

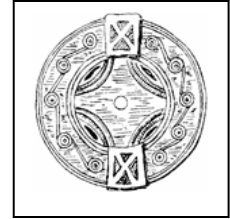


Culture Inscribed

The Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology
California State University - Fresno

September 19, 2006 Vol. V, Issue 1

--Welcome to the Fall Semester--



Anthropologist of the Fortnight

Sir E.E. Evans-Pritchard (1902-1973)

Evans-Pritchard was one of Great Britain's most significant figures in the development of social anthropology. He is best known for his work amongst the Azande and Nuer tribes of southern Sudan and his theoretical work in the area of religion is still influential. Evans-Pritchard argued against the notion of anthropology as a natural science (argued by Radcliffe-Brown and others) and believed that the field is best understood as one of the humanities. In terms of the study of religion, he claimed that the researcher's personal perspective on religion heavily influenced that person's research of religion. Evans-Pritchard argued that non-believers are more likely to explain religious experience in terms of biological or psychological theories that accommodate illusion, whereas believers are more likely to explain religion in terms of humans' conceptualization of reality.

Tuesday Night Social Hour

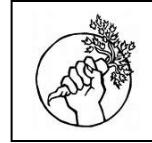
“AnthroNight”

Our summer “AnthroNights” were a great success and a lot of fun. The first fall semester Anthro night was held on September 5th, if you didn't make it, you missed out. The good news is we will continue to have Anthro social nights throughout the semester. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month, at Me & Ed's on First and Bullard around 7pm. Be sure to join us on October 3rd to wish Hank Delcore good luck on his endeavors in Thailand. All friends and family are welcome to join us as well. Drinking is not required, but enjoying the conversation and pizza is. See you there.

Check out the last AnthroNight here:

www.csufresno.edu/Anthropology/events/tuesdaysocials.html

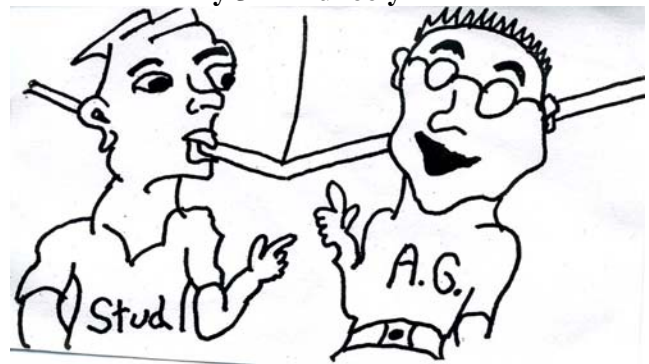
What's Happening??



Local activist group, Food Not Bombs, will be having its 2nd annual fundraiser on Sunday September 24, 2006 from 5pm-8pm at Full Circle Brewery. The organization seeks to provide an alternative to violence worldwide. Members of the Fresno chapter meet on Saturday mornings, and provide vegetarian food to the homeless community at Roeding Park. **Anthro major Robin Trayler** has been working with the group for four years. Homelessness is an aspect of Fresno that many residents are unaware of. I think it's important to get word out about the cause,” Robin said. The event will feature live bands, a vegan chili cook-off and bike raffle. 10 dollar donation. This is a good opportunity to support an important cultural cause in our community.

AnthroGeek

By Jim Mullooly



Student: Hey AnthroGeek, here's a joke: What happens when someone “dry screens” in the rain?

AnthroGeek: In archeology, screens are used to collect small artifacts and ecofacts in the field. “Dry screening” uses a shaking motion to get soil through while “wet screening” uses water.

Student: No, no, no. He gets wet, get it?!?!

FROM THE FIELD

SUMMER 2006

“Lessons”

By: Robin Trayler

Three and a half weeks of the Fresno State archeological field school will teach you many things. Of course you'll learn the basics of archeology, it's a field school right? However, you will learn several things that are not exactly included on the syllabus, a nice surprises if you will. These are the top ten things I learned in Anthropology 101a that they don't advertise in the general course description.

10. Army MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat) may seem like a good option when you're shopping for three weeks worth of food. Once you discover that they come with instructions to build a tear gas bomb out of the food your ingesting you'll certainly change your mind.
9. No matter how many times he tries, Dr. LaJeunesse will set off the car alarm of his rental truck every time he gets in or out.
8. A ratio of twelve females to four males sounds like fun right? But it can be uncomfortable for the hapless males. We need toilet paper too you know.
7. Poison oak is nature's way of saying "screw you" to archeology students. Go ahead try and get a GPS point on that Bedrock Mortar if you dare clearing 5 feet of poison oak.
6. Dead squirrels contain bones that Dr. LaJeunesse cannot identify. It's somewhat satisfying to discover that he does not in fact, know everything.
5. Trying to "wet screen" on a chilly Mariposa morning is a death sentence. Trust me on this.
4. Back to the topic of food: just because Top Ramen only costs 4 dollars for 40 does not mean you should buy 40. Branch out and eat some vegetables. Oakhurst is nearby and has an excellent selection for the student who wishes to dine out.

3. You will learn more about your fellow students and professors than you ever wanted to know. If you put these facts in a newsletter, they will kill you.

2. Walking in the woods can be great, until you get lost. The worst part of which is not knowing where the poison oak patches are located.

1. And the number one thing I learned in field school. No matter how hard you try, the Raccoons will get your food and your trash. You can hang it from a tree, put it in a bin, it matters not; they will always find a way.

A Brief Interview

Sarah Cairns

Sarah: What was the most important thing you learned during field school?

Robin: You can read thousands of pages on archaeological theory, but you can't really understand it until you put it into a real life setting. I understand the theory better now because I have actually done what I read about.

Sarah: What did you enjoy most in the field?

Robin: After we were done working we were able to experience "cultural time". Dr. Pryor and Gaylen Lee, spent a lot of time teaching us about various aspects of Native American culture. I learned how to make baskets from cattails, which is rarely learned in the classroom.

**Watch for stories
from the field
school in Peru in
future issues.**

Contributing Editorial Board

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