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T E A C H I N G

A N T H R O P O L O G Y

N E W S L E T T E R

Nos. 19-20 Fall 1991/ Spring 1992



Teaching Anthropology Newsletter

Teaching Anthropology Newsletter (TAN) promotes precollege anthropology by providing curriculum information to teachers, creating a forum for teachers to exchange ideas and establishing communication between teachers and professors of anthropology.

TAN is published free-of-charge semiannually in the Fall and Spring of each school year by the Department of

AAA Task Force on Teaching Anthropology: Past, Present and Future

by *Patricia Higgins*

The American Anthropological Association (AAA) Task Force on Teaching Anthropology was established in 1988. Its mandate is to promote the teaching of anthropology from elementary schools through college.

and Jane White (University of Maryland, Baltimore County)

AAA also completed a EIDSE (Foundation for Improv-

on "Central Themes in the Teaching of Anthropology" was held at the November 1990 AAA meetings. Written versions of all the papers were submitted, and written transcripts were made from the videotaped discussions. Con-

ment of Post-Secondary Education) proposal entitled "Revitalizing the Teaching of Anthropology." Funds were requested on behalf of the AAA to support not only the definition, publication and dissemination of new content

Outreach

Members of the Committee on Outreach, chaired by David Berman (University of Pittsburgh) and Yolanda Moses, participated in meetings of teachers and educators (such as

Plans for 1992

During 1992 the Task Force will continue to work on several efforts described above. We expect to:

- Complete the *Anthropology and the K-12 Cur-*

Continuation of Task Force Activities

The Task Force on Teaching Anthropology was initially established for the period November 1988 to November 1992. In the final year for which we are chartered, we have asked the help of the AAA Board of Directors in continuing the activities of the Task Force. While much has been accomplished, many projects are still in process. Furthermore, many of the activities of the Task Force are continuing to be carried out, such as maintaining contact with

AAA Precollege Anthropology Status Report

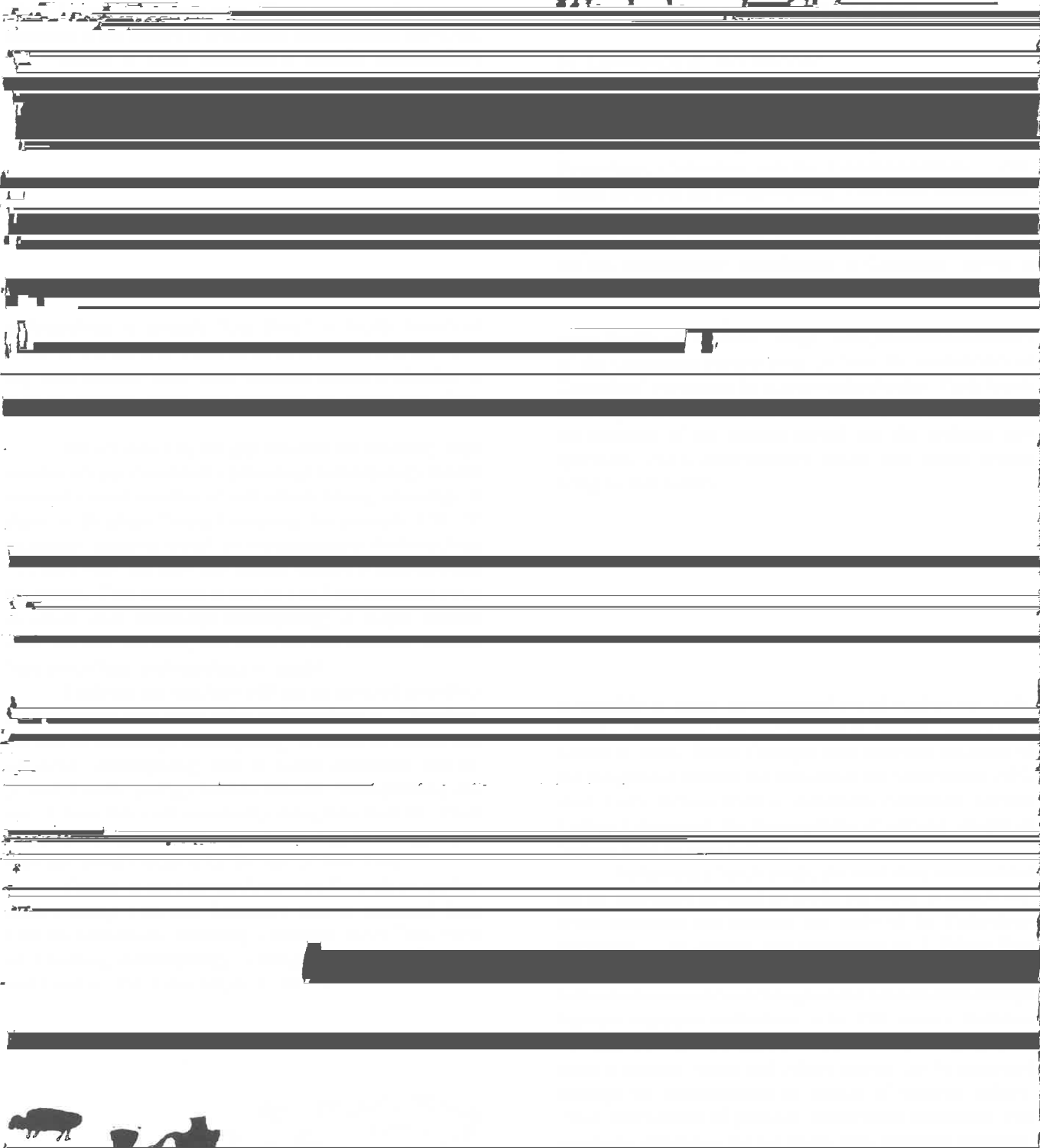
by Paul A. Erickson

The American Anthropological Association (AAA) Task Force on Teaching Anthropology was created in 1988 to promote the teaching of anthropology at all levels, from elementary school through college. The job of the Commit-



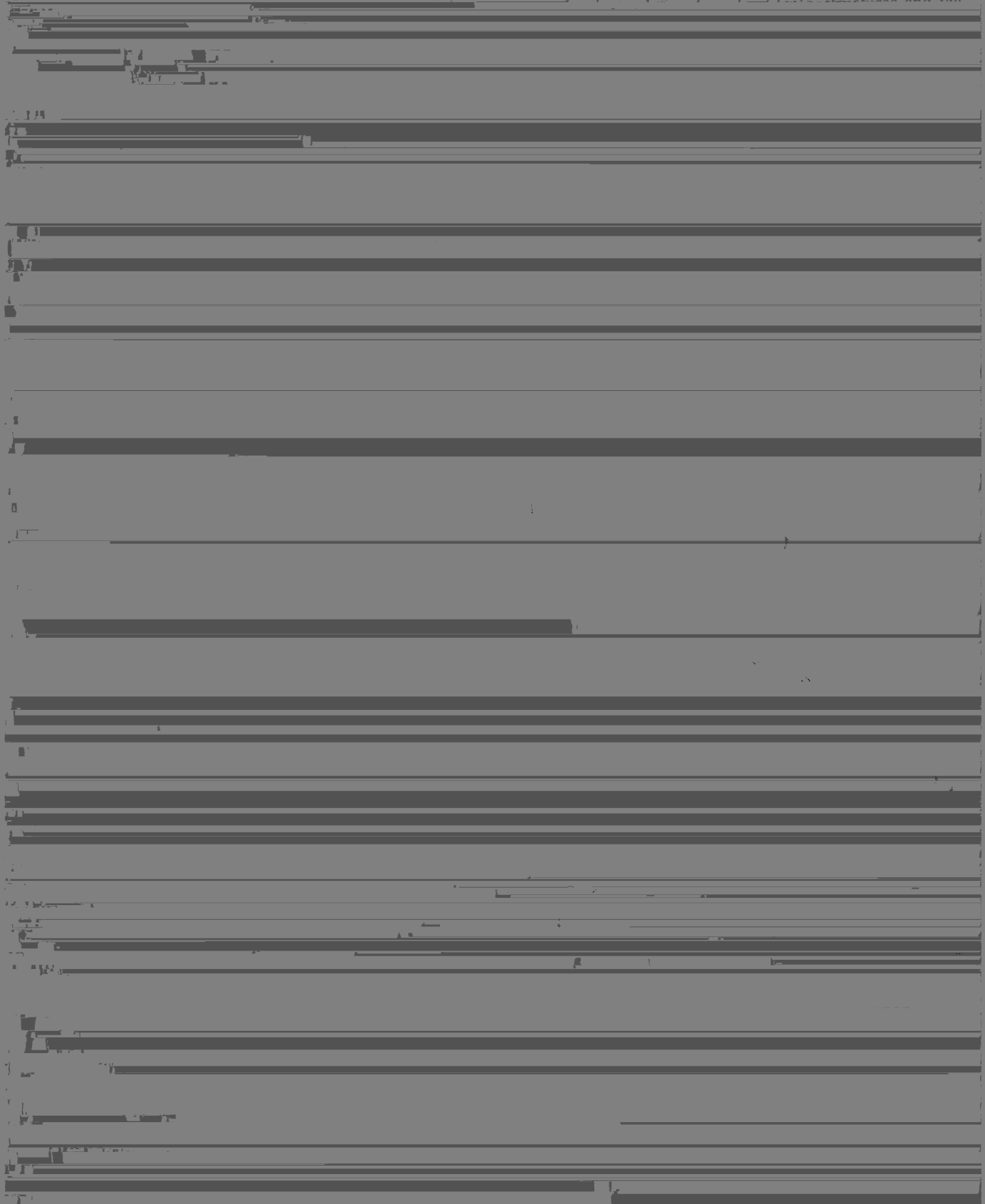
percentage of students actually enrolled in anthropology courses is consistently very low, reaching a "high" of only

Anthropology & Columbus



Does *The Classroom and Beyond* succeed in its inspirational role, without sacrificing a healthy dose of real-

The use of archaeological evidence ranges from a single, isolated 11,000 year-old flint spear point, to the quite



Publication Notes

Life with Lucy

Journey from the Dawn: Life with the World's First Family by Donald C. Johanson. Illustrations by Kevin O'Farrell. Early Man Publishing, 1991.

World-renowned anthropologist Donald Johanson has teamed up with artist and museum designer Kevin O'Farrell to produce a "fact-based" fictional account of the day-to-day life of 3.5 million year old Lucy (*Australopithecus afarensis*) and her extended family. Both educational and entertaining, the book would be ideal for the elementary school library.

The book begins with Lucy pregnant and in mortal danger from an erupting volcano. Through tragedy and triumph, the story unfolds with the aid of maps and fanciful drawings that bring African prehistory to life. Johanson and O'Farrell make anthropology accessible to young readers, who, after all, can be even more fascinated with Lucy than are adults.

African-Centered Archaeology

"Ancient Africa and the Portland Curriculum Resource" [by Erich Martel with the assistance of Frank Yurco and Alison Brooks]. *Anthro Notes* 13(2) (Spring 1991):7-10.

High school teacher Erich Martel, assisted by Egyptologist Frank Yurco and *Anthro Notes* editor Alison Brooks, wrote this article to critique — and criticize — six essays called the *African-American Baseline Essays*. They constitute an "African-centered" curriculum resource for schools in Portland, Oregon.

African-centered curricula are being adopted or considered for adoption by schools in Atlanta, Baltimore, Indianapolis and Washington, DC. They are designed to counteract "European-centered" curricula by stressing the role of Africa in world history and affairs. The *Baseline Essays* portray Egypt as an essentially black nation and the fountainhead of Near Eastern civilization — according to Martel, like the old Heliocentric school of archaeology. As analyzed by Martel, many of the *Essays'* key propositions conflict with those of Egyptologists, Africanists and Meso-American scholars. Teachers using or considering using these *Essays*

By Susan Hughes

Anthropology Makes TIME

"Lost Tribes, Lost Knowledge" is the cover story of the September 23, 1991 issue of *TIME* magazine. The story laments the loss of knowledge about the environment that is accompanying the "cultural holocaust" of the world's indig-

Archaeology and Public Education

This two-year old newsletter is published by the Public Education Committee of the Society for American Archaeology. Each issue begins with a lively feature article. An especially lively recent article is "Education and/or Entertainment" by Charles F. Blanchard of Blanchard and

Rock Art Video Available

The University of North Dakota, 1990



supported by the Navajo Public Museum and several other

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be contacted for help. For information about the liaisons in your area, publications, or anything else about evolution

If You're In . . .



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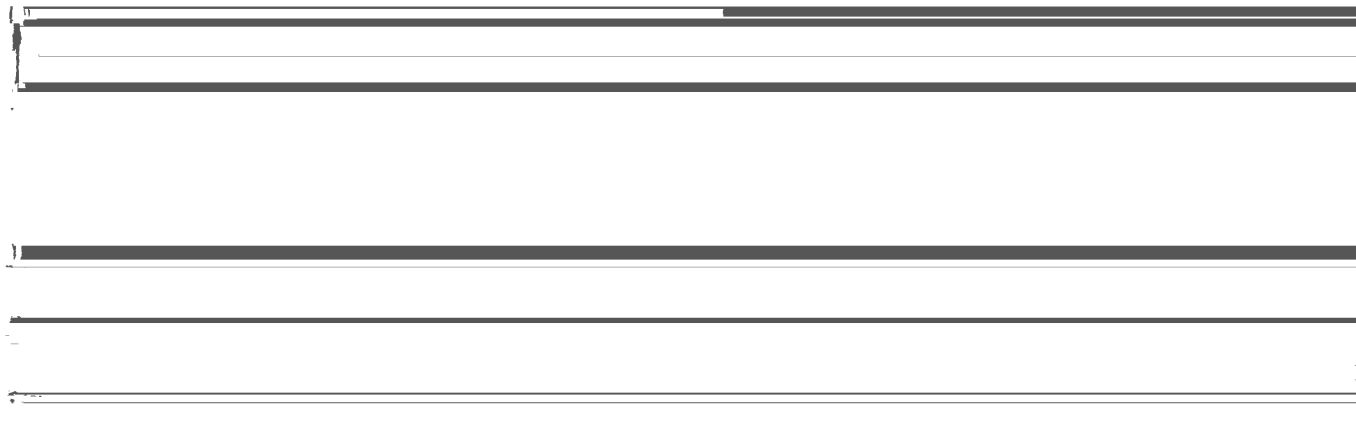
Chicago

. . . you might want to visit the exhibition "America in 1492: An Exhibition of Books and Manuscripts Portraying American Civilization on the Eve of the Columbus Voyages." It will be on display January 18 through April 18 at the Newberry Library, 60 W. Walter Street, 60610.

National Center for Science Education



REPORTS



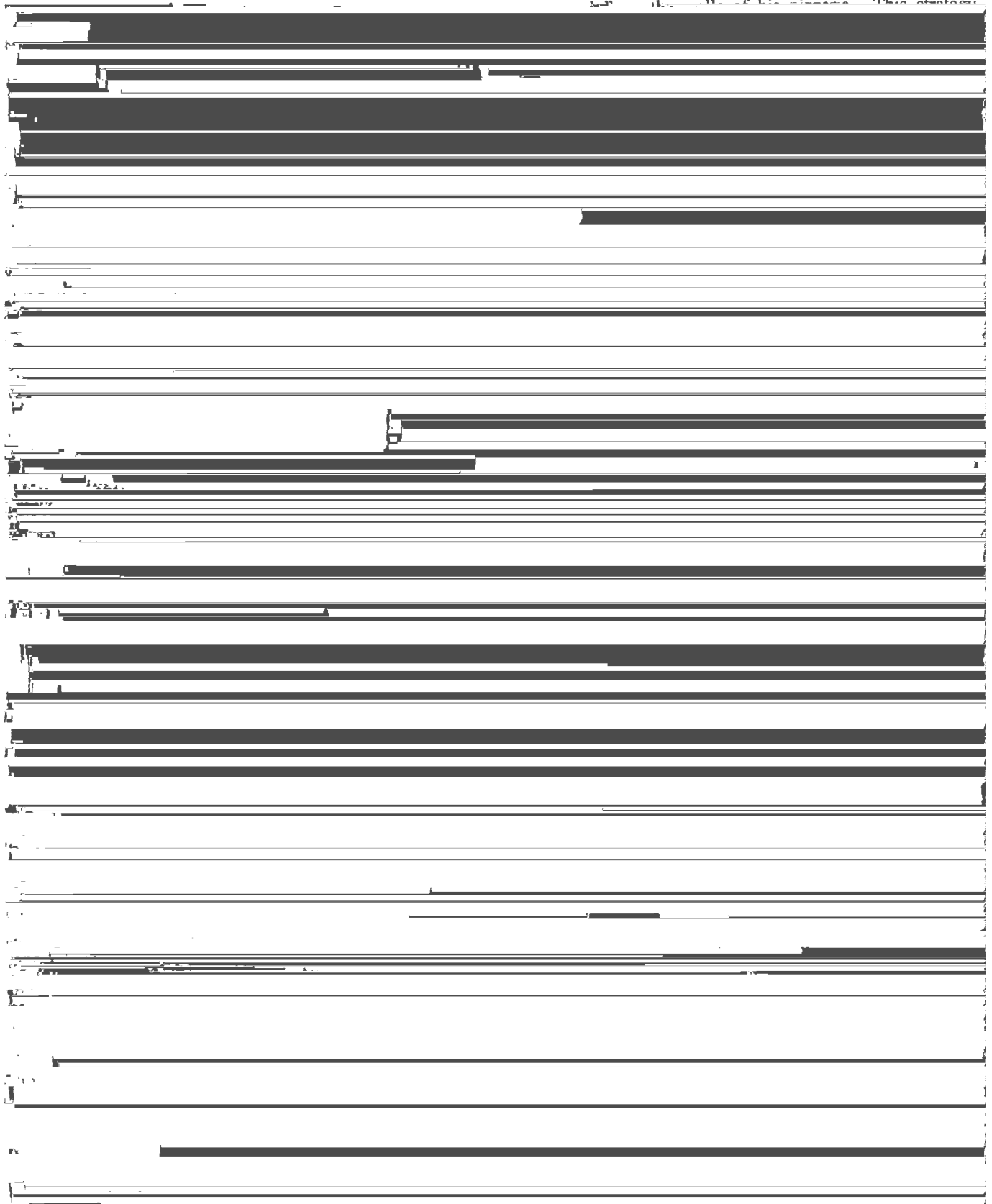
Fall 1991

During February and March there will be special Saturday-morning workshops for teachers. For more information



Do the Right Thing in

misunderstood by others. Likewise, Sal, a marginalized Italian immigrant, hangs portraits of "famous Italian Ameri-



Call for Syllabi

The American Anthropological Association (AAA)

Teaching Anthropology in Schools

Notes on Contributors

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ple University, Raleigh, North Carolina

precollege and college anthropology course syllabi. The syllabi will be analyzed as further evidence of the status of anthropology in schools. Send your syllabi to Charles Breitborde, Secretary, AAA, The American Anthropological Association, 11 Dupont Circle, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

films.

Lawrence B. Breitborde is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Beloit College and co-chair, with Jane White, of the American Anthropological Association's Committee on Teaching Anthropology in Schools.



**Announcing
A Symposium on
Alternative Archaeology**

May 1-2, 1992

Delta Barrington Hotel, Halifax, Nova Scotia