



# Cincinnati Skeptic

Newsletter of the Association for Rational Thought

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## September Meeting “Penn and Teller’s Bullshit”

The bad boys of magic, Penn and Teller, will be featured at the September 11 meeting of the Association for Rational Thought. The meeting will feature two shows from the first season of the “Bullshit” series. The series plays on the Showtime network.

Each episode features an exploration of one or more skeptical topics. Penn and Teller attack each topic in their irreverent style. They are able to get their message across using humor.

We hope you will be able to join us on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the Dubliner Restaurant, 6111 Montgomery Road, Pleasant Ridge.

## Needed: Newsletter Editor

Last year at the ART “Futures” meeting the newsletter was described as one of the most important activities that ART does. After many years of editing the newsletter Wolf Roder retired in 2004. We are currently in need of someone to edit the newsletter. If you have the time to devote to editing the newsletter, we can mentor you. If you have edited a newsletter before, you may mould *the Cincinnati Skeptic* to your vision. Contact Rick Davis, ART President, 513-533-8142 or [rrdavis@fuse.net](mailto:rrdavis@fuse.net) if you would like to discuss taking over this exciting challenge.

## Roxanne Qualls to Speak to ART at October Meeting

Former mayor of Cincinnati Roxanne Qualls has agreed to speak to ART on “Political Advertising” for the October meeting. Former Mayor Qualls is currently teaching at Northern Kentucky University. This meeting will be co-sponsored by the student group, the UC Skeptics. Rather than our regular meeting, former Mayor Qualls will speak **at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> on the University of Cincinnati campus**. At press time a venue had not be set. Visit our website: [www.CincinnatiSkeptics.org](http://www.CincinnatiSkeptics.org) for the building and room. For those unfamiliar with the University of Cincinnati campus visit [www.uc.edu/directions](http://www.uc.edu/directions) for a campus map.

## Upcoming Meetings

At the end of October ART and UC Skeptics will co-sponsor a talk by **Marc Abrahms**, publisher and editor of the “Annals of Irrelevant Research.” Marc brings his fun review of research that should not be repeated (and perhaps shouldn’t have been done once). This meeting will held on the UC campus in the evening. Presently we are working out details of his visit. This will take the place of our November meeting.

In December we will return to our Saturday morning meeting schedule at the Dubliner. ART members Wolf Roder and Randy Weaver will lead an interesting and wide-ranging discussion of Jared Diamond’s theories of economics, sociology and geography. Jared Diamond is the author of “*Guns, Germs and Steel*,” and “*Why is Sex Fun?*” among other books and articles.

January will be our annual “Ten-Minute” meeting where members will be able to discuss what is on their minds for 10 minutes. This is always a fun meeting. Start preparing now!

We have a number of other meetings in the planning stages. Stay tuned for future announcements.

## Dues are Due

August is the time for dues collection for all continuing members. A change in the bylaws makes it cheaper for retirees and students to be members. Retirees and students pay ½ of the regular rate: \$7.50. If you don't want to have to remember to pay your dues every year you now have the option of a *lifetime membership* for \$180. Regular member dues are \$15 per year. You may mail in your payment to "A.R.T., P.O Box 12896, Cincinnati, OH 45212." Or you may present a check or money order to our Treasurer Rick Prairie at any ART meeting.

## Science Book Club

The Science Book Club meets at 2:30 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room of the main library downtown. The remaining schedule for 2004: Sept. 26 – *The Collapse of Complex Societies* Joseph Tainter; Oct. 24 – *The Blank Slate* Steven Pinker; Nov. 21 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) -- *A Devil's Chaplain* Richard Dawkins; Dec. 19 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) -- *Structure of Evolutionary Theory* Stephen Jay Gould.

## Officers

The following members will be serving as officers for the 2004-05 ART year:

President	Rick Davis	<a href="mailto:rrdavis@fuse.net">rrdavis@fuse.net</a>	513-533-8142 or 513-474-3087
President Elect	Randy Weaver	<a href="mailto:river1@fuse.net">river1@fuse.net</a>	513-531-4669
Past President	Roy Auerbach	<a href="mailto:raa@cinci.rr.com">raa@cinci.rr.com</a>	513-731-2774
Secretary	Bryan Sellers	<a href="mailto:bsellers@fuse.net">bsellers@fuse.net</a>	513-385-6795
Treasurer	Rick Prairie	<a href="mailto:Richard.Prairie@uc.edu">Richard.Prairie@uc.edu</a>	513-681-8444
Program Chair	Rick Davis		
Meeting Org.	Randy Weaver		
Publicity Chair	Bryan Sellers		
Web Site	David Wall	<a href="mailto:darkon@one.net">darkon@one.net</a>	859-331-3322
Newsletter	<b>open</b>		
Media Coord.	<b>open</b>		
Investigations	<b>open</b>		

**The officers welcome your comments, questions and suggestions.**

**Visit our website: [www.CincinnatiSkeptics.org](http://www.CincinnatiSkeptics.org)**

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**Address Service Requested**