

Findhorn collective utilizes positive energy

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

People said they were crazy, but growing 40-pound cabbages and eight foot high roses in a garden made up of almost entire sand dunes has started a completely new way of life for Gordon Davidson, Corinne McLaughlin and nearly 300 other people.

Davidson, McLaughlin and their 300 companions are part of a "new age" community in Northern Scotland known as the Findhorn Community. They are in Eugene for a three-day workshop and lecture on their community and their way of life. The lecture will begin at 7:30 tonight in the Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 40th Avenue and Donald Street. A workshop seminar will be held in the University's Faculty Club all day Saturday.

Established in 1962, the Findhorn Community started with a sandy peninsula jutting into the North Sea, soil filled with gravel and small compost heaps of seaweed. Seven years later, a member of the Soil Association of Great Britain inspected the community's garden and found a thriving growth of plants in a climate that should have been barren sand.



Corinne McLaughlin, left, and Gordon Davidson, belong to the Findhorn Community.

Their secret? According to Davidson and McLaughlin, it was a conscious attempt to cooperate with certain "nature spirits" to make the plants grow.

By spraying and communicating with the spirits, the group was able to channel positive energy into the plants and help them grow without the aid of chemical fer-

tilizers and mechanical cultivation.

The group gained international recognition for their garden, Davidson says, but now their emphasis has shifted from growing plants to growing people.

Traveling across the United States, Davidson and McLaughlin will spend the next three months

telling audiences about their community. But, more than just tell people about it, they say, they want to help people learn from what the Findhorn Community has experienced.

"This workshop that we're having is really a way to give people in-depth experience into what we have learned," McLaughlin says.

"We want to share the technology we have learned to help people get in touch with themselves where they are."

The miraculous garden was just a symbol of what can be accomplished by applying the Findhorn method of doing things, Davidson says.

That way of facing life is based on meditation, communication with "the God within" and expressing their love for each other through their work.

Most of the 300 people living in the community came from traditionally religious backgrounds, McLaughlin says, which were synthesized into one "spirit of Light" that is free of dogmatic expression.

A typical community day begins with a session of meditation in the morning, followed by work in several of the community's 25 "work departments." Community members participate in activities from gardening, construction and publications to kitchen work and child care.

Most of the work is designed to give the community members an opportunity to balance their activities between mental and physical labor, Davidson says, which

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Spring has sprung and in Pine Valley, the warmer temperatures have made things start happening. Winter ended boringly in this small New York hamlet and it's nice to see a little action again. Some people better look out though, 'cause Phoebe's back on the prowl.

It all began with a visit to the hospital. Phoebe's still trying to use her fall down the stairs to get Charles back. He's acting as her doctor now and she's milking it for all it's worth. Her concern about appearances is so strong she

All my children

By Glen Ozonwood

often forgets people's feelings, or maybe she's just nasty. Anywho, after her visit to Charles, Phoebe stopped by Donna's room (she's in the hospital to have her tubes untied) to warn her against having children 'cause they'd obviously be deformed.

Seems by now Donna would know Phoebe would say whatever it takes to make Donna feel bad but when Phoebe was shown the door by Estelle, Donna was broken up.

"She's right. I could never have normal children."

'Stelle finally got Donna calmed down and ready to go under the knife, but before she left Pine Valley, she made sure Phoebe got hers.

A quick trip by the Tyler mansion (with Billy Clyde as the chauffeur) was all 'Stelle needed. See, Phoebe's still rolling around in her chair. You and I know she doesn't need it and 'Stelle knows it too. A simple word of caution: Phoebe's to steer clear of Donna or the fact she can walk will become common knowledge in Pine Valley. Take that, you old witch.

Phoebe's meddlesome ways are nothing new, nor is the Chuck, Phil, Tara crisis. Like me, though, Phil's had about enough. He's not coming home tonight and may not tomorrow.

The latest thing the big, dumb jock's had to deal with is that little

Phil has started using his middle name. (If you guessed that little Phil's middle name is Charlie, you've been watching this show too long.) Anyway, his own son using the name Charlie was more than Phil could handle. So drunk he could have spent the night in a gutter and not cared, Phil planned on sleeping at his partner's. Face it, the kid should just be told the on sleeping at his partner's. Face it, the kid should just be told the truth, but that would leave the at the Thortons'. Edna's about to buy the farm (the meek do inherit the earth, but it's usually in plots of 3x6) and David figures the way will be clear for him and Kris to find the happiness that's eluded them. Sorry Davey boy, you're about two weeks too late.

Jeff has finally scored. Kris decided she'd waited long enough for David and sent him packin'. Course, David's convinced with Edna out of the way things will be different, but it's doubtful. As the screen went blank Thursday, Jeff proposed to Kris. The ABC news-brief prevented Kris from giving her answer, but it will come.

And the crises are spreading to the west. Myrtle's back in the story (for those who don't know who she is, watch next week for an in-depth explanation) and Linc's getting ready to fly to Minneapolis. Seems Myrtle's sure she saw Kitty in a bar the other night. Sorry, Myrtle. She was written out of the script long ago.

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