THE CENTER FOR REFLECTION ON THE SECOND LAW

Announces the eleventh conference in the series
The Context For Human Survival
October 27, 28, 29 at
Camp New Hope near Chapel Hill, NC

Richard Grossman will speak on
DISEMPOWERING & DISMANTLING THE MODERN CORPORATION

Jane Blewett will speak on
WOMEN & THE CORPORATE WORLD

THE CENTER FOR REFLECTION ON THE SECOND LAW
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THEME

CFRSL accuses the modern corporation of practices which will bring on certain failure to the Earth system and with it the failure of the human enterprise. Corporations exploit Earth and people. They take; they never give back. Their purpose, in a relentlessly competitive market, is to convert the labor of people and the substance of Earth into money profit so that wealth and power can be accumulated to a steadily shrinking elite. The working principle is to get something for nothing, or failing that for a pittance, regardless of the consequences. Corporations are not bound to conform to morality or ethics (they are "value free" to use the language of economists) but only to law, and more and more they control the law and the lawmakers and the courts. Corporations poison the seas and the soil, the water and the air, they strip Earth of its trees and its wildness. Their insanity is evident everywhere, in every country, every forest, at every shopping mall, at the super highways, at every beltway. They override common sense and responsible conduct. Dead fish litter rivers, oceans and coastal waters because of the cavalier arrogance and the cooperation of governments and universities. They strip people of their right to a decent wage and to work that has meaning and value for themselves and for the society. They buy off governments and corrupt courts. They present successfully a benign image of "I am your friend and I love you and to prove it I am going to give you this product at my great sacrifice, which I make because I want you to be happy. That's my only objective in life: to make you happy; I'm just wonderful that way."

What can one say about forces that want to end legal protections of human health, human rights, water and air and soil and forests, oceans, ozone level, animals? They are crazy. They may be sane in the logic of the market but in the logic of people and the life community they are insane; there is no other word for them. They are destroying essential habitat and asking for the power to do it faster. The children of the executives will suffer along with the rest of us. Which proves that the executives who administer the affairs of the corporations are not executives at all; they are courtiers dancing attendance on a royal fiction called a corporation; a deathless "legal person" without a soul or a heart, with a one-track robot brain, a Frankenstein-like monster. It never dies but lives on and on through successions of administrators whose powers do not include the ability to inject sanity into operations. The success of the corporation on its own terms is the only goal management may seek. That success in a competitive world ("I can plunder better than you and I can cheat better than you") will do us all in.

Economics in our time is defined by corporate practices, by production/consumption and especially by the culture of shopping created by advertising and the corporate control of the media. Specifically the corporate attack on virtue in all its many aspects is, most pointedly, an attack on woman's traditional agenda and a bid for materialistic hedonism throughout the society. The male dominated corporate world feels it necessary to destroy ideals of frugality and the household values of thrift, cooperation, pride in one's work, humility, connectedness, rootedness, community, etc. At the same time they force on us their worship for flash, high-velocity, luxury, self-indulgence, competition, self-promotion, superficiality, and disregard for humility, charity, self-sacrifice, husbandry, temperance, patience, wisdom. Name any of the virtues; the corporations portray them as weak and womanish. Virtuous people do not make for profits.

Sexism, racism, classism and other oppressive hierarchical systems are common. Our conference addresses women's economic invisibility because exploring the dynamics of patriarchy reveals so much about how all oppressive systems, including those that harm men are maintained. Men, women, children, the total community of life, all suffer because of them. The modern corporation is the bastion of male-run closet dictatorship, a rogue kingdom within the society.
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday

4:00-6:00  Register
6:00    Supper
7:15-7:30 Introductions- Opening,
8:00-9:00 Richard and Jane each get 20-30
minutes to tell us what they came to do
9:30    Conversation & Music Dave, Mark and
others

Saturday

7:30- 8:15  Breakfast
8:30-10:15  The Corporation Problem
Richard Grossman
10:30- 12:00 Carmen Elliot, Dave Cook, Roger
Corless, Amy Hannon, Anna Cassilly,
and others. Details to be announced.
Workshops
12:00-1:30  Lunch
1:30-2:45  Women and the Corporate World
Jane Blewett
3:00-4:30  Repeat Workshops
6:00    Supper
7:00-8:00  Review the day's happenings
8:30    Halloween around the fire with old
Ghosts.
Afterwards  Music, Dave, Mark and others
Conversation

Sunday

7:30-8:30  Breakfast
8:30- 9:30  The Cosmic Walk - A Celebration of the
Universe
9:45-11:00 Discussion Panel with Richard, Jane,
and Thomas: Open Microphone
11:30  Lunch

About the Speakers

Richard Grossman is an
activist. He joined the Peace
Corps out of college and spent
two years in the Philippines. He
spent another two years as a
teacher, trainer and organizer in
President Johnson's War
Against Poverty in the late
1960's. He has been a free-lance
writer, a farmer, a Fellow in a
San Francisco Public Affairs Foundation. He has been
a reporter for an underground newspaper. He has
fought against the nuclear power industry. He was
director of Environmentalists for Full Employment
which brought labor and environmental institutions
together: conducted and commissioned research in
pursuit of full and safe employment. Organized two
national conferences on jobs and energy and a labor
anti-nuclear march on Harrisburg, PA. Executive
Director of Greenpeace, 1985-1986. He published
The Wrenching Debate Gazette for many years, co-
authored a book, Fear at Work, is co-director of The
Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy. He
has recently been investigating how the law has
been used by corporations against the interests of
democratic self-governance.

Jane Blewett is the
Founder/Director of the
EARTH COMMUNITY
CENTER in Laurel
Maryland dedicated to
deepening an awareness of
the sacred relationship
humankind has with Earth,
and especially the role
humans play within the
total community of life. She emphasizes this in her
retreats on Universe spirituality and her workshops on
"Justice for People, Justice for the Earth: Two Sides of
the same coin." She worked for thirteen years on the
research staff of the Center of Concern a national
social justice and peace center, based in Washington,
DC. She worked on issues of food, population, global
trade and development, peace, ecology and the
woman's role in church and society. At present she
is an active member of the Citizen's Network for
Sustainable Development which is a coalition of
non-governmental organizations doing follow-up
work to the Earth Summit both at the United Nations
and within the US. government

Note

Thomas Berry, a geologist and cosmologist, has
produced a substantial and highly respected body of
work on how the human relates to the Universe. He
will be present for part of the conference and we can
hope for his commentary.

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 (vegetarian).

Camp New Hope is 3.1 miles north
from exit 266 on I-40, and 3.5 miles
south from exit 165 on I-85.

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