
ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Box 101, McMaster University P.O., Hamilton, Ontario L8S 1C0

NEWSLETTER, VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1, 1995

President's Message

It is a real pleasure for me to announce, in this issue of our Newsletter, a doubling of the expected increase in APA membership. Now before the Membership Committee are ten new member applications. This is a truly encouraging sign that we are beginning to reach the profession at large. Also encouraging is that members are, at long last, turning to the APA for assistance where professional problems arise. As always, we are more than happy to offer to mediate conflicts and to stand up for the rights of our members as professional archaeologists. That is, after all, why this organization was created. This newsletter, once again put together by Alison Ariss, contains a number of articles which I hope the members will find interesting, informative, and entertaining. These articles range from the spurious filler titled "Malibu Barbie" to recent news regarding unfortunate loopholes in the MCTR site evaluation process. I should emphasize that the APA is interested, as always, in improving the protection of the archaeological resources of Ontario and in representing its professional membership to the best of its ability. We consider it important to work with various government agencies to improve the level of protection and representation.

Submitted by Lawrence Jackson,
President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUMMARY

As per our last issue of the Newsletter, the Annual General Meeting of the APA was held on November 19, 1994 at Wilfrid Laurier University. The afternoon session in which the Canadian Archaeological Association's draft guidelines regarding First Nation's involvement in archaeological research were discussed was productive (see Dean Knight's article, next issue).

Treasury

The balance of the APA account as of 30 November 1994 is \$1593.02. This includes all costs incurred for the 19 November 1994 Annual General Meeting and Public Lecture. The costs of the lecture by Michael Parrington (airfare, accommodation, meals, honorarium, banquet) were divided among the APA, Wilfrid Laurier University, and Laurier's Archaeology Club.

Public Lecture

Guest speaker **Michael Parrington** of Helen Schenck Associates, Mount Laurel, New Jersey, delivered an interesting lecture on the investigation of the **African Burial Ground** in Manhattan, New York, in 1991.

Both political and archaeological challenges were brought to bear on Parrington's team during the excavation of

this historically and culturally significant 18th century burial ground. Fortunately, the integrity of the research was maintained, and currently the analysis of 390 disinterred individuals is being carried out by Michael Blakely at Howard University.

I believe that as professional archaeologists, we may learn some valuable lessons from Mr. Parrington's experiences, in terms of handling the often sensitive issues surrounding investigations of burial grounds and cemeteries, and dealing with the challenges presented in trying to carry out urban archaeological investigations.

The audience was able to ask Mr. Parrington numerous questions, regarding both the archaeological and political aspects of the project. On behalf of the APA, I would again like to thank Mr. Parrington for his presentation.

Alison Ariss, Newsletter Editor

Advocacy Issues:

Archaeological Assessment Technical Guidelines: A Review

Submitted by Lawrence Jackson, President

After its first year of operation, an assessment of the efficiency and purpose of the AATG's is appropriate. The archaeological consulting community, through the introduction of this standardized reporting procedure and methodology, has hopefully improved both the quality of field work and reporting.

However, there are certain areas where I believe that the guidelines provide loopholes or create significant research biases which will have long term effects in the archaeology of Ontario. When the archaeology of the last decade of the 20th century is evaluated, how will we be judged? I think it is safe to say that we will be regarded as well-meaning but perhaps more than a bit naive and especially cavalier in our attitude towards the "writing off" of sites and scientific sampling.

Two examples come to mind immediately - the archaeology of early hunter-gatherers and the archaeology of the mid-nineteenth to 20th centuries. One of the key requirements of the technical guidelines is a specific interval for surface survey - stipulated as 10 metres. Based on comprehensive survey of a 200 km² region in south-central Ontario, looking specifically for hunter-gatherer sites, I can say, with some confidence, that an interval of that magnitude will completely miss most early sites. This is a simple function of site size and differential preservation - Palaeo-Indian and Archaic sites in south-central Ontario tend to be quite small (see Jackson 1994; Ellis and Deller 1992) and ephemeral in terms of quantities of large and visible debris.

Are we to dismiss such site potential because such sites are small and because they presumably have little to contribute? One of the critical, and often overlooked aspects of small sites is that they are most often single component or even single activity sites which provide us with clear windows into the past. As an example, excavations of the Sandy Ridge and Halstead Early Palaeo-Indian sites on Rice Lake, both of which would have been

missed by 10 metre interval survey, revealed the first paired features for the Gainey phase in Ontario, the first clear evidence of logistically and residentially organized site differentiation based on unifacial tool debris, and the first indication in this part of Ontario of Gainey phase settlement systems used to exploit regions. What will future archaeologists say of us now when we are regularly disposing of sites of this nature? And not just sites, for these small sites are the backbone of larger settlement systems. If appropriate survey intervals are not adopted then we have clearly done irreparable damage to the archaeological record - and it cannot be replaced.

The answer to this particular problem is an easy one but it comes at a cost - easy profits for surveying fields. Tighten the interval and recover hunter-gatherer site systems or leave it alone and maintain profits? How will the future judge us?

The second area of concern which I have mentioned is the whimsical, some might say nonsensical, way in which we have defined the mid-to-late 19th century as unimportant. Much is made of the so-called 100 year rule for importance of historic sites. But where will this rule leave us in another 50 years? I believe that we will look like rather stupid and short-sighted archaeologists who arbitrarily decided to write off entire time periods. Everyone knows that the root of the problem is quantity - there is simply not enough money, time, or people to excavate every 19th or early 20th century site. Nor should there be! Archaeology is, after all, a science of sampling. This is what I see as the glaring omission in Ontario archaeology - there appears to be no regularized, standardized, or even halfway consistent strategy for the sampling of

historic sites. Everyone seems to know what is important about prehistoric sites but very few will admit to such understanding of historic sites. And virtually every consultant in Ontario has been or will be involved with properties which contain historic sites. What are to be the sampling standards by which we evaluate whether or not sites are significant or exactly how much effort and how much information we should be looking to recover from them?

Closely related to this problem is the frightening rubric of "monitoring" as applied to construction situations. I regret to say that my own firm has been involved with "monitoring" of at least one site and most consultants will inevitably be faced with such situations. What are our obligations to archaeology and to the future when we watch construction machinery tear apart the ground and pathetically grab at whatever large or shiny objects we see to record them and snatch some significance from an otherwise very unprofessional situation. I have suggested to the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation (MCTR), that this is an area which urgently needs standardization.

Again, a straightforward solution to the problem is sampling. In addition to visual "monitoring", we need to establish basic sampling strategies to assess such sites - control pits, sampling by screening of stratigraphic units, and projection over entire site areas. Sure, it will cost a bit more but it won't stop construction and it is a workable solution to a rather sad situation. Special dispensations may be given to favoured government or commercial entities engaged in large-scale projects but not at the cost of very basic scientific techniques.

So, the emphasis here is on one simple word - SAMPLING. Something which we all presumably know something about.

With regard to sampling, again, we should go back to the problem of prehistoric sites. Who, if anyone, knows just what is being found, mitigated, or destroyed in Ontario? Where are our basic inventories of types of sites being recorded - other than lost in consulting reports. Perhaps we, as both consultants and professional archaeologists, should be getting together on a regular basis to discuss what is being found, to set up some of our own research standards, and not just wait for an under-staffed MCTR to make these decisions for us. Are we to allow the profit and competition mode to dictate a future in which professional archaeologists do not share their data with one another?

Clearly, there are some deficiencies in the Archaeological Assessment Technical Guidelines. They do not even come close to outweighing the positive aspects of such systematization. However, they do point out that we are not working as a community to protect or even understand the basic archaeological resource with which we are playing.

If you would like to contact the APA regarding the MCTR guidelines, please call Phil Woodley (Vice-President), at 905-527-2670, and your comments will be presented in the next Newsletter issue.

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Conference Information:

*Preserving the Recent Past:
A National Conference
Chicago, Illinois
March 29 - April 01, 1995*

"The immense preservation challenges of evaluating, maintaining, and reusing historic resources from the 20th century will be the subject of an in-depth, three day conference at Chicago's historic Palmer House Hotel..."

Developed for Architects, preservation officials, architectural conservators, historians, and cultural resource managers [professional archaeologists], the conference is the first of its kind to focus exclusively on preserving the recent past.

More than 80 leading experts from the U.S. and abroad will examine the difficult philosophical and practical issues associated with identifying and maintaining buildings, structures, and landscapes designed between 1920 and 1960."

The conference includes:

1. "Three tracks [that] will focus on resource evaluation, preservation and reuse strategies, and conservation of 20th century materials and systems."
2. Specific topics, addressed in 26 separate sessions.
3. Workshops.
4. An opening Plenary Session.
5. Eight educational tours in the Chicago area.
6. Single registration fee of \$265 U.S. dollars covers all conference expenses excepting accommodation.

The conference is sponsored by: United States National Parks Service; Illinois Historic Preservation Agency; Society for Commercial Archaeology; Association of Preservation Technology International; General Services Administration; Department of Defence Legacy Resource Management Program; and the Historic Preservation Education Foundation. For more information call 217-244-7659 (registration); or 217-343-6011 (agenda).

Submitted by Alison Ariss, Newsletter Editor

Alternative Research Funding Sources

With the traditional sources of archaeological research funds - notably the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the Ontario Heritage Foundation (OHF) and the Culture Canada's Access to Archaeology Programme - becoming more inaccessible, there are two sources that have yet to be fully utilized by archaeologists. Both are Human Resources Development Canada programs geared to skills maintenance and training, so the types of projects that are fundable do potentially include a variety of archaeological research activities.

Even though there are some restrictions as to who may participate in these programs, one positive aspect of the programs is that funding decisions are not made by archaeologists! The aim of these programs is simply to get people working. If you can demonstrate the feasibility of a project and submit a proposal early enough in the year, there is a good chance for success. I would like to present a brief overview of two programs that could readily be tapped by archaeologists - Section 25 and Job Development.

All for-profit and not-for-profit organizations may apply to these programs. The benefit of the latter type of group acting as a sponsor is that 100% of wages and overhead costs are covered. As the APA has not-for-profit status, the organization may consider sponsoring member's projects.

For both programs, projects may last up to 52 weeks; however, program funds

may not be used to displace existing or laid-off employees, or volunteers.

Section 25 Program

Projects created with Section 25 funds are geared toward maintaining the skills of individuals temporarily out of work, and therefore may only employ individuals presently receiving, or qualified to receive Unemployment Insurance benefits. Participants in this program receive enhanced U.I. benefits - for 1995 they are \$425/week. For example, even if the participant only qualifies for U.I. benefits of \$200/week, as part of a Section 25 project, they would receive \$425/week.

Since it is not a training program, project directors cannot be hired - the participants are largely responsible for directing the project. Another drawback is that the amount of overhead costs that are available are minimal. This program does, however, allow modest projects to be developed. Especially well-suited are projects that are labour intensive but that require minimal expenditures on equipment and supplies. Any number of laboratory and analytical projects are conceivable.

Job Development Projects

This program is geared toward the training of individuals who are in receipt of any form of social assistance. The participants only receive \$7.50/hour, but they do retain all of the benefits they receive while on social assistance and may enroll in any number of university or college courses related to the project. The government will cover 100% of wages for not-for-profit organizations, but only 60% for for-profit applicants.

Because it is a training program, there are a greater number of costs that can be funded if the project is sponsored by a not-for-profit organization. These include: project directors (at professional rates); training costs (college/university courses, salaries for instructors, equipment, etc.), calculated at \$8/participant/training hour; and lastly, overhead costs (accommodation, funds for technical studies, materials, etc.), calculated at \$50/week for each participant. Clearly it is within this program that more substantive archaeological projects could be undertaken.

If you would like more information, contact your local Human Resources Development Canada office. For specifics about projects that APA members are assembling through these programs, contact Bill Fitzgerald at 519-884-1970 x6845 [work], or 905-577-4748 [home].

Submitted by Bill Fitzgerald
Secretary-Treasurer

The Death of a Dump: What is MCTR's Policy on Urban Archaeological Resources?

By the time this note goes to press, several known Euro-Canadian and likely unknown Native sites in Hamilton's west end will have been destroyed. The unfortunate thing is that while this outcome was ultimately inevitable, there were opportunities that would have at least allowed an assessment of the heritage

potential of the property, and perhaps some rudimentary archaeological investigation.

Commencing in January of 1995 the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth has begun construction of a Combined Sewer Overflow Tank in Cathedral Park in the City of Hamilton. Since an Environmental Assessment was required, MCTR was contacted in May 1994 to comment on the cultural heritage potential of the property. Despite the park's extremely high archaeological potential - as defined by the MCTR's Archaeological Assessment Technical Guidelines (1993:4-5), MCTR's July 1994 response to the engineering firm responsible for the project was that:

"...the proposed project exhibits a low potential for impacting cultural heritage resources, due to the extent of disturbances which have previously occurred within the project area, and the lack of features which otherwise would suggest heritage potential. Consequently this office has no further concerns for the above mentioned project."

To even a casual observer, such a judgement is somewhat mystifying. The most basic of background investigations indicate that MCTR's evaluation was simply wrong in light of their own criteria for assessing the archaeological potential of an area:

1. Existing and former sources of water run through and adjacent to the property.
2. The topography of the property remains virtually identical to that depicted on maps of 1842 and 1850-51. Ridges, terraces, and stream courses signal high archaeological potential.
3. Known Native archaeological sites abound in similar physical settings near the project area - notably the Princess Point site.

On the property itself there are documented and inferred heritage resources dating to the 9th century, including at least three pre-Confederation structures and a late 19th century landfill. The lack of comparative artifact collections from this period of technological development would warrant some form of archaeological investigation in the landfill alone.

4. The area was, and continues to be a major transportation corridor. The inlet (Chedoke Creek) provided access through the Escarpment and into Lake Ontario and acted as the western boundary of 19th century Hamilton. One of the structures on the 1842 map was identified as an inn.

Based on these obvious criteria alone, MCTR should not have waived the archaeological condition. Known and undoubtedly unknown sites were issued their "death sentence" without even having been exposed to the most cursory of evaluations, providing clearance for the Region to proceed with the destruction of the heritage resources. Bottle collectors were a little more aware of the significance of the site, undertaking "investigations" within exposures left by the Region's bore holes.

With this archaeological window of opportunity closed, I contacted the Region about the possibility of volunteers monitoring the property during construction in order to recover a reference collection. This request was initially denied by the Environmental Services Department (ESD) until a little political will was brought to bear.

Considering that the Region and/or its contractors had no legal need to allow access to the property for heritage monitoring since MCTR considered it to be a non-site, the

Region should be commended for their support.

This second window of opportunity, while not an acceptable archaeological investigative situation, was considered to be the best that could be achieved considering MCTR's oversight of the project area's heritage potential. In order not to delay the construction of the CSO tank or endanger the lives of volunteers willing to rescue heritage material, the ESD agreed to provide an operator and a machine for a day prior to the commencement of the excavation of their forty foot deep pit. We had hoped to obtain a small sample of material culture from the landfill and undertake a search for the 1840s structures. Even if the latter were found they could not be investigated, but it would at least emphasize the need to more thoroughly understand the resources of a site before it is given MCTR clearance.

The only conditions from the ESD to proceed with these activities were that we could not descend into the holes and that we must obtain liability insurance. Such policies cannot be generally be obtained by individuals for short-term activities, so it was thought that any number of commercial archaeological firms with such coverage would agree to extend their coverage to facilitate the collection of an artifact sample from the condemned site. Unfortunately no firm could be coaxed into such an arrangement so we were resigned to the fact that the site would be destroyed without the opportunity of recovering an artifact sample. Ironically, however, the ESD bailed us out literally at the last minute, accepting liability waivers from the volunteers.

With a machine and operator provided by the ESD and access to the

property granted by the City of Hamilton, a two metre by two metre by six metre deep test pit was excavated into the Cathedral Park landfill on 24 January 1995 from which six volunteers gathered a significant sample of glass and ceramic items. While unlikely a representative sample from a landfill that is approximately one hectare in extent, the sample will nonetheless provide some insights into the material culture and technology of turn-of-the-century Hamilton. The collection, to be processed and housed at Wilfrid Laurier University, will be of use to archaeologists and historians interested in that era, and will not make it necessary for them to obtain their reference collections from flea markets that will be supplied by collectors who are inevitably going to swarm this site once construction commences.

While it may be difficult for many archaeologists to become overly concerned with late 19th/early 20th century dumps, if these landfills, and contemporary habitation sites continue to be destroyed with the blessing of MCTR, there will be, as that era becomes more remote, an increasing gap in our understanding of that period.

MCTR wrote off the Cathedral Park property because of "the extent of disturbances which have previously occurred within the project area, and the lack of features which would otherwise suggest heritage potential". How this determination could have been made without a field inspection of the property, a cursory examination of readily available historical sources, or the geo-environmental investigation that was undertaken by the engineering consultant is incomprehensible. Granted, the area is surrounded by a maze of highways and urban development, but the

park has remained virtually undeveloped. The "disturbances" that have taken place in the park include an sewer line, a buried Hydro conduit, and, presumably from MCTR's perspective, an early 20th century landfill.

While it is not being proposed that large scale excavations be conducted on sites of this nature, there is no reason that artifact samples cannot be obtained. Time, money, nor inconvenience to developers are factors that could justify MCTR's lack of support for these resources. The Cathedral Park dump was sampled quickly and inexpensively. If their lack of concern was simply because of its age and structure, MCTR should provide the archaeological community with their definition of cultural significance as it relates to archaeological sites and material culture of the late 19th and 20th centuries.

Submitted by Bill Fitzgerald

For Your Information...

Access for Archaeological Site Data

In this computer age of fax machines and modems, the archaeological research and consulting industries have need of fast and efficient data access. The Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation (MCTR) in Ontario is connected to the national archaeological site registry through the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN), in Ottawa. Currently, to retrieve archaeological site data, an archaeological researcher/consultant needs to request it from

MCTR in writing (a fax will do), using parameters such as Borden block, township, culture, etc. MCTR then accesses CHIN, and a printout is sent from Ottawa to the researcher by the delivery speed of Canada Post, since the actual printout is sent by surface mail.

Direct computer access to CHIN by archaeologists is available through a formal application to MCTR, and if approved, CHIN will issue the applicant "access codes". It may be possible to have "view and print only" access, as is the case for MCTR offices outside of Toronto. However, access to CHIN is controlled by MCTR and is subject to subscription fees. MCTR is very concerned with controlling the access to archaeological data, since unscrupulous individuals (looters) may be able to gain knowledge of site locations through non-MCTR terminals.

Direct access to CHIN may not be an advantage to researchers in Southern Ontario, since data seems to take less than two weeks to arrive after it has been requested. There may be some interest for researchers who are located in Northern Ontario, or from out of the province. I feel that MCTR is justified in having control over access to CHIN, since site location data could more easily fall into the "wrong hands" if non-MCTR users were careless. However, most "pothunters" I know of do not need MCTR data to find sites, because they use their own "underground" database (excuse the archaeological pun). It is the neophyte pothunter who would just love to have access to CHIN, and learn about the locations of sites without having to actually do any fieldwork.

The question of accessing the CHIN

archaeological database is a "thorny" one for MCTR. Researchers would probably find direct access to CHIN a benefit, but how could anyone prevent pothunters from accessing the data?

Submitted by Bud Parker,
Director

Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples

The APA submitted comments to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples in 1992 through this writer. In February 1993 the Commission acknowledged receipt of our submission and to date no other correspondence has been received. A brief article in the Toronto Globe and Mail newspaper indicated that a Commissioner in Halifax stated that the Commission's report will be "out soon". The report will be interesting to read, especially in light of the 1994 draft guidelines proposed by the Canadian Archaeological Association on aboriginal materials.

Submitted by Bud Parker,
Director

Chert Identification Kit Available - And It's Free!

With the assistance of funding provided by Human Resources Development Canada, APA Executive members Bud Parker and Bill Fitzgerald, potential members Elizabeth Alder and Astero Kalogeropoulos, chert knappers Fred Moerschfelder and Lou Rebelo, and Wilfrid Laurier University students Adam Ballantine,

Jessica Brinkworth, Jamie McDougall and Mike Teal, made the rounds of the major southern Ontario chert outcrops during January's milder spells. Enough material was collected from each source to assemble portable chert identification kits and establish a permanent comparative collection at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Each kit contains seventeen samples of southern Ontario cherts: Onondaga (7); Kettle Point (2); Collingwood (2); Haldimand (2); Selkirk (2); and one each of Colborne and Ancaster. The specimens are glued within compartments of a durable plastic container, and a laminated, two-sided removable insert includes information on their geological and geographical provenience, their defining characteristics, and a short bibliography. Even though the specimens are not removable from the container, they can easily be examined microscopically.

Useful in the field and the lab, these kits are available free-of-charge to APA members whose 1995 membership fees have been paid. Each member is entitled to one free kit; however, additional kits may be obtained for the cost of the materials used to assemble the kit, plus postage - \$15.

To receive your APA Chert Identification Kit contact either Bud or Bill at:

Wilfrid Laurier University,
Archaeology Lab,
Waterloo, Ontario,
N2L 3C5

Phone: 519-884-1970 x6845
Fax: 519-884-8853.

We are also in the process of

producing an instructional video on chert knapping that will be made available to APA members.

Archaeological Horror Stories:

"Malibu Barbie"

This letter is a good example of walking the diplomatic "fine-line" with the public...

Paleoanthropology Division
Smithsonian Institute
207 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20078

Dear Sir:

Thank-you for your latest submission to the Institute, labelled "211-D, layer seven, next to the clothesline post. Hominid skull." We have given this specimen a careful and detailed examination, and regret to inform you that we disagree with your theory that it represents "conclusive proof of the presence of Early Man in Charleston County two million years ago." Rather, it appears that what you have found is the head of a Barbie doll, of the variety one of our staff, who has small children, believes to be "Malibu Barbie." It is evident that you have given a great deal of thought to the analysis of this specimen, and you may be quite certain that those of us who are familiar with your prior work in the field were loathe to come to contradiction with your findings. However, we do feel that there are a number of physical attributes of the specimen which might have tipped you off to it's modern origin:

1. The material is moulded plastic. Ancient hominid remains are typically fossilized bone.

2. The cranial capacity of the specimen is approximately 9 cubic centimeters, well below the threshold of even the earliest identified proto-humans.

3. The dentition pattern evident on the "skull" is more consistent with the common domesticated dog than it is with the "ravenous man-eating Pliocene clams" you speculate roamed the wetlands during that time. The latter finding is certainly one of the most intriguing hypotheses you have submitted in your history with this institution, but the evidence seems to weigh rather heavily against it. Without going into too much detail, let us say that:

A. The specimen looks like the head of a Barbie doll that a dog has chewed on.

B. Clams don't have teeth.

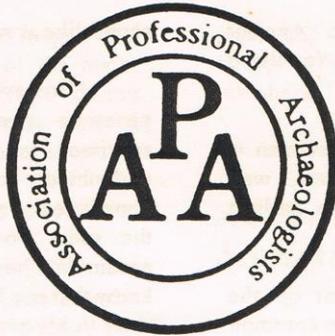
It is with feelings tinged with melancholy that we must deny your request to have the specimen carbon dated. This is partially due to the heavy load our lab must bear in its normal operation, and partly due to carbon dating's notorious inaccuracy in fossils of recent geologic record. To the best of our knowledge, no Barbie dolls were produced prior to 1956 AD, and carbon dating is likely to produce wildly inaccurate results. Sadly, we must also deny your request that we approach the National Science Foundation's Phylogeny Department with the concept of assigning your specimen the scientific name "Australopithecus spiff-arino." Speaking personally, I, for one, fought tenaciously for the acceptance of your proposed taxonomy, but was ultimately voted down because the species name you selected was hyphenated, and didn't really

sound like it might be Latin.

However, we gladly accept your generous donation of this fascinating specimen to the museum. While it is undoubtedly not a hominid fossil, it is, nonetheless, yet another riveting example of the great body of work you seem to accumulate here so effortlessly. You should know that our Director has reserved a special shelf in his own office for the display of the specimens you have previously submitted to the Institution, and the entire staff speculates daily on what you will happen upon next in the site you have discovered in your back yard. We eagerly anticipate your trip to our nation's capital that you proposed in your last letter, and several of us are pressing the Director to pay for it. We are particularly interested in hearing you expand on your theories surrounding the "trans-positating fillifitation of ferrous ions in a structural matrix" that makes the excellent juvenile *Tyrannosaurus rex* femur you recently discovered take on the deceptive appearance of a rusty 9mm Sears Craftsman automotive crescent wrench.

Yours in Science,
H. R.
Curator, Antiquities

**Any contributions to the APA Newsletter are welcomed by the Editor. Please send your submissions to Alison Ariss at:
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