

the conference who were interested in third party nonviolent intervention and they began to lay the groundwork for the NVPF.

The NVPF is now an international organization with offices and chapters throughout the world, including one in Eugene. Its pilot project is in Sri Lanka, where NVPF members are working with local groups to achieve an end to that country's longstanding conflict.

"The recognition that there are people there with no sides other than their interest in seeing the conflict end can be a powerful reassurance and morale boost," says Mele, a former career Foreign Service Officer who served with the U.S. Information Agency and Department of State from 1975 to 1999.

Peaceworkers work with the local groups to help them achieve their own goals toward peace.

Mele says it's important for people to educate themselves on the history of nonviolent action and to get some training in techniques. That training can be put to use not just in international settings, but at home, in any setting.

In the U.S., where there is "no general acceptance that nonviolent action is effective," he says, there is no type of civil peace service, whereas many European countries have them. There had been an office in the Pentagon charged with planning such an entity, but that office "was closed down by the Bush administration as a cost-saving measure," says Mele.

Mele will speak from 7 to 9 pm on Thursday, April 29 at the EWEB Community Room. His visit is sponsored by the Eugene chapter of the NVPF. The talk is free. For more information, call Leslie at 342-5325.

—Aria Seligmann

EUGENEANS TO JOIN MARCH ON WASHINGTON

When Eugene resident Emily Gilbert and her 9-year-old daughter Hannah discuss their upcoming attendance at the April 25 March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C., Gilbert explains that "the present government really wants to take away women's right to decide what to do with their bodies." Gilbert's daughter responds, "That is none of the government's business, Mommy."

Hannah is no stranger to women's issues, often accompanying her mother to work in Eugene Planned Parenthood's finance and administration department. She has been exposed to the protesters that sometimes gather outside the office on Saturdays. Her major concern about the march in Washington is the presence of such people. Gilbert assured her that there will be police present and that it is

their constitutional right to march.

Gilbert, her husband, Rich, and Hannah will join more than 50 Eugeneans and hundreds of thousands of others in marching for women's reproductive rights.

Sarah Vokes, chair of Lane County Action Team of NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, will be marching with the Oregon delegation, which includes NARAL, Oregon Planned Parenthood Federation, the Oregon chapter of the National Organization of Women, and Oregon ACLU. Last week, 17 women from UO Students for Choice hit the road to D.C.

"I would hope to send the message that there are more people who care about women than there are people who don't care," Gilbert says. Vokes wants to make sure that "choice is on the radar screen" this election year.

"Bush has been hands-down the worst president on reproductive rights," Vokes said. —KS

SLANT

• The Lane County Democrat endorsement gig was last week. We hear the big topic of the night was the need for party cohesiveness vs. supporting the "real" Democrats. Similar debates happen among Republicans and Greens. In this case, some D's running for local office tend to vote with R's on important environmental and land use issues. To endorse or not to endorse? The group decided to tackle the issue race by race. Mayor candidate Nancy Nathanson (one of those D's who behaves like an R), said endorsing in the mayoral race would be too divisive. We suspect she feared an embarrassing outcome, but we'll never know the outcome because Kitty Piercy, perhaps too kind-heartedly, agreed with Nancy and no vote was taken. Bonny Bettman got a strong vote of endorsement, but an attempt to endorse her young opponent, UO student Adam Walsh, failed for lack of votes. No one made a motion to endorse incumbent Scott Meisner (ouch) but his challenger Andrea Ortiz got a strong stand of support. Looks like Andrea is now considered a "real Democrat." Welcome to the club. Do these partisan endorsements mean anything in

non-partisan races? Maybe a little money and emotional support. The non-endorsements carry more significance. Walsh, who appears to favor sprawl, cannot go door-to-door telling voters his candidacy is backed by the Democratic Party. Meisner's lack of endorsement might help him swing more conservative and independent votes.

• Mayoral candidate Kitty Piercy outlined her economic development plan this week, a tidy mix of incentives, bureaucratic streamlining and attitude adjustment. Support and promote Eugene's quality of life, and business and industry will follow. The plan is broad, but sound, logical and forward-thinking. Opponent Nancy Nathanson says she won't have a plan until Torrey's ad hoc economic development committee makes its report this summer. What kind of leadership is that? Particularly since the mayor's race could easily be decided May 18.

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519.

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for more information: voteandrea.com Paid for by Andrea Ortiz for City Council

