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“Soak the Rich”:

To: ASA Executive Sec'y,
From: G. Brooks, History Department, Indiana University

I believe that current dues are inequitable and especially unfair for students and faculty in lower ranks. . . . As things stand now, an Assistant or Associate Professor making less than \$20,000 pays only \$10.00 less than a Full/Super Professor making over \$30 (or \$40) thousand a year, hardly a fair proposition. Many of the members of the Association are Full Professors and can pay more to support a more equitable dues structure. Good luck soaking us rich/those better able to contribute to the Association's activities. Trust you enjoyed your visit to Inner-Indiana.

Ed note: Inner Indiana was splendid.

“Lonely Africanist” Protests “Elitist” ASA:

Ed note: The following note was carried in the newsletter of the Pacific Coast Africanist Association, edited by Ernest Valenzuela.

ASA Annual Meeting: The 24th meeting of the African Studies Association was held at Indiana University in October. Personally I hope that the annual meeting was a great success and that it was well attended by many interested Africanists. I was not one of them and I wish I could have been. I was to have been on a panel, but had to cancel out. I could have dug deeper into my debt ridden pocket and pulled out the several hundred it would have cost to be in Bloomington, but my wife and my priorities reminded me of other more pressing needs like school tuition and Christmas that were in need of financial servicing by my over-extended paycheck.

Now I hope that I do not sound like a bad sport, but I'd like to state a point or two about the future of ASA and its annual conferences. First, lets hold them in cities where competitive air fares are available. It is certainly getting expensive to fly around to New York, Washington etc., let alone trying to find the way to San Jose or Bloomington. Let's limit future ASA meetings to major cities in the USA.

Second, might ASA consider hosting regional meetings one year and a national gathering the next. This is being done by a number of national organizations, with pretty good results. I feel this approach would bring the ASA closer to more of its members and give greater exposure to this fine organization. Let the ASA Directors select for themselves where to meet for their business meeting, possibly rotating among the regional gatherings. Any crucial votes could be done by mail in the year of regional meetings. This might even prove to be more “democratic” since few members attend the business meeting at the present conferences anyway. As an aside, I feel personally that much of my dues to ASA are going to take care of things that are of no real direct value to me and even possibly encouraging the development of a rather “elitist” approach to the Association. (ie. my dues going to put on a big meeting I cannot afford to attend or publishing materials that may be needed by collectors of highly specialized publications, but of no