

Ryan Shrugged

'You know you've arrived in politics when you have an urban legend about you, and this one is mine," chuckles Representative Paul Ryan, the Budget Committee chairman, as we discuss his purported obsession with author and philosopher Ayn Rand.

Paul Krugman, the *New York Times* columnist, recently called Ryan "an Ayn Rand devotee" who wants to "slash benefits for the poor." *New York* magazine once alleged that Ryan "requires staffers to read *Atlas Shrugged*," Rand's gospel of capitalism. President Obama has blasted the Ryan budget as Republican "social Darwinism."

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