

Culture Incribed

The Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology

--Special Halloween Issue--
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Anthropologist of the Fortnight Stephen Jay Gould (1941-2002)

By all accounts Gould was not a **ghoul** (i.e., a body snatcher or an evil spirit) nor in any way **ghoulish**. In fact, Stephen Jay Gould was among the best known paleontologists of the late 20th century. Gould made a significant contribution to science as one of the leading theorists of evolutionary theory. In his 30 years at Harvard University he was Professor of Zoology, Professor of Geology, Biology, and the History of Science, as well as curator for Invertebrate Paleontology at the institution's Museum of Comparative Zoology. He wrote a monthly column in *Natural History* magazine and wrote other more popular works making him one of the most widely read scientists of his era.

Anthropological Terms of Interest Punctuated equilibrium

Punctuated equilibrium is a theory of evolution which postulates that changes such as speciation can occur very quickly, with long periods of little change (equilibria) in between. This theory explains the evolutionary patterns of species as observed in the fossil record, particularly the relatively sudden appearance of new species in a geologically short time period. The theory of punctuated equilibrium was proposed by Niles Eldredge and Stephen Jay Gould in the 1970s (Academia.de).

Quotation of the Fortright

Objectivity cannot be equated with mental blankness; rather, objectivity resides in recognizing your preferences and then subjecting them to especially harsh scrutiny - and also in a willingness to revise or abandon your theories when the tests fail (as they usually do). — SJ Gould.

The History of Trick-Or-Treating By: Crystal Alvarez

“Trick-or-Treating” has become one of the most popular traditions in Halloween. It was brought to America in the 1800’s and thought to have originated from a European custom called ‘souling’. Early Christians would walk from village to village begging for ‘soul cakes’, pieces of bread with currants, promising that the more they got the more prayers dead relatives would receive. It was believed that the dead would be in Limbo unless prayers would be said to advance their route to heaven.

Those who refused to give ‘soul cakes’ to the beggars would risk having evil spirits destroy their homes. Trick-or-Treating became widespread in America in the 1940’s. Children would go house to house asking for candy and in return no tricks would be played on those who meet their terms!

AnthroGeek

By Mike Mullooly

Student: Hey AnthroGeek, What is a ghouls favorite flavor?

AnthroGeek: Did you know that Ghouls have their origin in the Arabic/Persian tales of *Alf Laylah wa Laylah* - The Thousand and One Nights and that etymologically, “ghoul” comes from the Arabic /ghul/ or *جول* from a verbal root meaning ‘to seize’.

Student: No, it’s lemon-slime, Ghoul-Aid!

Images in paper version only

Celebrate Los Dias de los Muertos (The Days of the Dead) By Tara Ders

Starting on October 31 and ending on November 2, treats are offered to the dead in celebration of their past lives. It is customary to offer the dead a delectable bread called Pan de Muertos and cover their graves with fruits and wines to keep them happy throughout the year. Celebrate Los Dias de los Muertos and enjoy a simple Mexican dish while attending to your doorbell's constant Halloween ringing! Enjoy!

Pico de Gallo Chicken Quesadillas

Ingredients for Pico de Gallo:

1 tomato, diced; 1/2 onion, finely chopped
1 lime, juiced; 1 tblsp chopped fresh cilantro
1/2 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced
salt and pepper to taste

Chicken Quesadilla:

1 tblsp olive oil; 1 skinless boneless chicken breast halves-cut into strips; 1/4 onion, thinly sliced; 1 clove garlic, minced; 2 (12 inch) flour tortillas; 2 ounces shredded Monterey Jack cheese; salt and pepper to taste; 2 tblsp sour cream, for topping.

1. In small bowl, combine all ingredients for the pico de gallo. Set aside.
2. In a large skillet, heat 1/2 tblspn olive oil. Add chicken, saute until cooked through and juices run clear. Remove chicken from skillet, set aside.
3. Put the remaining 1/2 tblspn of olive oil in the hot skillet and saute the sliced onion and green pepper until tender. Stir in garlic and saute until aroma is strong. Mix in half of the pico and the chicken, set aside.
4. Heat flour tortillas in heavy skillet. Spread 1/2 of the shredded cheese on the tortilla and top with the chicken mixture. Sprinkle remaining cheese on top of the chicken and cover with tortilla. Flip and cook on the opposite side. Remove quesadilla and cut into quarters. Serve with sour cream and remaining pico de gallo.
(Adapted from Allrecipes.com)

Upcoming Events

-- Cineculture --

WHEN: Friday, October 29nd, 7:00pm.

WHERE: ED 170, Kremen School of Education

FILM: **MACARIO** (Roberto Gavaldon, 1960)

AnthroClub

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, **November 2nd at 5pm.** Plan on attending.

The "Real Halloween": A brief history By Gilberto Lopez

"All Hallow's eve", or the "Night of the Spirits" is one of the two most important seasonal festivals in Celtic culture. It symbolizes the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the new year which starts off dark and cold. This is a time of rounding up cattle and storing crops in preparation for the coming winter. During this time there is a celebration to honor the gods for the harvest.

It is on the eve of the new year, "all Hallows eve" (later evolved to Halloween), that the gates dividing the human world and the super natural world open. This is where the tradition of ghosts and spirits comes from; it represents the interaction of the living and the dead. The dead are said to return to visit their relatives expecting to be entertained. In Celtic times food would be left outside the door and the doors would be left unlocked so the dead relative could enter the house. If a person did not want a visit from the dead they would leave out the heads of dead animals or a carved pumpkin-like produce, in the shape of an evil face, so as to scare off the spirits. Today's version of this is the use of Jack O' Lanterns, pumpkins could not have been used by the Celts because it is a produce native to North America. Instead a smaller type of fruit was used.

The association of death and Halloween has been believed to be from some sort of sacrificial ritual performed by the Celts. These rituals happen to occur during this time of year when this world and the supernatural world interact thus leading to a quicker transition of the spirit of the sacrificed into the other realm. Some anthropologists argue death is only an analogy used to represent the dying of the old year.

Halloween around the World

By Elizabeth Campos

We all know that Halloween is celebrated with candy, parties, costumes, and tricks, here in the United States. It is very common for everyone to enjoy a day or even a week of tricks that manifest from the high sugar consumption of Americans. Kids go trick or treating in the evening dressed in their favorite personalities or superheroes. The more adult kids, like us college students, celebrate Halloween by watching scary movies, tricking friends and family members, dressing up in costumes such as the naughty nurse, and partying till the early morning. This is a mere summary of our celebration, there are many more parts to Halloween in the United States.

In other countries such as Japan and Mexico Halloween is celebrated in a more religious way. Japanese celebrations consist of the honoring of spirits with food, clean graves, family and a sort of camp fire. This is the first part of the Japanese Halloween; the second consists of dances and family gatherings around a fire to enjoy each others company.

In Mexico, honoring the dead is a big festivity. Family members get together to honor the dead through favorite cooked meals, prayers, ghost costumes, and table settings. First the family of a deceased person cleans the grave yard and brings candles, flowers and food. Then everyone with their ghost costumes parade through the town reciting prayers. Finally at home a table setting is composed with construction paper decorations, flowers, candles, food and pictures of the deceased family member. This is where most of the praying and memory recollection takes place. In places such as Ireland and Australia Halloween is more like in the United States except less widely spread and with more dances. In Australia it is known as 'Guy Fawkes Eve'.

**Members of the Contributing Editorial Board
Would like to wish you a memorable holiday.**

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