



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

June 1999



ASHS Affiliate

Important Vote at June Meeting

Please plan to attend the June meeting at the Unitarian Society of New Haven (USNH) on Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will be voting on an invitation from the First Unitarian Universalist Society (FUUS) to make greater use of their facilities.

(Voting is a privilege of membership. Have you paid your 1999 dues?)

June Speaker

On Monday, June 21, the Humanist Association of Central Connecticut will present Ronald N. Loomis on "Cults On Campus: The Appeal, The Danger."

Mr. Loomis, an internationally recognized expert on cults and mind control, has been studying the cult phenomenon and educating about it for over 20 years. He is a Past President of the Association of College Unions International and has over 35 years of professional experience at the Universities of Minnesota and Wisconsin, Hamilton College and Cornell University, where he served as Director of Unions and Activities for 23 years. He is Director of Education for the American Family Foundation and a Past President of the former Cult Awareness

Calendar of Events

JUNE

Sun., 20	Board meeting at 700 Hartford Turnpike	1:30 p.m.
Mon., 21	Monthly meeting at 700 Hartford Turnpike.	
	Note return to usual location.	
	Coffee & conversation.	7:30 p.m.
	VOTE: Invitation from the First Unitarian Universalist Society of New Haven	8:00 p.m.
	Mr. Ron Loomis, Director of Education for the American Family Foundation: "Cults on Campus: The Appeal, the Danger"	8:15 p.m.
Fri., 25	Humanist Discussions: "The Biological Basis for Morality" at 700 Hartford Turnpike.	7:30 p.m.

JULY

Sat., 17	Annual picnic at the Raffords' house in Middlebury.	Noon
	Directions to follow.	

Network. He was a founding member of the Steering Committee of the International Cult Education Program and was Chair of the Interim Planning Committee, which created the Cult Information and Resource Center. He now travels throughout North America presenting cult awareness lectures and seminars, primarily at colleges and universities.

Mr. Loomis has been cited in newspaper and magazine articles in such publications as *The New York Times*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *The Congressional Quarterly*. He has also been interviewed on many radio and television programs including the Canadian Broadcasting Company and *The Today Show* at the request of NBC News. He was widely consulted by the media following the Heaven's

Gate suicides and during the Branch Davidian standoff, and was one of the few to predict the latter would end with the mass deaths of David Koresh and his followers. He is featured in the educational video, *Cults, Saying No Under Pressure*, and he authored a chapter in the book *Cults on Campus*.

Mr. Loomis received the Hall of Fame Award from the former Cult Awareness Network, and was also honored by the American Family Foundation "in appreciation for his activities protecting civil liberties by combating cults and coordinating those groups dedicated to the enhancement of each individual's liberty and freedom."

Mr. Loomis was born in New Britain, Connecticut and did his

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June Speaker, Continued

undergraduate work at the University of Connecticut, majoring in sociology and psychology. As a graduate student he studied Educational psychology at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Please bring a friend to this presentation at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. Refreshments and conversation are at 7:30, we will vote at 8:00 and Mr. Loomis' presentation will follow.

Humanism On-Line

To subscribe to the new humanist e-mail list, send a message to <ListProc@uua.org> with the following line in the text (not the subject) of the message:

subscribe humanists yourname

Replace "yourname" with your actual first and last names.

Enclose your name in quotation marks if your name is long or contains punctuation.

Stafan Johansson and David Schafer are the list managers.

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The deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month.

The editor would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue.

The Biological Basis for Morality

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet on Friday June 25th at 7:30 at the Unitarian Society at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. As usual, we will provide coffee and tea. We'll order out for pizza, so bring your appetite with you!

The discussion will be based on the article "The Biological Basis for Morality," by Edward O. Wilson (see article below). This article appeared in the April 1998 (yes 1998, not 1999) issue of the Atlantic Monthly. There is an online version at:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/98apr/biomoral.htm>

From the Web: "Do we invent our moral absolutes in order to make society workable? Or are these enduring principles expressed to us by some transcendent or godlike authority? Efforts to resolve this conundrum have perplexed, sometimes inflamed, our best minds for centuries, but the natural sciences are telling us more and more about the choices we make and our reasons for making them."

The article is long, but well worth reading. Since it is so long, I will be unable to provide copies of it to everyone. If you don't have access to the Web or cannot find the April 1998 issue of the Atlantic Monthly at your local public library, please let me know.

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Edward O. Wilson Heads List of Awardees for 1999

Harvard biologist and author Dr. Edward Osborne Wilson — more widely known as E. O. Wilson — will be the guest of honor at the 58th annual conference of the American Humanist Association. The subject of recent media attention for his compelling book *Consilience*, which explores the interrelatedness of all life forms and the web of information relating all branches of knowledge, Wilson has been the recipient of numerous awards by scientific and environmental organizations for his writings and for making ecological and scientific concepts understandable for the general public. Among his memorable works are his 1990 Pulitzer Prize-winning book *The Ants*, and his 1975 book, *Sociobiology: The New Synthesis*. Wilson is a

member of the National Academy of Sciences and is currently Pellegrino Professor at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Wilson will be presented the AHA's Humanist of the Year Award.

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