

Archaeology Continued from Page 4

However, Ayers theorizes people from another island defeated the builders of Nan Madol before the Europeans arrived, and subsequent rulers allowed the island complex to decline. Whether this takeover was a violent one is unknown.

"Evidence of fighting or warfare is pretty difficult to find in most cases, including this one, unless they built forts," Ayers said. "There are some forts on Pohnpei, but in Nan Madol there are very few artifacts recognizable as weapons."

"They weren't particularly warlike, although feuding in the later time periods and even in recent history has taken place between clans," he said.

Hazards to Ayers and his students in the field are few, he said. There are no snakes on Pohnpei, and no spiders that are "seriously poisonous." Ayers said one of the greatest dangers he and his students have had to face over the years has been falling coconuts.

And although there are no traps or pitfalls in the tombs the archaeologists have investigated, Ayers said he is careful when investigating burial grounds on Pohnpei.

"Some of the Pohnpeians today are still very concerned about our disturbing sacred places — tombs and things like that — that they have religious feelings about," he said. "I'm a little leery myself in going into the tombs sometimes. I recognize it as a special place."

"A good deal of our time is spent talking with local people, land owners as well as the chiefs, to get their permission to carry out the work because they're very protective of their own past, as they should be," he said.

Ayers' trips to the island the past three years have been funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. He said the British Broadcasting Company may make a documentary about the islands and his work this summer. In that event, Ayres said he and his workers will try to recreate for the filmmakers the efforts used to make tombs and Nan Madol structures.

Much is still unknown about Nan Madol and its builders, Ayers said, adding that there are rumors of underwater structures the ancient Pohnpeians

may have built.

A specialist in underwater archaeology is investigating 12 vertical columns 100 feet under the water off Nan Madol, and Ayers said the columns may be natural coral formations. But if they were made by the ancient Pohnpeians, as local tradition claims, Ayers said their culture may have been more advanced at building than had previously been believed.

A sophisticated computer in Condon Hall is now included with the brush and the pick as important archaeologist's tools, and Ayers said it has helped him reconstruct the Nan Madol site "without lifting a stone."

Each archaeological site has from one to ten or more ruins or artifacts, and each artifact is given a number. Every rock is measured by hand, plotted on a

Turn to Archaeology, Page 6

Orientation held tonight

MEETINGS

National Student Exchange Orientation will meet this afternoon at 4 in the EMU Forum Room.

"**International Festival**" organizational meeting of the Foreign Students Organization will be held tonight at 5 in the EMU International Lounge.

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Viennese Ball planning meeting will be held tonight at 7:30 in the EMU International Lounge.

Students Against Apartheid meets tonight at 5:30 in EMU Cedar Room F.

Student Campaign for Disarmament will meet to discuss American Peace Test and non-violent workshops tonight at 6 at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St.

Bahai Campus Association meets tonight at 6:30 at the Bahai Center, 1458 Alder St.

University of Oregon/University of El Salvador Sister University Project will hold a

general interest meeting tonight at 5 in the EMU Oak Room.

OSPIRG will hold a consumer research meeting tonight at 6 in EMU Century Room C.

A meeting for all groups interested in showing movies during spring term will be held today at 1:30 p.m. in EMU Century Room E.

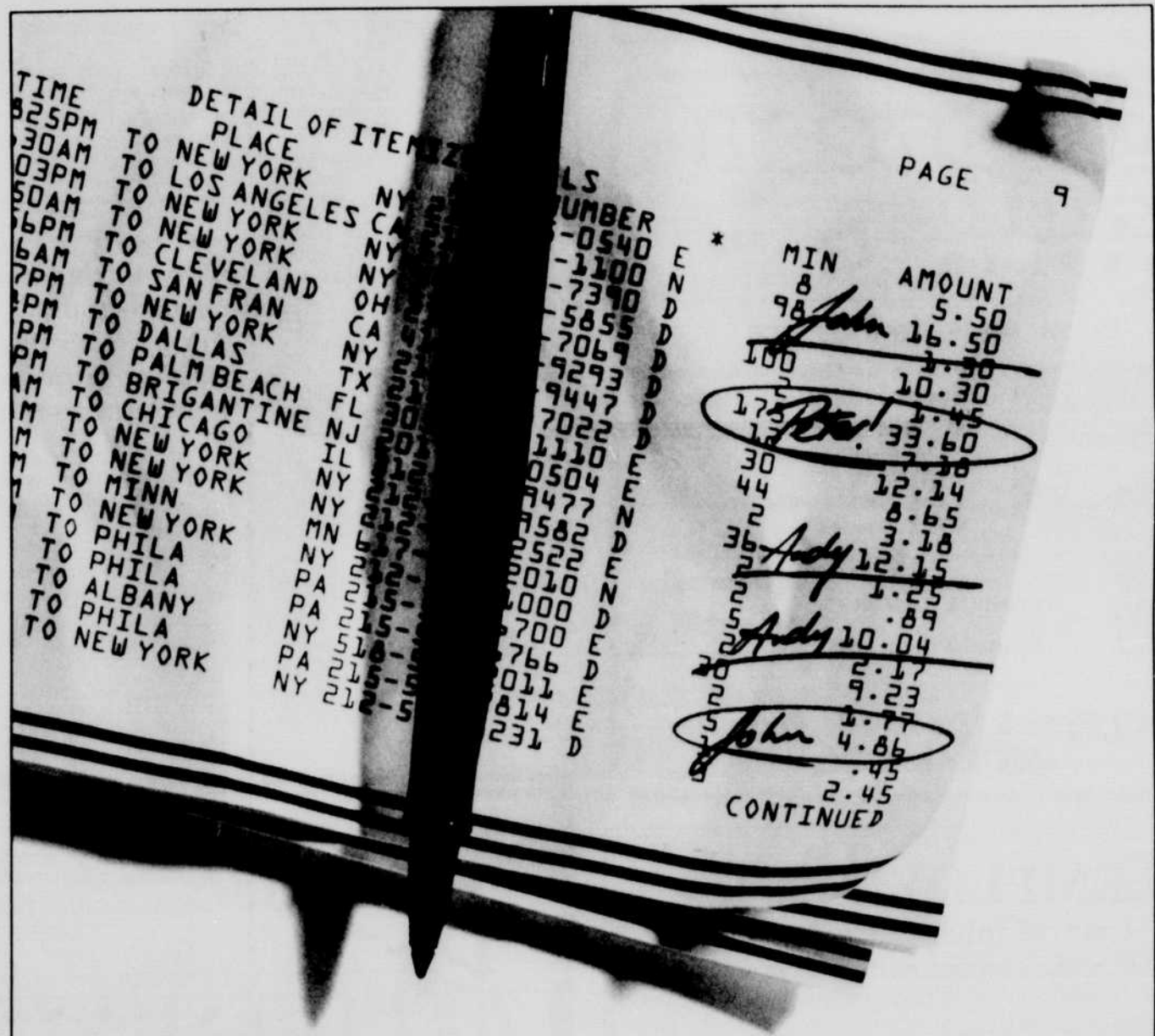
OSPIRG's clean air/toxics group meets tonight at 7 in Room 155 Straub.

MISCELLANEOUS

CD-ROM tutorial for the ERIC (education) database will be held today at 10 a.m. in the Knight Library's Reference Department.

Holy Rosary will be held tonight at 7:30 at the Newman Center, 1850 Emerald St.

Food and fitness issues for college students is the title of a workshop to be held tonight at 8 in EMU Cedar Room C. Minority students are encouraged to attend.



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