

Volume 3    Number 1    February 1991

**AARG EVENTS PLANNED AT SFAA IN CHARLESTON, SC**

The AIDS and Anthropology Research Group will host several events at the annual meetings, from March 13th to the 17th, of the Society for Applied Anthropology in Charleston, South Carolina. Since the program has not yet been published, the times and locations of the events are not yet known. There will be a business meeting, a national roundtable discussion, and one sponsored session. The session, AIDS in the Third World, is being organized by Douglas A. Feldman of the University of Miami Medical School. It is more than likely that there will be an informal cash bar set up for a social gathering for those AARG members who are attending the meetings. The steering committee meeting will take place immediately prior to the business meeting in an as of now unknown location. It is unlikely that there will be another newsletter prior to these meetings, thus, it will be necessary for members to consult the official program of the SFAA for times and locations.

**COMPREHENSIVE ANTHROPOLOGY AND AIDS BIBLIOGRAPHY  
CONTINUES TO BE COMPILED.**



As announced in the newsletter for September, a bibliography of anthropological papers and publications dealing with AIDS will be published in the May, 1991, issue of the Journal of Sex Research. AARG members can be of assistance in making this bibliography as complete as possible if they would send copies of their publications and/or citations to their works to Ralph Bolton, Dept. of Anthropology, Pomona College, Claremont, CA 91711. The final version will include materials published through March 1991. Following the publication of this bibliography, the co-chairs intend to produce periodic updates to be published in the AARG Newsletter.

## ATF CURRICULUM PROJECT ALSO CONTINUES

It is still not too late to send materials for the CURRICULUM PROJECT sponsored by the AIDS and Anthropology Task Force. See September, 1990, Newsletter. Publication is now envisioned for some time in 1991. Send inquiries and materials to: Ralph Bolton, Dept. of Anthropology, Pomona College, Claremont, CA 91711; (714) 621-8000, ext. 2228 or (714) 625-2133; FAX 714 621-8403; Bitnet RBOLTON@POMONA.CLAREMONT,EDU.

NOMINATIONS FOR AARG STEERING  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS SOLICITED

A call for nominations for AARG steering committee members appeared in the September newsletter. Your disenchanted reporter has no choice other than to announce that no nominations were forthcoming from the membership for the two available slots on the steering committee. As a consequence of this lapse in enthusiasm your editor is taking it upon himself to nominate the two previous members whose terms of office had expired, Paul Farmer and Lucia Cargill. The positions for which they are running will expire in 1993. On the enclosed ballot, these two names appear plus a space for a write-in candidate. Any current dues-paying member (1990 or 1991) is eligible. Refer to the enclosed membership list. The two names receiving the highest number of votes will become the newly elected steering committee members, contingent upon their willingness to serve. Please make your choice for the individuals to fill these positions known. Ralph Bolton and myself are endeavoring to make these positions more than just honorary titles. The expanded roles of the steering committee positions will be placed on the agenda of the business meeting in Charleston, SC.

## AARG CO-CHAIR AND SECRETARY TO BE ELECTED

The second area on the ballot is for the purpose of electing the important position of junior co-chair for the organization. The junior co-chair will serve for a term of two years, the first year as junior co-chair and the second as senior co-chair. Any steering committee member who is not currently an officer of the organization is eligible for this position. The second listing of names on the ballot includes the current steering committee members as well as the space for the write-in candidate of your choice. The individual receiving the greatest number of votes will be

designated junior co-chair and the individual receiving the second highest number of votes will be secretary of AARG.

#### BALLOTS TO BE RETURNED BY MARCH 1, 1991

Election ballots are to be returned to Norris G. Lang by March 1, 1991. A numbered election ballot for steering committee positions and for junior co-chair are enclosed with this newsletter. Send the completed ballot to Norris G. Lang, Senior co-chair, AARG, Department of Anthropology, University of Houston, Houston Texas 77204-5882.

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR SOLICITED

It was brought up at the business meeting in New Orleans in November that there was a need to create a new position on the steering committee. Previously the duties of the newsletter editor had been handled by the senior co-chair. It was felt by the current co-chairs, as well as by those steering committee members in attendance, that a reshuffling of duties, namely designating one of our membership as newsletter editor, would enhance the overall operating effectiveness of the steering committee. Accordingly, the co-chairs could then expand their endeavors into other areas of service to the membership. The newsletter editor will be an extremely important position. For the sake of continuity, it is desirable that this position be scheduled to last a minimum of two and a maximum of three years. The current system does not allow the senior co-chair to familiarize himself sufficiently with the duties and mechanics of the position until it is time for him/her to step down. The members of the steering committee along with those officers present at the steering committee meeting in Charleston will decide which person will fill this extremely important position. Should you be a current dues-paying member of AARG (1990 or 1991) and be interested in serving as the newsletter editor, please contact Ralph Bolton or Norris Lang prior to the Society for Applied Anthropology meetings in Charleston, SC.

#### CALL FOR PAPERS, 1991 AAA SESSION CULTURE AND THE EXPERIENCE OF AIDS

Stephen L. Eyre is seeking to organize a session at next year's annual meeting which presents papers examining the

role of culture in adaptation to HIV illness. Each participant would present an analysis of one or a set of narratives recounting alteration of self-perception, social identity, or life trajectory in response to pain, loss, separation, or other adversity related to HIV illness. In order to achieve coherence, Eyre envisions a format wherein each presenter would offer background and summary of an individual case, some verbatim transcripts, and an analysis. Analyses would direct themselves to the use of cultural images, propositions, or systems to effect changes in the self or the environment in response to circumstances posed by this illness, offering some conclusions as to the nature of this process. If you have access to material of this nature and think you would be interested in participating in this session, please contact Stephen L. Eyre by phone (w. 415-476-9622, h. 415-864-6406) or write him at the following address: Department of Pediatrics Box 0314, Division of Adolescent Medicine AC-1, University of California Medical Center, San Francisco, CA 94743.

#### POTENTIAL CHAPTER CONTRIBUTORS SOUGHT

Two different requests for contributors to chapters in potential publications are being sought. (1) Your co-chairs, Ralph Bolton and Norris Lang, are seeking contributors to a volume on AIDS and the third world that will cater to a university audience and that will be published by Studies in Third World Societies, which specializes in international and interdisciplinary publications on Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The attraction is a quick turn-around time for publication at a comparatively inexpensive price, most suitable for textbook use. Send manuscripts to Ralph Bolton, Department of Anthropology, Pomona College, Claremont California 91711.

(2) Douglas A. Feldman is soliciting additional contributors for a prospective volume on "Global AIDS Policy" he is editing for Bergin and Garvey Publishers. The volume of collected essays is based on a symposium Dr. Feldman organized for AAA at the meetings in New Orleans. Send your manuscripts to Douglas A. Feldman, Associate Professor, University of Miami School of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health (R-669), P.O. Box 01609, Miami, FL 33101.

EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
IN COLLABORATION WITH U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL  
ANNOUNCE POST-DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN HIV/AIDS

The Department of Health and Human Services has identified AIDS as the foremost public health problem in the United States. There is a need for researchers, particularly behavioral and social scientists, to lead and participate in cross-disciplinary research. This program will provide training for doctoral-level sociologists, psychologists, and anthropologists, and related disciplines in the orientation and methods of public health. It will provide education on aspects of HIV/AIDS and opportunities for collaboration in multidisciplinary research being conducted at a major center for public health research.

The 2-year program combines half-time course work at Emory University's School of Public Health culminating in a Master's of Public Health (MPH) degree, with a half-time position in a unit at the Centers for Disease Control, investigating aspects of HIV/AIDS.

Trainees will enter in cohorts of six, beginning each July 1 with CDC's three-week Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) course. At the conclusion of the EIS course, trainees will investigate opportunities for collaborative research on HIV/AIDS at CDC and select a position in one of the available groups. Each potential site will provide a social/behavioral scientist who will serve as "mentor."

Concurrently, a course of study for the MPH degree will begin at Emory. The traineeship pays tuition and fees for academic work towards the MPH degree at Emory University. Trainees receive stipends ranging from \$17,000 to \$31,500, depending on experience after receiving the Ph.D. Stipends will be supplemented by support for moving expenses and travel to professional meetings and research sites.

To apply: submit the following: a letter indicating your career plans and how this program will complement or advance them; an up-to-date curriculum vita; a list of three persons who would be willing to write letters of reference; and a sample of your written work (paper or article). Review of applications for the first cohort (entering July 1, 1991) will begin January 7, 1991. Submit application, supporting materials and requests for additional information to:  
Richard M. Levinson, Ph.D., Post Doctoral Program Director,  
School of Public Health, Emory University, American Cancer  
Society Building, 1599 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30329.  
Telephone: (404) 727-7806; FAX: (404) 727-8744.

## AIDS DOCUMENTARY SCREENED AT AAA MEETINGS IN NEW ORLEANS

"AIDS Alive, a portrait of hope," a 60 minute documentary tells the story of men and women coping with AIDS. Methods of dealing with the devastation of the disease with a focus on the healing aspects of alternative medical and spiritual approaches are examined. The documentary gives an in depth view of the psychological effects and social stigma attached to being a person with AIDS. The film shows how fierce determination and the power of a belief system enable some long-term survivors to rise above the depression and despair usually associated with having AIDS. Co-producer, Anita Wexler, tells her own story of battling AIDS. To order, please send your check or money order for \$29.95 plus \$3.00 for postage and handling for each VHS cassette to: Judy Benjamin, 277 W. 11th Street, New York, N.Y. 10014; telephone number: (212) 727-7614. New York State residents add 8.25 percent.

## PHOTODOCUMENTARY ON DRUG ADDICTION AND AIDS AVAILABLE

Project Change, a project formed to portray alternatives to the popular perception of drug addiction, presents a photodocumentary entitled: "Reaching the Other World - Portraits and Stories of Americans Fighting Drug Addiction and AIDS. Through photographic portraits and personal stories, participants from Massachusetts offer a view of their world from their own experiences. They tell us who becomes a drug user, what it is like, and what it takes to recover from this social illness and live with an HIV positive diagnosis.

The Project Director is Margaret Connors, anthropologist and AIDS researcher, whose research and advocacy work has been featured in USA Today, The Boston Globe, and The Chronicle of Higher Education. The photographer is Fay Breed who has exhibited throughout New England. The exhibit is funded in part by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, the D.C. Communities Council, The Haymarket People's Fund, Partners in Health, and the New England AIDS Education and Training Center.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO AARG MEMBERSHIP

Two volumes have recently been published which are of interest to most of our readership. These are Culture and AIDS edited by Douglas A. Feldman and Bodies, Pleasures, and Passions, Sexual Culture in Contemporary Brazil authored by Richard G. Parker.

Feldman's Culture and AIDS is written almost entirely by anthropologists. Thirteen essays explore the social and cultural context of AIDS related behavior and clarify key domains in AIDS and the social sciences. This volume seeks to broaden its readers' understanding of how AIDS is "changing our lives as it redirects human experience." According to the promotional brochure, "Culture and AIDS is not intended as an introduction to AIDS. It looks at AIDS as a cultural phenomenon. It includes an introduction and postscript by its editor, Douglas A. Feldman. Eleven essays explore: AIDS in Rwanda (Central Africa); A Haitian village handling AIDS; possible cofactors in HIV transmission; social service needs of gay men with AIDS in NYC; psychological factors influencing adjustment among HIV-infected gay men in Houston; social behavior of female prostitutes in London; social effects of AIDS on minority women; AIDS-related stigma in the press; language and AIDS; and other AIDS related areas." The price is \$42.95 ISBN 0-275-93189-7. 224 pages. October 1990. Praeger Publishers.

Richard Parker's volume contains bedrock information concerning Brazilian cultural scripts and their adaptation in a sophisticated treatment of the cultural construction of sexuality in a large-scale society. Gilbert Herdt feels that it "is a significant contribution to sex and gender research. Parker has linked the history of sexuality with contemporary forms of sexual experiences in a way that demonstrates a compelling social form of excitement and repression in a radically different (Third-World) society." From the flyleaf, "Interweaving historical records and numerous personal testimonies from Brazilians in all walks of life, Parker demonstrates that what lies at the heart of the sexuality pervading Brazilian culture is not one reality, but many. Brazil's sexual practices, situated within the context of a patriarchal social order and dominated by the Catholic church, outwardly appear traditional and severely limited. Parker shows us, however, that this is just one of many possible perspectives on the nature of sex in contemporary Brazil....The eroticism of this private world in turn spills out into the public in the form of the yearly festival of carnaval. Parker concludes his study with a detailed description of this event, a wild and perfect expression of the diverse, contradictory meanings that structure Brazilian sexual life." The price is \$24.95 ISBN 0-8070-4102-5. 203 pages. Beacon press.

## COOPERATION COLUMN

Moses Pounds, AARG's own Treasurer, is interested in hearing from other AARG members who are interested in doing research with health care providers. His topic of specific interest concerns health care providers and AIDS related issues including but not limited to perception of risk, perception of risk population and barriers to care. If you are interested or have completed such research please contact Dr. Pounds at the following address: Moses B. Pounds, Ph.D., Project Director, Mid-Atlantic AIDS Regional Education and Training Center, University of Maryland at Baltimore, 520 West Lombard Street, Baltimore, MD 21201, (301) 328-8334.

## PAPER IN SEARCH OF AN INVITED SESSION

Following is an abstract for a paper sent to the editor by Stephanie Kane for next year's annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association in Chicago. If, after reading the abstract below, you are interested in having Stephanie participate in a panel you are organizing you may contact her at the following address (please allow two weeks each way): Stephanie Kane, Ph.D., General Delivery, Punta Gorda Town, Belize, Central America.

ABSTRACT: "LOKI'S TOAST, AND A TREATISE ON THE PROS AND CONS OF PROSTITUTION FROM A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE. The author ponders a piece of African American oral poetry called a toast. It was composed by a group of male prisoners 20 or 30 years ago, and told from memory to the author while she was doing ethnography on Chicago's Southside by Loki, co-worker and poet. The toast enacts a relationship between a pimp and pro of mythic proportions. But because it already sounds as if it comes from another time, it highlights social transformations in the urban American sex trade that have transpired since the advent of cocaine and AIDS."

## INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will come out in April subsequent to the meetings in Charleston, SC. Please send any information which you would like included in this issue of the newsletter to our editorial office: Norris G. Lang, Senior Co-Chair, AARG, Department of Anthropology, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 77004