

ARCHEOLOGISTS UNEARTH ARCHIVES! August 16, 2003

REPORTER: We are here reporting on what is being called the biggest archeological find of the year 2277. A team has excavated what appear to be relics of a now defunct group known as Alcoholics Anonymous. The leader of the team, Dr. Robert Watkins is now stepping up to the mike to start the press conference let's listen in:

ROBERT: Good afternoon. While digging in the ruins of what used to be the city of Walnut Creek, California we came across a veritable treasure trove of material related to a group forgotten in history known as Alcoholics Anonymous. They appeared to be quite successful in helping alcoholics maintain sobriety in the 20th and beginning of the 21st century before they disappeared. Since we are still in the process of analyzing all the artifacts, our information is sketchy and many of our conclusions are mostly speculation at this time. Still, we will answer your questions as best we can. Yes, the gentleman in the green neon hat.

GENTLEMAN IN THE GREEN NEON HAT: Thank you, Dr. Watkins. Bob Hutchings, Sacramento Bee. I have a couple of questions. First, was this a cult? And secondly, there have been reports that this structure you discovered was some sort of repository of artifacts that this group used, is that correct?

ROBERT: Good questions. To answer your first question we are not using the word cult to describe the adherents to this organization just yet. True we did find a couple of paintings of what appear to be the founders there, but many of the writings do not support the theory that this was some sort of cult. Especially a document we unearthed called “The Twelve Traditions”. To answer your second question, yes, this is definitely an archive. Okay, how about the woman with the nice smile in the back?

WOMAN WITH THE NICE SMILE: Hi, Sally Armstrong, San Francisco Chronicle. Are there any audio or video recordings of this group in the archives?

ROBERT: We have come across several audiotapes in both reel-to-reel and cassette format but all were ruined. However, there were several audio compact discs which did survive and are being cataloged.

WOMAN WITH THE NICE SMILE: If I may follow up, why do you think they didn’t convert more of their tapes to a CD?

ROBERT: We speculate that like other organizations they couldn’t get enough people to volunteer to help do it. Okay, how about the fellow with the handlebar mustache?

FELLOW WITH THE HANDLEBAR MOUSTACHE: Fritz Grantham, Archeological Digest. What about photographs? Did any pictures survive?

ROBERT: Yes, several in fact. One of the more interesting collections of pictures we found were ones of individuals called “delegates”. This find backs up our hypothesis that this Alcoholics Anonymous was not a cult. These appeared to be men and women who were elected for a specific purpose—which we haven’t discovered yet—and for only one term of two years. As many of you know with the revolutionary advances made in aging control in recent years we have had U.S. senators who are well into their 15th six year term. So this concept of having true rotating leadership seems quite novel. Yes sir, the man with the mismatched socks in the third row.

MAN WITH MISMATCHED SOCKS: Hi, thank you Dr. Watkins. I’m Kevin Bertrand with National Geographic. Have you come across any unusual practices or rituals associated with this group?

ROBERT: I’m glad you asked that question. Yes, on one of the CDs there is a person speaking and after he finishes evidently all of the participants say the Lord’s Prayer in unison. At first listen we were convinced that this group must be a Christian organization, but then immediately following the prayer they did something we have never heard in any church anywhere. They began to chant in a sing-songy rhythmic fashion. It sounded like “Keep Coming Back it works if you work it” and it keeps going and going but it becomes impossible to understand what is being chanted because several people are saying different things. Another fascinating thing we discovered was the group’s strong devotion to a certain beverage; coffee. To

them, it appeared to be similar to a sacrament. Okay, we have time for a couple more questions, how about the woman who resembles my aunt Helga?

WOMAN WHO RESEMBLES AUNT HELGA: Well, I'm not your Aunt Helga; I'm Katie Vargas from USA Today. Approximately how many items are there in this archive?

ROBERT: Hundreds. The main room we tapped into while digging appears to be some sort of display room. It had books, pictures and other items. Just three weeks ago we unearthed another room which appeared to be cluttered up with a hodgepodge of memorabilia yet to be catalogued. It appears to be a sorting room. We guessed the reason it was not as organized as the display room was again lack of volunteers to help do the work. Okay final question, guy with the corn cob pipe.

GUY WITH THE CORN COB PIPE: Thanks doctor. Ted Jenkins with the American Medical Association. With alcoholism running rampant now in the year 2277, why do you think this organization did not survive?

ROBERT: We have speculated on that at length. Maybe the answer is as simple as they just forgot where they came from. Thank you good night.

THE END

