



Meet the Ayn Rand Scholar Who Beat Eric Cantor

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House Majority Leader Eric Cantor [lost his primary](#) last night to Tea Party challenger Dave Brat. Many are already puzzling over what this means for the future of the Republican party (nothing good, really), but first, let's take a look at the challenger himself. Who is Dave Brat?

Someone who thinks the rise of Hitler "could all happen again, quite easily."

[Brat wrote in 2011](#) that Christians need to "rise up" and "spread the word" so that the government won't need to "backstop every action we take." He has a master's in divinity. Cantor is the last remaining Jewish Republican in Congress.

Someone who cares about the Heritage Foundation's scoring system for Republicans.

"If you go to Heritage and look at their score, I think [Cantor's] at about a 53 right now," [he said last night](#). "I mean, that's an F-minus."

An economics professor.

Brat grades people all the time at Randolph Macon College in Ashland, Va. (1,200 students, 56 percent acceptance rate.)

An Ayn Rand scholar.

Brat doesn't call himself a "Randian," but one of his major papers is titled "An Analysis of the Moral Foundations in Ayn Rand," and he heads the [BB&T Moral Foundations of Capitalism](#) program (funded by Cato Institute head John Allison, a huge contributor to the Ayn Rand Institute) at Randolph-Macon. He likes "Rand's case for human freedom and free markets."

Not a fan of immigrant kids.

Freedom should not be extended to children who enter this country illegally, in Brat's view. He blames Cantor in part for the [child migrant crisis](#): "Once you announced that kids are welcome, they're going to head in."

Someone endorsed by Laura Ingraham, Mark Levin, Ann Coulter, and Erick Erickson.

He's "total eye candy."

Brat has a 3.4/5 on RateMyProfessor.com.