REFLECTIONS ON EARTH DAY

by Mary Kaczorowski, Ft. Bragg, CA

Survival on and of this planet is no longer about what an individual can set up for themselves or their nuclear family unit. We can no longer sit back and say "I paid my dues" so now I got Mine and maybe then look what I can do for others or the earth.

I am seeing too much of educated, intelligent, creative working people not making it. One by one to make up hundreds falling into the great gap between the rich and poor. I am seeing too much environmental degradation and people sickened by cancers and the poisoning of their bodies and spirits.

I received this report a few days ago:

"A number of nation states at the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva are currently negotiating a draft resolution pertaining to women and the right to land, property and adequate housing. A central component of this resolution is the recognition of the right to adequate housing for women. However, the obstructionist delegation from the United States of America opposes reference to the right to adequate housing in any international human rights document, including this resolution. The US has adopted this position on the grounds that under international human rights law there is no free-standing right to adequate housing or food but rather food, clothing and housing are merely aspects of a broader right to an adequate standard of living." (continued on page 10)

March-April 2001, GroundSwell, Page 9
REFLECTIONS ON EARTH DAY
(continued from page 9)

"We strongly disagree with the US position and believe that international human rights law supports our position. We are concerned that the US delegation - which wields considerable power within the UN human rights system - will win this battle and deprive people around the world of the recognition of their right to adequate housing in international law." - From members of an international caucus.

President Bush in Quebec city has stated to the world press that the protesters' concern for environmental and labor rights be addressed but it not stands in the way of commerce.

The only way we are going to survive this corporate organized fast track over our bodies and the environmnt is if we start creating entirely new paradigms. The meaning of sharing has to take on new applications from skill sharing to land sharing to wealth sharing. The corporations have done that to the point that they now are entities that enjoy the rights of human beings!

Unfortunately we have not learned as human beings to get along for we are self centered and so immersed in ego that it is to our peril.

We will need to have to start non-profit activist residences based on the Catholic Worker & Monastery Communal Living & Safe houses type of models where a sense of community is practiced to some degree and the gifts of an individual are embraced. How hard will this be in a "I" or "Me" centered society? It will be a lot harder surviving alone or in refugee camps.

For those who have capital -- it is already being done thru a established movement called "Co-Housing" where privacy and individual lifestyles are integrated into a wellbeing consciousness for the "community" (as in good neighbors or an extended family). But what if you don't have capital and have been paying a property or land holder for 20, 30, 40, 50 yrs. and with nothing to show for it? In business that would be called a "sucker" investment!

We are not taught to think in creative models or to question this fueling of the wealth of the landed gentry. There are many land lords that have a social justice and moral ethic but are rare. The Economics we practice is market based, market driven and not life based or ethics driven. But... I believe that the human spirit has an incredible capacity and ability to create marvelus alternatives and the only thing standing in our way is the belief hammered into us by the status quo is that we can't.

To make this peaceful "revolution" of transformation succeed, we have to all work to get a deep hold of our sense of spiritual selves, foster a spirit of compassion, heal our alienated ego-addictions and "grow up" as a species. We waste time holding each other hostage for self approval, self-fulfillment and thus blame, bicker and fight over ego-based thought constructs that never materialize into any solutions, for the "ego" is a black hole of "want".

As long as our culture is driven by individuals grasping after external stimuli "to feed self" we will continue to act separately.

Robert Thurmond wrote a brilliant book, "Inner Revolution-Life Liberty and the Pursuit of Real Happiness". I think it is a must read (Riverhead books copyright 1998). Quotes from the book to ponder:

"Our whole secularized world is built on a apocalyptic consciousness: the end of history is constantly being announced, caused by this or that relatively short-term trend. We want to live for now, we want total personal power and energy and we want immediate fruition. But is our millennium complete? Did we realize the Kingdom of God on Earth, or did we just settle for a kingdom of earth by giving up the very idea of a kingdom of God? How do we discover a higher unity by reconciling the heaven/earth duality instead of trying to choose and deny the other? ... There is an ultimate goal for human evolution, an enlightened state, a full development of wisdom, love, happiness and power that is beyond even our wildest dreams, inconceivable to our habitual notions.

... The politics of enlightenment is based on transcendentinal individualism, heroic pacifism, educational universalism, social altruism and democratic liberalism".

So this Earth Day- let's each find our team mates and allies and start to work with a new consciousness and an appreciation for facing the struggle we are all faced with -- surviving against what Buckminster Fuller warned us about "The Grunche of Giants" - corporations trampling over our very rights for clean air, clean water, shelter, food.

Robert Muller, former assistant secretary general of the United Nations writes in his book, "New Genesis" (available via: World Happiness & Cooperation Foundation, P.O. Box 1153, Anacortes WA 98221), "We must learn to adjust our individual and group interests to the supreme interests, survival and apotheosis of the human race. ... We must respect and love each other as unique, unrepeatable, sacrosanct miracles in the universe and in eternity ... for the astrophysicists, the problem is very simple: either you do it or you don't. If you don't, you will disappear and the universe will not change a bit."

And Remember -- what do we leave the children once we are gone?

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March-April 2001, GroundSwell, Page 10