

# the jawbone

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## ANTHROPOLOGY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO PUBLIC LIFE— NANCY SCHEPER-HUGHES EXPLAINS HOW

When introducing ex-Governor—now Oakland Mayor—Jerry Brown at the AAA special session, “Building Cities, Building Communities,” I also recognized the presence of founding Black Panther Party member, Bobby Seale, seated in the front row of the auditorium. (Seale had been invited to participate in the following special session on “Public Anthropology” organized by Rob Borofsky of Hawaii Pacific University. In recognizing Seale I said, “When Mayor Brown and I were co-teaching a graduate seminar at Berkeley in 1997 on “The Intellectual and Public Life,” Jerry was very tough on Oakland—its urban decay, the hollowing out of the inner city, its miserable record in housing, employment, public education. “Can you tell us,” I asked, “what was the last good thing that happened to or in Oakland?” Jerry responded without batting an eye, “The Black Panthers.” Seale fairly beamed from his front row seat and Brown did not—as he is so often wont to do—correct me.

At his inaugural address in Oakland on January 4, Brown reiterated his visionary goal of transforming Oakland from the city “with no there there” to a city recognized nationally and globally as a “microcosm of the still struggling and unfinished American agenda.” Brown’s agenda calls for a reversal of the negative patterns that plague other cities in urban America—closed factories that destroy blue collar jobs, depressed wages for the unskilled versus federal subsidies which lure skilled people to suburban lands by luring at least 10,000 creative people to join him living in downtown Oakland, “We can’t rebuild civil society without creating sources of friendship and civility.” The *New York Times* and The *San Francisco Chronicle* both announced (January 7, 1999) that one of those who has decided to answer Brown’s challenge to return, take up residence and assume an active political life is Bobby Seale who has resided for many years in Philadelphia. Seale has pledged to return and work beside Mayor Brown and another former Black Panther, David Hilliard, who has announced *his* intention to run for the Oakland City Council. Hilliard and Seale, together with other former members, hope to revive the Black Panthers’ unfinished agenda of more than three decades ago. When asked by a reporter what he thought of this new move, Mayor Brown described the new Black Panther campaign as “all about the magic of democracy” to which Hilliard responded in kind by saying that Oakland now has a “progressive mayor who sounds more like a Black Panther with every speech he makes.” I’d like to think that the AAA special sessions that brought together Mayor Jerry Brown and former Black Panther Bobby Seale for the first time in 30 years paved the way for the revitalization of Oakland with the help of a revitalized Black Panther Party. Bad luck for Mayor Rendell of Philadelphia, but good luck for Mayor Jerry Brown. As Seale is now fond of saying on behalf of the new

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*Anthropology and Public Life continued*

and now all-inclusive Black Panthers, “All the power to All the People!” Let’s convey our best wishes to Jerry Brown and Bobby Seale in their new joint venture of revitalizing downtown life in Oakland.

## BEV ORTIZ, CONSULTANT FOR THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

This semester I’m working for the National Museum of the American Indian as a consultant, serving as liaison between NMAI and several Pomo tribes in Sonoma, Mendocino and Lake counties. My work is in conjunction with the May opening of the exhibition “Pomo Indian Basketweavers: Their Baskets and the Art Market” at NMAI’s satellite museum in New York City (formerly the U.S. Customs House). I am in the process of coordinating the selection of seven Pomoan representatives who will travel to New York in May to conduct a series of presentations during the exhibition’s opening week. I will join them in New York, where I will make a presentation on the contemporary practice of California Indian basketry as part of a day-long symposium. I will also be coordinating three adjunct workshops in California, a Master-Apprentice program in Pomoan basketry, and writing a series of articles for the museum about the programs.

## NELSON GRABURN IN EGYPT: TOURISM OR PILGRIMAGE?

In December I presented a plenary address at the Cairo meeting of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments. My paper was a preliminary exploration of how people develop the concept of “ownership” of heritage within and beyond the family. The meeting attracted about 200 participants, nearly half of whom were Egyptian scholars, including Berkeley anthropology PhDs Donald Cole and Soraya Altorki. Cairo was especially wonderful at the time of the winter Ramadan. After the meeting most of the foreign participants went on to tour Luxor, but I took the Sinai option. There I was a “participant observer” in the enormous Hawaii-like seaside resorts along the desert coast of the Gulf of Aqaba at Sharm el Sheikh where I prepared myself to teach my Anthropology of Tourism courses this spring term. I also visited the 1,400 year old St. Catherine’s Orthodox Monastery, which still contains the “burning bush” where Moses saw God and the well where Moses met his wife—as well as 5th and 6th century doors and sacred icons. The night of December 22nd I climbed the nearby 7,600 ft. Mount Sinai (Mount Moses, Gebel Musa, where Moses received the tablets from God) to see the sunrise at dawn, the very night my grandson Noel was born to my daughter Eva in Portugal! This “accidental pilgrimage” was a grandparental rite of passage something like couvade. Attend Anthro. 151 for more details!

February 1, 1999

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 1-28, 1999

- Monday** 290 Seminar  
**February 1** Dr. John Borneman, Visiting Professor from Cornell University  
*Can Public Apologies Contribute to Peace? An Argument for Retribution*  
4:00-5:30 p.m., Rm. 160, Kroeber
- Wednesday** Archaeology Brown Bag series  
**February 3** Gary W. Pahl, San Francisco State University  
*Cups, Glyphs, and Miniatures: A Late Neolithic Ritual Assemblage from Hubei Province, China*  
Noon, Rm. 101, 2251 College
- Monday** Taussig Lecture  
**February 8** Michael Taussig, Columbia University  
*The Beach: A Fantasy Space in a Globalizing World*  
12:00-1:30 p.m., Gifford Room, 221 Kroeber
- Monday** Faculty Meeting  
**February 8** 3:00 p.m., Gifford Room
- Wednesday** Archaeology Brown Bag series  
**February 10** Wendy Mathews, Visiting Professor from Cambridge University  
*Subject TBA*  
Noon, Rm. 101, 2251 College
- Monday** Holiday (President's Day)  
**February 15**
- Monday** 290 Seminar  
**February 22** *Speaker and Subject TBA*  
4:00-5:30 p.m., Rm. 160, Kroeber

## INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 27

The "International Health: Preparing for the 21st Century" conference will be held on Saturday, February 27, 1999 at the UCSF Laurel Heights Conference Center. It will be a day-long regional conference to promote scholarship, public awareness and practical action in the field of international health and to foster communication among scholars and students in the health sciences. Sponsors are the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, UCSF School of Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine, the California Public Health Association-North, and the Global Health Council (formerly the National Council for International Health). Three broad topics will be addressed in the morning plenary sessions: "Health, Poverty and Development: Are We Making Progress?" by Richard Feachem, Senior Advisor on Health, Nutrition and Population, The World Bank; "Cairo Plus Five: Family Planning and Reproductive Health," by Prof. Malcolm Potts, UC Berkeley School of Public Health; and "The Burden of Ill Health: Emerging Infections and Continuing Plagues," by Prof. Don Heyneman, UCSF Dept. of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. From 12-2 p.m. there will be a networking *cont.*

*International Health Conference continued*

lunch and exhibits by 20 Bay Area NGOs who will display their materials and be available to discuss their work. Afternoon sessions will include breakout groups on the three morning topics as well as: HIV/AIDS Epidemic, Global Burden of TB, Refugee/Immigrant Issues, Getting There: Exploring International Health Opportunities; and Improving Equity and Access in Spanish Speaking Communities (in Spanish and English). Registration for students is \$15, general public is \$35, and exhibitor is \$50. The registration fee covers attendance at all sessions, conference materials, continental breakfast and box lunch. Registration deadline is February 10.

## THE EAR . . .

It is the beginning of another semester and here is what is exciting in anthropology to get you through to spring break. First, Kroeber Hall has both heat *and* the absence of deadly fumes. This was not always the case. Those of us who were here in early January know that you daily had to choose between freezing to death in the bldg. but hey, no deadly fumes, *OR* heat in Kroeber *with* deadly fumes. After days of going back and forth between the two (and everyone complaining to **Sharon Lilly** every 10 minutes), Physical Plant got it right: Heat. No Fumes. Anthropology wants to be warm and be able to breathe. Both. . . . *You know that the anthropology department is so demanding. . . .* Even more exciting is that anthropology is getting a new copier in February. Here's betting no one out there is saying, "A new copier? Hmm, I wonder why?" We want to have a party when the copier arrives, serve hor d'oeuvres, maybe smash a bottle of champagne over it. **Nelson Graburn** can give the copier its official double-sided debut. (The old copier broke down on Prof. Graburn more than anyone.) **Alan Dundes**, we fear however, will be sad to see the old copier go. He had just reached an unprecedented level of expertise on knowing exactly where in the old machine a jam was occurring. (He never wanted this to get out, but he was really very good.) By the end of January, Prof. Dundes was able to stand in the front office and tell the jammee where his/her jam was just from hearing a description of the problem. It was sort of like watching a psychic doing a reading. . . . And moving on from physical plant, we congratulate **Alison Graham-Yooll** who was recently awarded a Humanities Research Grant to carry out a summer research project on "Meanings of Home Among Mexican Immigrants and their Children" in Washington state . . . and we pass on from **Misha Klein** the observation that the first class stamp in Canada is graced with a portrait of Ruth Benedict, "Anthropologist." (Aside: Misha wonders if she was the last to know this? Someone tell her if she was last.) . . . And **Jonathan Marks** had a piece published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* on December 4, 1998 entitled "How Can We Interject Human Evolution Into More Museums?" and a commentary in the November *Anthropology Newsletter* where he expresses doubt that a mutation in a nematode worm (in which the worm goes from a Greta Garbo eating style to one resembling Julia Child on crack) sheds any light on patterns of behavior of you or me. . . . And last we welcome back **Lui, Xin** and **Gerald Berreman** from their sojourns away from Berkeley. Did they come back because we have heat? And *no* deadly fumes? And a new copier on its way? Ha. Knew it.

*This newsletter is produced by the Department of Anthropology, UC Berkeley. The next issue of **The Jawbone** will be published March 1, 1999. Please submit all story suggestions, announcements, and calendar items for the next issue to Holly Halligan at 642.3391 or hollyh@uclink4.berkeley.edu by Tuesday, February 16.*

February 1, 1999