THE CENTER FOR REFLECTION ON THE SECOND LAW

announces its
Fall Conference 1993

Human Work/Earth Work
Purpose And Practice

October 29, 30, 31
Camp New Hope near Chapel Hill, N.C.
Starts 6PM Friday - Ends Noon Sunday
Arrive 4PM - 6PM Friday

This ninth conference by CFRSL will address two questions: What is the proper relationship between human work and Earth's ecological systems? And how does one find work that cooperates with Earth's ecology?

THE CENTER FOR REFLECTION ON THE SECOND LAW
8420 Camellia Dr., Raleigh, NC 27613
(919) 857-5819

THEME

Human Work/Earth Work
Purpose And Practice

The purpose of human work is to integrate the human with the whole of the community of life; to find human fulfillment in cooperative, wholistic union with all the life forces of the Universe; to find success for the human endeavor in a successful Earth. Our destiny is success, not failure. But we are on the path to failure.

As things exist, the organization and direction of human work is largely controlled by the "private sector", the entrepreneurial sector of the capitalist economy. Efficient mass production, large sales and low costs are necessary if business is to be profitable in a competitive economy. And big profits are necessary if shareholders are to be satisfied. So the "private sector" has little interest in the long-term success of the natural world, and vehemently opposes environmental legislation that raises the costs of doing business. Therefore a great deal of human work is not employed in the long term interests of the life community or the human community but in the sort-term interests of business.

Philosopher Joe Holland will examine the basic philosophical and theological reasons for human work and describe its essential spiritual nature. He says: "We are entering the traumatic end of modern culture and the diminishment of the cultural dualism so strong in the West since the time of classical Greece. We are seeing the emergence of the first seeds of a holistic, post-modern, ecologically-centered culture, re-integrating science and spirituality. This cultural turn is the key to interpreting the present crisis in American culture, (the heart of modernity.)" "The starting point for spirituality is the affirmation of creation. It is in the context of continuing creation as foundational that we first need to understand the spiritual meaning of human work. "This fits well with the CFRSL statement that the purpose of human work is to integrate the human into the Universe system, the Earth's life system.

The second question asked at our conference deals with guidance for finding work that fits into the ideal scheme of things. Our dilemma is how to make the transition into a society where Earth has a chance to recover its health and humans have an opportunity to live in wholistic union with the life system out of which we emerged and to which we belong. Suppose we reinvent industry and the corporate world; can we find a solution. Our economic system demands high production/consumption. Earth and good sense demand low production, frugality, being satisfied with enough. Is there any possibility that a capitalist corporation can operate on that basis? Is there any such thing as a corporation which measures success in terms of water quality or air quality, or richness of soil, or the maintenance of wilderness?

One approach to this is to find corporate executives willing to see the logic of the environmentalist demands that Earth must flourish if anything is to succeed over the long term. There are such persons in the corporate world, says Melissa Everett, and she has been in contact with some of them. This may fit in with the CFRSL belief that there are many, many good people in the corporate world who are as badly caught up in a deadly system as are the greedy money-makers. It's the system that prevents them from becoming assets to the Earth community. We will hear Ms Everett on this.

Ms. Everett consults with and produces studies and reports with the Center for Psychology and Social Change, Harvard Medical School at Cambridge Hospital, and with the MIT Commission on Industrial productivity. She works on the principle that you can't solve a problem by clinging to the premises that created it.
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
FRIDAY
6:00 PM  Supper in the dining area of the main building.
7:00 PM  Introductions.
7:30 PM  Short introductory talks Joe Holland and Melissa Everett
9:00 PM  Music and socializing.

SATURDAY
7:30 AM  Breakfast
8:30-10:15. The Purpose of Human Work. Joe Holland
10:30 AM  Workshops Carmen Elliott, Melissa Everett, Jim Gorman & Roger Corliss
Bruce Hols, Johanna Haymore, Others
12:00 PM  Lunch
1:30 PM  Conscious Careers — Melissa Everett.
3:15 PM  Afternoon Workshops
5:00 PM  Free Time
6:00 PM  Supper
7:15 PM  More of Joe Holland and Melissa Everett and comment from resource persons and the audience.
8:30 PM  Gather around the fire for a celebration of Halloween and our ancestors.
9:30 PM  Music, singing and socializing.

SUNDAY
7:00 AM  A religious liturgy celebrating Creation Readings from the Universe Story.
8:00 AM  Breakfast
9:00 AM  Open Microphone.
10:30 AM  Question the speakers. Reflections by speakers and workshop leaders.
11:30 AM  Closing ceremony and lunch.

JOE HOLLAND
Philosopher Joe Holland is a scholar, a thinker, a writer, and a lecturer researching the death of modern Western culture and the birth of a post-modern culture. He sees the new culture as arising from a fresh lay spirituality co-creativity.

For fifteen years Joe was a fellow in Religion and Society at the Center of Concern, A Catholic think tank in Washington, D.C. While there he wrote many papers and he wrote a book called Creative Communions: Toward a Spirituality of Work. That book brilliantly sets out the reasons and the path for redefining our ideas about human work. How Holland is one of the most lucid clear-thinking and clear-speaking persons we have ever heard. Most of his professional life has been involved with the Catholic world, he currently lectures as St. Thomas University in Miami but his outlook and his reach are global, universal. Recently he delivered lectures on environmentalism at a special program in Italy. He uses the writings of Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme in these lectures.

MELISSA EVERETT
Melissa Everett has been a freelance journalist on social and environmental issues, professional ethics, and career development since 1981. She wrote one book, a study of conscientious objectors who left the military weapons industry, CIA and foreign service to work in their own ways for peace. She wrote another book of interviews of North Americans living and working in Nicaragua. Now her main work is in seeking to inspire and assist people as they build careers that reflect their highest social and environmental values. "My approach includes: reporting on hopeful models and trends; designing creative structures for group work and written materials; asking strategic questions; developing multiple options opinions; affirming people as they are and as they want to be. I have built an extensive resource collection on emerging career fields as well as social and environmental ethicism in the private and public sectors."

CAMP NEW HOPE
Camp New Hope is located on NC 86, north of Chapel Hill on 165 acres of rolling pinewood and hardwood forest.

This retreat/conference center has two fresh-water lakes and recreation facilities. An excellent kitchen staff provides delicious meals.

Camp New Hope is 2.5 miles north from I-40 exit #266 and 3.5 miles south from I-85 exit #165.