

NOTES FROM THE ABA

A Publication Of The Association of Black Anthropologists

SOCIOLOGY-ANTHROPOGY DEPT.

FEDERAL CITY COLLEGE

929 E ST., NW WASH., D.C. 20005

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ABA WILL MEET AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY

In the past few years, the ABA has been scheduling its annual meetings in conjunction with that of the AAA. Since most of our members are also due paying members of the AAA, we were usually assigned a room at the AAA headquarters to discuss the affairs of our association. Due to some rather unpleasant experiences with the AAA bureaucracy, we should begin to dream of the day when the ABA will no longer conduct its business in the shadow of the American Anthropologist Association.

This year in Washington we are trying to move on our own power. For the first time in our history we are meeting outside the AAA meeting headquarters, at the venue which symbolically reflects our willingness to be free, creative and dedicated Black Social Scientists.

Two business sessions are scheduled (see Agenda in this issue) at the following address:

Frederick Douglass Hall
Room B21 (Basement)
HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Time - Thursday November 18th
at 7:00 PM
Friday November 19th
at 7:00 PM

ABA WILL HELP BLACK ANTHROPOLOGISTS

IN WASHINGTON

This year the ABA will try to make your stay in Washington more enjoyable.

We will place a table in the lobby of the Washington Hilton. The table will be attended by the members of the executive committee and other volunteers.

Those who cannot afford the exorbitant rate of the Washington Hilton will find a list of moderately priced hotels available at the ABA table. The attendant at the table will be ready to accept new membership applications. Those of you who have not joined the ABA can do so in Washington.

We are also proud to announce that we will provide scheduled transportation from the Washington Hilton to Howard University for those who want to attend the ABA business meetings.

WASHINGTON D.C. BUSINESS MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ANTHROPOLOGISTS

Important issues are expected to be discussed at the two business meetings of the ABA which will take place during the 1976 Annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association (Washington, D.C., November 17 -21).

We will discuss important issues concerning the future of the association. We need the contribution of all those interested.

We urge everyone to attend and participate. In order to facilitate your participation we are publishing in this issue of the Newsletter of the agenda which has been established by the Executive Committee. If there are other issues or questions you wish us to discuss, feel free to write to the committee, or you may inform us of your wish before the meeting. We will do our best to accommodate you.

We urge everyone to attend and participate. Our Agenda Follows:

ABA BUSINESS MEETINGS

Thursday, November 18, 1976
7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Howard University

Agendum

Chairperson-Gwen Mikell

- I. Report from the Executive Committee of the ABA 1976. Analysis of incorporation, tax-exemption, membership drive and yearly activities. (Executive Committee members: Ira Harrison, Pat Guthrie, Walton Johnson, Anselme Remy, John Smith and Gwen Mikell)
- II. Presentation of Executive Committee state -nomination of members to Executive Committee
- III. Changes in the Constitution which have been made will be discussed.
- IV. Budget for 1977 to be presented and discussed.
- V. Resolution on Southern Africa to be placed before the general assembly.

Friday, November 19, 1976
7:00-10:00p.m., Howard University

Chairperson - Gwen Mikell

- I. Completion of any unfinished business from ABA business meeting of November 18, 1976.
- II. Fund-raising and Membership suggestions for the Association of Black Anthropologists.

III. Relationship between ABA and 3rd World Anthropologist group.

IV. Directives for the 1977 Executive Committee; important items include copyright for the newsletter, and institutional affiliation with the association. Preperation for journal.

V. Announcements of ABA Annual Reception for Saturday, November 20, 1976 8:00 p.m. other social information.

It is possible to get your membership to the ABA while at the convention. So please come prepared to join and participate in the business meetings.

For all those interested in joining and participating in the association, but who cannot attend the Washington, D.C. meetings, there is no need to worry. The next issue of the newsletter will contain information about the meetings, and any major decision of the association will be made by mail vote, so you will be able to participate.

If there are any suggestions or questions concerning the agenda for the Washington, D.C. business meetings of the Association of Black Anthropologists, please contact:

Anselme Remy
Association of Black Anthropologists
Sociology-Anthropology Department
Room 501
Federal City College
Washington, D.C. 20057

THE CHALLENGE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

BY GWEN MIKELL

The events of the past few months in Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Southern Africa have pushed the issue of political independence to the foreground. The conflict there have brought out a variety of political and cultural loyalties as well as diverse political positions. While the majority of black within the U.S. are openly sympathetic to the oppressed blacks in Southern Africa, they have been divided on specific issues such as foreign military involvement in the liberation struggles and bi-racial composition of governments and economic plans for the "soon-to-be-independent" black countries of Southern Africa.

The recent conference of the Southern Africa Research Association at the University of Maryland College Park on Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 1976, was therefore a welcome event because some of the most significant issues in this controversy were discussed by South African scholars and activists, as well as by black American lay and academic audiences. The conference aimed at presenting the view as seen by those who had lived through the violence of apartheid and segregation, and who were active participants and supporters in the liberation struggles. Several themes were examined in depth: U.S. policy in Southern Africa; Separate Development, political and economic implications; South Africa-Diplomacy or War; The Ballot or the Bullet; Foreign Interests in Southern Africa; and finally, Africa's response to Southern Africa.

In presenting the issues, sensitive areas emerged, the primary one being the political and ideological options available to the Southern African people. The increasing militancy of the masses and the contribution of Cuba and the progressive African countries to the liberation struggles has raised the issue of whether or not socialism is the "correct" path to African liberation, and who is to define the nature of that socialism. In a March 4, 1976 N.Y. Times article, is reflected the fear that the Cuban people, and therefore by implication the 3rd world may be willing to go "Forward with Fidel, Anywhere."

There is an increasing fear even among black American intellectuals that the Soviet Union, hiding behind the mask of Cuban 3rd world concern will gradually increase its spheres of influence in Southern Africa and dominate the lives of the African people. It is an often expressed fear, voiced for example by some white intellectuals when Henry Moyana (Organizing Secretary of SARA), spoke to an audience at Georgetown University in September, 1976. If Afro-Americans allow the question of "super-powers and spheres of influence" to determine their political positions, they will often find themselves on the wrong side of Southern African issues, denying for example the strong support which the Angolan masses gave the MPLA.

The questions of where the people were in the analyses presented during the conference, and what role the masses of South African blacks played in determining the direction of the liberation struggle, raised considerable controversy. There is often a tendency to approach the Southern Africa situation with the idea that it can be negotiated away; that the leaders and political parties will

eventually reach agreements with the Kissingers of the world, bringing solutions which will end the conflict in Southern Africa. Someone from the audience responded with the observation that while the leaders negotiated, the people were taking to the streets, and taking actions which would force the world to deal with them as the determining factor in the Southern Africa liberation struggles.

We must ask ourselves where the black and progressive social scientist stand on the issue of Southern Africa. Are we to be intellectuals whose only responsibility is to provide analysis and expertise for whoever wishes to know? Or is our responsibility as anthropologists and social scientists greater than that? This is a crucial question now because foundations, universities and the government are increasing economic funding for research as well as increasing contact with black scholars who have knowledge of Southern Africa, requesting that they contribute specific political, economic and cultural analyses. Where do we as black scholars stand?

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO IN WASHINGTON D.C.

BY ANSELME REMY

The visitors to the city of Washington will always have an enjoyable stay provided that a) they know before hand what is available and where to get it, and b) they learn not to take alarm if they get lost.

The second piece of advice will be particularly useful to those who plan to drive. Though I am a resident of the District of Columbia, I often get lost while driving. The streets are laid out in

such a way that it is impossible not to get lost. I developed a sociological explanation for the seemingly confusing pattern of Washington.

According to an official account, a French architect named L'Enfant was commissioned to design and plan the city. Following a conflict with his employers, L'Enfant left for France taking his notes with him. Deprived of the plans L'Enfant had drawn, the U.S. Congress was searching for ways to build the city, when a Black man named Benjamin Banneker, who was the assistant of L'Enfant, volunteered to reproduce the design which "he had memorized." According to Banneker, L'Enfant intended to make the layout so confusing to the non-residents of the city that if the British sent someone to assassinate the president of the U.S., the assassin would not be able to find his way out of the city. This is what Banneker told these gentlemen. He gave them the city of Washington we now have. However, I have formulated my "sociological" interpretation of what really happened. It goes as follows:

After the departure of L'Enfant, Banneker who was an intelligent and astute scientist convinced himself that he could design a city. He was also smart enough to know that since he was Black, it was unlikely that his own design would be accepted by the racist members of the congress. So he decided to give fame and credit to the Frenchman L'Enfant. Nonetheless, Banneker did conceive the city of Washington, the capitol of the U.S. As expected White America rewarded Banneker by ignoring him. A quote from the book Black Guide to Washington tells us of the fate of Banneker.

"L' Enfant left the project and took his notes along with him. Recognition of Banneker's significant participation, however, is often overlooked.

Do you have a better interpretation? Even if you do have one and decide to drive while in Washington, I expect you to get lost. But...smile. If you keep telling yourself that the city was designed by a Black man, you may not feel too badly.

It does not matter if you do not drive. Washington has a lot to offer the visitor. The city has a comprehensive bus system with a city fare of forty (0.40) cents a ride. There is a subway line linking the downtown with the northeast section of the city. Washington's taxi fare is maybe the lowest in the U.S. You will be provided with the necessary information upon your arrival.

Here are some suggestions:

RESTARANTS:

Billy Simpson's
3815 Georgia Avenue, N.W.
RA3-1300

Black Tahiti
1776 K Street, N.W.
293-1770

Carib's Jamaican
7301 Georgia Ave., N.W.
291-3447

Chez Brown
519 13th Street, N.W.
737-2143
(Opera and Jazz while you dine)

Dianna's West Indian
4128 Georgia Avenue, N.W.
291-2199
(Small Neighborhood)

Ed Murphy's
2308 Georgia Ave., N.W.
234-2617

Florida Ave. Grill
The corner of 9th and Florida Ave., N.W.
(Southern Style)

The Junkanoo
1629 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
462-5111

CLUBS & DISCOS:

Bixby's Warehouse
1211 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
659-1211

French Underground
1401 20th Street, N.W.
293-3366

Mr. Henry's
601 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E.
546-8412

Play House After Dark
Near Georgia Ave. & New Hampshire, N.W.

Sagittarius
Connecticut Ave. & R Street, N.W.
332-7440

Face's
5626 Georgia Avenue, N.W.
291-6085
(for outgoing persons)

Foxtrappe
1601 R. Street, N.W.
232-2444
Private club & disco for affluent Blacks

THEATRES:

D.C. Black Repertory Co.
4935 Georgia Ave., N.W.
291-2877

Ford's Theatre
511 10th Street, N.W.
347-3393

National Theatre
1321 E Street, N.W.
NA8-3393

FOR SHOPPERS:

Georgetown Area
 Wisconsin Ave.
 (Starting on N Street, N.W.)

Garfinckel's
 14th and F Street, N.W.
 628-7730

The Hecht Co.
 7th and F Streets, N.W.
 628-5100

Woodward & Lothrop
 10th, 11th, F & G Streets, N.W.
 347-5300

SIGHTS:

Anacostia Neighborhood Museum
 2405 King Ave., S.E.
 678-1200

Archives Building
 7th and Constitution Ave.
 963-6404

Dumbarton Oaks
 1703 32nd Street, N.W.
 232-3101

Federal Bureau of Investigation
 9th Street and Pennsylvania Ave.
 393-7100

Folger Shakespeare Library
 201 East Capitol Street
 546-5370

Frederick Douglass Home
 14th and W Streets, S.E.

Freer Gallery of Art
 12th and Jefferson Drive, S.W.

Hirshorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
 Independence Ave. at 7th Street, S.W.
 381-6720

Jefferson Memorial
 Tidal Basin
 426-6821

Howard University, Founders
 Library
 Mooreland Reading Room
 2400 6th Street, N.W.

Kennedy Center for the Performing
 Arts
 254-8600

Library of Congress
 1st and East Capitol Street, S.E.
 426-5458

Lincoln Memorial
 23rd and Constitution Ave.
 426-6842

National Aquarium
 Commerce Dept. Building
 14th and Constitution Ave.
 967-2825

National Arboretum
 28th and M Streets, N.E.
 399-5400

National Education Assn.
 1201 16th Street, N.W.
 833-5496

National Gallery of Art
 Constitution Ave. and 6th Street,
 737-4215

National Geographic Society
 Explorers Hall
 17th and M Streets

The National Historical Wax
 Museum & Dolphin Theater
 Fourth & E Streets, S.W.
 554-2600

National Zoological Park
3001 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
628-4422

Seafood Wharf
Maine Avenue, S.W.

Smithsonian Institution
Nat'l Collection of Fine Arts
8th and G Streets, N.W.
381-6542

Nat'l Portrait Gallery
8th & F Streets, N.W.
381-6347

Museum of History & Tech.
12th and 14th Streets and
Constitution Ave., N.W.

Museum of Natural History
10th Street & Constitution

Air & Space Museum
9th & Independence Ave., S.W.

U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing
14th and C Streets, S.W.
WO4-7611

U.S. Dept. of the Interior Museum
C Street Between 18th and 19th Sts. N.W.
343-5016

U.S. Supreme Court
1st Street, N.E.
393-1640

U.S. Treasury Dept. Exhibit Hall
15th Street and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
W)4-2723

Washington Monument
Monument Grounds

Wilson Boat Line
Pier #4, Maine Ave. & 6th Street, S.W.
393-8300

White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
456-1414

CORRESPONDENCE

In response to the LETTER TO THE EDITOR published in the September issue of the newsletter, we reprint the following comment from one of readers:

It would be nice to have a good clear statement of the principles and philosophy behind the organization. I too would not like to see the organization degenerate into a social forum that wastes its resonances "honoring one another."

Andrey Smedley
Afro-American Studies
SUNY-BINGHAMPTON

POSITIONS OPEN

BROWN UNIVERSITY, department of Anthropology, seeks candidates to fill two positions at the rank of Assistant Professor, beginning in Fall 1977, and Instructor (Research) or Assistant Professor (Research), beginning in February or March 1977. Although the Research position has not been approved, due to a delay in the university's budgetary plans, we believe it will be in the near future. Descriptions of the openings are as follows:

Prehistoric Archaeologist:

A one year appointment in the Department of Anthropology as Instructor (Research) or Assistant Professor (Research) beginning in February or March 1977, to teach one course in quantitative methods in archaeology and to conduct public archaeology-oriented prehistoric research in New England. Ph.D. is desired.

Historical Archaeologist: A regular appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology, beginning in Fall 1977, to teach courses in archaeological method and theory and historical archaeology at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Candidates should have extensive research experience on historic sites, preferably including their dissertation project. In addition, candidates should be interested in doing research in New England area and be willing to participate in public archaeology projects. Ph. D. in anthropology required.

Interested candidates should send a current vita, brief description of interest, a short sample of work, and request three letters of recommendation be sent to: George L. Hicks, Chairman.

Representatives from the department will be at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Washington to interview candidates.

✓ THE FEDERAL CITY COLLEGE, has the following position available:

An opening exists for an appointment at the Associate or Full Professor Level for a person with sociological training. Salary is competitive. Position will be vacant beginning January 1977. The position calls for a full teaching schedule of courses (3 courses, 2 preparations per term) arranged with the Department. This person will participate in the deliberations of the Department and on departmental and college committees. Ph.D. is required. The candidate must be knowledgeable in area of Afro-American studies, sociological theory, organizations, and deviance. Preferred would be someone who is interested in working on crucial issues relating to Blacks and Third World people. The department places a strong emphasis on teaching and on good student-teacher relations.

Federal City College is an Urban land grant institution located in Washington, D.C. Send resume by early November to:

Chairperson, Recruitment Committee
Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Federal City College
929 E Street, N.W. Rm. 501
Washington, D.C. 20004

HAVERFORD COLLEGE

Haverford College seeks to hire an urban anthropologist in the rank of assistant professor, a regular three-year appointment beginning in September 1977.

This is a small, high-quality liberal arts college on the outskirts of Philadelphia which maintains cooperative relations with Bryn Mawr College and the University of Pennsylvania. The department of sociology and anthropology grounds its instruction in the classical writers: Marx, Durkheim, Weber and Freud. The incumbent of the new position is expected to have a general grasp of theory in the social sciences, to have carried out field research in urban North America, to be prepared to introduce undergraduate students to this kind of work, and to have theoretical competence and research interest in appropriate areas such as sociolinguistics, ethnicity, or social pluralism, for example.

Please draw this vacancy to the attention of potential candidates. They should have completed the Ph.D. or be close to doing so. Haverford College is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. Resumes may be sent to:

Wyatt MacGaffey
Professor of Anthropology
Haverford, PA 19041