

Anthropology Newsletter

Anthropology "Summer Summit" Held in Washington, DC

Seven officers of four national anthropological organizations met in Washington, DC, at a June "Summer Summit" meeting hosted by the AAA to discuss common concerns about improving the public image of anthropology.

Present at the meeting were Jane Buikstra (President, AAA); William Stini and Joyce Sirianni (President and Secretary-Treasurer, American Association of Physical Anthropologists [AAPA]); Jeremy Sabloff and Prudence Rice (President and President-elect, Society for American Archaeology [SAA]); and Carole Hill and Shirley Fiske (President-elect and board member, Society for Applied Anthropology [SfAA]).

AAPA, SAA and SfAA separated from the Association after its reorganization in 1983. Memberships of the separate associations overlap greatly, yet until the 1990 "Summit" meeting there had been no formal or informal avenues for sharing information and coordinating action plans for the benefit of anthropology as a whole.

The June meeting was scheduled because each organization had been concerned about anthropology's troubled image and impact outside the academy. The current re-orientation issue, some officers felt, produced a great deal of bad press about our profession and ourselves. Others noted the discipline's apparent invisibility with respect to contemporary issues. Jane Buikstra, who convened the meeting, cited a recent national magazine that featured problems in US edu-

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**Day Care Available at 1990
Annual Meeting—see page 23
for form**

Bienvenue à New Orleans

The AAA annual meeting returns to New Orleans this fall. The Crescent City has long been a favorite meeting site of our Association. The New Orleans Hilton Riverside, the host hotel of our 89th meeting, is situated on the Mississippi shore within a short stroll of the many attractions of the French Quarter.

The program of the 1990 Annual Meeting reflects a remarkable span of intellectual and programmatic activities representing anthropology today. The AAA Program Committee and the Association's constituent units and societies have organized symposia addressing some of the major theoretical, methodological and practical issues of importance to broad segments of the profession.

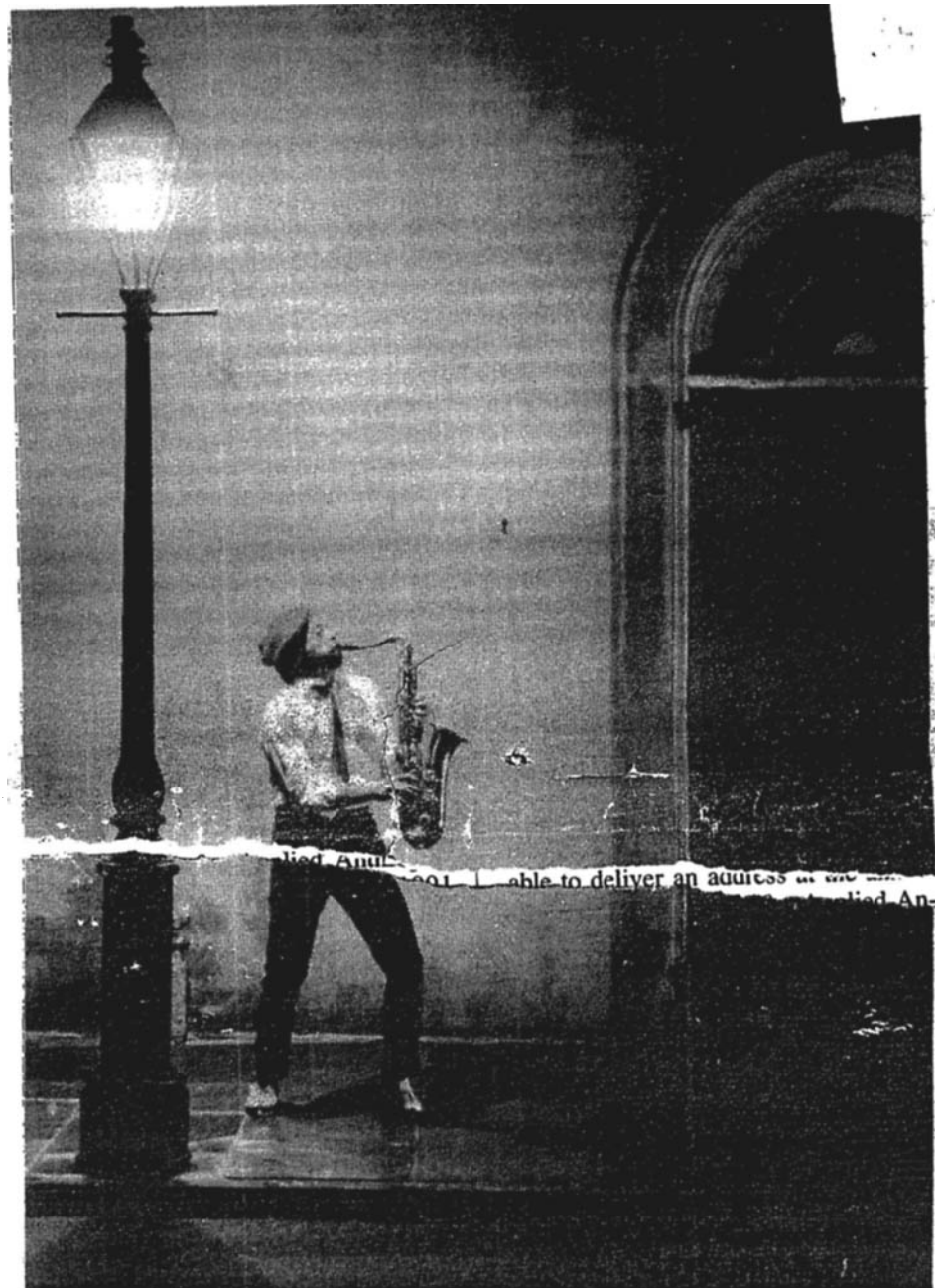
The 1990 Program Committee has organized symposia that address several contemporary interests and issues:

- The Changing Human Niche in Tropical Forests of South America, the Pacific and Africa
- Archeological Perspectives on the Columbian Quincentenary
- Health, Disease and the Human Condition
- The "Peace Dividend" and Its Implications for American Society
- Anthropology and the Environmental Movement
- Science, Materialism and the Study of Culture
- The Louisiana French, French Louisiana and Project Louisiane
- Senior Anthropologists on the Direction and Changes in Anthropology

A highlight of the program is the Board's plenary session on "The Politics of Reproduction." The topic is especially timely, considering Louisiana's current legislative debate on abortion, a

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Business Meeting, page 48**



French Quarter Street Musician

AAA Kicks Off Major Fundraising Program

At the annual breakfast of Past Presidents of the AAA last December, President Jane Buikstra stated her intention to seek new funds to support the building of a general endowment and to cover the costs of expanded member services. Bolstered by the wholehearted encouragement of the assembled Past Presidents in attendance, Buikstra has proceeded to develop the outlines for a major fundraising program.

At the heart of this comprehensive effort will be a Challenge Grant application to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

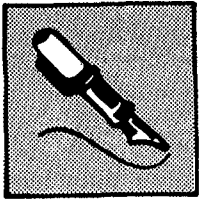
In addition, Buikstra is setting up the infrastructure at AAA Headquarters, supported by the AAA's legal counsel and auditors, to permit members of the Association and friends of the discipline to include the AAA in their bequests, to establish trusts and to make the Association a beneficiary in life insurance policies.

In establishing this program, the President is responding to one of the principal recommendations of the 1987 Long-Range Planning Commission, which had

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Correspondence

This section is primarily for the use of AAA members, although contributions from others may be printed if they are considered of value. Correspondents are urged to limit length; the Editor reserves the right to select and to edit letters. All letters must be clearly marked for Anthropology Newsletter Correspondence, be typed double-spaced, not exceed 500 words in length and consist of an original and one copy. Letters published reflect the views of the correspondents; their publication does not signify endorsement by the Anthropology Newsletter or the American Anthropological Association.

Arbitrary List

I see in the current *Anthropology Newsletter* (May 1990) an announcement of Predissertation Fellowships to be administered by the SSRC [Social Science Research Council]. This is most certainly welcome, for it fulfills an extremely important need. However I see as well that the fellowships are to be restricted to a small number of PhD-granting departments. Is this under the belief that the most deserving students are to be found at these universities?

I believe that the SSRC and the Ford Foundation owe the anthropological profession an explanation as to why participation is limited, not to the best applicants, but to what can be no more than an arbitrarily selected list of universities. On the face of it, the program appears to be little more than a crude form of favoritism, something I have always believed had no place in the Council's and the Foundation's philosophies.

J David Sapir
University of Virginia

Prescience Heeded

A propos the *Decade Watch, 10 Years Ago*, M Margaret Clark's prescience appears to have been heeded, or is at least widely shared, by anthropologists. At the February 1990 AAAS meeting, anthropology stood ahead of all other disciplines in attention to [the frightening] "massive migration and the clash of cultures, population pressure, environmental destruction and political upheaval" (May 1990 AN, p 2) of our times.

Denial is rife in economics and demography. Anthropologists are facing the hard realities and daring to bring bad news. I was proud of us, and I hope we can make a difference.

Virginia Abernethy
Vanderbilt University

A Back-to-Basics Survey

I very much sympathize with the bemused resignation that transpires from the Bohannan/Hall letter on the "ism" problem in American anthropology (May 1990 AN). As someone who received her academic training—and who has practiced anthropology in Italy and Japan, as well as the United States, I find the intellectual centrifugality of my American colleagues a source of constant fascination—and an interesting projection of culture-specific attitudes. The frustration such attitudes create is also culturally congruent and it often leads to very useful processes of self-analysis, such as the discussion of the impact of "fads and fashions" on our

theoretical and methodological approaches that was reported in AN from May 1988 to September 1989. To further stimulate our collective thought in the direction of self-reflexive analysis I propose that AN serve as the vehicle for a sort of "back-to-the-basics" survey, possibly leading to the formulation of a portrait—well, at least a sketch—of our professional attitudes at the beginning of the 1990s. The task is to fill in the blanks (with no more than 3 words for each slot) in the following two sentences:

Sociocultural anthropology is the study of

Cultures should be studied through the analysis of

Obviously these questions only focus on one of the branches of anthropology, but since that is the field with the most "isms" it may be wise to begin from there!

E L Cerroni-Long
Eastern Michigan University

Fundraising

Continued from page 1

correctly advised that with reorganization would come a number of new opportunities and demands for expanded services. In order to respond to these expectations, the AAA should seek additional new funds, recognizing that member dues alone could not be expected to cover the increased costs.

The initial goals targeted by the new fundraising program include:

- the establishment of a general endowment of sufficient size to provide financial security for the organization in times of fiscal stringency and to provide earnings to support expanded member services, including a major effort to bring anthropology to the attention of the general public, an enhancement of the teaching of anthropology in secondary schools and two-year colleges, and enlarged newsletter and press coverage;
- an upgrading of the AAA's in-house publications capability, including the acceptance of electronically produced manuscripts, desktop publishing, and on-demand reports and documents;
- the outfitting of the AAA's new offices, including temperature controls for the typesetting equipment, heavy-duty cabling for the computer system, and extra division of working areas beyond the standard fit-up; and
- the establishment of an office of development to support these efforts.

The NEH Challenge Grant program offers organizations like the AAA the encouragement to enhance their operations by offering to match, with federal funds, one dollar for every three dollars raised privately. An application is cur-

rently being prepared at AAA headquarters. As an encouragement to raise the necessary private funds, NEH will accept all qualifying funds from December 1, 1990. It is anticipated that the combined private and federal amount of the Challenge Grant will be in the range of \$1.6 million. That is, over the five-year period of the grant, the AAA will endeavor to raise \$1.2 million; if fully successful, the National Endowment will add \$400,000 to that total. The private portion of the grant will be sought from individuals, corporate and foundation sources; there will be several special events at upcoming annual meetings.

A special effort will be made to encourage new Life Memberships during this challenge grant period. A life membership today costs \$2000. Effective December 1, 1990, it will be possible to pay for a life membership in four annual payments of \$500. These payments will qualify for matching by NEH, meaning that your \$2000 will have a value of \$2667. That sum will go into the general endowment, where it will remain as a permanent source of revenue to the AAA. During your lifetime, the earnings from the principal will provide you with your national (and one unit) membership benefits. This is a unique opportunity for you to support your discipline long after your own lifetime.

At the same time, the Association is planning a special effort to reach anthropologists who are not currently members of the AAA. Approximately 1/3 of the anthropologists listed in anthropology departments in the AAA Guide are not presently AAA members.

Buikstra, in making this announcement, remarked: "I hope that all of our members will participate in this effort. I would like to hear personally from anyone who has suggestions for new and untapped sources of the private matching funds."

Call for Malinowski Award Nominations

The Society for Applied Anthropology invites nominations for the 1991 Malinowski Award. It is presented to an outstanding social scientist in recognition of efforts to understand and serve the needs of the world's societies through social science and who has actively persuaded the goal of solving human problems using the concepts and tools of social science. Each nomination should follow the criteria for selection as set forth by the SFAA. They are:

1. The nominees should be of senior status, widely recognized for their efforts to understand and serve the needs of the world through the use of social science.
2. The nominees should be strongly identified with the social sciences. They

may be within the academy or outside it, but their contributions should have implications beyond the immediate, the narrowly administrative or the political.

3. The awardee shall be willing and able to deliver an address at the annual meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology.

4. The nominees should include individuals who reside or work outside of the US.

Each nomination should include (1) a detailed letter of nomination outlining the accomplishments of the candidates, (2) a curriculum vita of the candidate, and (3) selected publication and other substantiating material.

Please send nominations to Gretchen Schafft, Chair, Malinowski Award Committee, Dept of Anth, American U, 4400 Massachusetts Av NW, Washington, DC 20016. Deadline for the receipt of nominations is January 20, 1991.

American Anthropological Association

1991-92 CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

- One of Washington, DC's most exciting fellowship opportunities
- Anthropological fellows join political science, international, federal and other fellows for orientation, seminars, a wide variety of activities, and placement on congressional staffs
- Invaluable career-enhancing or -changing experience for anthropologists interested in public policy issues, social change, applied anthropology and other areas
- \$25,000 stipend
- Candidates must have a PhD in anthropology and be members of the Association

Program runs early November 1991 to mid-August 1992, with initial applications due by December 7, 1990. For application and further information contact

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American Anthropological Association
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