

# NEW RAMPART

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## John Pugsley Joins Rampart Institute

John Pugsley, author of the bestseller, *Common Sense Economics*, joined Rampart Institute last month. A former student of Andrew Galambos, Pugsley operates a successful company which promotes his two books and his monthly publication *Common Sense*.

A graduate of UCLA, he has been the president of several corporations involved in manufacturing and marketing. Pugsley has worked and lectured with Harry Browne and Sy Leon. His second book, *Alpha Strategy*, was released in 1980.



John Pugsley

## Public Policy or Popular Vote?

By Robert LeFevre

Perhaps the most destructive idea loosed upon the world by our love affair with the democratic process, is the belief that public policy should be determined by popular vote. In other words, the government ought to do what the people want it to do.

Such a belief and practice is implicit in democracy and the idea that "the people" shall rule.

Superficially that sounds marvelous! But if one cares to go beneath the surface, even to a tiny degree, why not look about you at the people who vote. What do they want? What is it about their respective backgrounds, knowledge and behavioral patterns that qualifies them to set a policy on anything?

I can tell you what "the people" want. I happen to know because I am one of "the people." I want the best for me. It happens that I don't vote. Were I to engage in this nonsense I would ask the government to give me guarantees about practically everything. I would want the government to assure me that I would always have a good job; a good income; a comfortable home; decent living conditions; decent working conditions; low prices; high quality goods and plenty of every conceivable kind of comfort and service.

I'm no more selfish about these wishes than others. Therefore, I can honestly say that I want the same for everyone else. I don't want other people to do rough, dirty or dangerous work. Any more than I would want to do it. And I want all of them to live in nice houses, have generous pay, be guaranteed against rip-offs of all kinds, and to know that whatever happens, their medical costs will be covered, their children will be well educated and never know poverty, that the world will remain at peace and that all of this will occur as government gets smaller and smaller, taxes us and intrudes on us less and less, and leaves me free to do my own thing.

Have I left out anything of consequence? Probably, but my wishes are quite pedestrian. I have never wanted to own the moon

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## Rampart Directors



Kenneth Gregg, Jr.

Kenneth Gregg, Jr. is the president of Rampart Institute. Considered a leading libertarian historian on the West Coast, Gregg, Jr. lectures and writes on a regular basis. Gregg has been involved with the California Libertarian Alliance which was the organization that started the Future of Freedom Conference series in 1969. A board member of Society for Libertarian Life, Gregg will be the editor-in-chief of Rampart Institute's quarterly publication called *Rampart Individualist*.

Jane Heider, a graduate of USC with a Masters degree in Business Administration, is the treasurer of the Institute. Almost two years ago she moved to Orange County from Los Angeles where she chaired a local region of the Libertarian Party (LP). Currently, uninvolved with the LP, Heider is attending Orange Coast College where she hopes to learn computer programming. Heider is also involved with the Future of Freedom Conference '81 Committee.



Jane Heider

## Future of Freedom Conference '81 Set

May 8, 9 & 10, 1981

The ninth *Future of Freedom Conference* is set for May 8, 9 and 10 at Cal State Univ., Long Beach in the Student Union. The top three speakers are Irwin Schiff, Dr. Timothy Leary and Karl Hess, along with Robert LeFevre, Bob Poole, John Hospers, Jack Matonis, David Friedman, Lowell Ponte, George Smith, Frank Fortkamp, Allan Harrison, Fred Schnaubelt, Dennis Brown, Samuel E. Konkin, Lee and Joyce Shulman and Carl Nicolai.

Some of the workshop speakers are Justin Raimondo, David Bergland, Thomas Hazlett, Linda Abrams, Caroline Roper-Deyo, Alan Bock, Spencer MacCallum, Bob McGinley, Charles Curley, Anthony Hargis and others.

The two big events are the Friday night banquet and the Sat. night party. The banquet, called "A Tribute to the Early Years, with Special Recognition to Prof. John Hospers," will start at 7:00 pm, in the main floor of the CSULB Student Union. Other speakers at the headtable are Bob Poole, Shawn Steel, Bill Susel and others. John Hospers was picked by the Future of Freedom Conf. Committee to be honored because of his dedication to individualism and libertarianism in the late 1960's and early 1970's. An early supporter of the conference series, Hospers has given much to the movement for individual freedom.



Irwin Schiff

For a change of pace, the Saturday night party will be hosted by radio personality, Dr. Demento. Creator and host of the syndicated radio program, "The Dr. Demento Show, Demento will play his wacky and crazy songs with a special selection for the conference (libertarian-themed songs). Afterwards, folk songs and music will be performed by the talented Frank Gasperik. Beer and soft drinks will be provided. Starts at 8:00 pm. in the CSULB's Soroptimist House.

### Conference Tickets

There are three price breaks for tickets based on when they are bought: before April 15/ before May 1/ and after May 1.

#### Two-Day Tickets:

Student: .....\$15/\$22/\$25  
 Non-Student: .....\$25/\$30/\$35

#### One-Day Tickets:

Student: .....\$10/\$12/\$15  
 Non-Student: .....\$15/\$17.50/\$20

**Banquet: (deadline-May 6 at 12 noon) .....\$14/\$15.50/\$17**

**Saturday Night Party: .....\$4/\$5.50/\$7**

Rampart Institute is one of the seven organizations sponsoring the conference. The conference is organized under the Future of Freedom Conference Committee which meets regularly.

For further information write to Future of Freedom Conference, P.O. Box 4, Fullerton, CA 92632 or call Athena Typesetting at (714) 979-5737.

(Continued from page 1 Robert LeFevre

or to buy Seattle.

As it is with the microcosm, so it is with the macrocosm. I am a microdot among a few billion other microdots and all us dots want pretty much the same things. So we're going to set policy?

When the wishes of beggars become political policy, all wisdom vanishes and we are ruled by poltroons, liars, and thieves. Few people today ask what is the right policy. Rather, they ask: "What do the people want?"

What is meant by "right?" In the Tower of Babel called Washington, D.C. there is already such a confusion of tongues that few could define what is meant by a "right." Let me give you my view for what it may be worth. What is RIGHT (correct) in the way of policy is that policy which is in harmony with reality. The bottom line which provides the only answer we have ever found to be accurate is this: Reality rules. What is, is. As the old saw put it: "If wishes were horses then beggars would ride." Isn't it sad? Wishes are without end. Horses come with a limited supply.

The democratic policy has created a class of beggars who are riding on the backs of one another, complaining bitterly about the incursion, while at the same time clamoring: "Why doesn't the government do what we want it to?"

What is essentially lugubrious about the whole situation is that

this process of trying to find out what the people want is now viewed as "the scientific" approach. Foundations, institutions and educational edifices galore have won world wide reputations by trying to utilize the process of opinion discovery as the definitive answer to truth.

By polling the ignorant, the prejudiced and the uninformed, one may indeed find out what popular opinions are. And this among a multifarious population, many of whom are unlettered, cannot or will not read, couldn't compose a simple sentence without help and wouldn't know a principle from a handful of popcorn. Then, when we learn what these ignorant, unwashed and unfulfilled sycophants want, the answer is: DO AS THE PUBLIC WISHES.

Democratic politics is the unstitching of the social fabric. Popular wishes are confused with principle. And masses of "case histories" in which mentally disturbed, the ailing, the cranks, the guilt-laden and the hysterical provide the "scientific" base from which to reason and make progress.

I can already hear from the agonized cries arising from my opponents. "You're always knocking everything!" "It's easy to criticize; what would you suggest in place of democracy?"

I'd begin by pointing out that human beings are not so many shoots of juniper which can be fertilized and pruned into a hedge. If the science of numbers is to be utilized one must tally identical items, not find the total by confusing apples, oranges and grapes. When an attempt is made to tally human opinions, whatever similarities may be found are overwhelmed by the vast number of unique and distinct characteristics.

## Rampart is Looking for Secretaries

Rampart Institute is looking for a secretary to handle correspondence and office work. The Institute is also looking for a Secretary to the Executive Board, who would take the minutes and become involved in decision-making of the Institute.

## LeFevre Tape And Others Available

Tapes of the Tribute to Robert LeFevre and LeFevre's workshop on justice are available for \$7.00 each. The justice workshop tapes, which lasted two hours, are listed as Justice I and Justice II at 60 minutes each (can be bought separately \$7 or both tapes for \$14). Mail to Rampart Institute, Tape Department, Box 4, Fullerton, CA 92632.

**Also, tapes (\$7.00 each) from the Future of Freedom Conference may be purchased through Rampart Institute.**

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