

# THE HOUSTON OBJECTIVISM SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3, No. 5

October 1990

## TEXAS OBJECTIVISM SOCIETIES CONFERENCE by Dwyane Hicks, TOSC Chairman

The Texas Objectivism Societies Conference will be held the weekend of November 2-4 at the Marriott Brookhollow, located at 3000 North Loop West in Houston. The conference will begin Friday evening at 8 p.m. at the hotel with a reception/registration. Registration will continue at 8 a.m. on Saturday morning. Papers will be presented on Saturday and Sunday mornings beginning at 8:30 a.m., and workshops will be presented each afternoon. Various artists will display their work a number of times throughout the weekend, and attendees will enjoy entertainment on Saturday evening. The conference will conclude at 4 p.m. on Sunday, November 4.

A small sampling of planned presentations follows:

### Papers

For years the intellectual and moral collapse of socialism has been apparent to all but American university professors. In the past year, we have seen the derivative existential collapse of the Eastern bloc. As Ayn Rand said for years, the mind cannot be forced. Given the predicament of the Left, now unsupported in any way in theory or in practice, the resurrection of environmentalism is not surprising.

J. Brian Phillips tackles this resurrection with an examination of the philosophies of ecology. Brian finds that the Left's pretensions of being pro-man have been dropped, and they are now openly denouncing technology, civilization and mankind.

Ohad Kamin's paper on the decline of the Western movie also examines a long-term trend. A second paper may also be presented detailing the government's propagandistic use of art over the years.

Steve Rogers will examine different historical views of free will. Steve will also show how the acceptance of these views have affected societies.

Bob Gifford will look at the current state of the world in terms of the potential of Objectivism. Europe has given up trying to make the unworkable work. What will Europe do now,

and what is America's view of the situation? It is clear that Objectivism has solutions, but what will it take to introduce Objectivism to Europe?

### Workshops

"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder." This has long been the subjectivist bromide of art, particularly in music. Ayn Rand thought otherwise, but left to others the task of building a scientific approach to music. Anna Franco examines work done in the area of identifying objective elements in music.

Yaron Brook also focuses on art in his presentation of art slides accompanied by music.

The recent questioning of Judge Souter demonstrates how the use of language and premises in law are increasingly foreign to the layman. Attorney Michael Mazzone examines some current legal issues and explains the source of irrational legal doctrines.

The first window on our world is television and the print media. J. Brian Phillips compares coverage by different media of the same story in order to provoke caution on the part of the viewer and to provide techniques in getting the true picture.

Other possible topics for workshops include Objectivist epistemology, intellectual activism, the "animal's rights" movement, and modern physics.

### Art

Among the artwork scheduled to be exhibited are sculpture by Revital Brook and Sam Adkisson, and paintings by Dorothy Meister and John Klingler.

### Entertainment

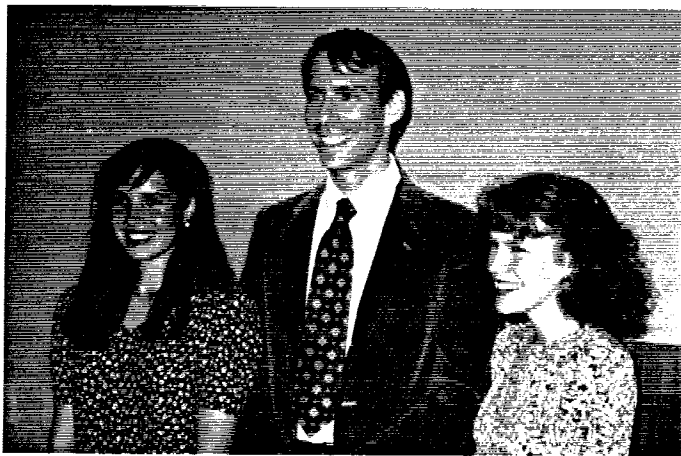
Entertainment Night will feature a reading of an original play written by Anne Ciccollella. Michael Clover will read poetry by Robert Service and Rudyard Kipling. Chris Land will read "Kira's Viking" by Ayn Rand. Dean Shank will give a piano recital.

(continued on page 3)

## FOUNTAINHEAD AWARDS CEREMONY

by Warren Ross

On August 24, HOS awarded prizes to two high school students in the Houston-area *The Fountainhead* Essay Contest. Michelle Petru, the first place winner, and Julie Pung, the second place winner, both attended HOS-member Patricia Taylor's literature class at St. Agnes High



*HOS President Warren Ross with The Fountainhead Essay Contest winners: Julie Pung (left) and Michelle Petru (right).*

School last year. *The Fountainhead* was one of the assigned books. Both Michelle and Julie were juniors when they entered the contest, and are seniors at St. Agnes this school year.

About twenty HOS members and guests attended the ceremony. Michele received a check for \$1,000 for her first place essay. Julie received a check for \$250. Both winners received a hardbound copy of *Atlas Shrugged* (which neither had read). After the awards presentations, HOS members met informally with the winners and guests. The evening was enjoyable and stimulating, and we continued talking about ideas for several hours.

We wish to thank those whose contributions and efforts made this year's contest a success: Richard Beals, Joe Blackburn, Kathy Conn, Jeff Crow, Kathryn Dawson, Anna Franco, Katherine Hulpiau, Elbert Marks, Kirk Mashue, J.P. Miller, Bob Peterson, Brian Phillips, Alice Ross, Warren Ross, Ed Roth, Ron Shoemaker, Yaromir Steiner and Patricia Taylor.

## HOS MEMBERS PLAY DETECTIVE

On September 21 HOS members were treated to a murder mystery, served up by Dwyane Hicks, Anna Franco, Dawn Phillips and Brian Phillips. Warren Ross served as a moderator. The mystery was played out at the University of Houston Student Center.

"Summoned" to the fictitious Stern Mansion in River Oaks by an anonymous call reporting a murder, HOS members quickly discovered that the matriarch of the Stern family-- Emma Stern-- was dead. Within minutes, Lane Scuse, who had once been married to Emma's daughter, was also found dead. The daughter had been murdered in Egypt one year prior.

For more than an hour, the "detectives"

grilled the suspects: Josh Stern (Emma's son), Liza (the maid), Sarah Scuse (Lane's widow), and Lou Down (private investigator). They discovered that each of the suspects had motives. Josh sought revenge for his sister's murder. Liza sought revenge for her family's financial ruin. Sarah was a money-grubbing floozy. Lou was a two-bit detective with gambling and drinking problems.

Emma Stern, an autopsy revealed, had died of heart failure. Lane Scuse had been shot in the head, and poisoned. But neither killed him. As tension grew, the detectives finally concluded that the murderer was....

---

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### November

2-4- TOS Conference  
22- Thanksgiving

### December

17- Wright Brothers' Day  
21- Winter begins

### January

1- New Years' Day

### February

14- Valentine's Day

**Explore with us  
the philosophy of**

---

# **AYN RAND**

---

## **Texas Objectivism Societies Conference**

invites you to a weekend of formal papers, workshops, art and entertainment at the Marriott Brookhollow in Houston, starting November 2. The tuition of \$60 (\$75 at the door, if space is available) includes two lunches and refreshments.



For further  
information, contact:

Dwyane Hicks

## CURRENT HOS MEMBERS

LAST	FIRST	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIP	PHONE 1
Adams	Robert Ray		Cleveland	TX		
Beals	Richard		Houston	TX		
Beason	John W.		San Antonio	TX		
Blackburn	Joe & Mollye		Houston	TX		
Bratz	Gary		Houston	TX		
Brents	Jim & Sandi		Bay City	TX		
Burt	Charles W.		Houston	TX		
Conn	Kathy		Houston	TX		
Copps	Kevin		Colege Station	TX		
Crow	Jeff		Houston	TX		
Dawson	J. M.		Houston	TX		
Dawson	Kathryn		Galveston	TX		
Earls	Chuck		Houston	TX		
Fordyce	Dan		Austin	TX		
Franco	Anna		Houston	TX		
Gerlach	Gregg		Houston	TX		
Hanks	Carl		Beaumont	TX		
Haque	Max		Houston	TX		
Hicks	Dwvane		Houston	TX		
Hulplau	Katherine		Houston	TX		
Jamison	Pete		Dayton	TX		
Land	Chris		Houston	TX		
Marks	Elbert		Houston	TX		
Markuson	Keith A.		Spring	TX		
Mashue	Kirk		Houston	TX		
Mazzone	Michael		Houston	TX		
Miller	J.P.		Houston	TX		
Peterson	Robert		Sacramento	CA		
Phillips	Brian		Houston	TX		
Phillips	Dawn		Houston	TX		
Ross	Warren		Houston	TX		
Roth	Ed		Spring	TX		
Shah	Pravin		Houston	TX		
Shoemaker	Ron		League City	TX		
Steiner	Yaromir		Houston	TX		
Taylor	Patricia		Houston	TX		
Wenger	Alan		Houston	TX		
Zeigler	Sara		Idabel	OK		

**TEXAS OBJECTIVISM SOCIETIES CONFERENCE**  
(continued from page 1)

Tuition for the conference is \$70 prior to the conference. Space permitting, the price will be \$75 at the door. The registration fee includes admission to all conference functions, buffet lunch on Saturday and Sunday, and refreshments during breaks. Attendees will also receive a copy of the conference proceedings, which will include the papers delivered at the conference and workshop synopsis.

Last year's conference in Austin was edifying, stimulating and fun. This year, Objectivists from as far away as Boston, California and Canada have made plans to attend. Their expectations are justified. For further information regarding registration, contact Brian Phillips at 668-0453. For more information on the program, contact Dwyane Hicks at 781-3609. Please join us in November; this is an opportunity you won't want to miss.

Enclosed in this issue of the newsletter is a

flyer advertising the Texas Objectivism Societies Conference. We ask all HOS members so included to feel free to duplicate and distribute copies of this flyer. Similar flyers were very successful in promoting the Students of Objectivism group at the University of Houston.

**NOVEMBER HOS MEETING TO BE TOSC**

The Texas Objectivism Societies Conference, to be held in Houston during November, will take the place of the HOS meeting scheduled for that month. We urge all HOS members to attend TOSC. The next HOS meeting will be held in January 1991. The HOS library will be available throughout TOSC.

The next issue of the HOS Newsletter will be published in December.

---

HOS President: Warren S. Ross  
Newsletter Editor: J. Brian Phillips

Address: P.O. Box 53791  
Houston, TX 77052

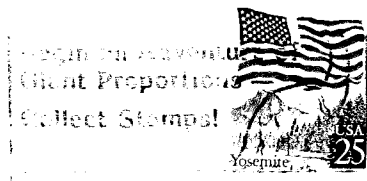
HOS Executive Committee:

C. J. Blackburn  
Anna Franco  
J. Brian Phillips  
Warren S. Ross

The Houston Objectivism Society Newsletter is published bimonthly for members of the Houston Objectivism Society. Membership dues are \$10 per year. Unsolicited manuscripts on issues of interest to Objectivists are welcome.

---

Box 53791  
Houston, TX 77052



**IN THIS ISSUE OF THE HOS NEWSLETTER:**

- \* Preview of the Texas Objectivism Societies Conference
- \* HOS Member Directory

