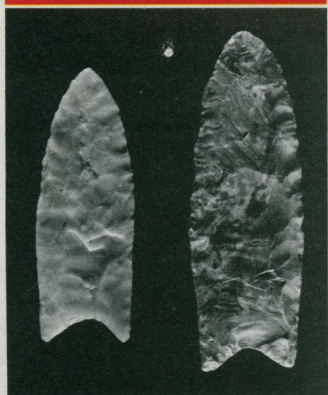


Hunting For Artifacts



Two Clovis points from sites in Kentucky and Ohio.

■ The U.S. government may soon undertake surveys of federal land that could preserve new sites for archeologists and physical anthropologists.

The surveys, to be taken by four agencies that manage more than 90% of federal land—the Defense Department, the National Park Service, the Forest Service, and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)—would “systematically cover areas where the most scientifically valuable archeological resources are likely to exist,” according to a notice in the 11 September *Federal Register*. Scientifically valuable sites would then be protected from development. Less than 8% of federal land has so far been surveyed, says Frank McManamon, the Park Service’s consulting archeologist.

The surveys are included in proposed new rules that are set to go into effect in early 1992 after a 90-day comment period. These regulations also require the agencies to beef up programs that educate the public about archeology, to crack down on looters by lowering from \$5000 to \$500 the threshold for a felony from damage to an archeological site, and to decide when to return human remains to Indian tribes. The proposed regulations, says Maxwell Ramsey, cultural resources manager at TVA, “will give us much more than we used to have for protecting resources.”

Hillel Burger/Peabody Museum, Harvard University

Look North, NIH

■ Scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have long complained of being packed together tighter than proverbial sardines on NIH’s campus in Bethesda, Maryland. Now they have reason to hope for more space.

According to NIH insiders, the agency is looking to purchase a couple hundred acres of land in a less developed area of Maryland, probably somewhere north of the Bethesda campus. The plan is to build a second campus close enough to the current one to allow easy travel between the two facilities. Such an arrangement would not only relieve the overcrowding at Bethesda, but would also permit NIH to bring back into the fold offices that have been shunted into rented space off campus, including the division of research grants and a large number of extramural program offices.

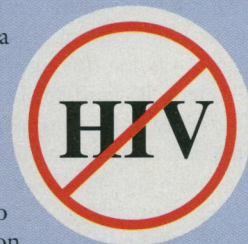
Empire builders at NIH have some hurdles to clear be-

fore the plan can become reality, however. First, they must convince the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Management and Budget to request money in the president’s fiscal year 1993 budget. Then the Ad-

WHO Scientists to Boycott U.S. Conferences

■ U.S. immigration policy for HIV-infected individuals could be a stumbling block for more than the 1992 Eighth International Conference on AIDS, which was moved from Boston to Amsterdam earlier this month. Now the World Health Organization (WHO) has informed U.S. public health officials that its scientists will not be attending an international meeting on AIDS vaccines planned for next month in Florida. WHO researchers are also refusing to attend a Washington, D.C., meeting later in the fall to be held by the U.S. Agency for International Development on its global AIDS program.

A spokesman for WHO says it is a United Nations-wide policy not to attend or cosponsor any international meeting in a country where there are restrictions on short-term travel for HIV-infected persons. Current U.S. immigration policy requires that visitors to the United States state their HIV-infection status on their visa applications, and they can be refused entry if they are HIV positive.



ministration will have to sell the idea to Congress. And even if Congress goes along, the new campus could wind up in West Virginia if Senate Appropriations Committee chairman Robert Byrd (D-WV) takes a shine to it.

NASA Loses Out On Defense Money, But NSF Gets Some Relief

■ The final plan for financing the space program in 1992 will emerge from a conference that begins on Capitol Hill this week, but already NASA has been hit by a preemptive budget strike. In a 16 September letter to Congress, White House budget chief Richard Darman ruled that NASA may not collect a whopping \$375 million from the Department of Defense for the use of its communications satellites. This fee-for-service had been included as part of the Senate’s plan for getting NASA through hard financial times. But when House Democrats complained that this ploy

would violate the rules of the budget agreement by taking defense money for civilian purposes, Darman agreed, saying



Antarctic studies will get some Navy dollars.

that NASA could charge the Defense Department only for the “marginal cost” of the satellites—less than \$375 million. This means something else will have to be sacrificed to keep NASA afloat. No one can say yet what that will be.

Darman’s letter, meanwhile, seems to hold out a promise of relief to the National Science Foundation (NSF) on a similar issue. All summer, NSF has faced the possibility that Darman would not allow it to collect \$105 million from the Navy for expenses at the Antarctic research station, as planned in the Senate bill. Darman’s letter approves \$30 million for environmental cleanup and says the rest is “a matter for executive determination.” He doesn’t say exactly what that “determination” will be. NSF officials are describing it as a “not-yes/not-no” decision.