Deception may be as old as the hills, but if you think it all started with Adam, Eve and a serpent, you're deceiving yourself, says Ursula W. Goodenough, Ph.D., professor of biology. 

"Deception between species—probably has been around since the first predator/prey relationships were established, and it continues today in particularly active forms in the war being waged between the eukaryotic immune system and microbial pathogens (viruses or bacteria)," says Goodenough. "Those pathogens extant have not been eliminated by immune systems. Numerous pathogens operate by deception. Given enough evolutionary time, the immune system might well come up with some defenses to thwart them, but meanwhile we must understand their deceptive ways and figure out how to outsmart them."

Deception occurs throughout nature and transcends species, says Goodenough. Whether a cheating heart or a lying molecule, the concept is similar in many ways. The biologist says cells, like humans, are capable of the White Lie, the Black Lie and the Big Lie, although cells are much less scheming than humans in their manners of deception.

And as Robert Sussman, Ph.D., professor of anthropology and a noted primatologist who has found, humans are the only species capable of self-deception. "All animals are able to think and begin to become voluntary and cease to be morphological, or involuntary, as in the case of the chimpanzee."

Sussman notes that the ability to consciously, as in the case of the chimpanzee, begin to become voluntary and cease to be morphological, or involuntary, is similar in many ways to deception in primates.

"Deception in primates," says Sussman, "is an adaptive process. "Unlike the notion of 'deceiving beings into sin,' molecular deception is not inherently evil," he says. "But, on a larger scale, deceptions throughout our culture and in nature operate much like viruses. A Bant Simpson commercial acts upon the same premise as a virus deceiving the immune system."

Deception in primates

Sussman, co-director of the Beza Mahafaly Reserve in Madagascar, and graduate student Bartlett reviewed the deceptive strategies of primates and compared them to those of other species, including humans. "In the fossil record, the tools of Homo Erectus show very little variability. Then all of a sudden you get variations on tools, burials, effigies, art things with no practical use. It is the first time you can say humans are symbolizing. I say that at this point you get self-deception — they are creating worlds that don't exist." 

All species deceive, Sussman and his colleagues note. The moth that tangles web we know as deception. The moth that perfectly mimics a green quivering leaf uses a genetically determined deceptive strategy to hide on the limb of a tree. And the chimpanzee that steals its peers away from a hidden cache of food also weaves that tangled web we know as deception. But, at what point does deception cease to be morphological, or involuntary, and become conscious? It begins to become voluntary and conscious, across the species, in the case of the chimpanzee. Is it possible to consciously deceive a function of intellect?
Deception — continued from p. 1

dergence? Finally, at what point does the
ability to deceive others evolve into the
ability to deceive oneself? — if
indeed, the two thought processes
are related?
As Sussman and Bartlett studied
deception in primates and began to
analyze its role in the evolution of
intelligence, they found two interesting
patterns emerging. First, voluntary
conscious deception seems to be
common in primates. Second, self-
deception seems to be a change to
conceal a tasty morsel of food or an
ape that misdirects the attention of another
member of the group. In one well
known incident involving three baboons, a
dominant male observed a subordinate male
sitting tall behind a rock. When the dominant
male didn’t see was the crouching form of a
subordinate male, hidden behind the rock,
whom the female was grooming.

Deceiving one’s mate is one thing,
what about self-deception? Imagination,
Sussman says, is a necessary component of self-decep-
tion. He says that we can see all this in animal behavior
and think about how they use tools,
nothing we see in any primate or in
the fossil record indicates that they
could be even an intellectual tool — for
anything other than to manipulate
the environment or for subsistence.

In other words, animals seem to be
having fun with objects to obtain
value or meaning beyond the practi-
cal. Sussman believes that things have
that leap, Sussman says.

Around 2,000 B.C. there is evidence
that humans were capable of
self-deception in the form of religious
tricks. The appearance in the
record of burials, burial goods, and
later, cave art, are the first evidence of
the ability of humans to deceive
themselves and to create culturally
determined perceptions of nature.


Deception is socially adaptive for
humans; it might also be adaptive to
be able to deceive oneself. People
have a filter through which they see
the world, it is almost a necessity for humans, Sussman
says. "But what if it turns out that
what it would be like to have
cultural deception? It is
possible that because the shape of the
world is like, to directly interact with
the world without preconceived
notions about it. All men see the
world through their own culture. All cultures
are different, by definition. The way in
which you’ve brought up helps you
define the world in a way that is
different from every other human.
That means that every human
has a deceptive view of the world,
by definition. Its almost as if self-deception
is a necessity for human existence."
— Tony Fitzpatrick and Trina Hoefer

Carnival — continued from p. 1

"stuff a Volkswagen" contest for
student organizations beginning at 11
a.m. April 11 outside Umrah Hall’s
Unrazzlefeller. The group that stuffs
20 members into a Volkswagen Jetta
the fastest will win $500. Observers
can enjoy free food from the famous
Vermeer’s Ice Cream and musical
tertainment. For more information
on the contest, call Susan Kotler at 367-4090.

Other pre-carnival activities
sponsored by Thurtene include a
Thurtene Throng Five-Mile Road
Race, a Hoop Night during the
teaching basketball service at Race,
and the Clayton fire and police
departments.

Thurtene Throng Five-Mile Road
Race, a Hoop Night during the past
seasons. The group has selected as a
Thurtene member: Susan Kotler from Roslyn Heights, N.Y., in
chair of public relations for the
group, along with Matthew Mulkerin;
other Thurtene members and their
roles are: Dik澎 (D.F.P.)
Bajaj, president; Craig Prisand, internal business; Thomas
Silberberg, external business; Jayson
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NOTABLES

David Felix, Ph.D., professor emeritus of economics, has received a J. William Fulbright travel and research grant for his project examining Latin American Argentina, Brazil and Chile from March 25 to June 25.

Ann E. Geers, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Speech and Hearing at the Central Institute for the Deaf, presented a lecture titled "Language and Literacy in Oral Adolescents," during a meeting of the Illinois Committee of the Hearing Impaired in Chicago. She also participated in the Language Panel to update the National Strategic Plan of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders of the National Institutes of Health.

Kevin Herbert, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Classics, presented a paper titled "Classical Themes in Modern Art: From J. J. David to the Present," at the inaugural meeting of the Society for the Classical Tradition, held last month in Boston. He is a member of the City Council of the Wilking Coin Collection, Herbert is also responsible for the exhibit "Roman Republican Coins," on display through May 19 at the University's Gallery of Fine Arts.

Harry Knopp, M.D., associate professor of clinical ophthalmology and visual science, has had his paper "Refractive Error Measure of Influence on Immunization" accepted for publication in the May issue of the Annals of Ophthalmology.

Carol Maxwell, a doctoral student in anthropology, presented a paper, titled "The Death Metaphors in Pro-Life Rhetoric and Performances," at the Fifth Annual Midwest Feminist Graduate Student Conference, held at Northwestern University.

Paul L. Mollina, M.D., assistant professor of radiology at the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, presented the lecture "Promising New Things," at the 12th annual Intermountain Imaging Conference in Steamboat Springs. Dr. Mollina is a member of the Medical College of Wisconsin.

W. Michael Muravchik, Ph.D., assistant professor of Spanish, presented a paper titled "The Title as Pun in Claudio Rodriguez's El canto de Inus," at the University of Louisville Conference on 20th-century Literature.

Brad Richard, a graduate student in the Writing Program, won two prizes in the 1991 poetry contest sponsored by the Department of English. Richard won the Academy of American Poets Prize for his poem "Wallace Steens: Fishing: 8/3/55" and the Norma Lowry Memorial Fund Prize for "The Death of Little Red Cap." Jarrod Schwartz, an undergraduate student in Arts and Science, winning the prize in the Writing Program, for the poem "The Title as Pun in Claudio Rodriguez's El canto de Inus," will receive $100 for each winning poem. Receiving honorable mentions in the competition were Anne Eagle, a graduate student in the Writing Program, for "Fishing: 8/3/55," and Lynne Brock, an undergraduate student in the History of American Poets Prize category.

Camilla Isbelle, a part-time graduate student in the Writing Program, for her poem "No," in the Norma Lowry Memorial Fund Prize category, will receive $100 for each winning poem. Receiving honorable mentions in the contest were Anne Eagle, a graduate student in the Writing Program, for "Fishing: 8/3/55," and Lynne Brock, an undergraduate student in the History of American Poets Prize category.

Michael Michaelis, an undergraduate student in Arts and Sciences, for "The Dead in Dick Rack Beer," in the Rogue River Hatch Prize category. Prizes will be awarded at the English department's final meeting this spring.

Martin S. Silverman, Ph.D., research assistant professor of physiology in the Department of Speech and Hearing at the Central Institute for the Deaf, will present a paper and serve as a session chair for the American Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology meeting April 27-May 3 in Sarasota, Fla. His paper titled "Restoration of the Papillary Reflex by Photoceptor Transplantation." Arlene Stoffman, Ph.D., assistant professor in psychology, has been appointed chief editorial adviser for the publication "The Word," an almanac of the American Psychological Association.

Murray L. Wax, Ph.D., professor of sociology and anthropology, delivered a paper titled "Anchored Manipulation and Deception in Fiction," which was organized by Joan Cassell, a research associate in sociology and anthropology. Wax also delivered a paper on "Odysseus and Socrates: Cassell and Kant." He served as a discussant in a session on "The Commodification of Culture," and he also gave a workshop on the commercial marketing and usage of applied anthropological research. Cassell recently was elected to the society's membership in the Council of Social Work in a past presidential election.

Have you done something noteworthy?

Do you have something to report? Send a brief note with your full name, highest degree, current title and department to: Record, Washington University, Box 1184, 6313 S. Euclid Avenue. Faculty and staff make news around the globe. Did Mrs. Einstein help develop the theory of relativity? Some researchers believe Einstein's letter prove the theory was a joint effort. Clifford M. Will, Ph.D., professor of physics, disagrees. "I don't see that there's any evidence she contributed in the way they claim," he says. The theory is 75 years old, but that hasn't kept scientists from continuing to ask if Einstein was right. Will says the theory is still correct — for now. The story appeared in Science, the Philadelphia Inquirer, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Chicago Sun- Times, Birmingham News, Wualnut Creek (Calif.) Contra Costa Times, and other smaller papers.

Schwarz honored for contributions to Austria's culture and literature

Egon Schwarz, Ph.D., Rosa May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities and professor of German, has received the Ehrenzeichen fur Kunst und Wissenschaft (Badge of Honor for Art and Science) from the Austrian government in recognition of his contributions to the arts, humanities, and literature. He received the award from Clemens Coreth, the Austrian consul general, during a March 4 ceremony in the Women's Building lounge.

Schwarz has been a member of the Washington University faculty since 1961. Among his numerous publications are works on Austrian and German writers of the 19th and 20th centuries. His 1979 autobiography titled No Time for Eichendorff is a tribute to the intellectual development of a generation that was driven from its homeland and established personal lives and careers in a foreign country. Schwarz emigrated to South America in 1939, shortly after Austria was incorporated into the Nazi Empire. He came to the United States in 1949.

Since the end of World War II, he has frequently traveled to Austria as a guest of the country's cultural organizations, such as the Austrian Society for Literature. In 1986 he received a honorary degree from the city of Vienna. He was recently honored by the American Association of Teachers of German.

Washington University faculty and staff make news around the globe. Following is a digest of media coverage they have received during recent weeks for their scholarly activities, research and general expertise.

In "most economic downturns, the overwhelming majority of people go on doing what they are doing and getting paid for what they do," said Murray Weidenbaum, Ph.D., director of the Center for the Study of American Business, in a recent Newsweek article about a predicted slump. "It has been a long time since we had a recession, so we're out of practice. Overreacting is wrong, but it always happens," he added.

Fossil expert will discuss 'Eve' theory

Paleoanthropologist Milford Wolpoff will deliver the Phi Beta Kappa/Sigma Xi Lecture at 11 a.m. April 17 in Edison Theatre. A professor of anthropology at the University of Michigan, Wolpoff will discuss "All About Eve. Our Fossil Evidence of Human Evolution." This lecture, part of the Assembly Series, is free and open to the public.

Wolpoff, an expert on human fossils, is a strong critic of the "Eve" theory, which proposes that modern humans all descend from one woman who lived approximately 200,000 years ago, probably in Africa. While he agrees that such a woman might have existed, Wolpoff contends that the evidence cited for her date of origin is inconclusive and ignores contradictory fossil data. For example, Wolpoff notes fossils that show modern humans from a certain geographic area resemble archaic humans who lived in the same area 780,000 years ago.

A member of Sigma Xi, Wolpoff also belongs to the American Association of Physical Anthropologists and is an American Anthropological Association Fellow. The lecture, which honors the initiates of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi, two academic honors at Washington University, is sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, Assembly Series, Phi Beta Kappa, and Sigma Xi. For more information about the lecture, call 889-4620.

Newsmakers

Clemens A. Coreth, Austrian consul general, presents Austria's Badge of Honor for Art and Science to Egon Schwarz, Ph.D., Rosa May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities.

Did Mrs. Einstein help develop the theory of relativity? Some researchers believe Einstein's letter prove the theory was a joint effort. Clifford M. Will, Ph.D., professor of physics, disagrees. "I don't see that there's any evidence she contributed in the way they claim," he says. The theory is 75 years old, but that hasn't kept scientists from continuing to ask if Einstein was right. Will says the theory is still correct — for now. The story appeared in Science, the Philadelphia Inquirer, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Chicago Sun-Times, Birmingham News, Wualnut Creek (Calif.) Contra Costa Times, and other smaller papers.
Thursday, April 11

Friday, April 12
9:15 a.m. Noon, 1904 St. Louis World's Fair — in Word and Image. "48 HRS." (Also April 13, same time, and April 21 at 9:30 p.m.) Room 100 Hofmann Hall.

Saturday, April 13
1:10 p.m. George Warren Brown School of Social Work Presents The Eli Lilly Lectures: "The Work of Robert N. Bellah, Harvard University. Services will be held at 5:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 9:30 p.m. Filmboard Feature Series "Scorsese's Audience." 7:30 p.m. Graduate Library. $3.50 general admission; $2 for Washington University students; and free for WU faculty, staff, and senior citizens; and free for WU faculty, staff, and students. For ticket info., call 889-6543.

Sunday, April 14

Wednesday, April 17
7:30 p.m. Dept. of Romance Languages and Literatures Presents "Jeux de mots." A French film with English subtitles. Room 210 Ridgley Hall.

Friday, April 19
7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Filmboard Feature Series Presents "The Little Mermaid." (Also April 20 at 2:30 p.m. and April 21 at 7:30 p.m.) Room 100 Brown Hall.

Tuesday, April 23

Wednesday, April 24

Thursday, April 25