
Free Press Network

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1

SPRING 1983

Can A Free Press Survive The State?

Can Civil Liberties Survive Massive Concentrations of Power?

That is the major theme of the American Civil Liberties Union biennial conference, scheduled for June 19-21 in Washington, D.C.

Delegates will discuss

the question through a series of papers, speeches and workshops, focusing on the First Amendment and the communications revolution, separation of church and state, censorship, and other areas of civil liberties concern.

More than 500 First Amendment rights advocates, journalists and ACLU members are expected to gather to plan strategies for combating threats to civil liberties under Reagan. For information, write ACLU, 132 West 43rd St, NY, NY 10036.



Psychologist Nathaniel Branden (Left) accepts Roy Child's Mencken Award for Best Editorial, presented by Robert Lefevre (Right) during the 1982 Mencken Awards banquet ceremony at the Future of Freedom Conference.

Letters

NOT IN VAIN

Thank you very much for your recent letter and for the award to Ethnic America by the Free Press Association.

As you can imagine, Ethnic America has not received universal approval, so this award from a discerning group is reassurance that the work that went into it was not in vain.

--Thomas Sowell
Stanford, California

SOCIALISM A PSYCHIC DEATH WISH?

I'm delighted to hear that my Reason piece, "Socialism... On the Street Where You Live," has been nominated for a Mencken Award. It seems to me that the kind of local socialism I wrote about in my article really is beginning to sweep the country. It's certainly sweeping California, where people talk about "local control" and "democracy" as if it's the greatest thing since sliced bread. But local tyranny is still tyranny and democracy is simply might makes right... Maybe it's time for another article!

--Paul Ciotti
Los Angeles, California

HOLT HONORED

Thank you so much for your letter and the delightful news; I am very honored to have Teach Your Own chosen as a Mencken finalist. Sorry to have to decline the invitation to attend the awards ceremony, but other commitments will keep me in Boston at that time; however, I have many friends in California who I'd like to ask to be present at the ceremony on my behalf. My thanks again to the FPA and its members for this support and encouragement of my work.

--John Holt
Boston, Massachusetts

A TIMELY DEVELOPMENT

The formation of the Free Press Association is a timely development within the libertarian intellectual movement. I hope the journalistic intellectuals will support the organization and be as energetic and creative in maintaining a network of colleagues and in promoting discussion of technical, ethical and political issues in mass communications as the academic intel-

lectuals are in their realm of productivity and discourse. I wish you much success.

I also want to thank the FPA for its recognition of my work. I am most encouraged by it. I was very gratified by the FPA's selection of my book as a Mencken Awards finalist.

I'll try to find some spare time to write an article sharing

with your readers some of my experiences in the media.

Between 1965 and 1977 I worked in print and broadcast journalism in New York City, beginning as editorial researcher at Esquire magazine and ending as research librarian at King Features Syndicate just prior to returning to academia to study for a doctorate in sociology. (Continued on page 4)

Mencken Awards

BEST NEWS STORY OR INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

BEST FEATURE, ESSAY OR REVIEW

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

BEST EDITORIAL (Guideline: 1400 words or less)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

BEST EDITORIAL CARTOON

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

BEST BOOK

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Please type or print clearly, listing the name, author, place of publication or broadcast, and date of publication or broadcast of each nominee. Every Free Press Association member who is a working journalist - i.e., a Regular FPA member, not an Associate member - has the right to nominate up to five ranked nominees in each category of the Mencken Awards. Deadline for nominations is Sept. 10, 1983.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____
MAIL BEFORE SEPT. 10 TO JEFF RIGGENBACH, THE SYNDICATE,
1404 FRANKLIN ST., SUITE 521, OAKLAND, CA 90004.

Network Notes

WHY THE GOVERNMENT CENSORS BAD NEWS

MUSICAL CHAIRS: When Glenn Garvin, a FPA Board member who helped found the FPA, left his post as editor of Inquiry magazine, another FPA member, Doug Bandow, took his place.

Before taking over as editor, Bandow worked as a staff writer in the White House. He left because of increasing dissatisfaction with Reagan's record on personal rights and civil liberties, and hypocrisy about economic freedom.

After leaving Inquiry, Garvin has gone to work for the Washington Times

as a reporter. Meanwhile, Sheldon Richman, another FPA Board member, moved from his position at the Council for a Competitive Economy, where he edited Competition, to a new job as Inquiry magazine's Associate Editor.

FROM TEXAS TO INDIANA: A new job as copy editor and book/film critic at The Indianapolis News has taken Michael Grossberg, a FPA Board member, away from Austin, Texas. Grossberg will be spending the summer in Indiana under a Pulliam Journalism Fellowship.

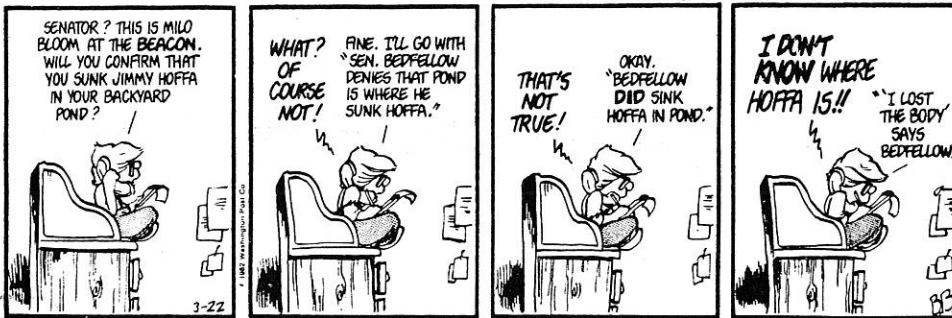
"CBS Reports rendered an important service the other night with 'The Uncounted Enemy - A Vietnam Deception.' It was important not simply because it detailed the appalling lies which were fed to the upper reaches of government and to the American people about enemy strength in Vietnam during the late 1960s, a story told before, but also because it illustrated with sharply etched clarity a continuing reality in government. The reality is that the bearer of bad news, no matter how accurate, is rarely beloved and even more rarely supported by superiors or co-workers...

"But if those willing to challenge from within the system are fewer and farther between than we might hope, the system moves quickly and massively to insure that disquieting facts developed by dissenters are kept from the public at all costs. And that, more than all the repeated nonsense about protecting national security, is what lies at the heart of the governmental love affair with over-classification and excessive secrecy."

--Hodding Carter III,
Wall Street Journal
January 28, 1982

BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed



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Airwaves

FREE PRESS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

- YES, I want to join the Free Press Association. I share the FPA's goal of defending First Amendment rights & demonstrating to other journalists the connection between a free media and a free market.
- Life Membership (\$250 before 1984; \$300 after)
 - Supporting Membership (\$50/year)
 - Regular Membership (\$20/year before 1984; \$25/year after)
 - Associate Membership (\$20/year, for non-journalists)

I found out about the Free Press Association from _____

If applying for Life, Supporting or Regular Membership, please list your professional experience in journalism and enclose three samples of your published or broadcast work: _____

SIGNATURE _____

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

Please make checks to Free Press Association, Box 14248, Austin, TX 78761

Syndicated Radio: Two radio series of interest to FPA members include "Perspectives on the Economy," produced by the Manhattan Institute, and "Byline," produced by FPA Vice Chair Jeff Rigenbach for the Cato Institute. Commentators on "Perspectives" include Reason editor Robert Poole, economist Sudha Shenoy, National Taxpayers Union founder James Davidson, and author Robert Hessen. "Byline" commentators include civil rights activist Julian Bond, journalist Stephen Chapman, First Amendment expert Nat Hentoff, and economist Walter Williams. For information about how to hear "Perspectives" or "Byline" in your area, contact the Manhattan Institute (20 West 40th Street, New York, NY 10018) and The Syndicate (1404 Franklin Street, Suite 521, Oakland, CA 94612).

(Continued from page 1)

I entered the business thinking that I would work my way up to become a staff writer or editor, but I soon learned that the price for doing so would be the compromise of my objectivist individualism. All of the news organizations wanted a visible black during the late sixties, and I could have gone far, but I wasn't the "right kind" of black; indeed, I was an affront to the liberal sensibilities of my colleagues. (In those days I used to wear my individualism on my sleeve.) In time I accepted my outsider status and was content to work at the level of research while I wrote for libertarian journals and eventually began writing my book on black race consciousness.

Thanks again for the nomination.
--Anne Wortham
Brookline, Massachusetts



"A writer owned an Asterick,
And kept it in his den,
Where he wrote tales (which had
large sales)
Of frail and erring men;
And always, when he reached the
point
Where carping censors lurk,
He called upon the Asterick
To do his dirty work.
--Stoddard King

Freedom Focus

MENCKEN ON TRUTH-SEEKING

"For the habitual truth-teller and truth-seeker, indeed, the world has very little liking. He is always unpopular, and not infrequently his unpopularity is so excessive that it endangers his life. Run your eye back over the list of martyrs, lay and clerical: nine-tenths of them, you will find, stood accused of nothing worse than honest efforts to find out and announce the truth.

"Even today, with the scientific passion become familiar in the world, the general view of such fellows is highly unfavorable. The typical scientist, the typical critic of institutions, the typical truth-seeker in every field is held under suspicion by the great majority of men, and variously beset by posesses of relentless foes. If he tries to find out the truth about arteriosclerosis, or surgical shock, or cancer, he is denounced as a scoundrel by the Christian Scientists, the osteopaths and the anti-vivisectionists. If he tries to tell the truth about the government, its agents seek to silence him and punish him. If he turns to

fiction and endeavors to depict his fellowmen accurately, he has the Comstocks on his hands.

"In no field can he count upon a friendly audience, and freedom from assault."

--H.L. Mencken,

"The Art Eternal"

from the New York Evening

"If there is any principle of the Constitution that more imperatively calls for attachment than any other it is the principle of free thought-- not free thought for those who agree with us but freedom for the thought that we hate."

--Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes

"There are two good things in life, freedom of thought and freedom of action."

--William Somerset Maugham

Of Human Bondage

"Liberty of thought is the life of the soul."

--Voltaire

"The liberty of the press is the Palladium of all the civil, political, and religious rights of an Englishman."

--Junius



FREE PRESS ASSOCIATION
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