

NEW RAMPART

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Dr. Nathaniel Branden To Be Honored at FOF Conf.

Nathaniel Branden, author of numerous books including *The Psychology of Self-Esteem*, and a close associate of the late Ayn Rand, will be honored at the Friday night banquet of the tenth Future of Freedom Conference (FoFCon) at the Long Beach Holiday Inn on Oct. 1.



Nathaniel Branden

Other confirmed speakers include best-selling author Doug Casey, attorney Jack Matonis, author Robert LeFevre, George Smith, Wendy McElroy and Jeffrey Hummel.

The conference site is California State Univ., Long Beach in the Student Union on Oct. 1, 2 & 3. Some 500 participants came to the 1981 conference.

The FoFCon will have an exhibit area, 30 to 40 workshops, a Saturday Night Event and will publish a programme.

Write to FoFCon, Box 4, Fullerton, CA 92632 for more information.

Writer-Philosopher Ayn Rand Dies in New York

As everyone is aware, author/philosopher Ayn Rand, who espoused "rational selfishness" and laissez-faire capitalism, died on March 6.

Best known for her novel "The Fountainhead" of 1943, for which she wrote the screenplay when it turned into a movie with Gary Cooper and Patricia Neal, and "Atlas Shrugged", published in 1957.

She was also the editor of *The Objectivist* from 1962 to 1971.

Although she referred to libertarians as "right-wing hippies," the libertarian movement will miss her philosophy of objectivism.

It was during the 1970's that Miss Rand, with lectures across the country, attracted the attention of a new generation of students who believed in unfettered freedom and made her something of a cult figure in libertarian circles.

Rand was 77 years-old when she died.

Believe it or not

The chairman of the New Hampshire Boxing and Wrestling Commission could not believe what he heard. It seemed that young, scantily-clad young ladies were glopping around in vats of Jell-O to the delight of male club patrons. Eager to keep stability in Jell-O wrestling, the commission, along with New Hampshire's state attorney general's office, agreed to do something. Regulations were passed and now promoters must obtain permits and pay 5 percent tax on their gross as well as \$10 performance fees to play in their pudding. (*The Register*, March 2, 1982)

It is now official. Parent killers are no longer eligible to draw survivor benefits. Health and Human Services Secretary Richard Schweiker order last January the closure of a loophole in the Social Security System. The loophole allowed some children who killed their parents eligibility to draw survivor's benefits.

One youth who killed his mother and sister five years ago reportedly received \$21,500 in survivor's benefits. Another youth who killed his father reportedly reaped \$8,000 in benefits. Who said crime doesn't pay? (*Associated Press*, Jan. 18, 1982).

The Conservative/Liberal Axis By Robert LeFevre

One of the principal benefits which has emerged as a result of the libertarian philosophy is a new blending of political theory.

Using the pre-libertarian terminology it was customary to find conservatives speaking up in favor of private property, individual management of business and enterprise, and in general seeking less rather than more taxation. However, conservatives constantly rattled the sabre, favored billions of dollars in military expenditures, often carried a chip on their collective shoulders and were ready to shoot anything red from roses to revolutionaries.

Is the US Constitution Moral Asks LeFevre's Seminar

Entitled "Is The U.S. Constitution Moral: A Study of Politics, Dishonesty and The Nature of Government", Robert LeFevre will give a 3-day evening seminar on May 6, 7 and 8 (Thur.-Sat.) from 7:30 to 10:00 pm. at 2727 S. Croddy Way, Suite J, Santa Ana, CA (Athena Graphics).

The fountainhead of the West coast libertarian movement for many years, LeFevre will center on the struggle between the Federalist and Anti-Federalist forces prior to the American Revolution, how the Federalists tricked Thomas Jefferson to leave the country as they plotted to get the 13 colonies to ratify the Constitution, and why the average colonist feared the Federalist's Constitution. In addition, LeFevre will prove how it is impossible for anyone elected to a position in government to remain "honest".

LeFevre is best known as the founder and first president of Freedom School in Colorado and later the defunct Rampart College. He has authored over half-a-dozen books which include *This Bread is Mine*; *The Nature of Man and His Government*; *The Philosophy of Ownership* and *Lift Her Up, Tenderly*.

The course is limited to 12 participants and the entire price is \$45.00 per person or \$20.00 for students. Call Sandy at (714) 979-5737 for more information. Make checks payable to Rampart Institute.

To be a conservative meant a basic contradiction. While favoring fewer taxes and fewer regulations, one had also to favor larger and larger military buildups and a scale of priorities which placed war or the threat of war at the apex of practical solutions to problems.

On the other hand, the liberal took a position almost squarely in opposition. (Perhaps I should note here that the term "liberal" originally meant a person who believed in liberty. I am using the term in its corrupted sense as it emerged in American politics.) The liberal distrusted anyone and everyone with money (excepting himself, of course), and constantly called for laws which were aimed at transferring wealth from those who had it into the hands of those who didn't. The most practical method for achieving this shift was to cause the government to enlarge. Thus, with the passing of time, whenever a problem emerged, the liberal political reaction was "pass a law"; "create a new agency"; "take from those who have and give to those who have not."

But the liberal was as inconsistent as the conservative. While he groaned and intoned against the successful, the wealthy, and most particularly against "big business," thus expanding the government, the liberal did not take a stance favorable to military ascendancy. He wanted the power of the state aimed within America at the effective, the successful and the thrifty. His idol was the ne'er-do-well, the impoverished, and various minorities at home and abroad.

In the liberal camp, the ultimate solution to problems was money, preferably that of the taxpayers.

The heroes of the conservative were George Washington, General Patton and General Motors. The heroes of the liberal bivouac were George Meany, Eugene V. Debs and Karl Marx. Often, specific members of each establishment didn't know who was being eulogized.

A distant observer might have reasoned that this particular mix would serve to checkmate itself. With masses of people on both sides of the fence, a stalemate would appear to be inevitable.

LINE OF DEMARCATION

The difficulty was that the conservative and the liberal actually weren't on different sides of the fence. The line of demarcation cut across both political amalgams. The conservatives wanted a bigger, more powerful government with larger taxes, provided the money was spent for military and police powers. The liberal wanted a bigger, more powerful government with increased taxes, provided the money was given to those who didn't have it, at home or abroad.

Thus, pressure for enlarged government, both in terms of welfare and warfare, was not effectively checked. Both sides agreed on grand theft. The only argument related to the direction of expenditures. Looting was the fundamental point. The taxpayers were to be despoiled and exploited by the state.

The great contribution to America's future emerged when the libertarians created a consistent position. This contribution was made when libertarians glimpsed the fact that government was entirely willing to adopt any policy for spending, so long as there was plenty of money and power on hand to manage the outflow. This means that the libertarian position constantly favors liberty for the individual, whether he be rich or poor, skillful or unskilled, large or small.

Those opposed favor centralized intervention in the lives of others either by the draft, by business regulation or by war itself.

The result of the emerging governmental tyranny was at last seen as the power and the ability to impose centralized judgment on the decisions of private persons, regardless of what the direction of the tyrant may be at the moment. Thus, the actual policies of government are and have been ambivalent. On the one hand, government power has been used to aid and abet various commercial enterprises, by uses of a tariff, actual cash outlays, government-guaranteed loans, and restrictions placed against competition. Conversely, the government has also imposed staggering restrictions, impositions, inspections and taxation upon businesses of all kinds.

Meanwhile, in international affairs, the government has loved the Russians, forced the people of Poland to live within the Russian sphere of influence (Yalta) and bailed out the tottering economic affairs of the Kremlin again and again. It has, in addition, mounted SAC bombers carrying atomic warheads, launched bomb carrying submarines and encircled Russia with a military ring of NATO "defense" partners.

The government of the United States has denounced dictatorship and sided with dictators. It has proclaimed the right of the people anywhere to whatever kind of folly they wish in the form of government, but has clandestinely (more or less) aided in toppling various regimes, a procedure it decries when others do it. At the same time, it claims that it favors human rights as that term may be interpreted at the moment, and to force others to accept that view or suffer the consequences in economic or military intervention.

When force (reliance on military usage or threat) or bribery (the giving of economic favors in exchange for votes or expressions of trust and love) are used, people who are well informed discover in time not to place trust in such an agency.

The entire world is now suffering from an illness that could prove fatal. It could be called *Politicus maximus*. Neither conservative nor liberal lip service can bring a cure. What is desperately sought is an intellectual awakening slowly dawning, that for any policy to be worthy of the name, it must first be a consistent policy. We should either admit to tyranny or we should renounce it and reassert the fundamental point: Each individual must first be free.

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