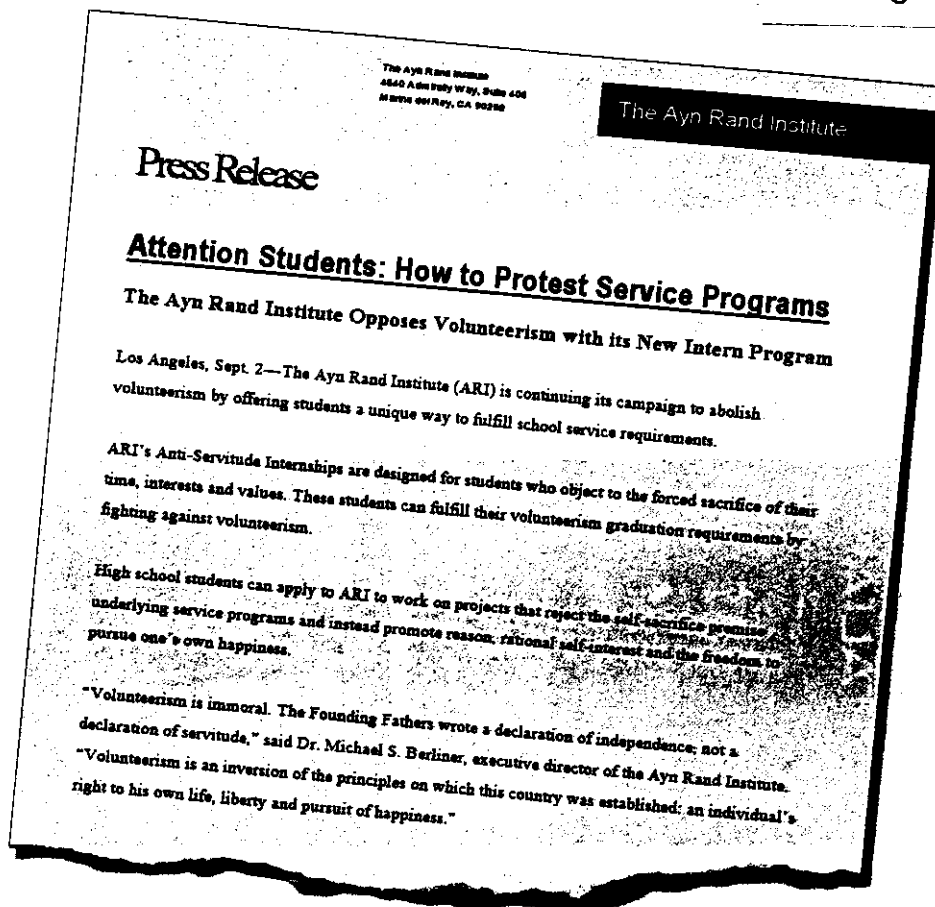


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Volunteers Against Volunteerism



A perfect world, according to Ayn Rand, would be ruled by rational self-interest. The pursuit of one's own happiness would be the highest moral principle. Altruistic acts would be immoral. So her philosophical heirs at the Ayn

Rand institute in Marina del Rey, Calif., were not thrilled last year when President Clinton called for "a renewed sense of obligation, a new sense of duty" in connection with his summit on volunteerism. Nor did they appreciate the idea that

various high schools were making some form of volunteer service a graduation requirement. Hence the institute's Anti-Servitude Internships, in which students may volunteer to fight volunteerism—and still get credit. Yes, these in-

terns are donating their time and energy, but that's okay. "Our view," says Michael S. Berliner, the institute's executive director, "is that volunteering is okay as long as it's in your self-interest and not considered to be a moral duty."

The Fine Print appears monthly. Contributions of authentic documents from readers are strongly encouraged. We seek memoranda, proposed pork, evidence of official or commercial hypocrisy, bizarre consumer caveats, etc. Send your plain brown envelopes to: The Fine Print, The Washington Post Magazine, 150 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20071.