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NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Office of News and Public Affairs
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Phone: 608/262-3571
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*Institutes, Workshops, Conferences:
Archaeology*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4/25/95

CONTACT: Keith Schoville, (608) 262-9785, (608) 262-1849

DEAD SEA SCROLLS CONFERENCE SET

MADISON — The latest research on the Dead Sea Scroll will be discussed in an traveling symposium May 2-3 at University of Wisconsin campuses in Oshkosh and Madison.

Since a Bedouin shepherd accidentally discovered them nearly 50 years ago, the scrolls and the ruins of a nearby settlement have been the object of heated debate. Issues center around who hid the scrolls, why they were concealed, and the relationship between the scrolls and the Christian and Jewish religions.

However, some aspects of the scrolls are clear: They provide priceless insight into the historical development of the Bible and illuminate the context from which the early Christian church emerged.

The symposium, titled "The Dead Sea Scrolls Today," will begin Tuesday, May 2 at the UW-Oshkosh Newman Center. After an opening reception at 4 p.m., scholars will discuss:

- "The Discovery, Archaeology and History of the Dead Sea Scrolls," by Keith Schoville, professor of Hebrew and Semitic studies at UW-Madison, 5 p.m.
- "Unraveling the Mysteries of the Dead Sea Scrolls," by Eugene Ulrich, professor of Hebrew scriptures, Notre Dame, 7:30 p.m.
- "The Dead Sea Scrolls: Implications for the History of Judaism and Christianity," by James C. VanderKam, professor of theology, Notre Dame, 8:30 p.m.

On May 3, the conference will repeat at Morgridge Auditorium in Grainger Hall at UW-Madison. Topics, times and presenters will be the same as in Oshkosh. In addition, a closing reception will be held at 9:30 p.m.

The conference will be free and open to the public. For more information, contact the UW-Madison Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies, (608) 262-3204.

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— Barbara Wolff, (608) 262-8292



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*Institutes, Workshops, Conferences
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4/13/95

CONTACT: Herbert Lewis, (608) 262-1802 or (608) 262-2866

SYMPOSIUM SET ON 'BELL CURVE'

MADISON — A public symposium on "The Bell Curve," a new book that has created a storm of controversy over its message of racial determinism, will be held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Saturday, April 22.

The symposium will run from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in B-102 of Van Vleck Hall, 480 Lincoln Drive. Admission is free.

"The Bell Curve," by Charles Murray and the late Richard Herrnstein, has a central message: Blacks are less intelligent than whites, and that's because of genetic differences. The book was a bestseller for weeks and has been widely featured in the media.

Speaking at the symposium will be three anthropologists with special expertise in race: C. Loring Brace and Lawrence Hirschfeld of the University of Michigan and Jonathan Marks of Yale University.

Brace is curator of physical anthropology at Michigan's Museum of Anthropology. He is the author, with Ashley Montagu, of "The Stages of Human Evolution," now in its fifth edition. He has written a history of the concept of race for Encyclopedia Americana.

Hirschfeld is working on a book titled "Race in the Making: Culture, Conceptual Development, and the Construction of Human Kinds." He has written extensively on children's acquisition of knowledge, especially the learning of categories such as race and kinship.

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Symposium -- Add 1

Marks is the author of the book "Human Biodiversity: Genes, Race, and History." One of his recent articles, appearing in *Natural History*, is titled "Black; White; Other: Racial Categories are Cultural Constructs Masquerading as Biology." Both Marks and Brace were quoted in a *Newsweek* cover story this year (Feb. 13), "What Color is Black?"

The April 22 symposium opens at 1:30 p.m. with a talk by Marks on "Heredity minus genetics: race and other folk theories of biological inheritance in 'The Bell Curve.'" Hirschfeld will discuss "Views of intelligence, race and the construction of reality" at 2:15 p.m., followed by Brace at 3:30 p.m. on "The idea of racial determinism in American thought and politics and its revival in 'The Bell Curve.'"

The symposium coordinator is Herbert Lewis, professor of anthropology at UW-Madison. "'The Bell Curve' makes claims about racial inequality," said Lewis, "but the very questionable notion of race is left unexamined in the book. Modern physical anthropology has something quite different to say about the topic."

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— Jeff Iseminger, (608) 262-8287

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UW-MADISON NEWSBRIEFS

REGION CONFERENCE AT UW-MADISON EXPLORES ANDEAN AND AMAZONIAN SCHOLARSHIP

The 15th annual Midwest Conference on Andean and Amazonia Archaeology and Ethnohistory will be held Sat. and Sun., Feb. 21 and 22 at the Wisconsin Center, 702 Langdon St. Seventeen midwestern scholars will present papers from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday. For more information, contact the UW-Madison Anthropology Department at (608) 262-2866/262-2867.

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PRO ARTE QUARTET PRESENTS ALL-BEETHOVEN CONCERT SUNDAY

The Pro Arte Quartet Sunday (Feb. 22) will perform three quartets by Ludwig von Beethoven for the second performance in a series of seven all-Beethoven concerts. The performance is at 8 p.m. in Mills Concert Hall on the UW-Madison campus.

The evening's program includes the Beethoven string quartets in D Major, Op. 18 No. 3; B-flat Major, Op. 18 No. 6, and A Minor, Op. 132. The seven-concert series runs through April 10, 1988, when the quartet will have performed the complete set of published string quartets and quintets by Beethoven. Members of the Pro Arte Quartet are Norman Paulu and Martha Francis Blum, violins, Richard Blum, viola, and Parry Karp, violoncello.

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From: University of Wisconsin-Madison / University News Service, 19 Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53706
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TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: Enclosed are two stories about research results to be presented at the 8th Annual Midwest Mesoamerican Conference this weekend (March 23 and 24) at the J.F. Friedrich Center on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Scientists from around the Midwest will discuss research on a variety of topics, including Maya cave usage, the practice of human sacrifice and the findings at major archaeological digs in Mexico and Central America.

Those interested in covering the conference can obtain press packets at the center. For more information about these or other stories, contact conference coordinator Gary Feinman (608) 262-0317 or Terry Devitt at University News Service (608) 262-8282.

Terry Devitt
University News Service



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3/21/85

CONTACT: Bruce F. Benz (608) 262-2792

ANCIENT CORN MAY SHED LIGHT ON MEXICO'S PAST

By DAVID J. KRUPA
UIR Science Writer

MADISON--A small collection of 1800-year-old corn cobs may help a University of Wisconsin-Madison researcher unravel the pre-Columbian history of Mexico.

Bruce F. Benz, a doctoral candidate in UW-Madison's botany department, says analysis of archaeological maize suggests a link between the pre-Aztec city of Teotihuacan and the highland region of Puebla roughly 100 miles to the east.

Benz found striking similarities between fragments of ancient corn recovered from Teotihuacan and indigenous maize currently grown in Puebla. He said this similarity could indicate that both descended from the same seed stock.

Teotihuacan, an archaeological site located in the Valley of Mexico northeast of Mexico City and famous for its two colossal pyramids, has puzzled anthropologists for many years.

Benz, tucked away in an office brimming with corn ears of every shape, size and color, compared ancient corn fragments recovered from Teotihuacan and modern races of corn found throughout much of south central Mexico.

Benz said ears collected from small farms in Mexico today contrast sharply with the large-eared hybrid corn commonly grown in developed nations. Hybrid

Add 1--archaeological maize

corn, he said, has been so altered by breeding that it scarcely resembles the old-fashioned types often grown by native Mexican farmers. The native corn varieties are more like their ancient maize relatives, he said.

"The links between modern Puebla's primitive-looking corn and the ancient corn remnants from Teotihuacan support recent speculation that the ancient city developed as part of a wave of pre-Aztec settlement from the east," said Benz. "It's plausible that people brought their corn seed stock with them when they founded Teotihuacan, a city which became the region's capital.

"Since farmers are reluctant to give up familiar, dependable seed in favor of new or untried races, archaeological cobs may tell us about the movements of these early peoples," he said.

Teotihuacan sprang up in the first century B.C., grew to a bustling metropolis of about 150,000, then met its demise around 700 A.D. Where its occupants came from, and why they settled there in such great numbers, remains unclear, said Benz.

"Corn from Teotihuacan and other sites can help us understand the relationship between cultural history and the evolution of maize," he continued. "Once dated, corn fragments can be used to map out the evolution of maize. If we can trace the movement of various corn races, they become important markers of human activities as well."

The Teotihuacan study is part of a larger effort to develop a new classification scheme for all the races of corn in Mexico, said Benz. He explained that the evolution of corn from its closest relative, teosinte, has been hotly debated among botanists and archaeologists.

Teosinte, a wild plant that produces dozens of tiny ears, belongs to the same group of grasses as corn. Benz said differences between corn ears and the ears of teosinte have complicated efforts to trace corn's evolution.

But in 1979, UW-Madison botany Professor Hugh H. Iltis proposed the "Catastrophic Sexual Transmutation Theory," a radical hypothesis that

Add 2--archaeological maize

resolves fundamental problems in the evolutionary steps to corn from teosinte. Teosinte, still found in parts of Mexico today, is believed by most biologists to be the ancestor of corn.

Iltis, director of Benz's National Science Foundation-sponsored project, maintains that the female corn ear did not evolve from the female ears of teosinte. Rather, he says, the corn ear evolved from teosinte's male tassel by a process of "feminization."

Iltis says that this sexual change, which accounts for maize's sudden appearance in Mexico about 8000 years ago, may have been triggered by a fungal infection, genetic mutation, or unusual environmental stress. Once the hormone balance in the tassels of certain teosinte plants shifted enough to cause a change in sex, explains Iltis, the feminized parts of the tassel became dominant, drawing in a greater share of the plant's nutrients and increasing in size.

"Early cultivators apparently keyed in on this chance occurrence, and furthered the trend by selective breeding," said Benz. "Iltis' theory models the evolution from teosinte to primitive corn that eventually gave rise to the races of corn found today.

"I've used the model to isolate key traits that vary according to race, thereby establishing a 'yardstick' for gauging primitiveness of different corn specimens in the archaeological record."

Benz stressed that historical reconstructions based on the archaeological fragments are only "best guesses" based on probabilities. He said his preliminary conclusions about the corn at Teotihuacan, which he will discuss at the 8th Annual Midwest Mesoamerican Conference in Madison this weekend (March 23 and 24), need to be refined by further analysis of maize of greater and lesser antiquity than the 1800-year-old cobs he has analyzed.

A scant 25 cob sections from the temple site were available for comparison with contemporary races in the Valley of Mexico, and Benz cautioned that the small sample could skew his results.

He said the cooperation of Mexican scientists at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico made his work possible, and that further studies on the evolution of maize will depend on continued collaboration.

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--David J. Krupa (608) 263-2876

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Release: Immediately

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CONTACT: Gary M. Feinman (608) 262-0317

ANTHROPOLOGISTS TO GATHER FOR MESOAMERICAN CONFERENCE

MADISON--Anthropologists from around the Midwest will gather at the University of Wisconsin-Madison March 23 and 24 (Saturday and Sunday) for the Eighth Annual Midwest Mesoamerican Conference.

Hosted by the UW-Madison anthropology department, the conference serves as a forum for anthropologists, archaeologists and art historians to discuss ongoing research in the area of Mesoamerican archaeology and anthropology. Mesoamerica, occupied at one time by the Aztec and Maya cultures, includes much of Mexico, the Central American nations of Belize and Guatemala, and portions of El Salvador and Honduras.

To be held at UW-Madison's J.F. Friedrich Center, the conference will feature more than 20 presentations. Scheduled topics include the identification of archaeological maize from Mexico, a look at Aztec land records and maps, human sacrifice and Maya cave usage.

According to UW-Madison anthropologist and conference coordinator Gary M. Feinman, nearly 30 scientists are expected to attend the two-day meeting.

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-- Terry Devitt (608) 262-8282

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Anthro*

Release: Immediately

10/9/81 msf

ARCHEOLOGY CONFERENCE TO AIR PRAIRIE DU CHIEN FINDINGS

MADISON--The findings of several archeological excavations conducted in the Prairie du Chien area will be among research presented here at the 1981 Mid-western Archeological Conference Oct. 16-18.

Professor James Stoltman, chairman of the University of Wisconsin-Madison anthropology department and director of the Prairie du Chien study, is one of about 300 researchers expected to attend the conference. The program will feature symposia and papers covering a wide range of midwestern archeological topics, with an emphasis on understanding how early native Americans lived.

Sponsored by the anthropology department, the conference will be held at the J.F.Friedrick Center for Continuing Education, 1950 Willow Drive.

Further information is available from Stoltman, program chairman, telephone (608) 262-4343, or Connie Arzigian, program chairperson, (608) 262-6599, or by writing the Laboratory of Archeology, Anthropology Department, 5240 Social Sciences Building, 1180 Observatory Drive, Madison 53706.

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CONTACT: David Suchman (608) 262-5772

CONFERENCE TO STUDY CLIMATE DATA USERS

MADISON--A three-day conference to determine the uses of climate data collected by the federal government will open Monday at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

About a dozen government and university researchers will participate in the meeting, first step in a federally-funded project in which the University's Space Science and Engineering Center will examine the current climate information network in the United States.

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4/11/78 bw

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CONTACT: Ted Macdonald (608) 263-2298

FUTURE OF RAIN FOREST IN AMAZON BASIN TO BE DISCUSSED

MADISON--First came the roads, built by large international companies to clear the way for oil drilling and mining. Then the settlers, displaced from their native mountain regions by wealthy landowners, began to move in. When enough trees are cleared from the forest, the highland refugees intend to make their fortunes raising cattle.

The scenario could be the story of the American West, but it is not. Instead, the time is the present, the place, the Amazon Basin of South America. It will be the subject of a symposium April 18-22 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Prof. Ted Macdonald, a visiting member of the anthropology department, thinks the current method of developing the rain forest will lead to serious problems for South American governments and the United States. He says tactics which corporations such as Volkswagen have been using to mow down inconvenient trees also effect natives who live in the forest.

"The indigenous populations are really the only people who know how to exploit the tropical environment successfully," he says. "But when the companies and settlers come in, these native groups get pushed out along with the trees into areas that are foreign to their ways of life."

Macdonald says the tropical rain forest replenishes itself, working like a percolator to filter nutrients from the trees down.

Add one--Amazon

"It's not like American prairie or other temperate climates," he says.

"The rain forest gets nutrients not from the soil but from its own decayed matter on the forest floor. Remove the trees and you remove the fertility."

He says ranches and farms established on improperly cleared land will lose money. The U.S. has loaned large sums to several South American governments which are depending in part on revenue from new ranches in the Amazon basin to repay their international debts. Macdonald thinks Washington should pay close attention to the clearing of the jungle in its own self-interest.

"It isn't a simple matter of development vs. ecology," he says. "The whole question deserves very careful study from all sides. From the look of it I think it will develop into an international issue."

Macdonald is organizing the interdisciplinary symposium April 18-22.

The Washington-based Anthropological Resource Center has convinced the House of Representatives that the Amazon situation warrants investigation. Macdonald expects a member of the House Subcommittee on International Development to attend symposium sessions.

The lectures and discussions, sponsored by the Ford Foundation, Inter-America Foundation, Tinker Foundation, U.S. Agency for International Development and UW-Madison will be held at the State Historical Society. The public is invited to attend all morning lectures.

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UW news

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5/23/73 mcg

MADISON--Results of the five-year study of why Eskimos thrive in their harsh environment will be discussed by 14 scientists in the project during a meeting at the University of Wisconsin-Madison May 26-27.

Sessions are under the direction of Dr. Frederick A. Milan, principal investigator of the \$1 million project, begun in 1968 as part of the International Biological Program to correlate research efforts of scientists from 50 nations. A Wisconsin Ph.D. and former member of the anthropology department, Milan is now affiliated with the Institute of Arctic Biology at the University of Alaska. He will report on demography, pedigrees, and inbreeding of Eskimos.

UW-Madison faculty members delivering papers are Prof. Richard B. Mazess, radiology and space science, bone mineral content; Prof. Ronald H. Laessig, State Laboratory of Hygiene and preventive medicine, clinical chemistry; and Prof. Wayne H. Thompson, preventive medicine, arbovirus research.

Also reporting will be scientists from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden; the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; the Universities of Toronto, Indiana, Arizona, Illinois, and Chicago; State University of New York at Buffalo; Texas Technical College; and Pennsylvania State University. They will discuss growth, skin color, dental studies, nutrition, physiology, cholesterol metabolism, and psychological studies.

All meetings will be held in the Social Science building. Information may be obtained from Prof. R.H. Osborne, 5441 Social Science, telephone 262-5818.

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