

# Announcement

## FREE WILL: IS IT POSSIBLE AND IS IT DESIRABLE?

INSTITUTE ON RELIGION IN AN AGE OF SCIENCE

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE

JULY 26-AUGUST 2, 1986

STAR ISLAND in the ISLES OF SHOALS, off PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The question of whether a human individual can exert any significant influence over things that matter regarding the course of his or her life has sparked some of the most interesting intellectual debates in the history of human thought. Today's scientific and culturally pluralistic age presents some serious tensions in human thinking concerning free will, or self-determination: scientists seek to explain completely all events, including human actions, in terms of antecedent conditions even as they pursue freedom of scientific inquiry; many theologians argue that God is all powerful, even to the point of contravening what are accepted as divinely established laws of nature, while others argue that humans freely decide whether to follow nature's laws or God's will; and many people are committed to individual liberty of thought and action, even though others willingly submit to control by religious, political, and economic forces.

In this conference the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science seeks to bring to bear contemporary natural and social scientific knowledge as well as historical and contemporary philosophical and theological insights on questions concerning the possibility and desirability of free will. Questions include: (1) What are the historical and contemporary meanings of terms such as *free will*, *freedom*, *self-determination*, and *determinism*? Are some terms more useful today than others? (2) To what extent is it possible for a person to make his or her own decisions? (3) What role, if any, does freedom or something like freedom play in the evolution or creation of the universe, and what are the consequences for evolution, if any, of the exercise of free will? (4) In what circumstances and to what extent is free will desirable and undesirable for the individual and society? (5) Under what conditions do people relinquish or assert the exercise of free will or self-determination?

**SPEAKERS INCLUDE:** BRIAN CALVERT, early western philosophy, University of Guelph; JERRE LEVY, biopsychology, University of Chicago; ROY D. MORRISON II, philosophy of religion and science, Wesley Theological Seminary; LOUIS POJMAN, moral philosophy, University of Mississippi; MICHAEL RUSE (paper coauthored by Edward O. Wilson), philosophy of biology, University of Guelph; ROBERT C. SORENSEN, sociology and marketing, Rider College; and ROBERT WILKEN, history of Christian and Jewish thought, University of Virginia.

Other fields are expected to include physics, psychiatry, law, economics, politics, advertising, and consumer behavior.

**CHAPLAIN:** KEN SWANSON, Associate Rector of Grace Episcopal Church, New York City.

**PROGRAM CHAIRPERSONS:** KARL E. PETERS, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Rollins College, Winter Park, FL 32789; and ROBERT C. SORENSEN, Sorensen Marketing/Management Corporation, 210 East 72nd Street, New York, NY 10021.

**CONFERENCE COORDINATOR:** EDWARD F. RUTLEDGE, Department of Psychology, New England College.

**REGISTRATION:** Please fill out the form on the next page and mail it with the appropriate registration fee—payable to IRAS—to:

**Mrs. Bonnie Falla, Registrar**  
810½ North 9th Street  
Allentown, PA 18102  
(215) 432-8711

Additional registration forms are available from the Registrar, or legible copies of this form are acceptable.

**Registration Fees:** Husband and wife, \$165. Singles over 20, \$90. Children between 12 and 20, \$60. Children under 12, \$50. Fees (less 20 percent) are refundable if registration is cancelled before June 1.

Registering in January or February by all conferees is advisable because accommodations are limited to 200. Room and board, provided at about \$210 per adult for the week, will be payable on the island.

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**1986 STAR ISLAND CONFERENCE**  
**INSTITUTE ON RELIGION IN AN AGE OF SCIENCE**

*Please print or type.*

Title Name	Age	Sex
Name(s) of family member(s) accompanying you	Age	Sex
Street and number	City	State
		Zip
Vocation or grade entering Fall 1986	Religious affiliation (if any)	

Previous attendance at an IRAS conference: if so, when

Room preference: single (few available) \_\_\_\_\_ ; 2 in room \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
 3-4 in room \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any health problem that may require special attention: include names, specific medical conditions, allergies, continuing medications, etc.

Meals are served family style; the kitchen is not able to handle individual diets. Salt-free food, supplementary protein, and meat-free meals are available, if indicated at time of registration. Please list such needs:

Name, address, and phone of person (not on Star Island) to be contacted in an emergency:

name \_\_\_\_\_  
 address \_\_\_\_\_ home phone \_\_\_\_\_ business phone \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to arrive at the Island on Saturday, July 26, on the boat leaving Portsmouth at: 2:00 P.M. \_\_\_\_\_, 6:00 P.M. \_\_\_\_\_, and leave on Saturday, August 2 on the 8:40 A.M. boat.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_