

Human Behavior and Evolution Society

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Editor: Elizabeth M. Hill
Associate Editor: Kevin MacDonald

The View From The President's Window

Richard D. Alexander

Dilemmas Of Darwinists: A Few Tips of the Iceberg

Almost a half century ago the Penn State primatologist, Charles R. Carpenter, wrote as follows:

The prevailing 'climates of opinions,' including scientific value systems and attitudes of the majority of our research colleagues, are of such a character as to impose an unusual burden of proof on us [students of animal societies] for the professional status of our efforts and achievements. Those of us who are interested in comparative behavior, naturalistic behavior, and interactions of organisms are required to accumulate, and even dramatically to present, an overwhelming weight of evidence on very significant theoretical problems for these areas of research effort to be accepted and duly accredited. Our work is put into a disadvantageous position by the historic flood of poor natural history writings in our fields of interest. At the same time, the prestige of our work is not greatly enhanced by excellent qualitative writings during this quantitative-laboratory age.

For Darwinian students of human behavior little has changed. Some of the ways we get into trouble would be humorous if they were not so disheartening. Here are some I have noticed. I hope my comments about them have some usefulness.

1. Students of human behavior can get into trouble for being scientific. Social talk tends to be about what ought to be. This is so even when people are talking about what is; they continually divide the reality of sociality into things that ought to be and things that ought not to be. Of course they admire the former and denounce the latter. Sometimes they talk about reality for no reason other than to cast it in terms of morality.

People probably do these things because morality requires social constraint, because the immorality of others may affect them negatively, and especially because they want

to assure others they have only moral thoughts and will recognize and punish immoral acts. In our kind of sociality reputation is everything. But acceptable behavior varies with geography, culture, time, situation, and intent. So conducting one's self morally in ways that do not incur acceptably avoidable costs becomes a dauntingly difficult balancing act, as everyone who has filed long forms for income tax knows. Some of our reactions are conscious and some unconscious, the latter a result of the ontogeny of conscience, which makes some moral acts intuitive and helps us look especially good to potential associates. Some students of behavior, of course, believe that the human brain has been designed as a tool for use in just such social matters. (I subscribe to the advocacy in the bumper sticker "Commit random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty," but I keep wanting to add, "Consider doing it anonymously.")

Darwinian students of human behavior try to talk (and write) only about what is, when they analyze human sociality, presumably because they wish to be regarded as scientists. They avoid talking about what ought to be because they do not wish to be regarded as moralistic. Even if they are trying to analyze moral opinions or behavior, judging is not their concern. Anyway, they are unlikely to regard themselves as experts on moral issues. But by talking about what is and avoiding judgments, they give the impression of accepting or advocating that what they report is either what has to be or what ought to be.

Thus, by avoiding moral decisions about what has been and what is -- by trying to be scientific -- students of human behavior actually give the impression of being immoral rather than merely amoral as they might expect. To many, amorality, in discussions of human behavior, implies immorality anyway; to understand this attitude, one need only think about nonscientific discussions in which such stances are taken. Moreover, amoral discussion is one thing, amoral discussants another.

By refusing to pass judgments, students of human behavior can also be regarded as genetic determinists. Those so judged are easily tagged with additional labels such as racist, sexist, and social Darwinist. They connect to the images of socially and morally undesirable people. They can be judged immoral even if they really are merely trying to be scientific.

2. Students of human behavior can get into trouble for expressing moral opinions. Sometimes Darwinian students of human behavior cannot resist the lures presented by incessant questioning about what ought to be, and, while being interviewed as scientists, deliver their personal judgments about what is moral, or about the extent to which what is can be altered into whatever someone supposes ought to be. Occasionally they attribute their opinions about the nature of right and wrong to the results of their scientific work on the evolution of human behavior. I don't think I have ever seen justification for such an attribution.

Far into an argument by mail I recently asked a prominent philosopher whom most regard as "on our side" how (then) he thinks right and wrong can be determined. He replied "with science." If moral systems are social contracts, however, developed because of underlying conflicts of (reproductive) interest that don't go away and therefore must be mediated by endless compromises, that won't work. It's one thing to use science to find out whether an act already judged wrong has been committed, as in courts of law; it's another to use it to decide whether a given act is right or wrong. Consider abortion, a persisting conflict of interest, mainly between mother and embryo, but also involving father, other relatives, taxpayers, and moralists with still other interests. Whether we like it or not, right and wrong are still decided by majorities or influential minorities. Regardless of how their minds are made up, the resulting social world is just as real as the physical world, as anyone shunned, jailed, or about to be executed well knows.

3. Students of human behavior can get into trouble for doing comparative analyses. Studies of adaptation depend on comparative analysis; it is the evolutionist's (both the homologist's and the analogist's) main tool. But anyone who describes differences between human individuals or groups -- no matter how carefully and accurately -- is likely to be regarded as racist, immoral, and a genetic determinist. This is true even for someone who describes only the behavior or other attributes of a single society, because these attributes can be compared to our own society, and some kind of pejorative conclusion dreamed up. Human audiences seem easily tuned to judge human differences as better versus worse (what a chance I take!), and, ironically, when they do this they often blame the expositor. Selection is always a potential blight if there is confusion about reproductive signifi-

cance and current human values. And there always is. I have wondered if this is why biological anthropologists for so long attributed so much of evolutionary change, hence heritable trait differences, to genetic drift or mutationism; it's difficult to place values on differences resulting from chance.

4. Students of human behavior can get into trouble for arguing that natural selection is the principal guiding force of evolution. Cladists and other biologists who have joined the expanding interest in developing branching sequences or phylogenies of all organisms, using molecular as well as all other kinds of information, favor drift and mutation for a reason different from population geneticists. First, they believe they do not need to take natural selection and adaptation into account to generate accurate and useful sequences of speciation events -- as they say, to study the "historical" aspects of evolution. Second, because selection can take off in any of a large number of different directions, and can change rates of evolution in ways that to phylogeneticists seem wickedly capricious and obfuscating, many students of branching sequences would be happier if selection didn't even exist. They want it to be trivial. They treat it as noise, and as a potential monkey wrench in their phylogenetic works. It threatens their molecular clocks and conceals the homologies they thrive on by creating those horrible convergences and parallelisms that silly adaptationists use so effectively. For cladists parallelisms (homoplasies) are tricks evolution plays on them, potentially embarrassing mistakes that one must understand well enough to keep them out of the phylogenetic picture. Not surprisingly, cladists sometimes vote with those who label students of adaptive human behavior as immoral, unscientific, or pursuing useless enterprises. But they've got a huge underlying problem. In their zeal to be parsimonious (meaning to invoke the smallest number of unlikely changes), they eventually have to understand selection well enough to know how unlikely different "traits" (changes, characters) really are; it won't do just to weight them all evenly and minimize the number of changes (as director of a systematics museum, I'm sensitive about this).

As with community ecology, cladistic work tends to be restricted to views at or above the species level, where adaptation is not an easy concept; moreover, the initial kicks in speciation processes are not likely to be results of natural selection but rather chance extrinsic isolation and sampling errors; the divergence will be affected by mutational differences between the populations. At the other end of the spectrum are molecular biologists, whose studies would be easiest and most potent if development were as particulate as heredity; the world (including people who control purse strings) would also like that to be true because it's infinitely easier to understand (so easy, indeed, that it's tempting just to accept being wrong!).

Causes of complex phenotypic attributes could then be reduced to actions of individual genes, and because genes would be seen as having singular effects it wouldn't hurt to, say, delete or change them to remove an undesired effect. Of course, molecular biologists working on humans tend to concentrate on medically important genes, so they don't get into as much trouble as students of human behavior do, searching for heritable differences in social behavior.

These things result in incidental alliances among cladists, social scientists, community ecologists, molecular biologists, theologians, philosophers, and others -- more or less against Darwinian students of human behavior. If we can be patient this dilemma will resolve itself, because there just isn't any way to deny forever the importance of natural selection.

5. Students of human behavior can get into trouble for using the word "biological." To most biologists, "biological" means "concerning the study of life." To most others -- and even some biologists -- it means "genetic, anatomical, or physiological" -- seeming to refer to traits felt somehow to be closer to the genetic background or having more heritability in their variations. Such people can be recognized because they make these contrasts: "Biological or cultural" and "biological or social." Think what "sociobiology" seems to mean under this second meaning: "Social genetics." No wonder. There's nothing wrong with the topic; indeed, it is close in meaning to the phrase "evolutionary genetics," which HBES people associate with such young biologists such as Steven Frank, David Haig, Lawrence Hurst, David Queller, and Kern Reeve (and such "old" ones as Bill Hamilton, Bob Trivers, and George Williams). But neither social genetics nor evolutionary genetics seems an apt label for the overall study of human social behavior.

In my first essay in this newsletter I wrote about use of the term "biological parent" when "genetic parent" is meant; I'll not repeat that. But I'll allow myself an "ought" on the topic of "biology." Our discipline ought to retain fiercely its basic tie to the discipline of biology because, once any part of us loses it, the descendants of that part will tend again to float off into social or medical sciences that generation by generation will increasingly ignore or misunderstand evolution. Without a continual input and revision of information from modern biology as the science of life, to form and re-form our approach, we are constantly in danger of losing the Darwinian flavor that gives us direction.

It's too bad that, so far, departments of biology don't like to spend money on people who study the human species (unless you have tenure when you start, as I did). In 39 years at Michigan I have acquired 30 doctoral students and graduated 25; included is a single student of human

behavior. Biology departments prefer to leave humans to the social and medical sciences; those sciences, however, have so far had almost nothing to do with evolution and adaptation.

6. Students of human behavior can get into trouble for not understanding development. Of course no one understands development (ontogeny). But wrong hypotheses about frogs and bluebirds don't cause moral tirades. Ethologists since Lorenz and Tinbergen, and currently an occasional evolutionary psychologist, have tended to regard mechanisms with cryptic ontogenies as "innate," "inborn," or "instinctive," meaning that differences are heritable, and contrasting that with trait differences that are socially determined. But the ontogenetic continuum is not adequately described by such dichotomies; thus, there are trait variations owing to genetic variations, others owing to learned traits that can in turn be passed on by learning (culture), others owing to environmental variations whose effects cannot be transmitted by learning, and apparently all kinds of hierarchies and combinations of these.

Optimally, our hypotheses need to be so constructed as to accept any ontogenetic hypotheses that might turn out to be correct. Some may believe we can't do this, but I feel safe using the ultimately onerous guide Dobzhansky (1961) provided, which I suspect may be the most satisfactory model available. I quoted it in my first newsletter essay, and I quote it again here:

Heredity is particulate, but development is unitary. Everything in the organism is the result of the interactions of all genes, subject to the environment to which they are exposed. What genes determine are not characters, but rather the ways in which the developing organism responds to the environment it encounters.

Because we don't understand development, as scientists we probably must be conservative about moral issues and what to do about them. Anyone who doubts this, and who perhaps doesn't understand how easy it is to use (misuse) science for policy, should read Deichmann (1996). Early ethologists saw adaptive behavior as good for the species, and some of them were able to translate this to mean not the species as a whole but the *Volk*, and then to use this version of science to help decide who should be eliminated (or "selected") to help the *Volk*. They also saw their principal notion, the instinct, more or less as follows (this definition is from a 1949 Cambridge Round Table, reported by Thorpe 1951):

An inherited and adapted system of co-ordination within the nervous system as a whole, which when activated finds expression in behaviour culminating in a fixed action pattern. It is organised on a hierar-

chical basis, both on the afferent and efferent sides. When charged, it shows evidence of action-specific-potential and a readiness for release by an environmental releaser.

To me, this definition carries within it what Kennedy (1954) called the "obscurity at the core" as he compared the tenets of ethology to Freudian psychology. Using it one could develop together the concepts of group-level selection [as preserving the *Volk*: "To us Volk and race are everything, the individual is virtually nothing." (Konrad Lorenz in Deichmann 1996, p. 189)] and instinct (as inherited) to label people as not corresponding to the "desirable type of their race" (p. 192). People could be described as having the "wrong" morals" (being "ethically inferior," p. 188) or having wrong social responses ("elements who have fallen out of their relationship to the whole," p. 193), thus the wrong instincts, thus the wrong genes ("racially foreign elements"). Hence, the promotion of breeding within the Volk and *Ausmerzung*, usually translated to mean "elimination" (of undesirables) in an analogy between eugenics and the breeding and culling of domesticated animals and plants ("... in the large field of instinctive behavior humans and animals can be directly compared ... We confidently ... predict that these studies will be fruitful for both theoretical as well as practical concerns of race policy." p. 186; Lorenz in Deichmann 1996). Lorenz referred to the Old Testament commandment to "Love your neighbor as yourself" by saying that, "Since race and Volk are everything to us, the individual almost nothing, this commandment is quite self-evident demand for us." (Deichmann 1996, p. 191). I include these quotes to emphasize the form taken

by an effort to make a particular social use of an imperfect science (as all science is), in this particular case by the ruling power structure of a society.

For most people, perhaps, the buck never "stops here," at least on big issues. When it does, you find out quickly if your house is in order.

7. Darwinian students of human behavior can even get in trouble for telling the truth. Well, trying to tell the truth as they know it, which is as close as anyone can come. But stubborn efforts at "truth-telling" (even if they are not flamboyant) can also cause trouble in everyday social life. And that's food for thought in regard to all of this. Excelsior.

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HBES 1996 Conference Northwestern University

Business Meeting, June 30 Kevin MacDonald, Secretary/Archivist

Richard Alexander called the meeting to order:

- 1.) Martin Daly thanked Bill Irons and Jack Beckstrom, the local hosts for the meeting, program chairs Michael Bailey and Linda Mealey, as well as the many others who worked to make the present conference a success.
- 2.) Alexander announced that the 1997 HBES conference will be held at the University of Arizona.
- 3.) Secretary/Archivist Kevin MacDonald read the minutes of the 1995 meeting held at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

- 4.) The student report was presented by Joanna Scheib, student representative to the HBES Council. (Note: Her report is included on the next page.)
- 5.) President-elect Margo Wilson announced that revisions to the HBES constitution will be worked on by the Council and will be published in the HBES Newsletter.
- 6.) Patrick McKim presented the Treasurers report. There are now 601 members of the society; 27% are students. The society has \$23,000 in the bank, but \$9,000 has to be set aside for subscriptions paid in advance. The new membership directory is scheduled to come out around November 30.
- 7.) Alexander announced that the new name for the society's journal will be Evolution and Human Behavior. Martin Daly and Margo Wilson will be the editors as

of Volume 18 (1997) under the new title of the journal.

- 8.) Alexander announced that the Council voted unanimously to remain with Elsevier as the publisher of the journal. At issue was the wording of Paragraph 11 of the proposed contract, which states that the journal's Editors are responsible for determining what is published. He explained that the Council had approved a version that included the insertion of the word "solely" in the version proposed by Elsevier. It had not been approved by Elsevier by the time of the meeting; negotiations were in process. (Note: Results of final negotiations are described by Randy Nesse later in this issue.)
- 9.) Alexander announced that the Council had recommended that the HBES-L electronic bulletin board be reserved only for announcements and information, and that argumentation no longer be allowed. Creation of another list was encouraged, to take the place of the current chat list, but it will not be officially sponsored by the society. (Note: A new list has been created and is described in "The Virtual Society" section later in this issue.)
- 10.) It was moved, seconded and passed that people may post messages to the HBES-L list only if their membership dues are current. Others can receive the list messages but cannot respond.
- 11.) The meeting was adjourned.

Conference Award Winners

New Investigator Award

Thomas Schoenemann, "Is Brain Size a Causal Influence on IQ?"

Poster Award

Jim Roney, "Effects of mere presence of the opposite sex on attitude judgments"

Student News

Joanna Scheib, HBES Executive Council Representative

I represented students on the HBES executive council starting at the Santa Barbara meeting in June 1995 through to the close of the Northwestern meeting in June 1996. The position of student representative was established three years ago in order to encourage greater student cohesion and to increase student involvement in the society. I believe these goals continue to be met successfully. In addition to representing student concerns and interests in general, the following is a summary of objectives met during my tenure as student representative:

Objectives

- i) Establish rules for the New Investigator Competition.
- ii) Renew interest and activity on the student electronic list - a forum on which students can communicate ideas and news.
- iii) Decrease annual meeting costs for students.
- iv) Compile a list of faculty HBES members and their research. Make this available to students at the annual meetings.
- v) Establish a poster competition open to the general membership.
- vi) Organize student events for the annual meeting.

Objectives Met

- i) Rules for the New Investigator Competition were established: Any student HBES member can compete as long as they:
 - (a) are up to 2 years post-Ph.D. (or other professional degree)
 - (b) have not won the competition (i.e., individuals CAN compete more than once)
 - (c) are sole author of the paper
 - (d) submit a written version of the paper three weeks prior to the beginning of the annual conference, that is no longer than 5000 words including figures and references. This paper can be one that was submitted for journal publication.
- ii) Robert Kurzban replaced John Pearce as owner of the student electronic list, and the list server was moved to the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). The student list is active again, and, for example, was used to solicit nominations for the 1996-97 student representative position, and to announce student events at the annual meeting. The list is used primarily to discuss evolutionary-based research, but is also a virtual location to post student work and educational opportunities.
- iii) At the 1995 business meeting at Santa Barbara, I voiced the students' concern with the high cost of attending annual meetings. Bill Irons, one of the 1996 meeting organizers, promised to consider student costs in the conference negotiations. Apparently the negotiations were successful.
- iv) A student member volunteered to compile the list of faculty HBES members and their research, however this list was not available at the 1996 meeting. If there is interest, a list could be compiled for the 1997 meeting.
- v) A poster competition was established this year at the Northwestern meeting; however, it was not clear who was eligible to compete. At the business meeting, I again requested that this competition be open to the general membership.
- vi) Two student events were organized for the Northwestern annual meeting, an informal Thursday dinner and evening out where students could meet each other, and a Friday lunchtime workshop on

modeling led by D.S. Wilson and H. Kaplan. Mark Turner and Paul Quindry, local student hosts organized the student dinner and evening. Approximately 20 students attended the dinner. This evening outing happened early on in the conference and was successful in giving students a chance to meet each other. Debra Lieberman organized the annual Friday lunchtime workshop. Workshop topics were solicited on the student electronic list and the final topic and workshop leaders were chosen via this route. At the actual workshop, the local hosts provided much appreciated boxed-lunches. Approximately 40 students attended this interesting

workshop. These annual student events should continue as they give students the opportunity to meet each other and to interact in both informal and learning-oriented events.

New Student Representative

Debra Lieberman, from the Department of Psychology at University of California-Santa Barbara, was elected as student representative to the HBES executive council for the 1996-97 year. She can be contacted at: liberma@condor.psych.ucsb.edu.

News Items

HBES Contract with Elsevier

Randolph Nesse, Publications Committee

Negotiation of the contract with Elsevier has been finished to ensure continue publication of "Evolution and Human Behavior" under the editorship of Martin Daly and Margo Wilson. The new contract resolves the matters that were brought up at the meeting and addresses several other issues. One of Elsevier's editors flew out to Ann Arbor to conclude negotiations with Randolph Nesse and Martin Daly and Margo Wilson (who were in town to give a lecture). After an afternoon of talking, nearly everything was resolved. In particular, the contract now states, "The editors, in conjunction with the editorial board, will be solely responsible for refereeing or having refereed all contributions presented for publication in the Journal as well as determining what is published in the individual issues of the Journal." We also, after some continued negotiation, were able to negotiate a simplified fee structure that guarantees a fixed per-member-per year-rate for the next five years that is the same or lower than the rate for the past three years. This should allow us to hold dues at their present levels and to offer domestic and foreign memberships at the same rates. With signature of the contract by HBES President Richard Alexander, we will be finished with this for five years.

All in all, Elsevier remains committed to us and to the development of our journal and a mutually beneficial relationship. They tell us that text and illustrations for our journal are now being stored in electronic format so that it can be made available on the internet as soon as that is feasible, probably within one or two years. They will also sponsor a major publicity campaign to get the journal into more libraries and databases. So, if your library does not subscribe, we will ask your help in a few months.

HBES 1997 Conference

June 4-8, University of Arizona

The Human Behavior and Evolution Society Meeting will be held at the University of Arizona starting at 6 PM, Wednesday, June 4th and ending at 4 PM on Sunday, June 8th. Tucson is in the sunny Sonoran desert. Visitors will see cacti and plenty of sunshine. In late June, temperatures can range from pleasantly warm to hot; visitors should plan to bring warm weather clothing. For conferences arriving before noon on Wednesday, trips will be planned to two local attractions; have your cameras ready. The meeting will feature eight plenary speakers and one keynote speaker. The business meeting will be held on Wednesday evening. Posters will be available for viewing Wednesday evening. Housing will be in University of Arizona dorms, or in local hotels (a list of hotels will be provided). Local hosts will be A.J. Figueredo and David Rowe. The deadline for abstracts is March 1, 1997. Details for abstracts will be forthcoming.

From the HBES Treasurer

Patrick McKim

Credit Cards, Finally!

There is good news for HBES members-- particularly those who live outside the USA. An arrangement has finally been made that will enable HBES members to pay dues by credit card. However, this applies only to VISA, MasterCard and Discover (or their international equivalents-- for example, MasterCard in the US is Access in Britain). If you need more information about how to make use of this option, contact the Treasurer at [<pmckim@calpoly.edu>](mailto:pmckim@calpoly.edu). (continued after next page)

THE HUMAN BEHAVIOR & EVOLUTION SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

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newsletter) _____

If not given in
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Circle the amounts that apply

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Three years
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THE HUMAN BEHAVIOR & EVOLUTION SOCIETY

The Human Behavior & Evolution Society was formed in 1988 to promote the exchange of ideas and research findings among scholars of all disciplines who are using modern evolutionary theory in their studies of human behavior. An invitation to join the Society is extended to all who share its aims.

HBES is a highly eclectic group, consisting of scholars from a great number of fields, including psychology, anthropology, psychiatry, economics, medicine, law, philosophy, literature, biology, sociology, business, artificial intelligence, political science and art. Our membership is

world-wide, including residents of North America, Europe, Latin America, Australia and the Far East. But despite the diversity of our disciplines and nationalities, we all speak the common language of Darwinism.

Most of us are professional academics, but approximately 20% of us are students. As a way of encouraging student scholarship, there is a special award granted each year at our annual meeting to the most outstanding student paper. To finance this award (and other student activities), *members are encouraged to donate to the HBES Student Fund*. Every little bit helps.

Members receive:

- News of the Society
- Meeting Announcements
- Reduced Meeting Fee
- Subscription to our journal, *Ethology and Sociobiology*
- Membership Directory
- Electronic Bulletin Board
- Vote in Society Elections

Ethology & Sociobiology

has been the official journal of HBES since January, 1994. *E&S* publishes six issues per year of 72 pages each. All members of the Society receive the journal. Please note that *E&S* subscriptions through the Society are for the individual use of HBES members only; copies may not be given to libraries.

Also, please be aware that it takes Elsevier 6-8 weeks to get new subscriptions into the pipeline. To minimize delay, memberships should be submitted as early as possible.

Subscription problems should be reported to the HBES Treasurer, Patrick McKim. When reporting a problem please include (if possible) your Elsevier customer number, which appears on the mailing label of your journal.

Changes of Address should be sent to Patrick McKim, HBES Treasurer (his address is given on the reverse side). *Do not contact Elsevier for a change of address.*

Policies on Dues and Memberships:

HBES memberships are activated in January of each year and extend through the end of December. This holds true regardless of the date at which a member joins the Society. That is, if one joins HBES in, say, June of 1996, his or her membership will expire on Jan. 1, 1997. The reason for this policy is that Elsevier Science, the publishers of our journal, *Ethology & Sociobiology*, only handle "full volume" subscriptions which begin this year with Volume 17, No. 1 and continue through Vol. 17, No. 6. So the member who joins in June will still receive the complete 1996 volume of *E&S*, beginning with Vol. 17, No. 1 (the "January" issue).

For most applicants, the "Regular Membership" applies. A "Student Membership" is available to those actively enrolled in a degree-granting program. Students must attach a copy of a current student card or a letter from their major professor.

We also offer "Joint Memberships" in both Regular and Student categories. For Joint Members, both parties receive all the perquisites of membership with one exception: only one subscription to the journal is sent to a Joint Membership pair. When applying for Joint Membership, please use two copies of the Membership/Application Form, providing complete data for each person. Also, designate who will receive the subscription to *E&S*.

Regrettably, there is an additional expense for those residing outside the USA, Canada and Mexico. Elsevier requires a "Foreign Postage Fee" of US\$15 per year.

Officers of the Society, 1995-96

President: Richard Alexander

President-Elect: Margo Wilson

Past President: Napoleon Chagnon

Council Members: David Buss, Lee Cronk, John Hartung, Sarah Blaffer Hrdy, William Irons, Jane Lancaster

Monique Borgerhoff Mulder, David Sloan Wilson.

Treasurer: Patrick McKim

Secretary: Kevin MacDonald

Student Rep: Joanna Scheib

E&S Editors: Martin Daly & Margo Wilson

Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Hill

Publications Chair: Randolph Nesse

1996 Membership Directory

The 1996 Membership Directory will be going to press on approximately November 1. If you're not sure that your membership data are up to date, just contact the Treasurer.

1997 Renewals

The treasurer will be mailing out Renewal Notices in early December. However, it's not too early to renew for 1997. Just use the Membership Form included with this newsletter. If you wish to pay by credit card, that is now an option on the Membership Form. Please check the expiration date on your newsletter address label to see if you're due for renewal in 1997.

Problems And Changes Of Address

If you aren't receiving your issues of the journal, contact the Treasurer, who will get in touch with the publishers. Also, send changes of address to the Treasurer, who will pass them on to Elsevier.

Error Correction

On the last version of the Membership Form, the "Policies on Dues and Memberships" indicated that those who join in 1996 will receive the full 1997 Volume of E&S. In fact, anyone who joins for 1996 will receive all 6 issues of the 1996 Volume (Vol. 17).

The Virtual Society

New Posting Policy for HBES-L Gene Mesher

In August, HBES-L changed its focus to an information based list and discontinued its role as a electronic discussion group. This role has been taken up by HBE-L, described below by Mario Heilmann. Topics such as job announcements, conferences and seminars, recent publications and other professional issues are still welcomed, if relevant to our focus on evolution and human behavior, but we will discontinue hosting electronic discussions on general topics related to evolution and behavior.

HBE-L Has Begun Mario Heilmann

HBE-L is an unmoderated and uncensored discussion list about human behavior and evolution. It is restricted to members of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society. The contents of the list are not in any way condoned or controlled by the Society, rather they are the sole responsibility or the person posting the article. Computer-savvy helpers are needed to assist with maintaining the list. Contact me at mheilman@a3.com.

Using HBE-L

If you want to post send your message to hbe-l@a3.com. Subscriptions and unsubscriptions are made by sending a message to hbe-request@a3.com with the word "subscribe" or, respectively, "unsubscribe" in the subject header. Technical documentation can be found at <http://www.pair.com/pair/docs/smartlist/index.html>

New Bulletin Board System at the HBES Website Michael Mills

A software system called "WebBoard" has been added to the HBES website (<http://psych.lmu.edu/hbes.htm>). There are several "conferences" in which users may post messages, reply to others' messages, etc. The system has the following conferences: Book Reviews, Bulletin Board for Teachers, Employment / Jobs Offered, Graduate Programs, Official HBES Announcements (moderated).

Computerized Bibliography Frans Roes

The European Sociobiological Society is distributing a DOS-based program that allows access to 200 evolutionary explanations of human behavior, "Human Affairs and Natural Selection." For information about obtaining the program, which was developed by Frans Roes and Marco Bleeker, contact:
Vincent Falger (ESS Treasurer)
Department of International Relations
University of Utrecht
Janskerkhof 3, 3512 BK
Utrecht, The Netherlands
FAX: 31-30-537067

Vacant Positions

Anthropology Department, University of Missouri

The University of Missouri will be hiring a CULTURAL anthropologist in the area of "health anthropology." This is a permanent, tenure track position. Evolutionary/ecological minded anthropologists with research interests in the health sciences are encouraged to contact Mark Flinn to discuss the position. Initial inquiries by email should be made as soon as possible. Application deadline is Nov. 30.

Mark V. Flinn anthmark@black.missouri.edu
Department of Anthropology
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211 (314) 882-9404

Meetings

Gruter Institute Faculty Seminar Dartmouth College, August 2-8, 1997

The Gruter Institute for Law and Behavioral Research is holding the Fourth Annual Faculty Seminar on "Biological Perspectives in the Social Sciences and Humanities," which will take place from August 2, 1997 (evening) through August 8, 1997 (noon). There will be a registration fee (\$200). Single dormitory rooms, with shared bath, have been reserved at Dartmouth College (rate: \$35 per day with maid service). Participants will purchase meals through the College dining services.

A limited number of grants covering the expenses of room and board will be available for those who teach courses or conduct scholarly research linking biological perspectives to the social sciences or humanities; the registration fee is waived for grantees. Participants are responsible for their own travel expenses. Applications for a grant should indicate the course(s) now being taught or planned and/or the topics of research which relate the biological sciences to the study of human social behavior. Graduate students should submit two letters of recommendation, one from a thesis advisor and the other from another faculty member who knows the applicant well.

For applications and inquiries, contact:

Ms. Suzanne Saxton
Gruter Institute for Law and Behavioral Research
c/o Department of Government
Silsby 6108
Dartmouth College
Hanover, NH 03755-3514
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The Newsletter now has an Associate Editor, Kevin MacDonald. The Secretary/Archivist of HBES maintains official records for the Society, which are routinely included in Newsletter announcements. He will now have a formal role in communicating such news to members via the Newsletter. Please send us notices for conferences, job opportunities, funding opportunities, and so forth.

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Human Behavior and Evolution Society

C/O Elizabeth Hill, Ph.D.
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.....Membership expires Jan. 1, 1997

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PLEASE FORWARD

