

NEXT HOS MEETING

HOS members Jeff Crow, Anna Franco, and Brian and Dawn Phillips (also known as Athena Productions) are proud to announce the world premiere showing of their film "Montessori: An Educational Renaissance," at the next HOS meeting. The meeting will be held on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm (note earlier time meeting time) in the Cascade room (UH Student Center - top floor).

The video examines the Montessori philosophy of education, with particular emphasis on the development of physical and intellectual independence in young children. The video includes interviews with parents, administrators, and footage of children engaged in various Montessori exercises. HOS President Warren Ross is interviewed on camera and HOS member Pete Jamison narrates the video. Anyone interested in the state of education today will find this video informative.

Following the video, the members of Athena Productions will answer questions and explain how other HOS members can take advantage of the opportunities offered by Access Houston.

PHILLIPS' FUN NIGHTS

Beginning in September, Brian and Dawn Phillips will be hosting a monthly movie/game night. HOS members are invited to attend. The HOS library will be available at each Fun Night. Call Brian and Dawn at 896-9707 for directions or more details. The following are the scheduled dates and events for the next two months:

Saturday, September 9, 7:00 pm :
"The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes". Jeremy Brett stars as London's first consulting detective in "The Dancing Men" and "The Musgrave Ritual". Popcorn will be provided. Bring your own drinks.

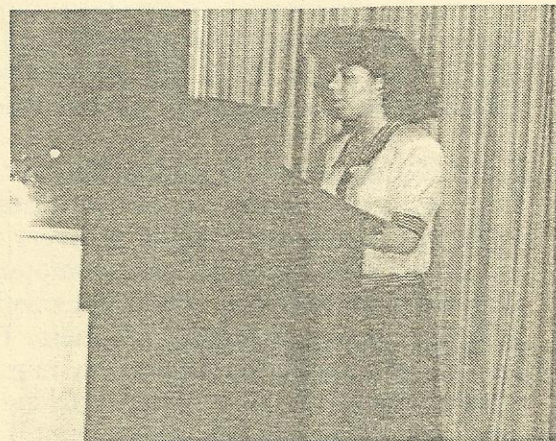
Saturday, October 7, 7:00 pm :
Game Night. Pictionary, Scrabble, Annagrams, and Chess will be provided. Bring your favorite game and/or a partner.

FOUNTAINHEAD AWARDS DINNER

Twenty-six members and guests attended The Fountainhead Contest Awards Dinner on July 21. Mary Blubaugh, the first place winner, will be attending Loyola College this fall, and Irene Chang, the second place winner, will be attending Princeton University. Both winners gave a short speech at the dinner describing what they thought of The Fountainhead and how it has affected them.

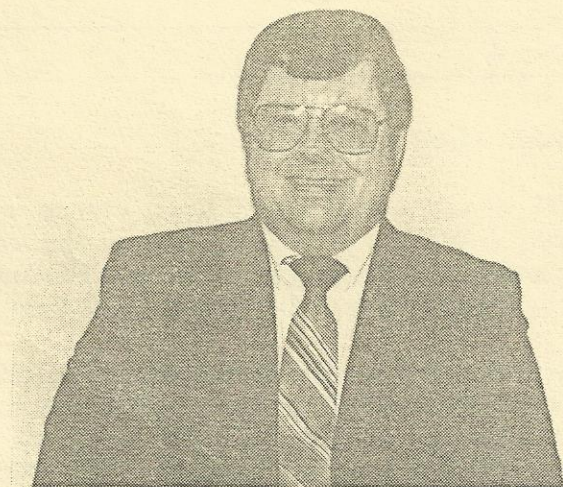
We would like to thank those members who have contributed to the prizes: Richard Beals, Diane Beck, Joe Blackburn, Jeff Crow, J. Eagan, Winston Elliot, Dave French, Katherine Hulpiau, Bill Loggins, Stephen Mallett, Elbert Marks, Kirk Mashue, Joeseph P. Miller, Brian & Dawn Phillips, Warren Ross, Ed Roth, Pravin Shah, Yaromir Steiner, and Ron Shoemaker.

Special thanks to Joe Blackburn, who provided us with seventy-five copies of The Fountainhead to distribute to high school English teachers in Houston.



Mary Blubaugh

While growing up I worked as a helper in my father's electronics repair shop, and I received great satisfaction in designing and constructing simple electronic projects. In school, I always had more difficulty with the humanities courses than with math and science due to the large amount of unrelated memorization usually required in the humanities as taught in public schools. As a senior in a high school English class, I debated mysticism in the Dark Ages. A classmate came up to me after the debate and recommended that I read Anthem. Soon afterwards I read The Fountainhead. It was a book which glorified the individual and productive work, with a non-mystical basis. After reading The Fountainhead, I was sure that engineering was to be my profession.



Richard Beals

While attending junior college, I read Atlas Shrugged. I think most people who have read Atlas Shrugged have wished there was a place like "Galt's Gulch". One of my fantasies after reading the book was to be able to construct an underwater city where I could make my own "Galt's Gulch". Toward this end I attended Florida Atlantic University and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering.

Near graduation I received a draft number of thirty-five. I decided to go into the Navy in the Nuclear Submarine service -- that being a lot closer to building undersea cities than dodging bullets in the jungles of Viet Nam. I spent six years in the Navy, during which time I qualified as Officer of the Deck, on the U.S.S. Seadragon and was a Leading Engineering Officer of the Watch at a Naval Nuclear Power Training center in New York. I am now a Project Engineer in the Nuclear Services Section for Halliburton Logging Services, an oilfield service company that lowers electronic instruments into wells on steel jacketed cables.

About two years ago, I resubscribed to The Objectivist Forum in the hope of finding local lectures to attend and meeting other advocates of Objectivism. Fortunately for me, in the next to the last issue before it ended publication, "The Philosophy of Objectivism" course was announced for the Houston area.

Looking back down the "spiral of knowledge" I now see that I had previously missed some of the significant points of Ayn Rand's philosophy, particularly the points in epistemology concerning certainty and how that was achieved. The significance of the fact that it is arbitrary to assert a statement without at least some evidence to its truth somehow didn't sink in the first time I read Introduction to Objectivist Epistemology. Without this key issue the use of rationality is undermined. In order for rationality to be useful, you must have a set of starting points which are based in reality. The lecture series make that point very well. I now would recommend the two lecture series on Objectivism (PO & UO) to everyone who is serious about the Objectivist philosophy.

I think Objectivism is important because it provides rational answers to important questions concerning life. As a philosophy should do, it offers principles to solve the political, economic and social problems which are pointed to every day in the news. I have realized that there are problems associated with going off and attempting to build your own "Galt's Gulch". Any such attempt would limit the associations to within that small group. In a society where specialization of labor occurs, you gain from the specialization of others. I don't wish to go to a pre-industrial civilization, which means that the philosophy of this society must be changed. In order to do that, there must be many more people who know about Objectivism and become convinced that there are rational answers to important problems. This will only come about if those who know it tell those who don't know -- that there is a method for survival -- a method which applies to all problems -- the use of reason.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

TOS Conference

In the last newsletter, we announced that the Texas Objectivism Societies Conference was scheduled for the weekend of November 4-5. This has been changed to the weekend of November 10-12. Any HOS members who have not received a mailing regarding the conference should contact Warren Ross at 468-2256.

CONCEPTUAL CONFERENCE

Conceptual Conferences will hold a conference on "The Power of of Objectivity" June 30 to July 15 next summer. The conference will be held at a resort in the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania and will feature ten lectures by Dr. Peikoff based on his upcoming book on Objectivism. Each conference attendee will receive an advance copy of the typed manuscript. For more details, write: Box 339, NY, NY 10040.

Philosophy of Education

Anna Franco will be running Dr. Peikoff's Philosophy of Education tapes (1 tape per week for 6 weeks). They will be played free of charge. Starting date will be late August. Seating is limited. Call for more details: 781-3609.

Study Group

The Study Group meets every other Sunday at the home of Joe and Mollye Blackburn. The group is discussing the questions in "A Study Guide to the Ethics of Objectivism". Call Joe and Mollye at 688-0854 for more details.

MEMBER TO HOST RADIO PROGRAM

In the near future, HOS member Brian Phillips will begin hosting a weekly program on KPFT, the local public radio station. While programming content is still in the formative stages, Brian would like any HOS member who has expertise in a particular area, and would like to be on radio, to contact him at 896-9707.



Irene Chang - 2nd prize winner

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September	October	November	December
9 - Movie Night 22 - HOS Meeting	7 - Game Night ? - Professor Ridpath	4 - Movie Night 10-12 - TOS Conference ? - Dr. Berliner	9 - Game Night 30 - New Year's Party

SURVEY RESULTS

Fourteen members returned the survey printed in the last newsletter and their responses have effected the following changes:

Editorials/Essays in the newsletter:

Ten members have requested that editorials and essays be published in the newsletter. As a result, we are asking interested members to send in material (i.e. opinion columns, book and movie reviews, etc.). The editors ask that members submit three copies of all manuscripts. Material must be relevant to and consistant with Objectivism. The maximum length is 500 words. Acceptance for publication will be decided by the HOS executive committee.

Live Speakers:

Ten members have requested that HOS sponsor live speakers to our meetings. We are contacting both Dr. Michael Berliner and Professor John Ridpath as they will be in Texas for other business during October or November. We will keep everyone posted as we get more information.

Meeting Times:

We will now meet at 7:30 pm on Fridays since several people prefer an earlier meeting time. Also, the Phillips' are hosting movies and game nights on Saturdays.

Better Snacks:

Instead of chips and dip, we will start having more interesting snacks such as wine & cheese, or apple pie, etc....

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- Anna Franco
- J. Brian Phillips
- Warren S. Ross

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We need ethical system

The solution to the drug problem is not political, but ethical. An individual who destroys his mind and body through drug abuse clearly has a set of values that is anti-life. Such an individual is engaged in a process of willful self-sacrifice.

And self-sacrifice is precisely what most ethical theories teach. The religious version calls for self-sacrifice to God; the social version calls for sacrifice to society. In either case, the individual must renounce his own values and be subordinate to the values of others.

The drug abuser is simply practicing what he has been taught. If we really want to correct the drug problem, we must teach individuals an ethical system that holds life as the standard. We must teach them rational egoism.

J. Brian Phillips, Houston

Aug. 19, 1989

Houston Chronicle

Relations severance

RECENT EVENTS in China demonstrate the folly of maintaining diplomatic relationships with communist dictatorships. The Chinese government has clearly demonstrated that it values neither human rights nor human life.

For the United States to associate with these barbarians makes a mockery of everything our nation stands for. We do the Chinese people a great disservice by pretending that their government is legitimate or proper.

Rhetoric aside, this is precisely what we do by maintaining diplomatic relations with the Chinese government.

Diplomatic pressure will have little impact on Deng Xiaoping and his fellow tyrants — thugs are not persuaded by reason. This is evident by the threats and scorn directed at Western denunciations of the government crackdown.

The correct response for all Western nations is to sever all relations with Beijing, and make it clear that civilized people do not associate with murderous despots.

J. Brian Phillips
 HOUSTON

The Houston Post/Monday, June 26, 1989