

## Terrorism and Animal Rights

Recently, members of animal rights organizations were upset by Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan's use of the term "terrorism" to describe their activities. The attempted murder of two researchers in England by car bombs that seriously injured a 13-month-old child (News & Comment, 22 June, p. 1485) indicates that Sullivan's characterization is true for the more radical elements of the movement. In the past, when animal rights terrorists used violence in their efforts to stop medical research, many supposed "moderate" members of the movement paid lip service to their dislike of such tactics. These "moderates" suggested that although they themselves would not commit such acts they could understand the motivation of those who did. Now the maiming of a child has starkly brought into focus the misguided ethics of those in the movement who actually value nonhuman animal life over human life. Every member of every animal rights group must decide where they stand on the issue of terrorism. They must either repudiate the terrorists, or by their silence, recognize that they have joined with them in supporting the attempted murder of those who are trying to provide better health care. Silence on this issue will condemn even the truly moderate groups that continue to strive for improved animal welfare, a goal that we all must share.

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## Linguistics and the Earliest Americans

In her article "Confusion in earliest America" (Research News, 27 Apr., p. 439), Virginia Morell provides an interesting view of the Conference on Language and Prehistory in the Americas. However, I feel that her description of a major change in consensus among archeologists concerning the initial peopling of North America is overstated.

Morell implies that Dennis Stanford of the Smithsonian Institution is a recent convert to the viewpoint that there is convincing evidence for a pre-Clovis occupation of the Americas and that his conversion represents a common experience among most archeologists working in the Americas. For at least the past 15 years Stanford has been a

major proponent of the view that a pre-Clovis occupation was present. His overviews (1) and site-specific research (2) have focused on early sites, and he has rigorously investigated, and enthusiastically endorsed, sites that are said to have had pre-Clovis occupations. He has also admitted that there are problems in interpreting these sites, including his own (3).

To say that most archeologists are convinced of the validity of the Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Monte Verde site data is also not completely accurate. For example, a recent major review (4) of early sites in South America noted that the data from Monte Verde are still viewed as problematic. In addition, the bifacial tool from Monte Verde illustrated in Morell's article (p. 439) was found from an eroding stream bank before the start of the controlled excavations at Monte Verde and is not clearly associated with the early dates from the site (5). Nor is the Meadowcroft Rockshelter beyond question (6), even though James Adovasio and his associates have been able to effectively answer many of the initial criticisms of the site's radiocarbon chronology (7).

While I do not claim to know what most archeologists working in the Americas think about the question of pre-Clovis occupations of the New World, I can say that the viewpoints presented at the conference in question are not the heralds of a new consensus sweeping American archeology, but rather the same voices telling the same stories that they have told before.

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## REFERENCES

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As a participant at the recent conference on Joseph Greenberg's classification of American Indian languages, I found that Morell's description of the conference bore little resemblance to what actually took place. While only 2 of 19 invited papers concerned archeology, Morell's article dealt

far more with archeology than with language. Furthermore, the main point of the article—that archeological dates before 12,000 years ago cast doubt on Greenberg's classification—is simply incorrect. Whether speakers of Proto-Amerind first entered the Americas 12,000 or 20,000 years ago is immaterial to the Greenberg classification, as he himself has repeatedly stated.

Morell's article makes it appear that Greenberg drew little support from other linguists, yet my tally of the speakers indicates that roughly half of them supported Greenberg. There is no mention of any of these supporters or of their arguments.

While Morell mentions the support that Christy Turner's dental evidence provides for Greenberg's classification, there was no mention of the recent discovery by L. L. Cavalli-Sforza and colleagues that, on the basis of human genetics, the populations of the New World fall into the same three groups that Greenberg had previously defined on strictly linguistic grounds. Yet I discussed this point at length in my presentation, and it has been widely reported in the press. Morell concludes that Greenberg's classification "has begun to show signs of age." Most readers of *Science* will, however, recognize that, when a classification arrived at by means of language is fully and independently corroborated by a study of human genetics, this is usually interpreted as a sign of maturity, not of age.

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Virginia Morell's Research News article of 27 April is misleading. Many Americanist linguists disagree with Joseph Greenberg, and his methods are considered to be out of date. Glottochronology, the basis of the conjectural chronology discussed in the article, has also been discarded. The idea that phonology and semiotics remain stable indefinitely, affected only by vague decay, has not withstood scrutiny. In general, linguistic connections older than 5000 years have been validly traceable only when reinforced by writing.

More than this, the insistence by some American anthropologists on a postglacial entry of man in the New World has long been an anachronism, particularly since archeology in Siberia has established a widespread horizon of Mousterian-type cultures that have been dated at 35,000 to 50,000 years before present. Substantial evidence also exists of human occupancy in the Acheulian, 300,000 or more years ago. The most recent relevant data have been developed by A. P. Derevyanko and his col-