

to jobs, I remember well the advice of Stephen Morris at the London School of Economics, an anthropologist married to the anthropologist Barbara Ward: "Remember, Rubie, try to produce a publication every year and always grab whatever opportunities come your way!" Stephen's advice is good and I can give none better.

Please send contributions to this column to Jennifer Hubbert (hubbert@lclark.edu) or Gordon Mathews (cmgordon@cuhk.edu.hk).

Society for Humanistic Anthropology

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Several times over the past ten years we've included here accounts of people's experiences at the annual meeting. Due to deadlines, reports from this past meeting in San Francisco will be included in next month's column. In the meantime, here's what we would call a found poem assembled at the 2006 annual meeting. The author, Krista Benjamin, is a former school-teacher, now full-time writer, who attended the meeting that year in San Jose.

Overheard at the 105th Annual Meeting of the AAA

By Krista Benjamin

Ah, The Evolution of Human Life History.
I need to sit down.
No, we're going to hire someone in Cultural.
You gotta have the four fields.
Right, right, right. Because her husband
loves the rural life.
Sit down, sit down.
What is human life history, as opposed to...?
It sounds very essentialist to me.
So, you're here till tomorrow.
Does it really matter if humans are unique?

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Yeah, I'm basically here today and I leave at the crack of dawn.
We're unique in our uniqueness.
Well, I think they need to recognize that Plato is dead and he's not coming back.
You have to look really hard to find it in chimps.
And what about menopause?
It's the grandmother hypothesis.
I'll try to send students your way. I keep trying to send students your way.
Right now, as of today, it's unique in humans.
But it blends with human life history because if you get a macaque and you keep her alive long enough, yeah, she'll go through menopause.
Last summer we did South Africa.
Who better to lead the ghost ship of cultural anthropology than George Marcus?
I like the grandmother hypothesis.
It takes two calendar days to get back.
John says you're the most famous living anthropologist.
But that kind of puts the kibosh on the grandmother hypothesis.
It's in John's interest to say that.
Great, we're on a ghost ship.