

## ARCHAEOLOGY

## Arizona to Take High Road to Preservation?

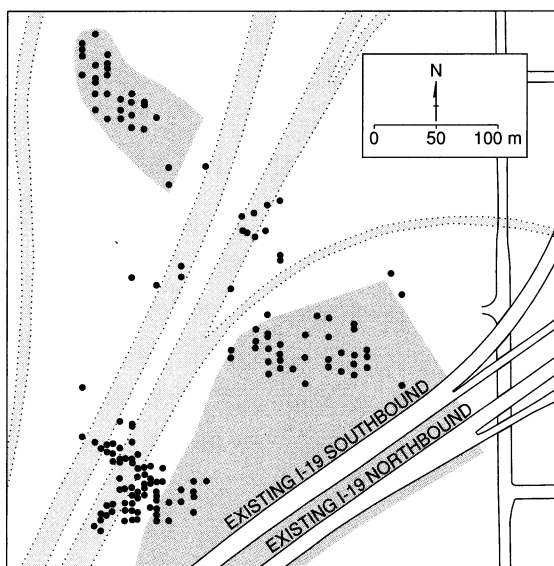
**TUCSON, ARIZONA**—Building freeways is big business in this rapidly growing state. So it's news when state transportation officials agree to weigh a proposal to set aside a scientifically valuable parcel of a federal highway project for future research rather than excavating it and selling it to the highest bidder. Should it proceed, Arizona could set a new standard of stewardship for government agencies that determine the fate of ancient relics.

The renovation of Interstate 19 at its intersection with I-10, a major north-south

interchange barely 2 kilometers from downtown Tucson. Under the plan, one of the nation's most prolific road-building agencies would retain and actively manage a plot of unneeded land for the sole purpose of preserving its archaeological resources. "This is a big deal," comments Jim Walker, the southwest regional director of the Archaeological Conservancy, a nonprofit group based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, that acquires and preserves key archaeological sites. "Highway rights-of-way are hot zones for archaeology, and we need to preserve much more raw data in the ground for more advanced research. This sets an important precedent for preserving archaeology rather than doing a one-time excavation before the bulldozers come in."

The preserve plan, which has been tentatively embraced by the highway department, entails key portions of the so-called Julian Wash site, one of the largest and longest occupied Hohokam culture village sites in the Tucson area. About half the 22-hectare site has already been destroyed by urban development and road building, and next year construction begins on six lanes of new freeway that will slice through other sections of the site (see map).

The state has retained Desert Archaeology Inc. (DAI) of Tucson to conduct extensive "data recovery" on the site in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. These excava-



KEY: • prehistoric pit house  
 shaded area area to be preserved  
 dotted line proposed interchange alignment

**Scientific road kill.** These ceramic jars from a Hohokam pit structure (right) were uncovered during excavation preceding the realignment of I-19 (above) in Tucson.

corridor in the state, almost inevitably means uncovering the remains of previous civilizations. And antiquities laws require extensive investigation of any major site. These efforts, which often include surplus lands that are intended for sale, can be a boon to science: Eight major digs involving I-10 over the past 5 years have yielded important findings about the origins of prehistoric village life in the Southwest. However, even a careful excavation leaves one fewer site for the next generation of researchers.

That dilemma has led to a novel plan for a small parcel near a \$60 million, three-level



tions will likely reveal scores of pit houses and other features reflecting the village's continuous occupation from 500 B.C. to A.D. 1150. That period encompasses the arrival of agriculture and pottery in southern Arizona and the rise of the Hohokam, one

compete with knapweed.

"The big deal is that *Centaurea* is interacting really, really differently with its long-term neighbors than with its new neighbors," says Callaway. His next step will be teasing out whether knapweed's as-yet-unidentified root chemicals affect its competitors directly or have an indirect effect by changing how soil microorganisms interact with plants.

—MARI N. JENSEN

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## EDUCATION

## Gates Gives Cambridge A Rival to Rhodes

Cambridge and Oxford universities compete in everything from chess to cricket, but for nearly a century Oxford has had the field to itself with its Rhodes Scholars program for attracting non-British students. Now Cambridge, thanks to a new \$210 million trust announced on 11 October by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is launching a new high-visibility scholars' program of its own, which each year will fund at least 225 students from outside the United Kingdom.

The university will select Gates Cambridge Scholars based on merit, not need, focusing on academic ability and leadership potential. The program will support students from any country; Rhodes Scholars, in contrast, must come from one of 19 jurisdictions. The scholars, who will receive about \$40,000 a year in support, will live together in what will be called the Gates House. "We are hoping that the young people we select will be motivated to use their education to put something back into society for the benefit of a much wider community," explained Bill Gates Sr., CEO of the foundation and father of the Microsoft co-founder, in a prepared statement. The Gates Foundation currently has roughly \$21 billion in assets, making it the largest philanthropy in the world.

Gates Cambridge Scholars will be able to pursue either a graduate degree or a second bachelor's degree, a particular attraction for students who have attended undistinguished schools in poorer countries. Although the program will not evaluate a student's financial situation, "the large bulk of the scholarships will go to people who wouldn't be here otherwise," predicts Anne Lonsdale, pro-vice chancellor for international relations at Cambridge.

Cambridge already has scholarship funds set up for overseas students, but the new gift dramatically changes the amount of available resources. "Instead of having to worry about every penny that goes into scholarships, suddenly we have all this money," Lonsdale says. "We're deeply happy."

—JON COHEN