

## NEWS AND COMMENTS

### NINTH ANNUAL ETHNOBIOLOGY CONFERENCE ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

The Ninth Annual Ethnobiology Conference will be held 21-23 March 1986 at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Sponsors are the Department of Biology at the University and the New Mexico State Department of Natural Resources. A Pueblo Feast is promised with Native American dancers to entertain and Dr. Vorsila Bohrer to present the keynote address. To register send \$20 (check made payable to the Department of Biology, or \$25 after 10 March) to:

Ninth Ethnobiology Conference  
Castetter Lab, Department of Biology  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131

### ETHNOBIOLOGY IN BLOOM COUNTY



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This Bloom County cartoon was submitted by William Sturtevant. The central issues of folk biological classification theory continue to receive thoughtful commentary in the comics. May we take this as a sign of the universality of the questions addressed by this field?

### NUTRICOMP: AN ETHNOBOTANICAL COMPUTER PROGRAM

Joseph E. Laferriere, in cooperation with Gary Nabhan and Native Seeds/SEARCH, has developed a computer program called "Nutricomp," to store and analyze information about the nutritional composition of native plants. This system allows unusual flexibility in entering data, as it handles much of the coding for efficient use of disk space. Numerical values may be entered in whatever form they appear in the original publication; the computer will translate these values into a standardized format.

The program may also be used to analyze the information. For example, the user, by specifying taxa, plant parts, preparation techniques, nutrients, and tribes/geographical regions, can obtain averages for all samples in the file that match desired criteria.

The program is currently being used to store information on the native plants of the Southwest (the compiled data will be published soon), but the program can be adapted for use in other regions. It is written in extended BASIC for use on a Sanyo MBC-550 128K micro-computer, but may be adapted to any IBM-compatible system. for more information contact LaFerriere, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721 / (602) 623-6701.

#### SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES SEEKS STAFF FOR ECUADOR FIELD SCHOOL

The School for Field Studies (196 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139 / Telephone: (617) 497-9000) offers a broad range of environmental field courses for undergraduates. courses are designed to provide undergraduate students a challenging educational experience stressing environmental issues. The courses are academically rigorous. The students are immersed in field research as well as course material. SFS is an independent organization, however students may receive credit through Northeastern University.

A Medicinal Botany course will be offered twice during the summer of 1986 in Ecuador. Two faculty members will work with fifteen students in each session (approximate dates: June 16-July 15, July 22-August 20). The school seeks faculty with advanced degrees in biology/botany or anthropology and with ethnobotany field research experience. They should be committed to teaching. Faculty design their own program, prepare a syllabus, and arrange course logistics in conjunction with SFS. Faculty honoraria will be \$1000 to \$1600/month, depending on qualifications, with travel and field expenses paid.

To apply send vitae, references, and a letter citing your special qualifications to the above address.

#### MELVILLE AND ELIZABETH JACOBS RESEARCH FUND Whatcom Museum Society

The Melville and Elizabeth Jacobs Research Fund invites applications for small individual grants to support research on Native American cultures, primarily of north-western North America. The Fund is designed to facilitate field research rather than analysis of previously collected materials. Appropriate are field studies of any aspect of culture and society, with emphasis on expressive, conceptual, and purely linguistic systems. (Projects in archeology, physical anthropology, urban anthropology, and applied anthropology or applied linguistics will not be funded.) Awards range from \$200 to approximately \$800; salary cannot be supplied, and only minimum living expenses can be considered.

For further information and application forms, contact the Melville and Elizabeth Jacobs Research Fund, Whatcom Museum of History and Art, 121 Prospect Street, Bellingham, Washington 98225. **Application deadline is February 15, 1986.**