



## John Enright's *Unholy Quest*:

### A Book Review

by Dan Barber

There is something evil happening on the remote Caribbean island of Saint Barnabas. A ruthless and religious cult leader, Arthur Northcut — a man ruled by a fanatical belief in his own intellectual superiority — is effectively manipulating his pious, well-intentioned followers, “The Modern Day Saints,” into carrying out his dastardly hidden agenda.

Everything is going smoothly until Northcut’s worst enemy arrives unannounced: the exotically beautiful dancing temptress Alma, who is ruled by no one, and has the seemingly supernatural power to see right through the most guarded of souls. According to Northcut, God has obviously sent her as his just rewards, for him to use — or abuse — as he so desires.

Bring in another man, Thor, a true-blue American soldier who associates himself with his namesake: the hammer-wielding God of Thunder. Thor is working under the radar as Northcut’s guard dog trainer, as some dark events in his military past prevent him from pursuing a more conventional post-military career.

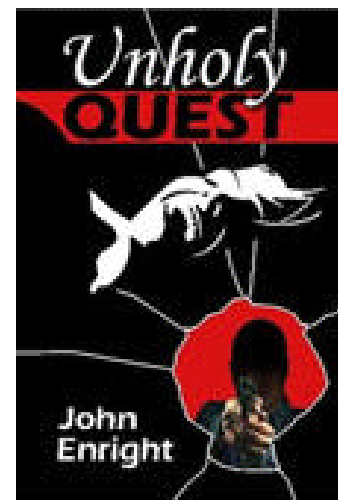
Thor is always ready, willing, and able to strike his powerful wrath upon the wrongs of the world — he is just not exactly sure what are the “rights and wrongs” he is here to avenge. And why has he been sent to this tropical paradise by his commanding officer to begin with? Alma, with her power of seduction, quickly grabs hold of Thor’s seemingly impenetrable heart; this passionate connection fuels the many levels of conflicts that are soon to take hold.

And just as Thor has been sent to this island for reasons unknown to him, Alma hunts him down for even stranger motivations — ones she may not even be sure of. The truth proves to be ever slippery and elusive: only one man, Thor’s commanding officer Daniel Sears, may have a firm grip on it.

*Unholy Quest* by author John Enright is a thought-provoking, erotic, action-packed drama. It keeps the reader glued with its gripping story line and chapter conclusions that leave one wanting more.

In his first published work of fiction, Enright successfully weaves plausible psychology and unique philosophy into these characters. His plot structure uniquely highlights their very odd behaviors — then unravels the history and psychology at their roots. This is the fun mystery behind the mystery.

*Unholy Quest* specifically deals with the great questions of life, and how our current spiritual leaders deal with their answers, such as: What is



the purpose of life? What is God? Is there free will? And what is the nature of love?

As with any novel, of course, the book is not without its road bumps. At times the dialogue can be somewhat wooden; though the characters speak concisely, they can sometimes come across as mechanical. The time sequences of the plot also seem mismatched: while one character is off traveling the globe giving lectures, the others seem to be frozen in a time warp. And given the period of the setting (during Reagan’s presidency), the book loses a bit of its freshness, coming across as something that has not been recently

(Continued on Page 2)

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# Toastmasters: \$148 Member Benefit

## Special Offer to FOR Members Only

The Fellowship of Reason, Inc. will refund your Toastmaster® membership dues up to \$148 on the following conditions:

- (1) you must be a member of the Fellowship of Reason, Inc. and remain a member until all conditions are completed;
- (2) you must join a Toastmaster® club after this offer and achieve Competent Toastmaster status;
- (3) you must give an Oratory at Forum; and,
- (4) you must keep and deliver to FOR, Inc. your receipts for dues.

If you comply with these conditions, FOR, Inc. will reimburse you for your actual Toastmaster® dues up to \$148.

Questions? Call Martin: 770-471-9800

### About the name "The Eudaimonist"

A eudaimonist (pronounced "yoo-DIE-mon-ist") is one who believes that the highest ethical goal is individual happiness and personal well-being. The term is derived from the ancient Greek word eudaimonia, which means, roughly, "well-being."

## John Enright's Unholy Quest (cont. from Page 1)

published. Overall, however, these aspects do not dilute the drama and intriguing nature of the story itself.

I recommend relaxing in your most comfortable chair while reading this book, as Thor's powerful hammer will continue to provoke you with a life-changing question: What is it that rules you, and therefore manifests itself in your own unique holy — or unholy — quest?

This review was first published in *The Atlasphere* on May 2, 2005 at [www.TheAtlasphere.com](http://www.TheAtlasphere.com). It is reprinted here with the gracious permission of The Atlasphere. This is what they had to say about Dan:

"Dan Barber is a devout husband, father, businessman, and philosopher. He was the first President of The Fellowship of Reason, a unique, reason-based, moral community that is currently flourishing in Atlanta."

### Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in the columns appearing in this newsletter are those of the author and not necessarily the views of the organization. The Fellowship of Reason, Inc speaks only through its Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, and the actions taken by the Board of Trustees as a board and recorded in the minutes of the corporation.

**Fellowship of Reason, Inc.****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.

**Fellowship of Reason, Inc.** is a Georgia nonprofit corporation and a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation

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**Subscription Information**

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

## You Want this. Trust us.

The mug you have to have.

FOR coffee. FOR tea.

FOR a friend.

\$6 each or 2 for \$10, Contact us at any FOR function (see page 9)

Questions? info@fellowshipofreason.com.



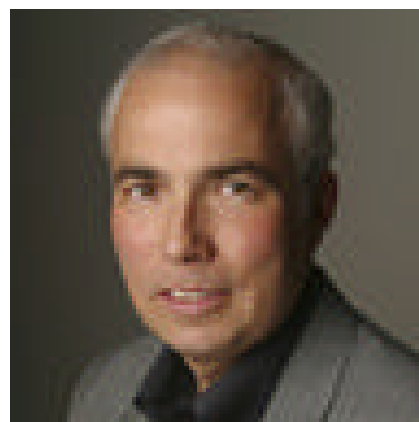
## Special Event FORum: Sunday, August 7

On August 6, 2005 **John Enright** will talk about his novel *Unholy Quest*. He will read a few passages, including some of the poetry. John will share the real-life events that inspired him to write the story, how the book, in defiance of his original intentions, took on a life of its own, how he published the book at minimal expense but a lot of work, and finally, he will answer any and all questions!

The plot: Thor Johnson makes a profession of fighting in other people's wars. So his new assignment, training guard dogs on a Caribbean island, sounds downright relaxing. But it's not relaxing for long.

The island is in the grip of a religious cult that aims to sweep the world. The cult's prophet upholds a very old-fashioned family ideal: one husband, many wives. Instead of being one big happy family, the cult is a web of jealous intrigue that soon entangles Thor. Even more entangling is a mysterious dancer. She follows Thor to the island, and soon men are fighting over who will possess her. Thor must go to war once again, battling for his life, and struggling to understand what is happening to his own soul.

John Enright is the author of a novel *Unholy Quest*, and a book of poetry *Starbound And Other Poems*. He frequently speaks at the Objectivist Center summer seminar on aspects of poetry. He has contributed articles to Objectivist-oriented journals, including the *Journal of Ayn Rand Studies* and *The Navigator*. He has performed with an improv troupe, is the proud father of two, and makes his living as a computer consultant.



# "Inwardly Turned" versus "Outwardly Turned"

*By Martin Cowen III*

As conceived, the Fellowship of Reason is "inwardly turned" as opposed to "outwardly turned." What does that mean?

Remember this aphorism of mine? "Morality is not a club with which to bash other people over the head, morality is a tool for guiding one's own life." Big "O" Objectivists love to harangue others over their choices and actions, especially people who agree with them 99% of the time. Therefore, they love to bash Libertarians. Freethinkers love to harangue religious people over their choice to be religious. Humanists do so, too, to a lesser extent. Baptists, Socialists, Communists, etc. all want to change the world to fit their moral pattern.

My view for myself and part of my vision in creating FOR is that life is much too short to convert the world to Communism, or Capitalism, or Atheism, or Catholicism, or whatever. Any efforts along those lines should only be a small part of a person's life, if any part at all, unless he happened to work for Cato Institute, in which case it would be his job for 8 hours a day. But still, even the career world changer has to live a private life.

The question I asked in creating FOR is how should I personally live my life in order to live well during my lifetime. I decided that haranguing others to become Big "O" Objectivists or Big "C" Capitalists or Big "A" Atheists was a complete and utter waste of my life. Meaning must be found inside, not in changing others to meet my ideal criteria.

Whining about my personal circumstances is a waste of time. Existence exists. I was dealt hand in the game of life and my only choice is to play it as best as I can. (I have a good hand, I admit.)

I decided for myself that haranguing others to change and whining about my own given circumstances is a waste of my life.

Therefore, what ought I do? Well, I decided that friends are a good thing. I decided that having meaningful activities was a good thing. I decided that looking for solutions to my psychological pain inside myself (as opposed to in others or in circumstances) was a good thing. I decided that looking at human achievements past and present was a good thing.

The reason for being of FOR, as expressed in chapter 1 of my book are these: Fellowship, Celebration, Personal Reflection, Reorientation with moral values, Enjoyment of Art, and Ethics.

Fellowship is local, here and now. Celebration is local and personal, here and now. Personal Reflection is deeply personal. Reorientation with moral values is personal. Enjoyment of Art is personal. Ethics, I argue, should be personal. It is about how I act, not how others act.

The opposites of FOR's values would be: hatred (the opposite of fellowship), whining (the opposite of celebration, stupidity (the opposite of personal reflection), random action (the opposite of reorientation with moral values, freak shows (the opposite of enjoyment of art), and Vice (the opposite of Ethics).

Hatred, whining, stupidity, random action, freak shows, and vice are the opposite of FOR's founding ideas. Notice that hatred, whining, stupidity, random action, freak shows, and vice are the very subjects for the newspapers and television.

So "inwardly turned" means attend to myself, my family, and my little circle of friends and live with fellowship, celebration, personal reflection, orientation with moral values, enjoyment of art, and ethical action.

"Outwardly turned" means to look at the media and strangers and the world at large, and live and interact with hatred, whining, stupidity, random action, freak shows, and vice.

The choice is a personal one for each individual.

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## Meaning of Membership

**Regular membership:**  
\$35 per year

**Contributing membership:**  
\$70 per Year

**Lifetime membership:**  
\$700

### Contact Information

To talk to somebody about Fellowship of Reason call:

Chris at 678-585-0406  
Vera at 404-577-7968  
Martin at 770-471-9800  
Dan at 770-831-3010

In order to enjoy the benefits of the Fellowship of Reason, you need not be a member. All of our activities are free and open to the public. A number of non-members regularly participate with us and are most heartily welcome.

Why then become a member of the Fellowship of Reason?

The Fellowship of Reason exists by virtue of the generosity of its members and friends. People you know contribute money, property, services, and time in order that the value we all enjoy continues to exist. The services by performers at FORum, by executive committee members, by hosts and hostesses, and by planners of events are vital to the existence of FOR. Those volunteer services are, in fact, FOR.

Membership is, simply, a clear statement that you wish the Fellowship of Reason to continue to exist. Membership is not the only way to make this statement. Some non-members are generous contributors of money, property, and services. In fact, we all benefit by the mere attendance of non-members at FOR events.

If you want FOR to continue to exist, won't you clearly say so by becoming a member today?

## Errata with Apology

Twice (!) in one issue (June, 2005) we misspelled Carolyn H's name. Carolyn helped make the yard sale a success, and hosted last month's pot luck.

Please accept our sincere apology, Carolyn.

Respectfully,

David Ziebell

(for all of us at *The Eudaimonist*)

## Birthdays

### July Birthdays

July 1	Eddie F.
July 1	Jack H.
July 25	David van M.
July 26	Steve W.
July 31	Linda C.

### August Birthdays

August 1	Beth H.
August 18	Carlos F.
August 18	Dunham M.
August 24	Edward C.
August 28	Tom W.
August 31	Nicholas W.

# THE FELLOWSHIP OF REASON'S BOZART FESTIVAL

The Fourth Annual Bozart Festival will take place Saturday, September 17, 2005.

Mark your calendar and...

Plan to shine!

At right, some past entries.

For more info, see [fellowshipofreason.com](http://fellowshipofreason.com).



## Letters to the Editor

(Your missive here)

Write us at:  
Fellowship of Reason  
P.O. Box 5564  
Atlanta, Georgia 31107

Or, E-mail us at [info@fellowshipofreason.com](mailto:info@fellowshipofreason.com).

All letters must be signed to be considered for publication.

# July 2005

July 2005							August 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 3 12:00pm Adult Education 1:00pm FORum (NWUUC)	4 12:00pm Deadline for FOR newsletter submissions	5 7:30pm Philosophy Club (Sally's house)	6	7	8	9 11:00am Nonfiction book club (Chris and Allison's house)
10 8:00am Reason Runners	11	12 7:30pm Fiction Book Club (Beth's house)	13	14 7:30pm Invisible College (Vera/Michael's house)	15	16 7:30pm Potluck
17 8:00am Reason Runners	18	19 7:30pm Philosophy Club (Sally's house)	20	21	22	23 6:30pm Movie night (John's studio)
24 8:00am Reason Runners 10:00am FOR Business Meeting	25 David v M bd	26 Steve W. bd	27 8:00pm Pub Night (Manuel's Tavern)	28 7:30pm Invisible College (Vera/Michael's house)	29	30
31 Linda C. bd 8:00am Reason Runners						

# August 2005

August 2005							September 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	1	2	3
14	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	29	30	31										

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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8:00am Reason Runners		7:30pm Philosophy Club (Sally's house)		Carlos F. bd Dunham McA. bd		7:30pm Potluck
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:00am Reason Runners			Edward C. bd 8:00pm Pub Night (Manuel's Tavern)	7:30pm Invisible College (Vera/Michael's house)		6:30pm Movie night (John's studio)
28	29	30	31			
Tom Welch bd 8:00am Reason Runners 10:00am FOR Business Meeting			Nick W. bd			

## Events

For detailed info on all upcoming events, visit  
<http://www.fellowshipofreason.com/calendar.htm>

### Reason Runners: Sunday 8 a.m.

We meet every Sunday morning at 8 a.m., except FORum Sundays, at the southwestern entrance to Piedmont Park on 10th Street. Breakfast at Flying Biscuit follows at 9 a.m. Walkers and joggers welcome!  
 Coordinator is Martin: 770-471-9800.

### Invisible College: 2nd/4th Thursdays 7:30 p.m.

History DVD will be shown.  
 Coordinator is Vera: 404-577-7968

### Philosophy Club: 1st/3rd Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.

Philosophy tapes are played to a small private audience in the living room of a volunteer on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month Free.  
 Coordinator is Sally: 404-257-0454

### Fiction Book Club: 2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m.

Members and friends of FOR meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at John and Beth's house to discuss a marvelous book.  
 Coordinator is Beth: 404-754-7519.

### Non-Fiction Book Club: 2nd Saturday 11 a.m.

Members and friends of FOR meet 11 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday of every month at Chris and Allison's house to discuss a marvelous non-fiction.  
 Coordinator is Allison: 678-585-0406 or  
 Allibyrd@charter.net

### Potluck: Saturday, July 16, 2005.

Members and friends of FOR meet monthly for a potluck supper. Bring something good to eat or drink to share. Our next potluck is Saturday, July 16, 2005 at a location "To Be Announced."

### Movie Night: Saturday, August 27, 2005

Members and friends of FOR enjoy a monthly movie night at John's studio using his extraordinary equipment. FOR's next movie night is Saturday, August 27, 2005. Arrive at 6:30 p.m. Doors will be locked for safety! Movie starts at 7:15 p.m. Free.  
 Coordinator is John: 404-754-7519

### Pub Night: 4th Wednesday 8 p.m.

Members and friends of FOR meet on the 4th Wednesday of every month at Manuel's Tavern at 8 p.m. for adult beverages and adult conversation.  
 Coordinator is Scott: 404-964-6697

### FOR Symphony:

#### Six Thursday nights in the 2005-2006

#### Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Concert Season

A new group is forming. If you wish to participate in the fall send your check for 6 concerts to Martin Cowen in the amount of \$100.50.

Coordinator is Martin: 770-471-9800.

## Join us at FORum:

1st Sunday at 1 p.m.

August 7, 2005

John Enright

Author of  
*Unholy Quest* and  
*Starbound and Other Poems*

## Join us at Adult Education

1st Sunday at Noon

David Ziebell  
Facilitator

## Celebratory Announcements

Do yourself a favor and remember a good thing that happened to you this month:

Please, write it down: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now do the membership of FOR, Inc. a favor by relating this fact during FORum next month!



FELLOWSHIP OF REASON

**Fellowship of Reason**

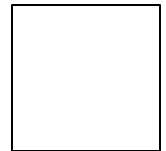
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**E-mail**

[info@fellowshipofreason.com](mailto:info@fellowshipofreason.com)

A Rational Community for the  
New Millennium.

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**We're on the Web!**  
See us at:  
[fellowshipofreason.com](http://fellowshipofreason.com)