating more bombs when what we have is enough to destroy us anyway?'" Kline said.

Sermak said that individuals who attend an interest evening can follow it up with an orientation series that explores what the "New Mode of Thinking" is, what the decision process is for changing our mode of thinking and how we can work together to build a

world beyond war," Sermak said. The series consists of three sessions, and there is a small fee for materials.

Once individuals complete the orientation series, they can attend a "vision weekend," Sermak said. "It's a very emotional experience. We try to create a vision of the capacity humanity has to change and the benefits we stand to gain if we learn to resolve conflicts without violence," he said.

There are currently about 130 Eugene-area people on the Beyond War mailing list. About 25 to 30 of them are active members, Sermak said. There are also active chapters in Portland, Salem, Corvallis, Grants Pass, Medford and a new one in Roseburg, he said.

All members of the Beyond War organization share a common interest in spreading the idea that war is obsolete and no longer a viable option for dealing with conflicts. But some members are also motivated on a more personal level.

Betty Cleveland, whose son founded the Eugene chapter, is one such person.

"I believe that Beyond War people are focusing in on the most important issue of the day. I have 11 grandchildren and would like to see a world they can grow up in. We can't have any more wars," Cleveland said.

Vice provost selected after nationwide search

The University has named Lawrence Fincher, chancellor for academic administration at the University of North Carolina, as its new vice provost for academic administration.

Fincher is to replace Paul Civin, who retired Dec. 31, 1984, and he will begin his new job on July 1, said Richard Hill, University provost.

"Dr. Fincher, who has almost 20 years of experience in the areas of institutional research and planning, will bring to our university a wide range of technical and analytical competence that will be of great importance in planning our university's future," Hill said.

The appointment comes after the University conducted a nationwide search that attracted about 65 applicants.

As vice provost, Fincher will supervise the University's Office of Institutional Research, review and implement plans for academic programs, coordinate plans for improving administrative and instructional computing, and review various budgets.

Before working for UNC, Fincher worked for the University of Michigan as assistant vice president for state relations and associate vice president for academic affairs.

Fincher has a master's degree in physics from Vanderbilt University and a doctoral degree in higher education administration from the University of Michigan.

Biology professor's research earns national science award

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

A University professor has received a national award for research that could someday provide a cure for paralysis.

Judith Eisen, a 34-year-old biology professor, received a Presidential Young Investigative Award this year for her research on the development of the nervous system. The awards are given each year by the National Science Foundation to 50 individuals doing outstanding scientific research.

Eisen hopes to discover the mechanism that guides nerve cells to make the correct contacts with muscle and sensory cells during embryonic development.

"Adult animals have an astounding number of nerve cells. There are over 10 billion in humans, and they all have to make the right contacts for the organism to function properly," Eisen said.

Understanding the mechanism that guides nerve cells could be medically useful in the rehabilitation of injury victims who lose the use or feeling of limbs. For example, sometimes after a person's arm is severely lacerated, the nerve cells may not reconnect properly,

and the person may lose the use or sensation of the hand or fingers.

"If we can understand how (nerve cells) grow and make connections during normal embryonic development, then maybe we can help them to do it later on in adult animals where they don't seem to be able to do it," she said.

Eisen has spent the past two and a half years at the University studying nerve cells in embryonic development of the tiny zebra fish.

Candidates for the award are nominated by colleagues at their school. In order to be eligible for the award, the candidates must have a faculty tenure position and a doctoral

degree earned between 1982 and January 1986.

Candidates are judged on the basis of original research and ability as instructors, Eisen said.

The award grants \$25,000 per year for five years to fund Eisen's research. In addition, the award includes providing funds to match donations or grants from other private or non-profit sources. The total amount of matching funds available is \$100,000 each year for five years.

University physics professor, Steven Kavan, also received one of the awards. Kavan currently is conducting research at the Brookhaven National Institute in New Jersey.



OUTFITTERS
LTD.

"WHERE ADVENTURES BEGIN"

198 W. Broadway, Eugene Downtown 683-5877

EUGENE'S NEWEST DOWNTOWN OUTDOORS STORE

Coupon

Agate Video
Presents...

Monday - Thursday Special

2 Movies \$6.95 & VCR

1495 E. 19th 344-2691

Expires 3/21/86

Coupon

Own your Own
Phone
IN THE ELECTRONICS DEPT.
UO BOOKSTORE

UBEL
PROFESSIONAL
DRIVING SCHOOL

746-4382

- ★Free Pick-up (Eugene & Springfield)
- ★Private Instruction
- ★Dual Control
- ★Foreign Students Especially Welcome

تعليم قيادة السيارات

"It will make you laugh,
it will make you cry"

Maria Medeiros
Schafer Hall RA

PICTURE IT.