

HUMANIST SOCIETY OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK
THE CORLISS LAMONT CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION

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HUMANISTS
ARE CONCERNED
WITH
HERE AND NOW,
NOT HEREAFTER.

March 24, 1998

Greetings Fellow Humanists and Friends!

Since some members have expressed the wish to meet more often, we are scheduling two dinner meetings during the month of April. There are excellent speakers for these events and we hope that you'll plan to attend. You'll find more details below.

We are making a renewed effort to schedule widely advertised monthly daytime meetings in a public place to which interested newcomers might be attracted. Continuing to hold private expensive meetings to which only a closed circle of Humanist Members and Friends is invited is not really consistent with our Humanist principles. If you are familiar with a centrally located inexpensive meeting place and you think it would meet our needs, please let us know, but meanwhile we've arranged for space from **2pm until 6pm on Saturday May 2nd at the beautiful NYPL Science, Industry and Business Library (SIBL) at 188 Madison Avenue between 34th & 35th Streets**, phone (212) 592-7000, for the first such meeting.

This seems a fitting place for a public forum for the purpose of bringing attention to a little known matter pertaining to industry and business, more particularly to international corporations, called, the **Multilateral Agreement on Investment**, or **MAI**. There has been no public discussion or even awareness about this move to lock nations that expect to be considered *investment-worthy* into a promise to sustain conditions that will allow those corporations to enjoy uninterrupted profit-making. This amounts to an almost secret plot to thwart the rights of people to protect their own environment and to demand proper compensation for their labor. This anti-humanistic agreement, if signed into law, will give corporations standing in court to sue a government for allowing a strike or permitting protection of its own ecology. Sound like a horror story? Too fantastic to be true? Please ask questions and learn all you can about the MAI. Let's stir up interest. Try calling the President at (202) 456-1111. Call the UN at (212) 963-1234. Call your TV news/radio talk show. Write the newspapers. A starting place on the Internet is <http://www.infohabitat.org/mai/>. There will be some top-notch surprise participants at this forum. Hope you will attend!

The Dinner Meetings, or Humanist Dialogues, will take place as usual on **Monday evenings at 6:30pm at the Sichuan Palace Restaurant, 310 East 44th Street between First & Second Avenues**, phone (212) 972-7377. **Please make your reservation**, not with the Sichuan, but by leaving a message **on the Humanist Office recorder at (212) 687-2477**. **Thanks**. The meal, for \$17.50, is served family-style with a variety of entrees.

On April 6th our speaker is Michael Steven Smith, a co-author with Michael Ratner of the recently published book *Che Guevara and the FBI/The US Political Dossier on the Latin American Revolutionary*. Michael Ratner, who is presently out of the country, has been invited to speak as well. We'll hear about their experiences and their research into this shameful involvement by the US. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

On April 20th our speaker is Richard Manning, an author/world-traveler/historian, who, during the Vietnam War, was a Plans and Operations Officer, assigned to the Office of Special Assistance, US Embassy Saigon working out of Taipei. He will speak from first hand experience of the many fraudulent and criminal aspects of US Foreign Policy.

On reflection, it seems that the subjects for all of our scheduled meetings are consistent with the Humanist principle of openness to questioning and challenging the prevailing fallacies and hypocrisies. A quote from Thomas Jefferson is right on target:

"I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions. But laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change...institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors".

This quote is found in the new edition of Mary and Lloyd Morain's great book *Humanism As The Next Step* just published by The Humanist Press.

Please let us know if you wish to remain on this mailing list or if you wish to join the Chapter.

Best wishes to you and your loved ones. May there be joy and satisfaction in your life!

Beth K. Lamont, Program Chairperson.



<p>This Newsletter is available on the Internet at http://www.corliss-lamont.org/hsmny/newsletters.htm</p>
