In honor of Civil Libertarian Corliss Lamont on the occasion of his Centenary

Two Panel Discussions on the Question: Must our Civil Liberties be Relinquished Under the Threat of Terrorism?

Columbia University
Jerome L. Greene Hall (JG101)
435 West 116th Street, New York, NY 10027
April 5, 2002
4 PM ~ 9 PM
Must our Civil Liberties be Relinquished Under the Threat of Terrorism?

Welcome to this Civil Liberties Forum which asks the question: Must our Civil Liberties be Relinquished under the Threat of Terrorism?

This discussion, marking the centenary of Civil Libertarian Corliss Lamont, invites your participation.

After a brief presentation from each of the panel Speakers, the floor will be open for questions, statements and a free interchange. The speakers, each of whose participation is an expression of generosity of time and concern, are listed in alphabetical order on the following three pages. They may appear on the 4 PM panel or the 7 PM panel.

Promptly at 6 PM and then again at 9 PM we will call the question: Must our Civil Liberties be relinquished under the Threat of Terrorism?

May your participation on this occasion help to clarify your understanding of the rights and obligations of citizens in a Democracy.

May your expression of your Civil Liberties be empowered with the sharing of information at this gathering.

Thank you for being here.

The schedule of events is as follows.
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM — First Panel
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM — Reception
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM — Second Panel
Must our Civil Liberties be Relinquished
Under the Threat of Terrorism?

Keynote Address:
Vincent A. Blasi, Corliss Lamont Professor of Civil Liberties at Columbia Law School

 Speakers:
John Perry Barlow, Electronic Frontier Foundation
Born in Jackson Hole, Wyoming October 3, 1947, John Perry Barlow is a former Wyoming rancher and Grateful Dead Lyricist. He graduated in 1969 with high honors in Comparative Religion from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.
More recently, he co-founded and still co-chairs the Electronic Frontier Foundation. He was the first to apply the term Cyberspace to the "place" it presently describes.
He has written for a diversity of publications, including Communications of the ACM, Mondo 2000, The New York Times, and Time. He has been on the masthead of Wired magazine since it was founded. His piece on the future of copyright, "The Economy of Ideas" is taught in many law schools and his "Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace" is posted on thousands of Web sites.
In 1997, he was a Fellow at Harvard's Institute of Politics and has been, since 1998, a Berkman Fellow at the Harvard Law School.

Mary Beaty, Electric Librarian
A library research consultant who has run a library Web site with an emphasis on intellectual freedom, Ms Beaty is concerned about Internet censorship and a new law called CIPA, or Children's Internet Protection Act, which would place restrictions on the use of Federal funding that is available to public libraries across the country unless certain "filtering" software is installed on publicly-accessible computers in the library. The American Library Association has been fighting this legislation on the grounds that it is unconstitutional. Ms. Beaty is NGO (Non Governmental Organization) representative to the United Nations for the American Humanist Association concerned with human rights and freedom from religious persecution.

Nancy Chang, Senior Litigation Attorney, Center for Constitutional Rights
Nancy Chang is the Senior Litigation Attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights, a progressive legal and educational organization based in New York City. Nancy's litigation at the Center has focused on protecting the First Amendment rights of political activists against government efforts to silence dissent, safeguarding civil liberties against measures taken in the name of national security, combating racial profiling, and protecting the constitutional rights of immigrants. She is also the author of a book entitled "Silencing Political Dissent: How Post-September 11 Antiterrorism Measures Threaten Our Civil Liberties", which will be available from Seven Stories Press in May 2002.

Jeremiah S. Gutman, Co-chair, National Coalition Against Censorship
Co-chair of the National Coalition against Censorship; Boards of ACLU and NYCLU; president Meretz USA; field attorney 64-66 Lawyers Constitutional Defence Committee and Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party; chair, Symphony of the New World.
C. Clark Kissinger, Refuse & Resist!

C. Clark Kissinger has been a radical activist, writer, and speaker for over forty years. In the early 60s he was national secretary of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), and he organized the first March on Washington to End the War in Vietnam (1965). In the fall of 1983, he was in West Germany taking part in and writing about the mass demonstrations against stationing new U.S. missiles in Europe. Today he is a revolutionary organizer and journalist based in Brooklyn, New York.


Today Kissinger is a contributing writer for the Revolutionary Worker.

Michael Letwin, Association of Legal Aid Lawyers

Michael Letwin is President of the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys/UAW 2325, and Co-Convener of NYC Labor Against the War (NYCLAW).

Donna Lieberman, New York Civil Liberties Union

Lieberman, who graduated magna cum laude from Harvard in 1970 and received her J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law 1973, directs the 50 year-old NYCLU, which is the state’s leading voice for freedom, justice and equality and the advocate for those whose rights and liberties have been denied. She realizes that in the new era that began on September 11, NYCLU’s mission has become all the more important since the liberties we assumed were inviolable—the right to counsel, to face one's accusers, to a presumption of innocence until proven guilty, even free speech—are in jeopardy. She promises that the entire NYCLU membership-board members, staff and 25,000 members statewide—will redouble its efforts to secure the fundamental liberties promised in our Constitution.

Under her leadership, the NYCLU is pursuing an aggressive litigation agenda including suits: with the state on behalf of basic education for children; with the city on protester rights and demonstrator detention policy; and Nassau County for inequities in religious exemption laws that allowed anti-abortion protesters access to a clinic.

Vincent Lloyd, Editor of Common Sense

Vincent Lloyd is a junior at Princeton University majoring in religious studies. He co-founded and is currently the publisher of Common Sense, a magazine by and for college students distributed on more than a dozen campuses across the country featuring articles from a progressive, humanist point of view. He has also been active in the Princeton living wage campaign and most recently the ongoing campaign to pressure Princeton University to divest from Israel. Additionally, he has worked for Ralph Nader’s Center for the Study of Responsive Law and currently serves as youth coordinator of the International Humanist and Ethical Union.

Brian McCartin, Thomas Paine National Historical Association

Brian McCartin grew up in Queens, New York and earned his BA in History from the College of the Holy Cross and his MA in Education from St. John's University. Currently resides at the Thomas Paine Museum with his wife and two children where he serves as Director of the Thomas Paine National Historical Association and Museum. Has been an educator for over 25 years, and has worked on the instructional level teaching Regents history courses in private schools as well as developing alternative educational programs for inner city public schoolchildren. As an administrator, he helped create and implement successful developmental and retention programs at Monroe College and New York University. Brian currently teaches in an alternative education program, Operation Return, for the New York City Board of Education. He recently had his book "Thomas Paine: Common Sense and Revolutionary Pamphleteering" published by Rosen Publishing Company.

Victor Navasky, Publisher of The Nation

Editor of The Nation since 1978, he became its publisher and editorial director in January 1995. He is also the George Delacorte Professor of Magazine Journalism at the Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism, where he directs the Delacorte Center of Magazines.
Before coming to *The Nation* he was an editor at *The New York Times Magazine* and wrote a monthly column about the publishing business ("In Cold Print") for the Times Book Review. He is the author of *Kennedy Justice* (Atheneum, 1977) and *Naming Names* (Viking, 1980), which won a National Book Award and will be republished by Farrar Straus and Giroux in 2003; and with Christopher Cerf, he is co-author of the recently published "The Experts Speak: The Definitive Compendium of Authoritative Misinformation", a new version of which has been published in England under the title "Wish I Hadn't Said That!"

With Richard R. Lingeman, Mr. Navasky is the co-author of "Starr’s Last Tape" a one-act play which was performed at the Berkshire Theater Festival during the summer of 1999.

**Michael Ratner**, Attorney with and Vice President of the Center for Constitutional Rights

Recently won a ruling from the Inter-American Human Rights Commission of the OAS requiring that the detainees held at Guantanamo Bay have their status determined by a competent tribunal under the Geneva Conventions. He also represents Guantanamo detainees in a habeas corpus petition filed in federal court. His specialty is litigating international human rights cases under the alien tort claims act and war powers cases. He is the author of several books on human rights litigation. He is an adjunct at Columbia Law School where he teaches International Human Rights Litigation. His most recent article on civil liberties post 9/11 "Moving Toward a Police State (Or Have we Arrived)" can be read at <http://www.humanrightsnow.org>.

**Mara Verheyden-Hilliard**, Partnership for Civil Justice

Co-founder of the Partnership for Civil Justice, Inc., a public interest law firm in Washington, DC that litigates constitutional law, civil rights, women's rights, and economic justice matters. A graduate of Columbia University Law School, she also serves on the Steering Committee of the National Lawyers Guild’s Mass Defense Committee. She is lead counsel to political activists and organizations in International Action Center and has litigated numerous cases involving race and gender discrimination in employment, education and public accommodations. In the immediate aftermath of September 11, 2001 PCJ-LDEF formed The Emergency Campaign to Defend Dissent and Advance Civil Rights in response to the government’s pretextual use of the tragic events of September to attempt a rollback of civil rights and civil liberties.

---

**Connie Hogarth**, a very dear, long-time friend of Corliss Lamont, had wanted to participate in today’s panel discussions, but was unable to do so. She has offered the following statement in place of her physical presence.

Dearest Beth:

I deeply regret that I cannot join you today at this celebration of the life and work of Corliss but he is always in my heart as one of the most outstanding men of the 20th century for his brilliance and humanity and inspiration. For all the years that I was director of WESPAC, the Westchester People’s Action Coalition, Corliss was a great supporter and inspiration for our work. The annual picnics at the Ossining home will always be remembered as "movement" renewals in the hardest of times—gatherings that gave support to each other in the struggle for peace and justice. Our work at WESPAC in educating about the dangers at Indian Point was terribly important to Corliss and I know he would be so gratified to see that we are now on the cusp of shutting down those nuclear nightmares in our midst. We can all take heart for the inspiration he provided for all of us who knew him and loved him as well as for those who have shared his teachings. His grand spirit will always live, more needed now than ever.

-Connie Hogarth, Cofounder and past Director of WESPAC  
   Connie Hogarth Center for Social Action,  
   Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY
Must our Civil Liberties be Relinquished Under the Threat of Terrorism?

From Corliss Lamont’s autobiography, YES TO LIFE:

My final word is that in the battles that confront us today for America’s freedom and welfare, our chief aim as public-spirited citizens must be neither to avoid trouble, nor to stay out of jail, nor even to preserve our lives, but to keep on fighting for our fundamental principles and ideals. Our central purpose is not a ripe old age—although somehow I have achieved it—but the generous expenditures of our energies for the good of our fellow citizens and the well-being of humanity.

Fighters for freedom throughout history have had to face ordeals similar to ours. We should remember that American liberals and radicals in general have suffered comparatively little as compared with their opposite numbers in Europe and Asia during the twentieth century.

I think that as we grow older, we ought to grow more active rather than more timorous about the basic progressive issues. For we who have lived half a century or more have already enjoyed a very interesting and varied existence with probably a good deal of personal happiness. No dictator, no demagogue, no tyrannical government, can take away our past. True, they may interfere with our future, but the important thing is that we should continue to resist and combat misguided men and evil institutions as long as our hearts go on beating.

Our permanent rebellion is not a matter of force and violence; it is the daily rebellion of our spirits against the injustices perpetrated by the cruel, the uninformed, the selfish, and the short-sighted. In our struggle for a better world, we find a constant challenge to our intelligence, our ability, our perseverance in the face of heavy odds. And we march forward with sensitive and courageous men and women who are the salt of the earth. For my own part I must admit that nothing gives me greater pleasure than a good fight in a good cause. And if in my remaining years I can make a worthwhile contribution to society, I shall be happy indeed.