

# Fellowship of Reason, Inc.

November 2002 Newsletter "Advocating Heroic Engagement With Life"

Volume 4, Number 11

## Mission Statement

The Fellowship of Reason® is an open, benevolent, and vital rational moral community in which we celebrate our lives, our freedoms, and our philosophy of reason. We study ethics.

## Dear 20-Somethings:

Sex is good.

FOR, Inc. has no members under the age of 30. That's a problem. If FOR is to flourish, we must attract and retain young people.

We have had more than one 20-something visit Celebration never to return. At least one complained about the absence of peers.

Twenty-somethings, in general and for the most part, are different from the over-thirty crowd. Twenty-somethings are enjoying and looking for sexual partners (yes, often plural). Those over thirty are often dealing with the consequences of sex: committed relationships, marriage, and children. I know these are gross generalizations. We have many FOR members (30+) who are single and looking. But I do think sex is an important cause of the absence of 20-somethings.

Twenty-somethings join gyms, yoga classes, and ski clubs. They go out to martini bars and dance clubs. Talking philosophy is not where the action is.

A moral community, though, has a lot to offer 20-somethings.

1. **Friends of character.** The most important benefit a reason-based moral community has to offer is friends of character. Friendships can be based upon pleasure, utility, or character, or a combination of these. Most of your friends, dear 20-something, are friends of pleasure, often sexual pleasure. While there is nothing wrong with sexual pleasure—in fact it may be the greatest of all pleasures—, unless your pleasure friend has character too, you may be in for emotional or financial trouble. Know also that

friends of character may *not* always bring you pleasure, but they *will always* bring you good.

2. **Stage of life.** Our reason-based moral community is aware of your stage of life. All of us have lived through it. You are exalting in the expression of your newly found adult powers. You are thrilled with your prospects for a career, with your sex life, and with the acquisition of the accoutrements of success. We celebrate your power. We rejoice in your ecstasy.
3. **Moral advice.** While we are, some of us, old enough to be your parents, we will not be your parents. In fact, we will be the opposite of some parents. We will not advise you to become a doctor or a lawyer. We will advise you to follow your bliss, even if your bliss is to become a starving young artist supporting his art by waiting tables in New York City. We will encourage you to find that one thing during your moment and in your place that only you can do. We will encourage you to do it. We will remind you that life is short and in the average case you have only about 50 more years to live and that 50 years is a mighty short time.

So, dear 20-Something, please think about joining our reason-based moral community. Our moral community is concerned with the question, "How ought I live in order to achieve health and happiness?" The answer to this question is accessible to one and all by reason. Our reason-based moral community is the only one, as of this writing, anywhere or at anytime. Everyone needs a moral community. We are your only rational alternative.

By the way speaking of sex, more than one romantic relationship has formed among our 30-something membership.

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## November Birthdays

John—November 3

Randy—November 12

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### **December 1, 2002 Celebration:**

Welcome—Master of Ceremonies: Martin  
Celebration of Freedom—David Z.  
Celebration of Visitors—  
Celebration of Each Other—  
Celebratory Announcements—  
Celebration of Art—Janet Z.  
Celebration of Personal Mission—Randy  
Celebration of Performance Art (skit)—  
Celebration of Heroes—Ellen  
Celebration of Literature—Vera  
Celebration of Talent—Scott O.  
Oratory—**Martin**  
Announcements—  
Closing Quotation—

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### **Philosophy Tapes**

Philosophy tapes are played to a small private audience in the living room of a volunteer on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month. The next playing is at Sally's house on Tuesday, November 19, 2002, at 7:30 p.m. Free.

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### **Invisible College**

Dr. Glenn Magee is lecturing every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at Vera's Intellectual Salon. Price: \$60 per month. In November we will be discussing Dr. Magee's own book, *Hegel and the Hermetic Tradition*. Call Vera at 404-577-7968 for more information.

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### **New FOR Internet Broadcast**

[www.fellowshipofreason.com](http://www.fellowshipofreason.com)

"The Entrepreneurial Spirit"

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### **Philosophy Café**

Attend Steve Stoke's Philosophy Café at Border's in Buckhead on the second Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. and at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Duluth on the third Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m.

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### **FOR's Executive Committee**

Members, directors, and officers of FOR, Inc. are invited to the monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees at 9 a.m. on Saturday, November 23, 2002, at Vera's house. RSVP to Vera.

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### **FOR's Film Night**

Members and friends of FOR, Inc. enjoy a monthly movie night at John's studio using his extraordinary equipment. FOR's next movie night is Saturday, November 23, 2002. Arrive at 6:30 p.m. Doors will be locked for safety! Movie starts at 7:15 p.m. Free.

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### **FOR's Pub Night**

Members and friends of FOR, Inc. meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month at Manuel's Tavern at 8 p.m. for adult beverages and adult conversation. FOR's next pub night is Wednesday, November 27, 2002, at 8 p.m.

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### **FOR's Thanksgiving Day Celebration**

Members and friends of FOR, Inc. are invited to drop in anytime between 2 p.m. and 10 p.m. for Thanksgiving dinner at Martin and Linda's house on Thursday, November 28, 2002. The hosts will provide the turkey and ham. Dinner will be served at 3 p.m. Food and beverages will be available all day. Visitors are asked to bring a side dish, dessert or beverage appropriate to Thanksgiving.

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## Celebration Schedule

- **Sunday, December 1, 2003**
- Sunday, January 5, 2003
- Sunday, February 2, 2003
- Sunday, March 2, 2003
- Sunday, April 6, 2003
- Sunday, May 4, 2003
- Sunday, June 1, 2003
- Sunday, July 6, 2003
- Sunday, August 3, 2003
- Sunday, September 7, 2003
- Sunday, October 5, 2003
- Sunday, November 2, 2003
- Sunday, December 7, 2003

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## Membership Information:

FOR, Inc. has 39 members.

- Regular membership: \$35 per year if paid prior to October 31, 2003
- Contributing membership: \$70 per year if paid prior to October 31, 2003
- Lifetime membership: \$700 if paid prior to October 31, 2003

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## Contact information:

Visit us on the web at [www.fellowshipofreason.com](http://www.fellowshipofreason.com)

To talk to somebody about FOR call Vera at 404-577-7968 or Martin at 770-471-9800 or Dan at 770-831-3010.

To receive e-mail notice of FOR's activities send your e-mail address to [mlcowen@mindspring.com](mailto:mlcowen@mindspring.com)

To receive this newsletter free for 3 months in the U.S. mail send your U.S. Mail address to [mlcowen@mindspring.com](mailto:mlcowen@mindspring.com)

To participate in unmoderated e-mail chat, please subscribe to our Yahoo! Group by sending an e-mail to [reason-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:reason-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

A subscription for 12 monthly issues of this newsletter is \$15 per year.

Fellowship of Reason, Inc. is a Georgia nonprofit corporation.

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## How can you help support the Fellowship of Reason, Inc., the world's first and only reason-based moral community?

If you would like to support our activities, including our building fund, please consider these opportunities:

1. Attend our activities
2. Bring donuts
3. Subscribe to our monthly newsletter
4. Perform at Celebration
5. Recruit a person of like-mind and values
6. Volunteer your home for a potluck or other activity
7. Become a regular member
8. Become a contributing member
9. Become a lifetime member
10. Donate cash, property, time, or expertise
11. Locate and help us apply for a public or private grant
12. Make a testamentary gift

Make checks payable to Fellowship of Reason, Inc. and mail them to 8188 Pembroke Terrace, Jonesboro, GA 30236-4179. Use PayPal on the web at [www.fellowshipofreason.com](http://www.fellowshipofreason.com)

To make a Last Will and Testament with a gift to FOR, Inc. contact your attorney. If you live in Georgia, Martin L. Cowen III, Attorney at Law, without charge, will prepare and supervise the execution (inside the perimeter or within 10 miles outside of I-285) of a simple will with a minimum unrestricted testamentary gift to FOR, Inc. of \$1,000. Call 770-471-9800 for more information. This offer may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Mr. Cowen, a licensed Georgia attorney, and not FOR, Inc., is solely responsible for any legal services rendered by him with or without charge.

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