

The Participant Observer

Department of Anthropology
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY 14627

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MALARIA DREAMS: THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SIDE EFFECTS OF MALARIA PROPHYLAXIS ON TRAVELERS

Contributed by Allison Dorsey

Allison is a Senior Anthropology and English Major at the University of Rochester.

Malaria is a potentially fatal infectious disease found rampant in sub-Saharan Africa, parts of the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and parts of Central and South America. It affects over 40% of the world's population and is the cause of over one million deaths world wide per year. Despite the fact that malaria has been present for centuries, there is no vaccination for permanent protection against the disease. What travelers rely on are various malaria prophylaxes, and even when taking those, one is not entirely immune to malaria fever.

Over recent years there have been studies concerning the rate of side effects among travelers who were on specific drugs. One of the drugs, Mefloquine—brand name Lariam—has been gaining quite an unsavory reputation. The company that manufactures Lariam, called the Roche Company, acknowledges the fact there is a slight chance of physical adverse side effects such as vomiting, headaches, diarrhea, and hair loss. They also state that there may be a chance of psychological side effects such as depression, paranoia, anxiety and drowsiness.

However, when the company published that claim, they give the traveler the idea that experiencing any side effect is a very rare case scenario. But recent studies have shown that the warning label may be downplaying a great deal the chances of travelers having adverse side effects.

Lariam has a reputation of being both an effective and safe prophylaxis and as a drug that should be used with extreme caution. Medical professionals who perform general practice lean towards the idea that Lariam is safe and that adverse side effects are often linked with travelers being stressed and/or getting too worked up over whether or not Lariam is safe, they infect themselves with many of the symptoms that Lariam can cause. However, medical professionals who work in specialized travel clinics feel that Lariam usage should be monitored.

There have been medical studies conducted about Lariam's rate in causing both physical and psychological side effects. Although this undertaking was not a medical project in which actual self conducted experiments were performed, the results taken from previously performed experiments, as well as from medical articles and interviews with travelers on Lariam show results that differ from what the Roche Company is publishing. These differing results could lead to someone having permanent psychological damage from taking a medication that was suppose to protect them from disease.

2003 ANTHROPOLOGY SPRING CONFERENCE**FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH, 2003****RUSH RHEES LIBRARY****WELLES-BROWN ROOM****Student Presentations: 2:00 - 4:00 pm****Guest Speaker: 4:30 pm**

JOIN US TO WELCOME OUR GUEST FROM

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

PROFESSOR JUDITH GOODE

PRESENTING,

**“THE LIMITS OF LOCAL ACTIVISM: HOW HELPING INSTITUTIONS
CAN DISRUPT LOCAL ORGANIZING”**

Judith Goode's research interests focus on urban anthropology and the anthropology of social policy. She has led team research in Philadelphia focused on class and racial dynamics for over two decades and before that in Medellin, Colombia. Like most early North Americanists, she began her career outside the U.S. She played a role in the development of both urban anthropology and the critical anthropology of North America. She helped found both what is now SUNTA (Society for Urban, National and Transnational Anthropology) in the 1970s and SANA (Society for the Anthropology of North America) in the 1990s and was honored to serve as president of both. In 2000, she was proud to be awarded the SANA Prize for Distinguished Achievement in the Critical Anthropology of North America. She is currently the Chair of the American Anthropological Association Committee on Public Policy which is working to make the voice of anthropology more central in public debates on issues such as welfare, environmental justice and health disparities. Her major Philadelphia-based field projects explore the intersection of race and class in local neighborhoods as the city undergoes massive economic and demographic transition. Since 1999, along with Susan Hyatt, former postdoc Jeff Maskovsky and a group of graduate students, she has been looking at the impact of different government interventions on poor people's civic participation in three neighborhoods. Earlier, she was supported by the Ford Foundation in the Changing Relations Project that examined new immigrants settling in a racially divided city. Earlier projects included the use of food in maintaining ethnic identity among fourth generation Italian American enclaves and a study of the transition of supermarket workers to worker ownership.

For more information on Judith Goode visit Temple University at
<http://www.temple.edu>

ALUMNI UPDATES:

Kristin Dowell (BA '99) is keeping herself busy. She is currently writing grants and preparing to do her dissertation fieldwork starting this summer in Vancouver, British Columbia with First Nations filmmakers.

Joe Lanning (BA '00) is working on a master's degree in global history at the University of Rochester in addition to working 25 hours a week as a recruiter for the Peace Corps for the Rochester-Buffalo area. The world Education Fund for Women is still his passion and was one of the sponsors for the volunteer trip he took with 7 undergraduate students, and others, to Malawi to work in rural schools over the winter break. The foundation was started by Joe to eliminate gender disparities in schools in the developing world.

Grace Pazdan (BA '00), after completing her service in the Peace Corps Morocco this summer, is now living in DC and is working as a volunteer/community outreach coordinator for an agency that operates several homeless shelters in Northern Virginia. She is keeping her feminist spirit alive as a Saturday morning abortion clinic escort, DC Rape Crisis Center and Feminist Majority Foundation volunteer. This fall she is applying for law school and hopes to pursue a career in public interest law, advocating for indigent women.

Amanda Silver (BA '98) is the Social Action Coordinator for B'nai Jeshurun Synagogue in New York City. She coordinates a volunteer-run homeless shelter, soup kitchen, mentoring program, the Social Action Committee, Latin American Committee, and the environmental action task force.

George Getman (BA'97) now has a job with the Rochester Housing Authority. He's now a Housing Specialist, which entails screening and interviewing applicants for public housing. There is a big demand for services and with upcoming cuts in the funding his position is all the more important to make sure that vacancies remain low. It's been going well so far and he's fitting in quite well.

FACULTY UPDATES

Professor **Nancy Forand** published "The Language Ideologies of Courtship Ritual: Maya Pentecostals and Folk Catholics" in the fall 2002 issue of *Journal of American Folklore*.

Professor **Ernestine McHugh** gave a public lecture on Buddhist values and the problem of globalization and materialism at Roberts Wesleyan College in the Cultural Life lecture series. She gave the opening address for the Gurung (Tamu) USA Society's annual dinner and cultural program in New York. Her address was entitled, "Gurung Sanskriti and Manko Gyan" (Gurung Culture and the Wisdom of the Heart) and was delivered in Nepali and Gurung. Professor McHugh was also named book review editor for the *Himalayan Research Bulletin* in October.

Got an announcement or an update?
Want to share it with us?
E-mail us at anthro@mail.rochester.edu
and we'll be sure to get you into the next
edition!

Anthropologist named Anthony Professor

Taken from the February 13th, 2003 issue of the U of R Currents

Anthropologist Signithia Fordham, newly named the Susan B. Anthony Professor of Gender and Women's Studies, sees her five-year appointment as a way to "create the world that I want to exist." In a recent interview, Fordham discussed the focus of her research and teaching.

Your dissertation research was hailed as a groundbreaking study of student attitudes and values in an inner-city high school and is still being discussed today. Can you describe the research?

I spent three years studying a high school in Washington, D.C., and found what I, as an anthropologist, called "the acting white hypothesis" and what sociologists term "oppositional peer culture."

Black students were resisting a long history of discrimination, and this resistance was manifested both as conformity to and avoidance of a school system that compelled students not only to devalue the African-American community but also to embrace and internalize the mores and practices of the school in exchange for academic achievement.

As African-Americans, the students I studied wanted to belong to the African-American community. But school compels minority kids to "leave their group," so to speak; to embrace many of the practices sanctioned by the larger society. I think the achievement problem is structurally induced, because we have a tracking system that exists in most public schools with "gifted" programs and regular academic programs. If we could figure out a way to change the academic structure, I think the response of the kids would be vastly different.

How does this work complement your teaching?

This semester I'm teaching a course on women and society and one on race and gender in urban schools. I am also interested in developing a course called Hair, Skin, and Bones because, I argue, if we do away with the idea of race, I think people will be judged more explicitly on these features; we will perhaps be using hair, skin, and bones as the structures to say, "This person's good or not good."

I'm also interested in developing a course around the idea of "passing for black," that is, about collective identity and how that identity is shaping and has shaped people who we call black. And a course on female aggression to explore questions like what is the meaning of female aggression, who competes with whom and why and what are they competing for, what is the role of males in this, how do mothers teach daughters to compete, and how do teachers reinforce it.

What does the Susan B. Anthony professorship mean to you?

My focus is to think and talk about the issues that are important and that might not be popular. In my thinking, that is the embodiment of Susan B. Anthony. She was not satisfied with the way the world was, and she said, in her own way, I have to create the world that I want to exist. I'm very, very honored to have this position and this title, which gives me the opportunity to be an activist for change.

For the full article visit

<http://www.rochester.edu/pr/Currents/V31/V31N03/story06.html>

EVENTS OF
ANTHROPOLOGICAL
INTEREST

BOOKS NOT BOMBS RALLY

On March 5th, 2003, high school and college students all over the country marched in solidarity as part of the Student Day of Action entitled, "Books not Bombs!" U of R students were no exception. From 12-1 pm they gathered on the steps of Rush Rhees library to hear poetry, short stories, and keynote speakers including the Anthropology Department's own, Professor Tom Gibson. The event was sponsored by the U of R Students for Social Justice.

SANKOFA THE STORYTELLER VISITS UR

David A. Anderson will perform as Sankofa the Storyteller, retelling tales of ancient people and touching on themes of contemporary life, in a presentation titled "Striding Toward Freedom" from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, March 6, in the Havens Lounge of Wilson Commons.

A Rochester resident, Anderson is chairman of the Rochester-Monroe County Freedom Trail Commission and a teacher of African-American studies at Rochester area colleges. He also has performed at various events, including the annual National Black Storytelling Festivals. He directed the festival in 2000 and received the Zara Neale Hurston Award.

His award-winning storybooks include *The Origin of Life on Earth: An African Creation Myth* and *Kwanzaa: An Everyday Resource and Instruction Guide*. Anderson's presentation is sponsored by the Departments of Anthropology and English, the Undergraduate Anthropology Council, and the College Diversity Roundtable at the University of Rochester.

Africa Video & Film Series "Liberia: America's Stepchild"

This dramatic documentary follows the parallel stories of America's relationship with the African republic of Liberia—founded and backed by the American



Colonization Society and the US government as a home for freeborn blacks and former slaves—and the settlers' relationship with the indigenous people. It was shown on Wednesday, March 5th, from 5-7:00 pm in Morey 302.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS INSTITUTE VISITING SPEAKERS SERIES

"Comrade Sister: Voices of Women in the Black Panther Party"

Art and Art History Professor Phyllis J. Jackson from Pomona College spoke on Thursday, February 7th, at 4:30pm in the Welles-Brown Room of Rush Rhees Library. Jackson's research and teaching interests center on the arts of Africa and the African Diaspora, Black Feminism(s), Women's Studies and Cultural Studies. She curated the art exhibition, "(in)FORMING the Visual: (re)PRESENTING Women of African Descent" and has an essay in an upcoming issue of the *International Review of African American Art* as well as the forthcoming collection *Global Black African Diaspora 2000 Series: Roots, Routes, and Redefinitions*, Vol. 1. She is co-producer and co-director of the documentary video "Comrade Sister: Voices of Women in the Black Panther Party" (a work-in-progress), which was viewed during the event. The video was followed by a question and answer session.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
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**Research Seminar:
"Race, Gender and Schooling"**

On April 3rd, 2003, Professor Signithia Fordham will be participating in a Research Seminar sponsored by the Susan B. Anthony Center For Gender and Women's Studies. The topic of the seminar will be "Race, Gender and Schooling." It will take place from 12:30 to 2:00 pm in 540 Lattimore Hall on the University campus.

**Graduate School and Fellowship
Seminar**

On March 24th, the Undergraduate Anthropology Council sponsored an informational session on graduate schools and fellowships that was well attended by students who were considering continued education. The event featured anthropology professors Robert Foster and Tom Gibson and Belinda Redden from the Center for Academic Support. It was held from 12-1:30 pm in the Anthropology Department lounge.

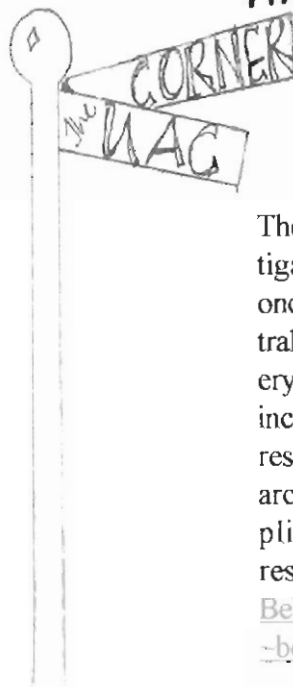
March Major Madness!

On March 31st, the Anthropology Department will be holding an open house as part of "March Major Madness." The purpose of this event is to help freshmen and sophomores learn more about the majors offered by The College's various departments and programs. Students are expected to declare their concentrations and clusters by the end of their sophomore year. The open house will allow students who have not decided on their major to talk to other students, as well as the department's faculty and staff. The open house is being done in conjunction with the Undergraduate Anthropology Council. It will be held in the Anthropology Department Lounge from 12:30-1:30 pm. Refreshments will be served.

Karam Awarded APLA Prize

The 2002 APLA Student Paper Prize was awarded at the 2002 AAA Annual Meeting in New Orleans to John Karam, a doctoral candidate at Syracuse University and alumni of the University of Rochester. The title of his paper was "Intensified Eth(n)ics: Arab Brazilians and Political Representation in Neoliberal Brazil." In the paper, Karam examines how, in the context of Brazilian neoliberalization, "Arab" Brazilian politicians—as such—have come under intense scrutiny in the media. The paper adroitly demonstrates how representations of these politicians in the idiom of ethnic foods highlight their ethnicity and make them the embodiment of corrupt governmental practices. By way of response to such forms of stereotyping, Lebanese Brazilians have sought to celebrate their ethnic identity through the celebration—within the City Council building—of Lebanese Independence Day, and, in the process, to produce an ethnic imagery imbued with more ethics. The paper argues, then, that Lebanese politicians have responded to negative stereotypes by deepening and intensifying both ethnic and ethnic self-representations. The paper will be published in a forthcoming issue of *PoLAR* and should be of interest to a wide audience of *PoLAR* readers. Karam was awarded a \$300 prize and APLA contributed an additional \$300 toward his travel expenses for the Annual Meeting.

The Undergraduate Anthropology Council Corner



Here's some information on upcoming fieldschools and research opportunities for the summer:

ARCHAEOLOGY IN BELIZE, CENTRAL AMERICA

The Western Belize Regional Cave Project announces its speleoarchaeological investigations for the summer of 2003! The Western Belize Regional Cave Project will once again be conducting archaeological research within various caves in Belize, Central America this coming summer. This regional study will involve caves in the periphery of the ancient Maya city of Caracol and caves investigated in previous seasons, including Actun Chapat (Cave of the Centipede), and Actun Halal (Dart Cave). This research program provides an opportunity for participants to experience ancient Maya archaeology in a hands-on, educational, and exciting jungle setting in Belize. For applications and more information all interested parties should respond via e-mail to Cameron Griffith or Reiko Ishihara, Co-Field Directors, at: BelizeMaya@aol.com, reikoish@yahoo.com Find them on the Web! www.indiana.edu/~belize

NSF SUMMER PROGRAM IN BIOCULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

This is a 6-week, 6-credit undergraduate research course sponsored by the National Science Foundation. We will be analyzing the palcopathology of a large skeletal collection from a Byzantine monastery in Jerusalem. Housing, transportation, food, books, and field trip costs are covered by the program. This is a national competition for 10 fellowships. For further information, please see the web site or contact: Susan Sheridan (sheridan.5@nd.edu) or Robert Haak (haak.3@nd.edu). The application deadline for the research course has been extended to March 17, 2003. Please see the program web site for further details: www.nd.edu/~stephens.

TIBETAN BORDERLANDS ANTHROPOLOGY FIELD EXPEDITION

Himalayan Health Exchange will organize a 3-week anthropology field expedition to the remote Himalayan region of SPITI, located in North India and Tibetan Borderlands in 2003. The trip will also include a visit to Dharamsala (home to his holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and Tibetans in Exile). The expedition offers fieldwork and research opportunities for students, faculty and anybody else interested in the anthropology of the region. It offers knowledge and understanding of the evolution of ancient Tibetan and Himalayan culture, social, and religious practices and beliefs from ancient BonPon era to present - day Buddhism. The application deadline is March 31, 2003. For more information contact the Himalayan Health Exchange at 404-929-9399 or e-mail: info@himalayanhealth.com. You may also contact Anindita Rao via anindita@yahoo.com

Check out events sponsored by the Anthropology Department at
<http://www.rochester.edu/calendar>

From the Editor's Desk

As I have attended anti-war rallies, marches and meetings in the past 6 months, it has been very interesting to observe some of the discourse surrounding preemption. My own personal research interests have included violence in American culture and I have specifically looked at Margaret Mead's analysis of violence in *And Keep Your Powder Dry*. Mead wrote that Americans walk around with a chip on their shoulders, constantly tempting someone else to knock it off so the rationalization "he started it!" could be used. She observes that though American children are told to stand up for themselves and fight back, they are only allowed to do so when the blame for beginning the fight can be laid on someone else. To start a fight, or knock the chip off of someone's shoulders, is to be a bully.

In recent days, however, I have not been able to get Mead's words out of my head in relationship to the current war with Iraq. The doctrine of "he started it" that has been used by every child in America at one point or another to justify violent action has been replaced with "he was gonna start it!"

Many Americans have noticed this shift and the inherent cultural conflict that has emerged because of it. When I attended the Washington D.C. anti-war rally on October 26th, 2002, I witnessed a manifestation of this conflict. Some pro-

testers held signs that referred to the U.S. as a bully; others held posters stating, "America NEVER strikes first." The disparities between the rationale used to justify our present use of violent force and Americans' historical emphasis on only using violence as a means of retaliation in defense of oneself from bullies have thrust many into a state of complete disillusionment.

Questions or comments on any articles or upcoming events? Please feel free to contact us!

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American cultural values surrounding violence are changing right in front of our eyes. Many now believe that preemptive violence is an acceptable move on the part of the U.S. government. Much of the discourse that was first occurring about this issue in the media and between individuals has died down. Our cultural contempt for those who attack without reason, attack without showing their faces and start fights without provocation is now being embraced as we attack, with little justifiable evidence, a country that is not "our size" or our strength. We have moved from only retaliating when someone knocks the chip off our shoulder to starting fights on the possibility that we would have been attacked first.

What we once taught our children about violence we are now staunchly and, for some, proudly contradicting. I expect we will see a definite change in violence within our homeland. We will approach individuals who threaten us differently, we will justify violence differently, we will teach our children differently and we will respond to violence differently. These are interesting days for anthropologists in America. We are witnessing and participating in yet another defining cultural conflict.

* Mark Your Calendar *

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| * March 24, 12:00 - 1:00 pm - Lattimore 444
Graduate School and Fellowship Seminar | * April 11
Professor Meredith Small, Cornell University
"The Natural History of Babies" |
| * March 31, 12:30 - 1:30 PM - Lattimore 444
March Madness Event - Anthropology Open House | * April 23 - Hirst Lounge, W.C.
Senior Seminar Expo |
| * April 1, 4:00 - 5:00 PM - Lattimore 441
John Burdick, Professor of Anthropology, Syracuse University | * April 25, 1:30 pm - Welles-Brown Room
Anthropology Spring Conference
Professor Judith Goode, Temple University |
| * April 10, 2:00 PM - Bausch & Lomb 416
Screening of Marian Marzyński's Film, SHTETL | * May 18
Commencement |