



# MEREDITH HERALD

Volume XV, Issue 16

We attract bright, talented, ambitious students. Naturally, we're a women's college.

January 27, 1999

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## Lecture discusses ancient earth sculptures

□ John Kincheloe addresses a lost part of American history.

CHRISTINA HOLDER  
Staff Reporter

There is a mystery to be solved in Adams County, OH. A great serpent is resting on a cliff, seemingly suspended in mid-slither. Do not be afraid. You will be in no danger of stepping on the creature--unless you are Bigfoot.

The serpent of Adams county is no common garden snake; neither is it comparable to the great boa. Rather, the serpent is the product of numerous mounds of earth connected to depict an uncoiling snake.

John William Kincheloe, Meredith's media specialist, had the answers for wondering minds when he presented the faculty distinguished lecture titled, "Uncoiling the Serpent."

"The story I am about to tell you is part fact, part speculation, part comedy, part tragedy, but, I hope for you, completely

fascinating," Kincheloe said as an invitation for those present to learn more about the Native American Serpent Mounds.

The lecture was a complete account of the history of the mysterious earthen mounds that have been constructed in various parts of the United States by Native Americans.

Squire and Davis, authors of Ancient Mounds of the Mississippi Valley, wrote the first "systematic and most comprehensive account" of the history of the Native American mounds, and were the first to tell about the Great Serpent Mound.

The Grave Creek Mounds located in Moundsville, VA, were some of the first to be examined. The mounds, appearing as intensely magnified hills, rose 65' high, 240' wide at the base, and were composed of over 57,000 tons of earth.

The mounds were used as burial sites by the Native Americans referred to as the

Adena. Yet another mound, located in Newark, OH, was found to have distinct geometric shapes and parallel lines. The mounds, used for ceremonial purposes, "were construct-



An aerial view of The Great Serpent Mound.

ed with precision with consistent mathematical proportion," said Kincheloe.

Explaining the mounds of Ohio, Kincheloe says, "Many of the earth-works, though found miles apart, share common alignments with signifi-

cant points on the horizon. Walls consistently relate not only to rivers they front, but to the planets, sun, moon and stars."

A most interesting addition to the lecture was Kincheloe's inadvertent discovery of a letter in a used bookstore. The letter was written by Squire in 1845 and was about the mounds at Chillicothe.

"And there it is," Kincheloe said as he pointed to the framed letter opposite him on the stage. In the letter, Squire remarked on the great sight of the mounds.

The purpose of the Great Serpent, an effigy mound that is the largest in North America, has been speculated to be a parallel to the constellation of the Big Dipper, to be a lunar observatory for the phases of the moon to represent an Adena calendar and to be the site of the Garden of the Eden because, among many reasons, it is located in Adams county.

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## Marketing professor succumbs to cancer

□ Richard Berhman died Thursday morning at the Triangle Hospice in Hillsborough.

ALLISON CARTER  
Editor-in-Chief

Last Thursday, Richard H. Berhman died at the age of 71. Berhman was diagnosed with melanoma a little over two years ago, yet he continued to teach until the beginning of the fall '98 semester.

Berhman arrived at Meredith after serving as corporate director of marketing for the Liggett Group. He was associate professor of marketing at Meredith before leaving in 1990 to be the director of the MBA program at Elon College in Burlington, NC.

After serving as director, Berhman became interim dean of the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business at Elon. During his years at Elon,

Berhman continued to teach both undergraduate and graduate classes at Meredith.

"[Dick] Berhman was one of the most student oriented professors at Meredith, and that's a fact. With him, students came first," said business faculty member Tony Bledsoe.

Berhman enjoyed sailing in his spare time with his friends and family. Both faculty and students remembered how Berhman's outside experiences brought so much to his classes.

"He had a real sense for what worked," said Business and Economics Department Head Becky Oatsvall. "He made the classes come alive for his students."

Sandra Hanner, business professor, spoke about Berhman from both a student and a colleague's point of view. Berhman was Hanner's marketing professor when she was in the MBA program here at Meredith in the mid-1980s.

"He had a very dry wit and a good sense of humor," said Hanner. "He really loved teaching."

Berhman's last classes he taught at Meredith included the undergraduate marketing research class in Fall '97, the graduate level business research class in Spring '98 and the graduate level marketing class last summer. Berhman was supposed to teach the undergrad research class last fall, but became ill again and could not teach the class.

Senior Casandra Shaleuly said, [Berhman] "was the best professor I've ever had," commenting on her marketing research class with Berhman in 1997.

Oatsvall noted that Berhman never gave away anything to his students. "He helped them earn [their grades], but he never gave anything away," said Oatsvall.

Berhman came to North Carolina from the New York area after serving in the Navy during World War II and working for the Liggett group. Berhman is survived by his wife, Mary, and his three daughters Barbara Dan, Margaret Payne and Dorothea Hyde.

The family held a private service for Berhman over the weekend. Meredith College is planning a memorial service in memory of Berhman sometime in Feb., but no definite plans have been made.

Memorial gifts can be sent to the Duke Melanoma Research group at Duke University in Berhman's name to the following address: Duke Melanoma Research, PO Box 3828 - DUMC, Durham, NC 27710.