

BOOK REVIEW

Eikleberry, Carol. (1999). *The Career Guide for Creative and Unconventional People (Revised)*. Ten Speed Press. 216 pp., \$11.95. ISBN 1-58008-075-8.

This recently published self-help career guide, written by a psychologist, is a useful resource for people in the process of choosing or changing careers. Relatively easy-to-read and sprinkled with inspirational quotes by prominent individuals, this book incorporates John Holland's code types (realistic, investigative, artistic, social, enterprising, and conventional) and expands upon previous career-related literature for creative people who tend to feel lost in a largely conventional society. In fact, Richard Nelson Bolles, author of the career classic, *What Color is Your Parachute?*, opens the introduction to Eikleberry's book with "Many, many books come across my reading table each year, but it has been a long time since one of them impressed me so much as this one has." (p. vi).

While the book's focus is on Holland's artistic type, the information provided on career theory and personality types applies to all individuals. Eikleberry's basic premise contends that people are happiest and most successful when they chose their life's work based on a matching of interests, skills, and personality variables. College students, especially artsy types, would benefit from this book whose author has personally struggled to make the most of her creative personality. Eikleberry explains why uniqueness is important, how to value and nurture one's uniqueness, and how to use one's uniqueness to benefit society.

Eikleberry's book is divided into three parts: Career Problem, Possible Solutions, and Making It Happen. A bonus feature describes 240 occupations along with matched 3-letter Holland codes, brief job descriptions, and for several listings, salary ranges. Writer, painter, actor, singer, dancer, musician, counselor, teacher, interior designer, clown, pastry chef, and photographer are some of the occupations featured in this special section, which allows one to appreciate how the wide range creative personalities manifest themselves differently in specific individuals. Self-evaluation exercises and real-life success stories are presented throughout the book.

The Career Guide for Creative and Unconventional People (Revised) is an excellent reference for academic advisors, counselors, faculty, and other college personnel to share with their students. So often, students and advisors struggle with the developmental task of selecting careers and Eikleberry's book offers information, validation, support, and resources for those individuals who are especially creative. Career satisfaction requires knowledge of oneself coupled with knowledge of the world of work. Eikleberry brings the two knowledge elements together in her book thus facilitating the career decision process. Her parting words of encouragement are, "...give form to your own vision and share it with us all" (p. 146).

Sybil L. Holloway
Center for Counseling and Human Development
Bloomsburg University