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almost nothing is done to enforce it." In the United States, archeological sites, including shell middens, are provided a measure of protection by a variety of federal and state laws and regulations, the most important of which, at the federal level, are the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Historic Sites Act of 1935, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Executive Order 11593, and the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974.

Only sites located on federal lands are provided any total statutory protection. Unlike more recent laws which emphasize protection of sites from land development actions by federal agencies, the Antiquities Act, as well as many state and local laws, is aimed at preventing the indiscriminate excavation and sale of antiquities from public properties by unauthorized individuals. It is true that enforcement of the Antiquities Act has been difficult because of the vast extent of public lands; however, it has been our experience that vandalism of archeological sites has been most severe in the western portion of the United States. Rock art is particularly vulnerable to vandalism, as are midden sites, from which artifacts are stolen for collections, and small surface sites which are destroyed by off-road recreational vehicles. Shell middens are probably the least vandalized type of archeological site on public lands.

All of the recent historic preservation laws have emphasized identification, protection, and enhancement of those cultural resources in this country which are subject to adverse effects by federal or federally assisted projects. These laws have created the basis of a system whereby early planning affords substantial protection to archeological sites, as well as to other cultural resources. Compliance by federal agencies is still imperfect but is steadily improving.

It is primarily through the coordination and cooperation of federal, state, and local planning and preservation programs that these national laws can be fully implemented to provide better protection for our cultural heritage.

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Wilson's notes on the protection offered to midden sites on federal lands are helpful, though unfortunately a little late. In many cases, along our East Coast the middens were exploited for lime by the farmers in pre-Revolutionary days. At that time, however, I do not think the

term "vandalism" would have been appropriate, but rather, "the exploitation of nature's bounty."

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## Degu Colony Available

We have developed a breeding colony of the Chilean hystricognathous rodent *Octodon degus* for biomedical research. The degu is a rat-sized rodent related to the guinea pig; it is easily maintained and handled in the laboratory and breeds readily. The gestation period is 90 days, and the mean litter size is six pups. The degu has two thymus glands and often develops cataracts.

Approximately 300 production animals are maintained as a closed, random-bred colony. In addition, we have established an inbreeding program and maintain a foundation colony of some 200 animals produced by strict sibling matings. Some lines in the inbreeding program have reached the fourth generation. All animals are pedigreed.

The Animal Resources Branch of the National Institutes of Health has elected to terminate support for the colony, and we are anxious to distribute these animals to interested investigators before the colony is destroyed. There is no charge for the animals, but we ask recipients to pay for shipment.

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## Disclaimer

In his review (29 Aug. 1975, p. 712) of *Primate Aggression, Territoriality, and Xenophobia* (1), to which I contributed a chapter, Glenn Hausfater attributes to me the "conclusion" that "quantitative data on any aspect of monkey aggression is lacking despite many hours of observation by many different field workers." Nowhere in my contribution to that volume did I make such a statement, nor have I ever believed it.

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## References

1. R. Holloway, Ed., *Primate Aggression, Territoriality, and Xenophobia* (Academic Press, New York, 1974).