

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

January 2009

In color at our web site: <http://www.explorersnorca.org>

San Francisco—January 30, 2009

Drs. Malcolm Potts & Martha Campbell

Sex in the 21st Century

The Impact of Our Basic Drive in War and Peace

Malcolm Potts and Martha Campbell are a husband-and-wife team who are professors on population at UC Berkeley. Each has written on the role sex and sex education plays on our world in the most broad aspects. What does this mean? How is it understood?

We are fortunate, indeed, to listen to their researched facts and the observations these data suggest. They are profound.

Dr. Potts received his medical degrees from Cambridge University, England, and specialized in obstetrics before returning to Cambridge to complete a PhD in embryology. He was appointed the first Medical Director of the International Planned Parenthood Federation in 1968. He pioneered the community-based distribution of contraceptives and received the first Hugh Moore Award for his work, which has become the standard for much of the world. In 1972, he introduced manual vacuum aspiration for abortion, a technique now used around the world. In 1978, Dr. Potts became President and CEO of Family Health International (FHI) in North Carolina. He created the first reliable data on maternal mortality in poor countries, which in turn helped trigger the global Safe Motherhood Initiative. In addition to conducting research on many aspects of contraceptive development and human reproductive behavior, he began the first large-scale studies on breastfeeding and fertility. Under his leadership, FHI began the first global program of AIDS prevention outside the WHO.

Dr. Potts was appointed to the Bixby Endowed Chair in Population and Family Planning in 1992. With Professor Julia Walsh, he founded the Berkeley International Group (BIG), and then later he founded the Bixby Program in Population, Family Planning and Maternal Health. Currently, the Bixby Program is focusing on the use of misoprostol to control postpartum hemorrhage in resource poor settings in Africa and Asia. Since 2005, Dr. Potts has served as head of the Division of Community Health and Human Development, and as Chair of the Committee for the Protection of Human

Subjects for the Berkeley campus.

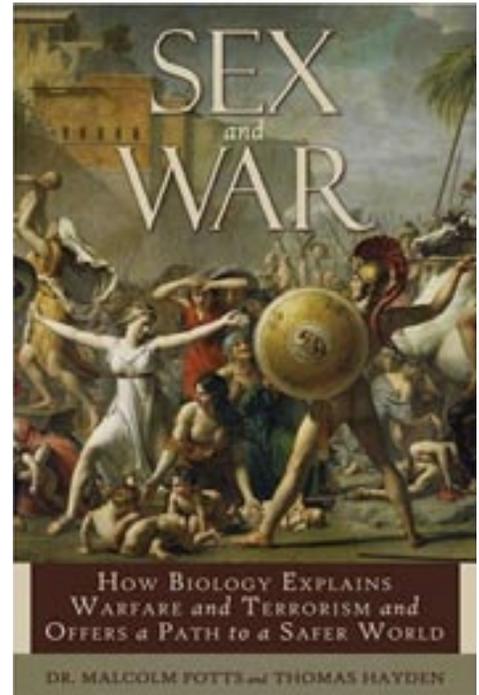
Dr. Campbell is a political scientist and health-policy specialist with additional interests in economics and issues of scale. She is a co-founder of CEIHD, the Center for Entrepreneurship in International Health and Development, in the School of Public Health. She is also the founder and president of the nonprofit Venture Strategies for Health and Development, which was designed to translate the research from SPH into action in developing countries.

In the 1990s Dr. Campbell directed the population program in the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. She has written extensively on the nature of conflicting perspectives on population growth as they influence

Note venues and dates with care.

San Francisco, CA!

Our next event is at 6:30 on Jan. 30, a Friday evening, at the Golden Gate Yacht Club.



in Population, Family Planning & Maternal Health to become the Bixby Center for Population, Health and Sustainability. The new center will highlight the critical impact of population on the global environment, global



Chronicle / Christina Kaci Hernandez

international policies; the recent absence of the population growth subject from public discussion; and barriers to fertility regulation in many developing countries.

Thanks to a \$15-million gift from the Fred H. Bixby Foundation, in October 2008, the UC Berkeley School of Public Health will enrich and expand its current Bixby Program

public health and civil and international conflict, as well as address the unmet need for family planning around the world. Director Potts said, "I think the huge challenge for the human race in the 21st century is whether we can move to a biologically sustainable way of life on this planet, and population plays an essential role in that."

Hot Cave Really Big Crystals

Tiburon

Leela Hutchison drew the assembled group into her feelings and the emotions of that day, some seven years ago. She had been offered an opportunity, on short notice, to join five officials of the State of Chihuahua and the Peñoles Mining Company to enter the newly found enormous geode in the Naica Mine. A chance meeting a few months earlier, a stated interest and a background of rock climbing, and she was remembered. She could help gather more photos in this totally dark warren of enormous selenite crystals. It had just been discovered a few months earlier when miners, extending their silver ore drift, broke into the open void. To their amazement the largest calcium sulfate crystals ever found reflected from their mining-cap lamps. The heat and humidity were intense—well in excess of 120°F and 100%RH. It was daunting to enter, even for miners used to 100° in mine conditions.

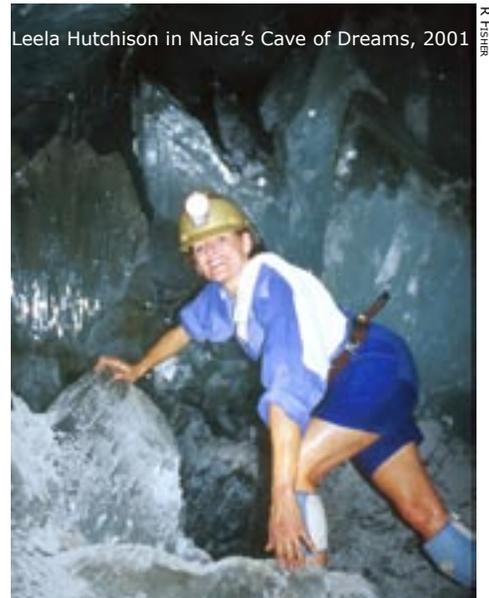
Now, in 2001, Leela joined the half-dozen explorers to gather more photographic evidence—difficult to do in the heat and moisture for both equipment and people. She was to be the lead, and the person used to show the scale of the find. She was urged on by three who had been there before, and their encouragement bol-

stered her courage. It was black dark and silent. Hat lights reflected off the clear and frosted crystals. Each photo showed the enormity of the find, but only in an instant. They would have to wait until film development to see the results. She walked us through the darkness; well done: we could almost feel the heat and the anxiety. This was no National Park Service path tour; she was hand-by-hand making her way. With the photographer close behind.

They actually visited two adjacent spaces—the hottest one with the largest crystals. Only five minutes each time, beyond the small opening and in the geode space. Then an exit to drink more Gatorade; at 100°F it tasted cool!

The smaller room, with smaller (still large) crystals, allowed a forty-five minute exploration. By day's end, exhausted and near their physical capability, they left the mine. Today folks that explore this amazing space wear air-conditioned suits—and still are limited to only thirty-minute visits. (Read the *National Geographic Magazine*, November 2008, for a detailed discussion defining the Naica 21st-century find.)

Our speaker did a splendid job of bringing these spectacular geologic finds to 'life.' As a gemologist she continues to wander her native Southwest; as a speleologist she continues to investigate the complex of caves that infest the limestone sediments under foot in southern New Mexico and northern Mexico.



Leela Hutchison in Naica's Cave of Dreams, 2001

R. FISHER

A Splendid Invitation

Our November meeting was held in the home of Don (MN-02) and Jeanne Dana in Tiburon; it was a gregarious and lovely evening. Our hosts were most gracious and welcomed all with delicious wines and tasty bites to add to the growing animated conversations. A Southwestern buffet, groaning with ample aromatic dishes—tempting most to sample each—was served for all to sit at tables throughout the home.

After dining, their guests assembled in the living room and library to listen to Leela Hutchison's talk. Afterwards, dessert and coffee and reflections on the cave experience just absorbed. The ambience of the evening was perfect for explorers—momentos and photos of Don's explorations with paleoarcheologists in the Afar of Ethiopia and his Siberian walrus-boat expedition, among other treasures were abundant.

Thank you Don & Jeanne!

Leela Hutchison speaking before members at the Dana home, itself filled with exploration treasures and memories.



LANCANA



(clockwise) Bob Higgins, Dida Kutz, Aldeanna & Rick Saber, Doug & Anne Finley, (hidden) Janet McLaughlin: dining in the Dana Library

Our hosts, the Dana's face the camera (with the Elkus ladies in between.)



LANCANA

SPECIAL NOTICES: 1) We welcome members of our chapter to participate in the tasks involved in providing ten lectures plus field trips each year. Give Chairman Nichols a call: 415 789-9348; he will guide you to help where you want! 2) Many organizations have converted to email as the *sole* means of providing newsletters; we have resisted, but we would like to send as many as possible to be *green* and fiscally responsible. PLEASE notify Steve at nauticos@oceanearth.org if you will accept email-only communication. We encourage you to do so; act now. 3) Careful readers will note a NEW web address for the chapter on our masthead: www.explorersnorca.org. Never fear; it takes you to the skilled labors of webmaster Mike Diggles which have built a rich trove of details since 1995!

Ten Months Rowing the Pacific

Erden Eruç (MN04) Is Headed Back to Sea!

Corinthian Yacht Club, Tiburon

As a boy in Turkey Erden Eruç dreamed of becoming an astronaut. Man had just landed on the moon! But, alas, he was not American, and “only Americans were astronauts!” So he set his dream toward more earthly achievements. Following the example of his athletic father and a chance meeting of Göran Kropp, who had achieved record-breaking achievements cycling from Sweden to Nepal and climbing Everest without supplemental oxygen. Erden finally conceived what he would do. Like most explorers, just to do it. He would circumnavigate the world under his own power. And, to be even more convincing, he would climb each of the highest peaks on the continents he passed through.

After completing the longest leg of his journey so far, 312 days rowing across the Pacific Ocean, Erden spoke to a group of mariners and explorers at the Corinthian Yacht Club on November 6th. He was thanking many for their encouragement, for he had departed North America in May 2007 from this club.

It was an inspiring talk. Erden radiates confidence and humanity. One immediately understands how he relates to children; he spends time around the world encouraging students to believe they can do what they dream.

Erden is in the midst of his personal journey—an exploration of man’s endurance and a goal to achieve (another) world record not unlike his Club heroes Steve



Fosset and Bernard Picard. He is, after all, well on his way to circumnavigate the world on human power alone. He has crossed the equator once. As

Erden Eruç, at sea during 312-day Pacific crossing (right) and climbing Denali

he approached New Guinea; the typhoon season forced him to abandon this leg a couple of hundred miles short of landfall. However, he had rowed nearly 9500 miles (<http://www.oceanrowing.com/ErdenErucPacific/dist.htm>).

When he returns in early 2009 he will continue his sea journey to Australia from the same spot. It will require a 3000-mile loop to the east, past the Solomons, south toward Vanuatu and finally westward into the Coral Sea until he is past the Great Barrier Reef. Once ashore he will bicycle across Australia, climbing Mt. Kosciuszko on the way, to Fremantle where he will resume his rowing across the Indian Ocean—and beyond!

Erden is stoic in his resolve. His engineering training is put to use in solving everyday problems, especially when alone at sea. It serves, as well, in the planning stages. When asked if he got lonely or bored he responded there was little time for these fears. He communicated daily by a satellite voice and internet phone link and the chores of each day consumed the hours. His wife, Nancy, tracks the journey closely.

His is a self-motivated exploration not unlike many others in our past; he is driven by the challenge and shares his experience along the way. Mostly he shares with the next generation of explorers, but his insightful lecture was a delight to those older. This audience, he hopes, can assist with financial support: see <http://www.around-n-over.org/around-n-over/>.



Dr. Charles Merdinger (FE78), his wife Mary, and Chair Lee Langan.

Chuck wore his cap from the USS Nevada on this memorable anniversary—he was trapped aboard when the ship was sunk on that day of infamy in 1941, 57 years ago!

Holiday Gathering

On December 7, a sunny day in San Francisco, members and friends gathered at the home of Chair Lee Langan, and his wife Karine, for a festive afternoon of conversation and visiting. Champagne and a table filled with holiday food allowed for many toasts to celebrate a successful year.

The Langans were very appreciative of the many kind words and gaiety of their guests (Ed.)

The Chapter Chair

Question: “HOW TO HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!” Answer: “Be an active Explorer!” 2009 will be the time of our lives as Explorers; a great new year’s resolution.

We can have an extraordinary year because our outgoing Chairman Lee Langan has set it up for us with his leadership. He’s a sixty-second-per-minute doer, a man of all seasons, a leader both nationally and locally, author and publisher of our Newsletter, sponsor of many new members, supporter of all of us in our projects and expeditions for the Club, our ambassador to the national organization including the membership committee, organizer and introducer of a sterling array of speakers for our meetings, and unfailingly gracious, friendly, and articulate. And we’ve had the benefit of his lovely and supportive wife Karine.

Lee has, at many members’ request, sought nomination to the Board of Directors in New York. We should all vote for him (even if you don’t know any of the other candidates!)

We’ll bring in the New Year on January 30 at the Golden Gate Yacht Club with Potts and Campbell on “Sex.” We’ll also introduce our new leadership team, our ‘SuperExplorers’: Anders Jepsen, Vice Chair; Sue Estey, Treasurer; Steve Smith, Secretary; Gerri Elkus, Hosting; Rick Blake, Membership; Mike Diggles, Webmaster; Lee Langan, Newsletter; Helen Kahn, Legacy and PR; Brian McPhail, Field Trips

If your willing and want to commit to specific responsibilities with our chapter, to become a SuperExplorer, email me at sacred-mountain@att.net.

HAPPY NEW YEAR —Alan Nichols (FN84)

Explorers Club Board Invite—Santa Barbara—January 24

The Southern California Chapter of the Explorers Club is co-sponsoring a major dinner-program in Santa Barbara in conjunction with the January 24, 2009, meeting of the Explorers Club Board of Directors. Our featured speakers include Jon Bowermaster and John Johnson. It will make for a great weekend experience, which many of the Northern California Chapter members would enjoy. Southern California’s Chairman David Dolan extends a warm welcome to come to Santa Barbara on January 24th. There are many options for lodging, from quaint Bed & Breakfast establishments, to Motel 6, to the Biltmore.

The reception starts at 6:00 pm (dress: business casual) at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (<http://www.sbnature.org>). Cost: \$125/person (\$100 for persons under 30 years of age.) RSVP and payments need to be received no later than January 15, 2009. Checks should be made payable to: “The Explorers Club” and mailed to: The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (attn: Janessa), 2559 Puesta del Sol Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93105. Credit card payments may be made by calling Janessa Schueler at the Museum at (805) 682-4711, ext. 102.

There are wonderful side events available; contact Lee (lee@langan.net) for details.

January 2009



Chair: Alan Nichols
415 789-9348
sacred-mountain@att.net
Vice Chair: Anders Jepsen
925 254-3079
ajviking@aol.com
Treasurer: Sue Estey
510 526-2216
sestey@earthlink.net
Secretary: Stephen E. Smith
Webmaster: Mike Diggles
Newsletter: Lee Langan

Sex in the Twenty-first Century 30 January — Golden Gate Yacht Club

Northern California Calendar of Events

(Venues will be identified at time of event.)

Our next Meeting

January 30 Malcolm Potts & Martha Campbell
Sex in 21st Century, Golden Gate Yacht Club

Future Meeting Schedule

February 27 Orville Magoon
Doomsday Doctor, location TBD
March 27 Payne Johnson
Trail of the Conquistadors, GGYC
April 24 Christopher Whittier
Stories of Gorilla Country, GGYC
May 15 Doug Findley
Sailing the NW Passage, location TBD
June (TBD). picnic

Earlier Meetings

April 4 Felicia Nutter
The Marine Mammal Center. GGYC
April 23 Jeff Morgan
Global Heritage Fund New Sites. GGYC
May 30 Nancy Black
Whale Watching off Monterey, Hicks' home,
Garrapata Beach, Big Sur
June 25 Marta Walsh at 100
DOER Marine, Alameda
September 27 Art Ford
Tourism in Antarctica, Liebowitz home,
Woodside
October 18 Don Hartsell
Lighter than Air, GGYC
November 21 Leela Hutchison
Giant Cave Crystals, Dana home, Tiburon
December 7 Holiday Gathering, Langan home

Send address changes and
corrections by email to Steve at
nauticos@oceanearth.org

January LOCATION

Date Friday, January 30, 2009
Place: Golden Gate Yacht Club
1 Yacht Road, San Francisco
Time: 6:30 - reception, no-host drinks
7:15 - buffet dinner, wine
8:00 - speaker
Cost: \$55 each

Please mail information (to right),
to Dr. Sue Estey
216 Carmel Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530
or email sestey@earthlink.net
or call (510) 526-2216

Reserve ___ spaces for **January 30 2009** at
Potts & Campbell at GGYC
San Francisco, CA
Cost: \$55
(Chapter 2009 Dues due: \$25)

Name: _____

Address (if changed): _____

Companion: _____

If you desire a car pool from the
Peninsula call Helen Klaben Kahn at
(650) 888-4058!

