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Time to Dump Canadian Health Act!

CALGARY, Alberta, Canada — "It's time to rescue health care from the sickbed by rescinding the Canada Health Act and conducting a gradual but continuous process of privatization," writes AOB-member Glenn Woiceshyn in an article published in the *Calgary Herald*, the city's and province's main newspaper. Mr. Woiceshyn's photo was also published with the December 17 publication. Following is an excerpt from Woiceshyn's article.

"While egalitarians claim to champion everyone's 'equal right' to free health care, they actually advance a wholesale assault on individual rights. Just as there can be no right to force another to provide free lunches, housing, computers, there can be no right to free health care. Such a 'right' necessarily means handing to some a passkey to violate the rights of others. With egalitarianism, 'need' becomes the passkey, which can only encourage a noisy, expensive and grotesque political power struggle over who is the neediest of all."

Mr. Woiceshyn received much positive feedback, including some from a famous eye surgeon who has "managed to break away from public health care and is allowed to practice privately on the grounds that eye surgery isn't core health care," reports Woiceshyn.

Japanese Professor Shows Interest in the Writings of Ayn Rand

KANAZAWA, Yokohama, Japan — A leading scholar in Japan, who studied under Ludwig Von Mises, plans to study Rand's writings. In a letter to AOB-member Horst Jepson, the Japanese professor thanked him for a letter in which Jepson mentioned the works of Ayn Rand. In his response, the professor made the following comments:

"As a matter of fact, there is a small group of people who have been studying Ayn Rand for over ten years in Japan. One of them donated me her several books. Unfortunately, I could not expand the fields of my study to the extent to cover Ayn Rand. However, as I finished the Japanese translation of *Human Action* . . . I have free time to read more books now. The xeroxed copies of some articles on Ayn Rand which summarized the essence of her ideas gave me a clearer impression than from my friends and I am motivated to read some of her books seriously. . . . Thank you again for motivating me to learn from the philosophy of Ayn Rand."

Moral Courage and Personal Success

SILVER SPRING, Maryland — *The Washington-Baltimore Area Objectivist Club Newsletter* (Vol. 6, No. 2) reports on an upcoming March 15 meeting, which will be moderated by long-time AOB-member King Wiemann:

"The March meeting will be a moderated discussion group led by King Wiemann. The topic will be moral courage and personal success.

"Why are physical and intellectual ability sometimes not enough for success? Why do some people try new things when others will not?

"What does it mean to have moral conviction? How is moral certainty and pride related to the achievement of values and personal success.

"A moderated discussion meeting begins with a brief presentation of the topic, to include the relevant Objectivist principles. The presentation concludes with several general questions about the topic. The meeting is then opened to general discussion among the members. . ."

(The Washington-Baltimore Area Objectivist Club can be reached at E-Mail: WBAOC@aol.com).

Why Modern Audiences Love *It's a Wonderful Life*

PALM BEACH GARDEN, Florida — *The Palm Beach Post* published the following letter by AOB-member David Ragaini on New Year's Day 1997. (A picture of Jimmy Stewart, who played the main character in the movie, was placed above Mr. Raigaini's letter.)

"Ellen Goodman's column 'It's a wonderful midlife, America' asks how Frank Capra's film *It's a Wonderful Life* became 'the ultimate Christmas classic,' given that it was coolly received 50 years ago.

"Mr. Capra told the story of George Bailey, a young man who yearns to 'shake the dust off his crummy little town and see the world,' who wants to 'build things—airfields, skyscrapers 100 stories high, bridges a mile long,' but who sets aside his own goals and happiness to stay home and manage the family business. His ultimate act of self-sacrifice is to contemplate suicide over a crisis precipitated not by himself but by his scatterbrained uncle.

"My view is that audiences of 50 years ago, whose grandparents had tamed the West, whose parents had fled political and economic oppression, or whose sons had volunteered to leave their 'crummy little towns' to fight for their values, did not identify with so selfless a character as George Bailey.

"I do, however, understand why today's audiences feel such a kinship with him. A half-century ago, Americans still believed that the 'pursuit of happiness' enunciated by the Founding Fathers meant the pursuit of their own happiness.

"Today, after decades of being told we must pursue other people's happiness before our own, we have become a nation of George Baileys. No wonder Mr. Capra's film strikes such a responsive chord."

(AOB Newswire continues on page 10)

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