

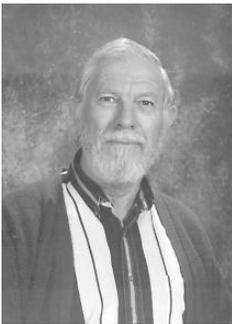
TCAS BENCHMARK



FEBRUARY 2006

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Winter seems to always be a slow time for archeological activities around these parts. Normally the threat of inclement weather keeps us indoors and out of the field. We hope to get back to the Sprague Site in March or April, and as soon as weather permits, outdoor washing of artifacts. We will have a session at Bryan Jameson's house to catalogue and analyze artifacts from the Sprague dig. The lithics academy that many of us will attend this month should come in handy in accomplishing the analysis.

This TCAS newsletter is now available online at the Texas Archeology Society website, www.txarch.org by going to the regional societies page and then finding Tarrant County. We will keep the current month's newsletter available on the website.

Speaking of Internet sites, each month I will try to highlight a site of interest to anyone doing an additional reading in archeology. This month's site is "Archaeological Research Resources" <http://www.har-indy.com/Links.html#Org>. It contains excellent links to a number of sites for handy "digging" into archeology and related subjects.

We had over 60 in attendance at our January monthly meeting to hear Jimmy Smith's presentation on Techado Springs. We look forward to Dr. Steve Wolverton's talk this month.

Calendar of Activities

FEBRUARY

- 2 Board Meeting, 7pm
- 9 TCAS Meeting 7:30 P.M. UNT-HSC
Dr. Steve Wolverton - Professor of Archaeology
- 11-12 Lithics Workshop: Reading Stone Artifacts, Tarrant County College NE Campus, Hurst TX—
See more In newsletter
If any directions are needed please call 817.988.8405 and Paula will guide you to the right place.
- 18 East Texas Archeological Conference at UT Tyler,
9 AM-4 PM , \$10 registration at the door.

February 3

7:30

Program by Dr. Steve Wolverton

Dr. Wolverton's interests are in the Archeology of North America with particular reference to what can be learned from animal remains from archaeology and paleontology sites.

Read more about Dr. Wolverton

On page 2

*John & Laurel Wilson & Wendy Lockwood
will provide refreshments in February..*

Lithics: Reading Stone Artifacts—February 11 & 12, Tarrant County College—NE Campus

The Lithics workshop is designed to provide hands-on experience for recognizing and analyzing stone artifacts. You will learn the different ways in which stone tools were made, how to recognize their different use-wear patterns and the interpretation of stone artifacts found in the archeological record. Flint knapping demonstrations will focus not so much on how points are made but rather how the archaeological record is formed. Dr. Harry Shafer will lead the workshop with the assistance of flint knapping specialists. If you have questions, please call Linda Ott Lang at 817-781-8236.

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Dr. Steve Wolverton

Dr Steve Wolverton graduated from the University of Missouri with a Ph.D in Anthropology in 2001. His interests are in the archaeology of North America with particular reference to what can be learned from animal remains from archaeology and paleontology sites. His research centers on examining human and environment interactions through time. Current projects include working with prehistoric data to provide time-depth for biological conservation and ecosystems management. Dr. Wolverton is published in several journals including American Antiquity, the Journal of Human Evolution, Conservation Biology, and Quaternary Research. His premise is that archaeology is important in modern society because it helps us put our current culture into a larger perspective on what it means to be human. Dr Wolverton arrived at UNT in the fall of 2004; He teaches several archaeology classes including Archaeological Science, Texas Archaeology, and North American Archaeology.

Presentation: Evolutionary effects of historic and prehistoric carnivore extinctions in central Texas.

Abstract: Archaeological and paleontological datasets are put to work in conservation by adding time-depth to ecology. In central Texas several top carnivores including prehistoric Native Americans have been extirpated, which has resulted in pest-level deer populations in some areas. Differences in body size of carnivores and deer between prehistory and modernity are expected given that a lack of predation likely has increased intraspecific competition for habitat among deer and has also potentially caused competitive release among medium-size carnivores. From a natural history perspective, this research highlights potential evolutionary causes and effects of top-predator removal on white-tailed deer populations and related components of biological communities in central Texas.

The East Texas Archeological Conference is scheduled for February 18, 2006 at the Robert R. Muntz Library on the University of Texas at Tyler campus. Hours are from 9 AM to 4 PM. Registration is \$10 at the door.

The University of Texas at Tyler campus is located in Tyler's southeast corner. Exit Loop 323 onto University Blvd. (Spur 248), then head east on University Blvd. until you get to Old Omen Road (approximately 2 miles). Take a left onto Old Omen Road and you will see the main entrance to the campus on your left (approx. 1/2 mile). For additional information contact Mark Walters (walters@tyler.net).



Around The State

Historic Myth of Aztec's in American Southwest Cast in New Light:

Dennis Reinhartz, a University of Texas at Arlington historian and co-editor of Mapping of the Entradas into the Greater Southwest, is filmed discussing pre-Columbian trade routes that extended from South America through Aztec land and into New Mexico. Archaeologists claim that Ecuadorian seamen went up the western coastline to trade shells, fruits and maize with Mexican merchants. Told in Nahuatl, Spanish and English, the film explores the concept of "going back."

The more ardent defenders of U.S. nationalism and some American Indians express in harsh tones their desire for Mexicans and their descendants to go back to Mexico. They ignore or aren't aware of the Uto-Nahuatl language family and the presence of corn that expose a historical connection between Mexican and U.S. Indians

A few more Christmas photos





Around The Nation

Ancient ‘kitchen’ unearthed in southern Indiana

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTOWN — Workers building a boat ramp at southeastern Indiana’s Charlestown State Park have uncovered the apparent remains of a 4,000-year-old “kitchen” ancient American Indians tribes may have used to prepare their winter food supply.

The discovery of the site in eastern Clark County prompted the state to temporarily halt work on the Ohio River boat ramp project. Bob McCullough, who heads an archaeological survey team from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, said the low-lying area was probably used by nomadic tribes of hunters and gatherers. He said they appear to have collected hickory nuts, used large slabs of rock to crush them and then made fires to boil them and extract fatty oils.

Tribes often stored such high-energy nut oils for use during the lean winter months, McCullough said. The IPFW team has made two trips to the site and plans a third study of the area. The archaeological work is required under federal and state historic preservation laws. No human remains or bones have been found at the site. McCullough said he was surprised by how well-preserved the cooking area site was, but he said it was protected over the centuries by layers of silt deposited by floodwaters.

Michael Strezewski, the lead archaeologist from IPFW on the first two visits to the park last fall, estimated the site dates from about 2000 B.C. He said it contains large amounts of Laurel chert, a stone from which stone tools can be created. Other artifacts included stone slabs used for grinding and cracking nuts, remains of fire pits and charred bits of plant material.

The area being studied is part of a 2,700-acre expansion at the park closed to the public. Over the years, several archaeological sites have been found in the park area. Larry Gray, the park’s property manager, said the \$3 million project to install a five-lane boat ramp, a picnic area, parking lot and riverfront walking trail would probably be delayed. “I wish we were going to be prepared to open it in April or May this year, but we’re not. We have to do things properly, and it takes time,” he said.



Around The State

Dog Burials go Back Ages

By Dan Vergano

USA Today

Pet cemeteries may seem like another one of the modern world's unneeded phenomena, like boy bands and car bras. But they actually have been around as long as man's best friend, one archaeologist says. And that may be telling us as much about people as about dogs. "People have been burying or otherwise ritually disposing of dead dogs for a long time," writes University of Kansas anthropologist Darcy Morey in the current *Journal of Archaeological Science*.

Surveying thousands of dog burials at archaeological sites worldwide, Morey concludes they "are documented from every major land mass in the world except Antarctica." Often the dogs were buried with their owners, Morey notes.

The oldest known dog, dating to about 14,000 years ago in Germany, was buried with two people. In Kentucky, at Indian Knoll, more than half of the dog burials from around 5,000 years ago were with people. And at Ashkelon, in Israel, about 1,000 dogs were buried next to a human cemetery more than 2,000 years ago. And these weren't casual burials, Morey notes. "At Ashkelon, each corpse was carefully placed in its own grave, with the dogs buried on their sides and their tails arranged to curl at the feet."

At the Anderson site in Tennessee, archaeologists found the more than 6,700-year-old fossil of an "unusually old" dog that had broken bones and arthritis, among other problems. The dog's owner must have provided long-term care for the pet.

For archaeologists, the lack of dog burials before 14,000 years ago points strongly to this as the time when dogs were first becoming domesticated, Morey says. "The deliberate burial of dogs is confined to the past 12,000 to 14,000 years. By that time, many people had begun treating dogs in death much like they treated people in death."

Mexican painting has both Christian, Aztec influences

Unearthed mural shows melding of cultures

By Mark Stevenson

Associated Press

Salvador Guilliem dangles on a narrow beam over the sunken remains of a mural painted by Indians shortly after the Spanish conquest. Guilliem, an archaeologist, points out the newly excavated red, green and ochre flourishes in one of the earliest paintings to show the mixing of the two cultures.

The vivid scene of animals real and mythical cavorting around the edge of lakes that once shimmered in Mexico City was painted by Aztec Indians in the early 1530s during a rare, brief moment of tolerance in an era when Spaniards were obliterating Aztec culture to cement their own rule.

Guilliem, who found the mural beneath the floor of a former Spanish convent, uses the beam to avoid treading on or touching the painting, done on the sides of a water-holding pool that was later ceremonially crushed and buried. Because of the burial, the bottom half of the 16-yard-long mural was preserved. But the top half - about one yard in height - was broken into about 25,000 fragments, which archaeologists must now painstakingly reassemble.

TCAS BENCHMARK



Around The State

REGISTRATION TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY ACADEMY 2006 REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Business _____

Email for confirmation _____

CIRCLE THE ACADEMY SESSION THAT YOU WANT TO ATTEND

<u>Location</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
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MIDLAND	Ceramics	March 4-5	Feb. 22
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DEL RIO/COMSTOCK	Rock Art	March 31-Apr.2	March 22
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Sign up now

Lithics & Ceramics will be Saturday and Sunday 9 AM - 4 PM. Rock Art will begin Fri. PM

FEES

TAS member 2005 \$85

Non-member (includes membership) \$125

Total fee enclosed _____

CREDIT CARD Authorization form (please print)

Name as it appears on Credit Card, please print :

_____ Ph.No. _____

Billing address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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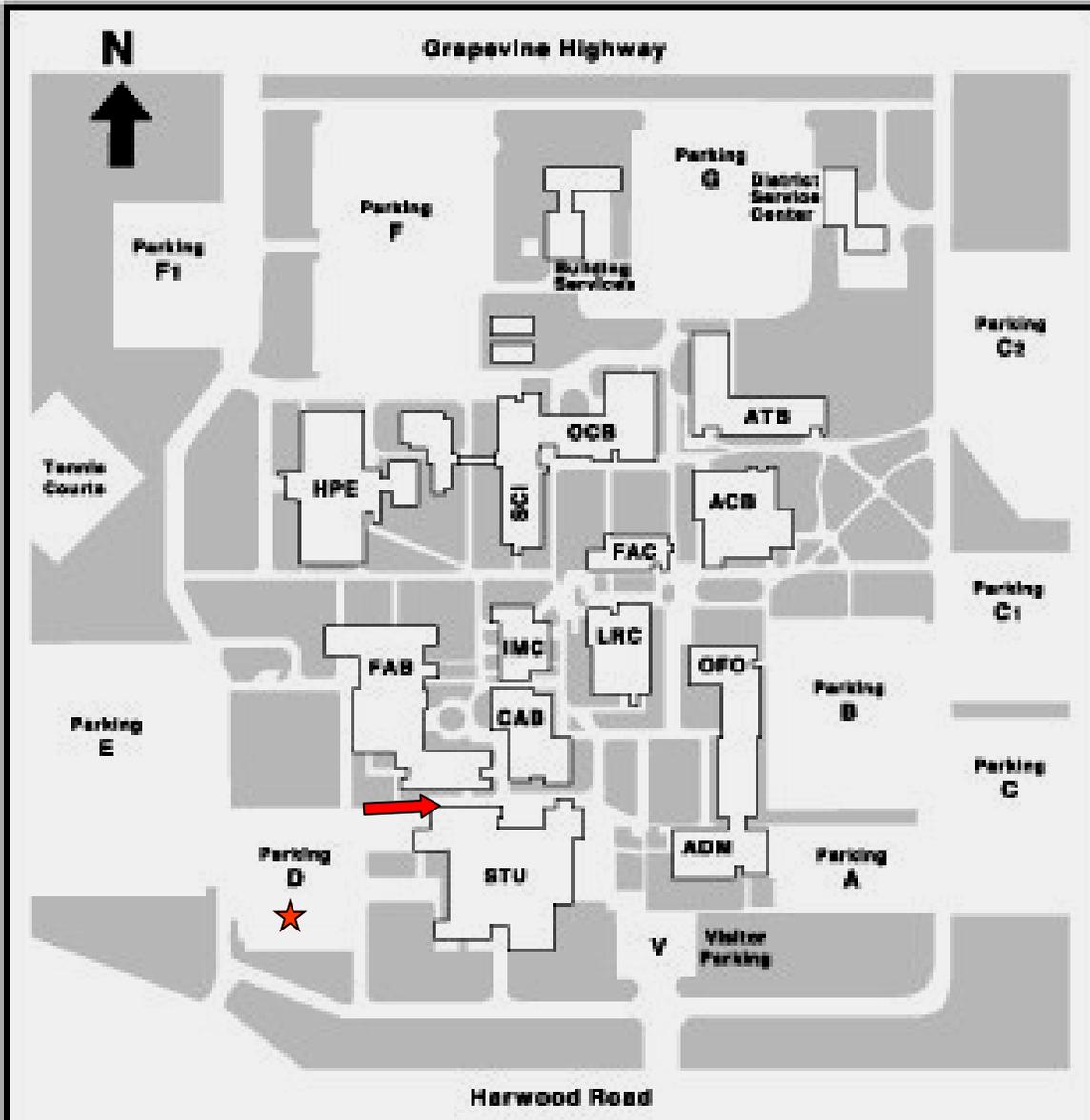
MAIL REGISTRATION FORM & PAYMENT TO:
TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY ACADEMY - SANDY ROGERS, 3011 HWY 30 WEST, SUITE 101
HUNTSVILLE, TX 77340

Questions: call 1-800-377-7240

TCAS BENCHMARK

MAP TO TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE—NE CAMPUS for TAS ACADEMY

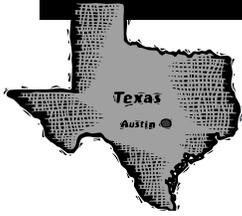
Lithics Workshop—call 817.988.8405 for assistance



TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE NORTHEAST CAMPUS



- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| ACB Academic Classrooms | FAC Faculty Offices | OFO Office Occupations |
| ADM Administration | HPE Health & Physical Education | SCI Science |
| ATB Arts & Technology | IMC Instructional Media Center | STU Student Center |
| CAB Communication Arts | LRC Learning Resources Center | |
| FAB Fine Arts | OCB Occupations Building | |



Mexican painting (continued)

It's worth the effort. Mexican society itself is a jigsaw ences, like a snapshot of how that rich cultural mix in a syncretic mix, a fusion of two styles of thought, the site in the downtown Tlatelolco square, where a era structures are surrounded by busy avenues and

“At the center of the 16-yard -long painting is a stark floating above a much more colorful, lively lakeside other creatures. To the right of the cross and below it, mythical Aztec animal with paws resembling hands that sentative of the Aztec rain god Tlaloc. To the left, there back, upon which rests an eagle - a reference to pre-doms that ruled before the Spanish came. Indians also drew closely observed and gracefully executed depictions of lakeside plants, some of which were used in traditional Aztec medicine.



puzzle of Indian and Spanish influ- began. It's all coming together here “Guilliem tells Associated Press at jumble of Aztec ruins and colonial- buildings constructed in the 1960's.

Christian cross in black and white, scene of fishermen, frogs, fish and the Indians painted an ahuirotl, a was considered a servant or repre- is a jaguar with a stylized plant on its Hispanic place, names and the king-

The story of how and why the mural was created and buried provides a unique glimpse into the culture clash that emerged in the first years after Hernan Cortes and his Spanish troops conquered the Aztecs in 1521. Archeologists first suspected its presence in 2002 after workers digging a drainage trench turned up pieces of colored plaster. After a year and a half of digging, the work is now about 75 percent excavated. Archaeologist Eduardo Matos has called it one of the earliest surviving works from the period, saying it was probably painted by Aztec artists who were educated at an unusual college set up by Franciscan monks for the children of Indian nobles.

These Aztec painters managed to have a remarkable degree of self-expression for the era. The Spanish usually required Indians to paint as close to the European style as they could. But the Franciscan monks at Tlatelolco tried to defend the Indians from enslavement and were eager to learn Aztec language, customs and history. The monks also may not have recognized some of the references to older gods and other cultural symbols that the Aztecs wove into the mural. But even with the early Francis- cans' tolerance, Guilliem says some details in the mural reflect a "conflict of interests between the priests and the painter."

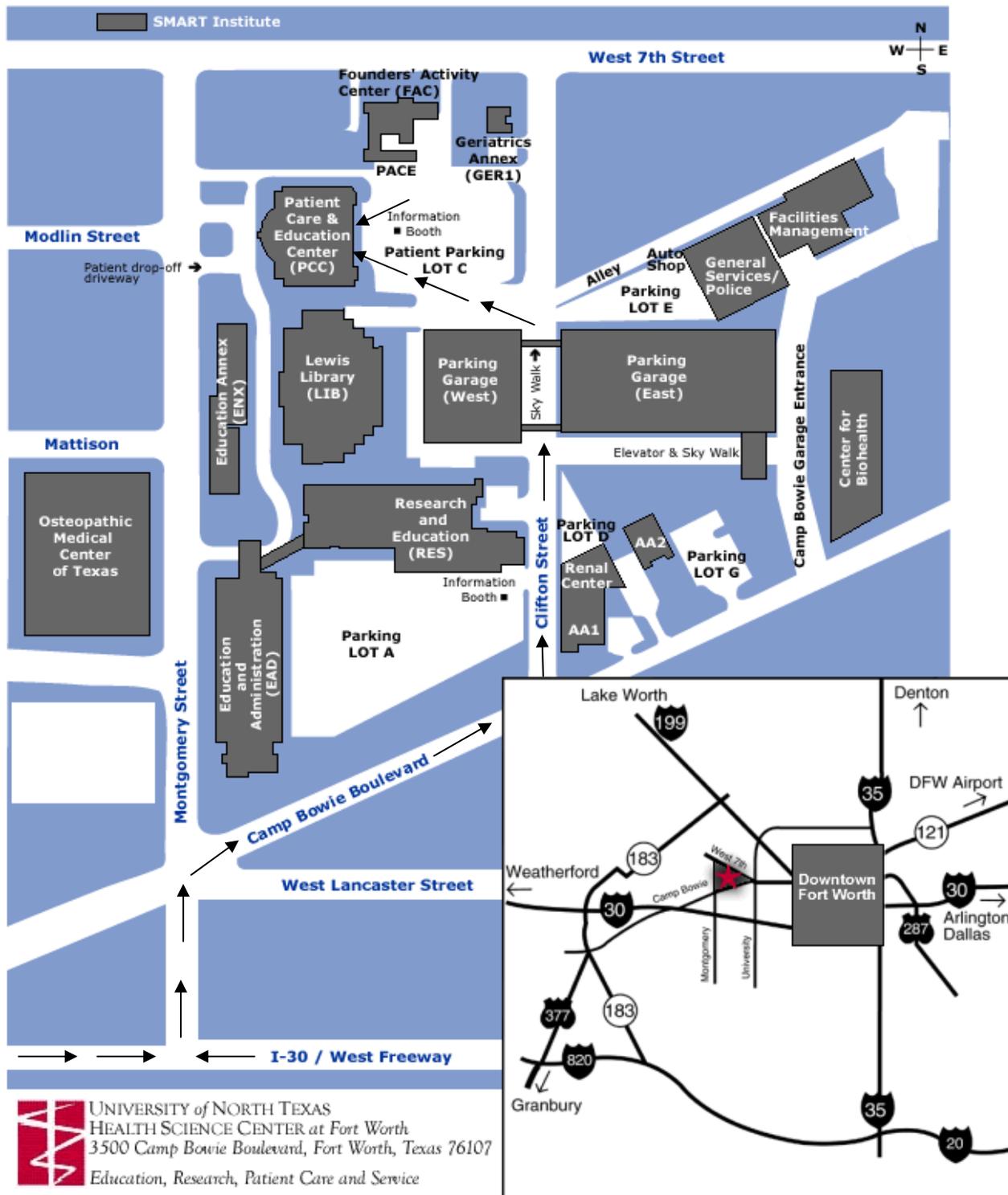
Most of the human figures - even some wearing Indian dress - are depicted with European features and drawn in European style using perspective, rather than the Aztec's one- dimensional profiles. But the European faces are mere outline drawings - neither filled in, fleshed out or colored with the still-bright natural tints used in the rest of the mural. "The priest directing the work says, 'Do it this way,' " Guilliem says, "and the Tlacuilo (Indian painter) says, 'Yes,' but then he goes on to do the other elements that really interest him, and he never finishes" the faces.

The relative independence of the monks at Tlatelolco was tolerated for only a few decades by Spanish rulers, who began to object to the Franciscans' tactic of educating Indians - and learning from them - while converting them to Christianity. But the artists at Tlatelolco didn't give in entirely. When the pool fell into disuse and the mural was buried around 1600, the Indians performed what appears to have been an entirely Aztec ritual to appease the pre-Hispanic spirits of the painting.

They carefully deposited the shattered fragments of the upper half of the painting in the lower half of the pool, along with the remains of hundreds of ritually sacrificed animals. They burned the animals' remains and buried them with a female fertility fet- ish and the statue of Napantecuhtli, an Aztec god "For them," Guilliem said, "this was sacred, because of what they had depicted there."

TCAS BENCHMARK

TCAS meets at 7:30PM, the 2nd Thursday of each month at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC), 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd., in Fort Worth. The location is centrally located in Tarrant County near the intersection of Camp Bowie and Montgomery Street about two miles west of downtown. Take Clifton Street off of Camp Bowie (one block east of the Montgomery intersection) to Parking Lot "C" on your left (west). Park in the patient spaces (after 5PM) and go past the information booth into the underground parking garage. Turn left down the corridor at the double doors in the center. Proceed down the hallway until you come to room 110.



TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Membership / Renewal Form

Name(s) _____

Type of Membership:

Renewal ___ New Member _____

Address _____

___ Individual ___ \$20.00

City/State/Zip _____

___ Family ___ \$25.00

Home Phone _____

___ Student (H.S., active univ. degree candidate through age 25)

Employer _____

___ \$10.00

___ Contributing ___ \$30.00+

Email _____

___ Lifetime ___ \$250.00

CODE OF ETHICS (Signature required)

I pledge that I will not intentionally violate the terms and conditions of any federal, state, or local antiquities statutes concerning cultural resources, or engage in the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial purposes, or engage in the willful destruction or distortion of archeological data, or disregard proper archeological field techniques. I understand that failure to follow these guidelines will provide ground for expulsion from the Society.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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