

Leadership for women

All-day event set for next month
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Drought aftermath

Expert says Midwest soil may not recover from drought for two years
Page 3

Feb. 21, 2013

University of Missouri
mizzouweekly.missouri.edu

Famous, controversial scientist latest faculty hire in anthropology department

NAPOLEON A. CHAGNON

Department poised to be among the best in evolutionary anthropology

In 1964, in an unmapped Amazon jungle in southern Venezuela, Napoleon A. Chagnon had his first encounter with the Yanomamö. His academic studies in cultural anthropology led him to expect “noble savages,” a phrase from the 18th-century Enlightenment describing native peoples as nonviolent before contact with modern societies.

But Chagnon, who joined the MU anthropology department on Jan. 1, quickly understood that the notion, upheld by most anthropologists at the time, was inadequate for field study.

“The virtual noble savage is a construct based on faith,” Chagnon writes in his new book, *Noble Savages: My Life Among Two Dangerous Tribes — The Yanomamö and the Anthropologists* (Simon and Schuster, 2013), available at most book stores. “In that respect, anthropology has become more like a religion — where major truths are established by faith, not facts.”

In *Noble Savages*, Chagnon offers a public response to his critics over the years.

And he’s had a number of them. Chagnon’s Yanomamö research made him arguably the most famous anthropologist in America, and also the

most controversial. His work chronicled a society where homicide and infanticide were common, and men tested one another relentlessly to exploit psychological and physical weaknesses.

“Their brinkmanship ultimately has an odious sanction behind it,” Chagnon said in a January interview at his home in southeast Columbia. “Penalty, injury, killing.”

His critics said he overplayed Yanomamö violence and too quickly rejected the noble savage idea. He was also wrong to apply evolutionary theory to cultural study. “Most anthropologists were reluctant until recently to assume the academic and philosophical position that human beings have an evolved nature as well as a cultural nature,” he said.

Department rising

Chagnon, whose MU titles are Distinguished Research Professor and Chancellor’s Chair of Excellence, will teach one anthropology course per year, be a faculty and graduate-student adviser, and conduct research. Last year, Chagnon was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C. — the fourth current MU faculty member to receive the most prestigious honor in science.

Besides Chagnon joining an already illustrious anthropology faculty, the department welcomed

last November Martin Daly, an expert in evolutionary psychology who most recently taught at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada. In 1998, Daly was named a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Steven Pinkar, a psychology professor at Harvard University, considers Daly’s work an important influence in his writing the best-selling *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined* (Penguin, 2011).

Mark Flinn, an MU professor of anthropology and president of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, credits Provost Brian Foster for his “special interest in attracting high-profile faculty,” Flinn said.

For his part, Chagnon came to Missouri because of the anthropology department’s reputation, emphasis on evolutionary theory, and how MU departments, colleges and schools work across disciplines in their research, he said. “We are going to put ourselves on the map,” said Chagnon, who was profiled Feb. 17 in *The New York Times Magazine*. “Two years from now, we are probably going to be in the top five of evolutionary anthropology departments in the country, maybe the world.”

Robert S. Walker, an MU assistant professor of anthropology, said the

SEE CHAGNON on Page 4

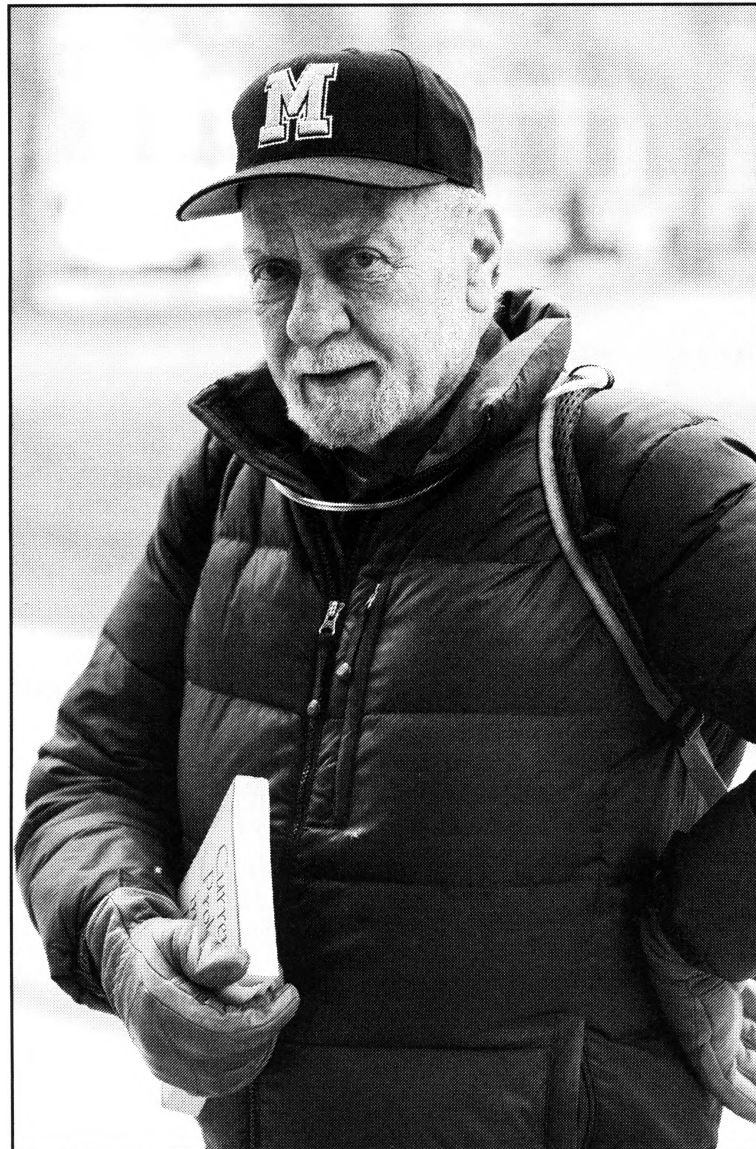


Photo by Rachel Coward

CHAGNON ARRIVES Napoleon A. Chagnon, who started work in the MU Department of Anthropology on Jan. 1, became a controversial figure beginning in the late 1960s for his portrayal of the Yanomamö as violent people. Last year he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

MU scientists and administrators discuss last year’s nuclear institute closing with council members

NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING INSTITUTE

Faculty contend they were not notified of closing

During a sometimes fiery meeting, MU nuclear science professors, Faculty Council members and administrators voiced their views Feb. 14 on the closing of the Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute (NSEI) one year ago.

Chancellor Brady J. Deaton had

already agreed to Faculty Council’s recent request to open NSEI admissions and maintain its current curriculum. But participants still wanted to know why NSEI admissions closed in the first place, and what the future plans are for the nuclear engineering program.

The idea for restructuring NSEI began in 2010 when an external review by a prominent firm suggested the need, Provost Brian Foster said. Over the next couple of years, numerous meetings were held and invitations

were offered to NSEI faculty to participate in discussions. On March 15, 2012, George Justice, dean of the Graduate School, where NSEI is housed, and Foster announced the institute’s closing — with the proviso that NSEI would remain intact until currently enrolled students graduated.

Restructuring NSEI entails placing it in MU’s nuclear engineering degree graduate programs within the College of Engineering’s Nuclear

Engineering Program. This will include the emphasis area of power engineering. Jim Thompson, dean of the engineering college, told council that student applications were being accepted into the program.

Foster said the reorganization was to develop a “broader nuclear program. We are talking about how we can expand our impact in nuclear engineering,” he said.

But some council members complained that, in their view, there was no shared governance

involving the NSEI closing. Sudarshan Loyalka, Curators Professor of Nuclear Engineering and one of four NSEI faculty members, said professors learned of the institute’s closure on the same day the news went public. He said the MU handbook bylaw 320.150 — which states that administrators will discuss program dissolutions with affected faculty — was not followed.

Justice disputed this. “We have not broken the collected rules,” he said.

Responding to a question from Craig Roberts, professor of plant sciences, on why admissions closed,

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Women's Leadership Conference

The Women's Leadership Conference is a supportive and educational event to celebrate women's accomplishments and provide developmental leadership skills that contribute to women's success in leadership, academics, careers and personal life.

Women in the MU community are invited to attend 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. March 9 at United Methodist Church, 204 S. 9th St. This year's theme is "Finding Power in Your Passion."

Register by March 1 at leadership.missouri.edu.

The free conference is sponsored by MU's Women's Center and the Center for Leadership.

Financial aid advice

The Missouri College Advising Corps, a college-access program headquartered at MU, is offering a free lab on financial aid 12-5 p.m. Saturday in 124A Strickland Hall.

Experts will be on hand to assist MU employees and their children, as well as MU students in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Be sure to bring the student's Social Security card or Permanent Resident Card; 2012 W-2's; 2012 Income Tax Return (if already filed) or 2011 Income

Tax Return (if you haven't filed the 2012 yet); and information on personal financial assets.

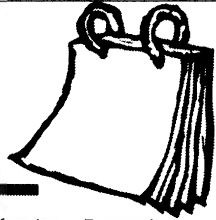
For more information, call 884-1928.

Tastes of art, science

"The Taste of Arts and Science" event will be held 8:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m. March 9 in Memorial Union's Jesse Wrench Auditorium. See information on the speakers at coas.missouri.edu/events/taste.shtml.

Cost is \$25 per person and includes breakfast and lunch. To register, contact Amanda Schlink at 884-4482. The College of Arts and Science is sponsoring the event.

calendar



Concerts & Plays

Thursday, Feb. 21

MU SCHOOL OF MUSIC: Studio Jazz at The Bridge at 7:30 p.m.
UNIVERSITY THEATRE
SERIES: *The Amen Corner*, by James Baldwin, at 7:30 p.m. today through Feb. 23 at the Rhynsburger Theatre. For ticket information call 882-7529.

Friday, Feb. 22

MU SCHOOL OF MUSIC: The Missouri Quintet will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Whitmore Recital Hall.

Saturday, Feb. 23

MU SCHOOL OF MUSIC: Recital: LuSie Xie, piano, at 1 p.m. Matt Stiens, percussion, at 3 p.m. Chamber soloists with Evgeni Ratchev at 7:30 p.m. All performances will be in Whitmore Recital Hall.

Sunday, Feb. 24

MU SCHOOL OF MUSIC: MU Junior Honors Band will perform at noon at the Missouri Theatre.
UNIVERSITY CONCERT
SERIES: *Hair*, the Broadway musical live on stage, tells the story of friends who want to be heard in their celebration of love, life and freedom. The

event will begin at 7 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium. For ticket information, call 882-3781.

Monday, Feb. 25

MU SCHOOL OF MUSIC: Recital: Nimali Siriwardana, piano, at 6:30 p.m. in Whitmore Recital Hall.
MU SCHOOL OF MUSIC: Wind Ensemble and Junior Honors Band will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Missouri Theatre.

Tuesday, Feb. 26

MU SCHOOL OF MUSIC: Senior recital: Max Vale, saxophone, and Rachel AuBuchon, piano, at 6 p.m. in Whitmore Recital Hall.
UNIVERSITY CONCERT
SERIES: *Celtic Nights: A Journey of Hope* features six of the finest vocalists of the Celtic world, six accomplished step dancers and two musicians. The event will begin at 7 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium. For ticket information, call 882-3781.

Lectures & Seminars

Thursday, Feb. 21

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA
LECTURE: Colleen Manassa, associate professor of Egyptology

at Yale University, will present "Four Millennia in an Egyptian Province: Discoveries of the Moalla Survey Project" at 5:30 p.m. in 106 Pickard Hall. The lecture is preceded by a reception at 5 p.m.

MENTOR-IN-RESIDENCE: Frank Bayliss, professor of biology at San Francisco State University, will present "Predictors of Graduate Success: Myths about GPA and GRE," at 11 a.m. in Monsanto Auditorium. He will present his keynote talk, "Scientific Apprenticeships: Mentoring by Individuals and Programs" at 2 p.m. in 572 Bond Life Sciences Center.

Saturday, Feb. 23

SPRING GARDENING SEMINAR: The third annual seminar, presented by the Cole County University of Missouri Extension Center, Lincoln University and Central Missouri Master Gardeners, will be held 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Carver Farm in Jefferson City. Cost is \$25 for the full seminar, including lunch, or \$15 for a half-day session. For more information and to register, call 634-2824 or go to extension.missouri.edu/cole.

SATURDAY MORNING SCIENCE: Heather Leidy, assistant professor of nutrition and exercise physiology, will present "Mom Was Right: Breakfast Is the Most Important Meal of the Day" at 10:30 a.m.

in Monsanto Auditorium.

Tuesday, Feb. 26

FOOD FOR THE TWENTIETH CENTURY SEMINAR: Catherine E. Hagan, assistant professor of veterinary pathobiology, will present a talk at 4 p.m. in 104 Ag Engineering Building.

Wednesday, Feb. 27

BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES: Traci L. Wilson-Kleekamp, director of diversity and outreach initiatives for the MU School of Medicine, presents "Knowledge As Power: Freeing the Past Through Family History" at 12:30 p.m. in 325 Gentry Hall.
BLACK HISTORY MONTH PANEL: The panel will discuss the significance and costs of the 2012 election in "President Obama's Next Chapter: Moving Forward and Looking Back" at 6:30 p.m. in Ellis Auditorium.

Saturday, March 2

SATURDAY MORNING SCIENCE: Barbara Kerr, professor of biochemistry, will present "We Come From the Future: Origins of Creativity" at 10:30 a.m. in Monsanto Auditorium.

Films

Friday, Feb. 22

MUSEUM OF ART & ARCHAEOLOGY: *In the Heat of the Night* (1967), directed by Norman Jewison, will be shown at 7 p.m. in 106 Pickard Hall. Free and open to the public.

classifieds

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Kathryn Bowers



Friday March 15 at 5:30 p.m. Reynolds Alumni Center, Columns Ballroom

A Mitchell Rosenholtz M.D. Lectureship Sponsored by Mizzou Advantage

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All MU staff, children of faculty and staff and current collegestudents are welcome!

Saturday, Feb. 23 from 12-5 p.m. Strickland Hall room 124A

Please bring Social Security card or Permanent Alien Resident card, 2012 W-2 forms, 2012 Income Tax Return (if already filed) or 2011 Income Tax Return and information on personal financial assets.

For more information visit: facebook.com/FAFSASaturdayatMizzou

Missouri College Advising Corps

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Midwest soil may take years to recover from drought conditions, expert says

DRY MIDWEST SOIL

Heavy snowfall unlikely to help drought conditions

The Midwest suffered the worst drought in a generation last summer, and the soil has been suffering from a drought since early 2010, an MU expert said. As a result, crops have wilted and farmers have had to rely on crop insurance to avoid financial catastrophe.

Randall Miles, associate professor of soil science at the MU School of Natural Resources, said it may take at least two years for crops and soil to recover.

He discovered that Midwest soil is dry as deep as 5 feet, where the roots of the crops absorb moisture and nutrients.

"I wouldn't count on a full recovery of soil moisture any time soon," Miles said. "Even if parts of the Midwest receive a lot of snowfall and rain this spring, it will take time for the moisture to move deeply into the soil where

the driest conditions exist."

In 2012, Miles found that some roots had to go down as much as 8 feet to extract water. Typically, 1 foot of soil holds 2 inches of water. To recharge completely, a fully depleted soil would require about 16 inches of water over a period of normal rainfall.

There's been minimal snowfall this winter. But even if a couple of blizzards strike, it is unlikely to help the soil.

"It is important to remember that a foot of snowfall equals about an inch of rainfall," Miles said, "so the soil could take some time to recharge."

Miles has been testing the depths of soil moisture around Missouri and found that parts of the state where Hurricane Isaac dropped extra rain were wet in the first few inches of soil, but dry below that level. While any moisture helps, Miles said it will evaporate after a few days of high winds.

"In order for the soil moisture

to return to a normal state this year, the rain and snow would almost have to come continuously," Miles said.

Moreover, the rain would have to be light to minimize runoff. Hard rain won't do much good.

Miles believes that it could be two to three years before farmers can expect bumper crops again.

— Jeret Rion

COUNCIL from Page 1

Justice said it was due to the restructuring. "I could not bring students into a structure [that would] not benefit those students or the institution," Justice said.

The packed meeting was sprinkled with several dramatic exchanges and speeches,

including from Randy Curry, director of the Center for Physical and Power Electronics. He worried about the public's perception of NSEI's closure.

"This [controversy] is hurting the quality of research at MU and getting grants in Washington," he said.

We want your feedback on MU's Strategy Statement!

In response to President Wolfe's system-wide strategic planning process, MU's Strategy Workgroup has drafted documents that identify our campus' strategy for the next five years. Now, we want input from faculty, staff, students, alumni or other interested stakeholders.

Find drafts of the documents and leave comments at: strategystatement.missouri.edu

In addition, the Strategy Workgroup will host two open meetings to discuss the strategy statement:

March 5 from 8 to 9 a.m. in N201/202 Memorial Union

March 7 from 1 to 2 p.m. in N214/215 Memorial Union

 **Strategy Workgroup**
University of Missouri

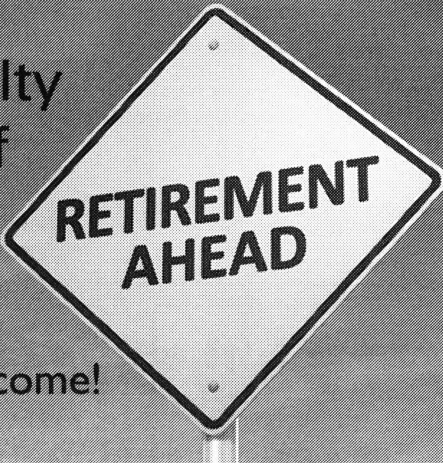
Blackboard Collaborate

Want to learn different ways of using Blackboard Collaborate? See the whole idea behind the "virtual classroom!"

Friday, February 22, 2013 from 12:00 PM - 1:00PM
N206 Memorial Union

Retirement Planning Seminar

for faculty & staff



Spouses welcome!

March 5: Financial Planning

March 12: Estate Planning

March 19: University Retirement Plan

March 26: Social Security

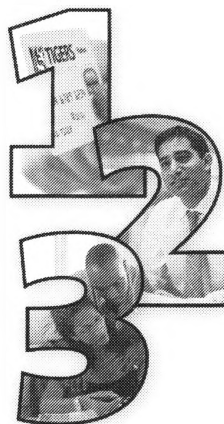
All seminars take place at Woodrail Centre from 5-7 p.m.

Register online only. Visit:

umsystem.edu/forms/preretirement-registration

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CHAGNON from Page 1

department is getting more than a world-class scholar. "Chagnon brings with him a treasure trove of decades of data from the Yanomamö," Walker said.

During his final Amazon trips in the late 1980s and 1990s, Chagnon collected mountains of data because he sensed his access to the Yanomamö was drying up. Much of it has not been analyzed. That will change.

"I have brought all that data to Columbia," Chagnon said.

Controversy in the jungle

Evolutionary biologists say *Homo sapiens* have not thrown off many motivations of their higher-primate ancestors. One is that males aggressively pursue females for reproductive opportunities, which helps ensure species survival. Chagnon's Yanomamö studies beginning in the 1960s supported this. He discovered that 30 percent of male deaths were due to fights over women. Typically more than 10 percent of village females had been abducted from other villages during raids (abductions widen the gene pool of a clan village).

"Conflicts over the possession of nubile females have probably been the main reason for fights and killings throughout most of human history," Chagnon writes.

His biggest broadside to the noble savage sentiment was that the Yanomamö who killed the most Indians in raids had the most wives and offspring, suggesting a Darwinian survival advantage for kinship defense and intense aggression.

In 1995, Chagnon's fieldwork abruptly ended when Venezuela denied him access to the Yanomamö villages. Chagnon had publicly criticized the Catholic missionaries for, he said, supplying the Yanomamö with shotguns. According to

Chagnon, the Catholic Church has a foothold in the Venezuelan government and controls access to the southern Amazon. Because of his criticism, church officials pulled political strings to block him from the region.

Meanwhile, beginning in the mid 1970s, Chagnon was under attack from many anthropologists for his embrace of evolutionary science. He was accused of racism, sexism, biological determinism and cooking his research to square with his preconceived theories. Some said his work supported the American eugenics movement, an effort to improve a society's gene pool, which stirred up memories of Nazi Germany's

attempt to exterminate the Jews.

"Anyone who suggested an evolved biological nature for humans was considered heretical," Chagnon said. "People like me were singled out to bear the brunt of their wrath."

Other scholars accused him of interfering with Yanomamö culture and in 1968 spreading measles through villages. The American Anthropological Association got involved. After years of debates and the formation of a task force, association members in 2005 voted to exonerate Chagnon of any wrongdoing.

Chagnon retired from the University of California-Santa Barbara as an emeritus in 1999.

Blocked by Venezuelan officials from Amazon fieldwork, he decided to leave academia. But as years passed, the scientist couldn't shake the feeling that he had more to offer.

Staring down a killer

Chagnon spent an aggregate of five years with the fierce Yanomamö.

He gave them fish hooks, axes and other items in exchange for information and his presence in villages. He would also sometimes shoot game for them. The Indians understood that if they harmed him, the gifts would stop. "Keep in mind the story about the goose that lays the golden eggs," Chagnon said, smiling. "If they got rid of the goose, there wouldn't be any more golden eggs."

Even so, several times over the years the Indians tried to kill him, Chagnon said.

The anthropologist's time in the jungle took its toll on his health. The Amazon sun sucked out much of his skin's collagen, leaving it blotchy and prone to bruising. He endured all kinds of tropical illnesses, including malaria. Symptoms from his illnesses linger. To relieve the stress of the jungle, he took up smoking and didn't quit for 50 years.

Chagnon is good company, but he has an edge. This no doubt helped him endure the hardships of the rain forest and Indian culture. In his book, Chagnon writes of staring down a headman who had killed 21 people and witnessing astonishing acts of violence. He had close calls with jaguars and an anaconda, which sprang from murky depths to thrust its maw inches from his face.

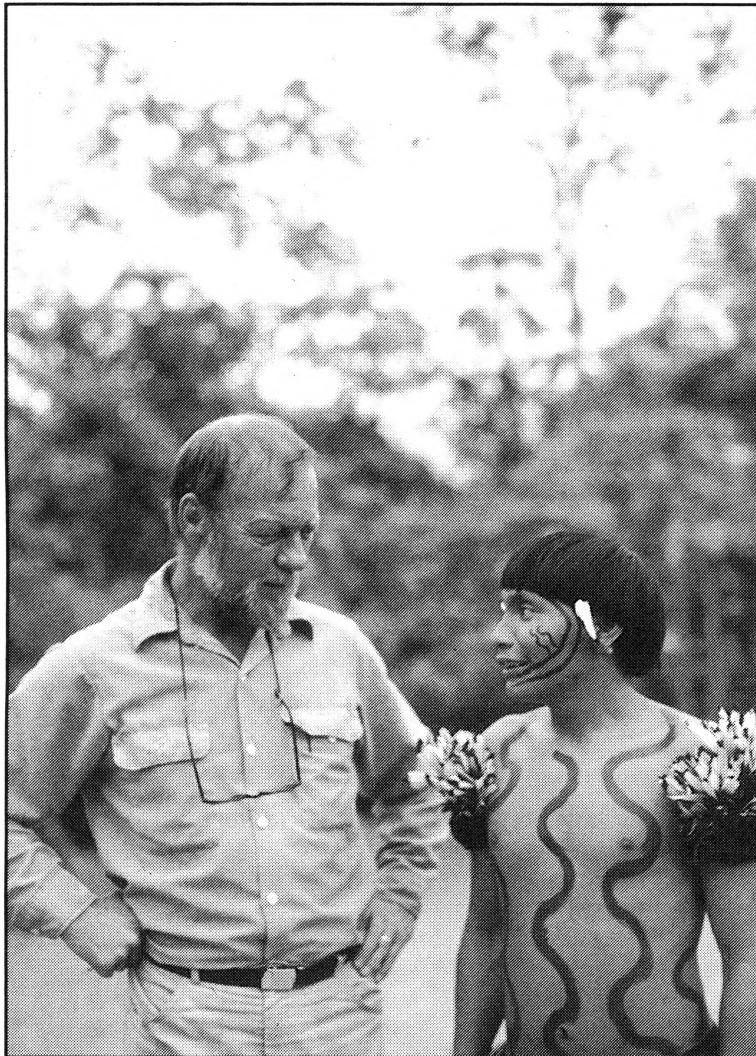
Yanomamö kindness

As Chagnon makes clear, the Yanomamö are warriors. But they also can be kind and sympathetic. Since villagers were almost all blood related, and they understood strength in numbers, the village Indians helped one another survive sickness and raids. They were noble savages. The book's title is not simply ironic.

In his book, Chagnon describes a village cremation service in which Yanomamö wailed over the loss of a village headman in a raid. Chagnon retired early to his hammock after the service. Word got around that the anthropologist was mourning. Villagers came to comfort and gently touch him.

Within their creation myth, the Yanomamö are separated from the wild beasts. They understood that they were not like the jungle creatures and pale outsiders — the Western anthropologists, doctors and Christian missionaries who visited them. They were human beings.

Chagnon's heavy heart that day showed villagers that the white man wearing the strange clothes was not *naba*, meaning subhuman or savage. He was like the Yanomamö.



FIELD WORK Chagnon, shown here in the Amazon in 1986 with a young Indian named Marowei, spent an aggregate of five years living with the Yanomamö.

Photo courtesy of Napoleon A. Chagnon

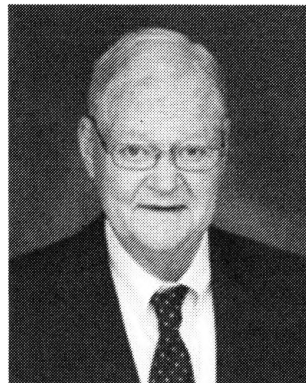


2013 Monroe-Paine Distinguished
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"The Military and Congress"

Wednesday, March 6, 2013—1:30 p.m.

Statler Lounge II & III, Memorial Union-N103B&C



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