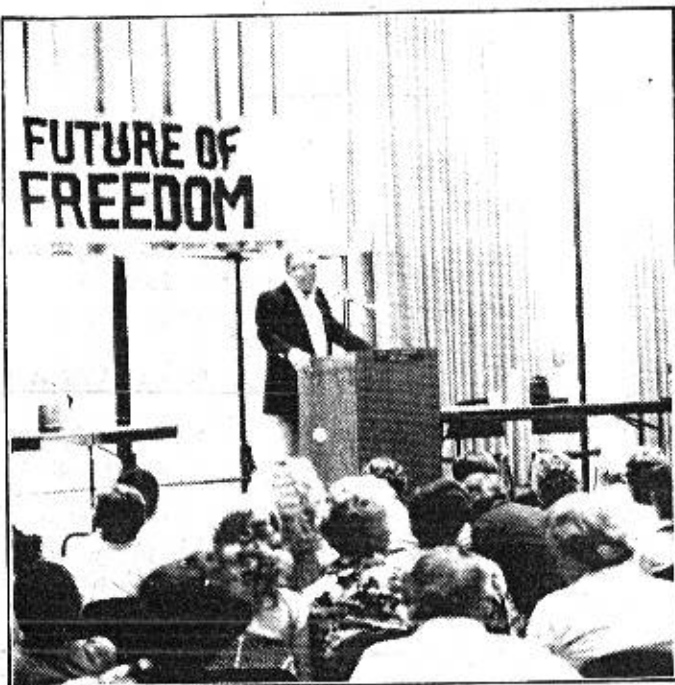


NEW RAMPART

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Nathaniel Branden, featured speaker at the FOF conference, dazzles audience as his wife, Devers, moderates the exercise in "getting in touch with ourselves."

BRANDEN, SZASZ, CASEY, HIGHLIGHT CONFERENCE Smith/Bartman Debate Evokes Heated Response From Audience . . .

By Sandra Lee Sisson

Well over 500 people turned out for the Future of Freedom Conference at California State University in Long Beach last month. Many agreed that this year's conference was among the most stimulating as well as being controversial.

Although there were continuous workshops throughout both days, the main floor speakers on the whole stole the show.

Dr. Szasz and Doug Casey were among the most entertaining in their deliveries which drew a great many laughs from the audience.

Dr. Szasz's subject of involuntary detainment by the state for psychiatric examination as well as pleading mental derangement in court in order to be exonerated from a criminal act was seasoned by his wonderful sense of humour. As usual when a rational approach draws our attention to the existing judicial system—one wonders why our legislators can't see the obvious contradictions as well!

Barbara Branden shared some of her personal experiences with Ayn Rand, which drew smiles and a few tears as the audience was brought colorfully in touch via

Barbara's memories. Miss Rand is the subject of Barbara's forthcoming book and we were treated to some of the text being used. It was like old home week for most of us as the familiar soft articulate voice drifted out into the great hall, carrying with it recollections of her records and tapes on Romantic Love and Objectivist Epistemology. One wonders why this remarkable speaker isn't showcased more often.

The George Smith/Thomas Bartman debate dealing with abolishment of state-run schools was by far the most controversial. Bartman (an elected President of the L.A. City Board of Education), side-stepped issues brought up by Smith while trying to communicate the fact that libertarians weren't so bad to speak in front of, in fact referred to the audience as "pusseycats" at one point. Meanwhile a patient George continued to cite case histories and documentation of facts to attentive listeners. The "pusseycat" remark was addressed later at the question and answer portion of the debate by Wendy McElroy who stated that she disliked the nomenclature and suggested that it had nothing to do with the issues at hand, which touched off a rousing session of retorts and exclamations from the audience as well as from Mr. Bartman. The tapes of this debate are not only informative but in some parts actually sizzle.

Nathaniel and Devers Branden refreshed us all as the last speakers at the conference with an exercise in introspection. The turn out for this was 100% and most participants were treated to a new experience in interrelation.

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FILM SHOWING OF "SHENANDOAH"

Rampart Institute is sponsoring a showing of "Shenandoah" on Friday, Dec. 10 (7:30 pm.) at the ALH Institute (1515 W. MacArthur Bl., Unit 19, Costa Mesa, CA 92626). Tickets are \$3.00 each. Phone (714) 957-1375 or (714) 979-5737.

A libertarian classic, "Shenandoah" shows the struggle of a widowed Virginian, played by James Stewart, during the Civil War era. Stewart refuses to allow his sons to be drafted by either Washington or the Confederates. These confrontations with warring governments cause Stewart to give several anti-state speeches which would make your head spin. This award-winning film shows war as a struggle between governments, each of whom is trying to take-over territory held by the other, and that people are mere tools in this conflict. Although the film does not exactly bring this point out, both governments in the Civil War practice slavery; the North with conscription and newly created Income Tax, and the South with some conscription and enslavement of Blacks. However, "Shenandoah" is extremely anti-statism and makes many good points for liberty and peace.

LEFEVRE DINNER SPEECH IN L.A.

Robert LeFevre will give a speech at the Henry George Supper Club on Friday, Dec. 3 at the Los Angeles Press Club. For more information call (213) 352-4141.

IS 1997 HONG KONG'S "1984"? COLORFUL COLONY'S FREE MARKET ECONOMY THREATENED

In 15 years, 1997, Britain's lease on most of the Hong Kong territory expires. The 19th century lease from mainland China will now require step-by-step negotiations between Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang.

As this issue was recently in the news the effect on the residents and business men of Hong Kong was visible through a decline in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, despite the assurance of the Communist Chinese government not to interfere with the colony's capitalist economy.

Britain first occupied Hong Kong in 1841 and secured it by treaty the following year. Kowloon peninsula, also part of Hong Kong, was acquired in 1860. The New Territories, which represent 90 percent of the colony's area and is its major industrial zone, was added by a 99-year lease signed June 9, 1898.

Described by Lord Palmerston as a "barren island" when it was first taken over by Britain, Hong Kong has been transformed into a major manufacturing and financial center, a showpiece of laissez-faire capitalism.

In his novel "Noble House" James Clavall goes into depth concerning the history and commerce of Hong Kong and presents a colorful scenerio to accompany this news-making present-day subject.

Among its many industrial achievements, Hong Kong is the world's largest garment center. Its banking interests, largely controlled by British bankers, spread throughout the world.

With low taxation and little government interference, it has attracted an army of foreign businessmen. Foreign investments, led by American and Japanese businessmen, are estimated at \$1.19 billion.

Most business men emphasize that Hong Kong is of great economic importance to Peking, China, for example, earns 40 percent of its foreign revenues, \$7 billion a year, from the colony.

Thatcher's China visit will also touch off a furious debate over options available to the colony after 1997. Recent statements by Chinese leaders have suggested that the colony could become a special administrative district of China, the formula which Peking has offered to Taiwan for the reunification of those two countries under the new Chinese constitution.

But public opinion polls indicate that 90 percent of Hong Kong's 5 million residents do not want to see any change from the current government.

Another option is joint British-Chinese administration of the territory, although most officials here regard such a plan as impractical.

One British historian, Victor Kiernan, suggested recently in a newspaper article that China's leaders may decide to accord Hong Kong autonomous status within the People's Republic.

Hong Kong, one of the few examples of free market economics in today's world, should be watched with avid interest by free persons everywhere with keen interest . . . to watch what governments do when everything seems to be going all right—after all then, there must be something wrong!



Libertarian oriented, rare and out of print books and magazines as well as bumper stickers catch the attention of FOF attendees. The printed word, old and new, stimulated conversations during the breaks and were entertaining in themselves. Many of the concessionaires were as interesting as their wares!

PENNSYLVANIA'S BLUE LAWS CREATE INVOLUNTARY CRIMINALS

It seems that in Pennsylvania all liquor stores are owned and operated by the state and the prices, of course, are considerably higher than in the bordering state of Maryland and other neighbors. Also of note is that Pennsylvania is the single largest purchaser of liquor in the world and thus due to a "volume discount", pays less per bottle at the wholesale level.

Now we have a situation in which good ol'e Yankee ingenuity comes to play . . . consumers close to the borders naturally shop in the other states. Franklin County's residents spurn the four state-owned stores in their vicinity because they are close to the border. But, closer to the center of the state, choice is not too readily available.

Needless to say the border customers exercise their "free choice" at a considerable risk. In fact Pennsylvania officials consider such activities as illegal bootlegging!

Case in point: Mike Scalia, (whose recent brush with the law was printed in the Hagerstown, Md. *Morning Herald*), and his grandmother, thinking it would be nice to buy some liquor to spike their eggnog for the holidays, stopped in a Maryland liquor store last December and purchased two cases. They didn't notice an unmarked van parked outside, which then followed them on and off the highway as they did their other errands. When they finally crossed the state line into Pennsylvania, Scalia was arrested and later fined \$24 per bottle. The booze was confiscated.

The crackdown has caused an uproar among residents living in the vicinity of the Maryland/Pennsylvania border. Now why would the state go to such trouble to stamp out the spiking of eggnog? Because it costs them \$2-3 million per year in lost tax revenues, according to officials. So in order to combat this, the Liquor Control Board spends \$14.6 million per year for 225 agents to oversee residents' drinking habits.

We would hope, eventually, that it might occur to state officials that they can generate more tax revenue from liquor sales by making prices competitive with other neighboring states. Most Americans do not choose to become bootleggers or tax evaders, legal or illegal. And, as well, Americans do not have the option of taking their

economic activity to neighboring jurisdictions, so they take it underground—to the tune of more than \$400 billion of untaxed activity per year, according to recent estimates.

The economic lesson is quite clear . . . whether in Pennsylvania regarding bootlegging, or in our national tax policy in Washington: Individuals work in order to provide as much as possible for themselves and their families. The less their work is taxed (whether on income or commodities) and the greater the competition in the marketplace, the more incentive there is to produce more and better for less.

206 years ago our nation fought unfair taxation by dumping tea in the drink . . . so what do we have to do now folks? Initiate the great drinkers' rebellion? Let's see now—brew our own or quit cold turkey or was that Wild Turkey !!!

WHO AUTHORIZES THE AUTHORITIES?

by **Butler D. Shaffer**

I began my class one day with an apparently simple question: does the U.S. Constitution have legitimacy? As a follow-up question, I asked: by what right did one group of men get together and impose upon others a particular system of government?

These questions, of course, do not apply only to the American political system, but can be asked, with equal force, of every government that has ever existed. By what right did the Bolsheviks, or the Catholic Church, or William the Conqueror, or Genghis Khan, or any other group, assume the authority to make and enforce laws upon other men and women?

Having been educated in traditional schools, most of my students answered with the kind of conditioned responses that it has been the purpose of traditional education to provide: "We all got together and agreed to this form of government," they declared.

Even though the fallacy of such explanations of governmental origins were quickly dispelled by asking the students to tell me the place and date at which they attended this "meeting" with "everybody else" to establish a government, I have no doubt that all of them truly believed that the American government was formed out of the common consent of all Americans.

I forged ahead with my questions ("If we all have inalienable rights, how can some men vote to take away the rights of others?" "How does the fact that 10 men may choose to join together for their common protection, impose upon the 11th man any obligation to go along with them?").

True to their public school upbringings, my students tried to take comfort in the processes of voting: "If the majority are in favor of something, that makes it right," a number of them agreed. "But what makes the will of the majority sacrosanct?" I went on.

"Suppose three muggers confront you on the street and say, 'We want your money, but don't worry. We're going to let you vote on whether or not you should give it to us.' If this group votes 3-1 in favor of taking your money, does this legitimize its actions?"

A few of my students saw the obvious analogy to government, but for others the characterization of government as nothing more than sanctified theft and violence

was too unsettling. One student tried to rehabilitate the democratic process with the weak plea that "it has to involve more than just a few people," while another felt obliged to defend democracy and voting at all costs, as something in the nature of an ultimate principle.

"Majority rule is just the way our government is set up," he argued, not seeing that he had succeeded in arguing himself into one big circle. "But that's what I am asking you to explain," I went on: "How does this—or any other—system of government acquire the legitimacy to impose such processes upon those who do not choose to be bound by it?"

The discussion ended with a number of my students resorting to the traditional method of all totalitarian systems and ideas: "If you don't like it, you should leave the country," they shouted.

When the discussion was over, one of my students stated that this had been a very "unsettling" and "uncomfortable" experience. "It was my purpose to make you uncomfortable," I replied, "for only in facing hard, uncomfortable questions will we be able to overcome the dependencies on authority that we have accepted for our lives."

I remarked upon how institutions not only cause most of the social conflict in the world today, but absolutely require conflict in order to maintain their power over our lives. Government, in particular, generates and manages conflict and, in the process, solidifies its base of power over us.

"But what's the answer to this?" a number of them asked. "What alternatives are there for us?" I told them that since the problem of government involves our self-induced dependencies upon authority figures, for me to give you my answer is simply to substitute me as your new authority.

The social problems in our world are occasioned by our consciousness—they are the product of how we think, about ourselves, others, and our responsibilities for our own behavior and our own conclusions. "The answer," I concluded, "is that you must figure out your own answers."

That has always been the source of the human dilemma. Because we have come to enjoy the luxury of having other people make judgments and decisions for us, we are terribly uncomfortable when someone comes along and challenges our complacency.

(continued on back page)

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AUTHORITES, continued

We enjoy triviality—a fact that has spawned mindless television programming, gossip magazines, and a general banality in what used to be the art of serious conversation—and eschew fundamental inquiries. But if life is to have any meaning, and if we are ever to overcome the viciousness and vulgarity that are destroying the quality of human life, we must get ourselves in the habit of asking the sorts of questions we have been trained *not* to ask.

Reprinted from the Santa Ana Register. Columnist Shaffer teaches law at Southwestern University, Los Angeles, and is a new contributing editor to the NEW RAMPART.

MORE ON '84

Miami Beach is experiencing "Big Brother" via T.V. monitors perched atop traffic signals. Yes, that's what I said, folks . . . five months ago the units were installed along a five mile stretch in an experiment in crime control by the Miami police.

"We're trying to create an omnipresence of police and a sense of total paranoia for the criminal," says police Officer Thomas Hoolahan. "We want to increase the criminal's sense of risk as much as possible when he walks down a Miami Beach street."

Although there are only 20 actual cameras out of 112 cowlings, by rotating them, the police can cover the area marked for surveillance, thus giving the illusion that "maybe it's this street that has the 'eyes' today!" Along the two streets involved there are yellow signs that declare: "Television Police Protection".

The people who are monitoring the "action" are volunteers recruited from the senior citizenry. One such person is 76-year old Harold Birch, a retired stereotyper who thinks its "boring", "like watching an abandoned car." Birch has over 150 hours in and hasn't seen a crime yet!.

In fact, even the police haven't seen a crime yet! One of the reasons may be that there isn't enough staff to watch 24 hours a day, especially during the midnight to 8 a.m. shift when no one is watching.

However, the real appalling factor is that the center of the \$600,000 surveillance system is supposed to be a rotating camera with zoom lens atop the 14-story Financial Federal Building that can zero in on action anywhere in a three-block radius; it's broken.

There now you have it, 1984 is only as good as the technology; and if no one cares to maintain the system, then the system does the way of all systems that are state run . . . it breaks down.

FOF Conf.—continued from page 1

ships. This was an extreme departure from the speeches and debates which were welcomed by some and regarded as highly suspicious by others. However, the objective of the exercise was to put you in touch with your emotions, and judging some of the reactions, it most certainly did.

To sum up . . . I'd go again and again and again . . .



Manual Klausner, (Reason Magazine Senior Editor), moderates the debate on abolishing the public school system, between George Smith and Thomas Bartman at FOF conference.

TAPES NOW AVAILABLE FROM FUTURE OF FREEDOM CONFERENCE

Tapes of the main floor speakers and of the debates and workshops can be ordered from the Rampart Institute, P.O. Box 4, Fullerton, CA 92632. Tapes are 60, 90 and 120 minutes and you can send for the FOF catalog for descriptions and order blank.

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