## Professor honored for research

By Shanti Sosienski **Emerald Contributor** 

When a University professor began his research on early Maya architecture, he didn't realize he was undertaking a thirty-two year commitment.

He also didn't expect an award from the Seminar for Pre-Hispanic Architecture. The award has never been given to an American citizen.

The University of Mexico in Mexico City (UNAM) recently paid homage to 74-year-old George Andrews for his research. His work helped lay the foundation for Maya Architecture studies. Andrews's 5,000 page databank is currently being used at UNAM, where Andrews was a guest lecturer in December.

Andrews said he is honored by the appreciation he has received.

"Mexicans, if you don't already know, tend to use a more formal language than we would and so all of this is just a more extravagant way of paying respect to what they call jornades - a lifetime commitment," Andrews said.

Andrews, who has been a professor at the University for 45 years, estimates that he and his wife, who has been his "committed assistant," have worked a total of seven solid years on the research over the last 32 years.

The data bank, he explained, consists of thou-

sands of meticulously recorded documents in an area called the Puuc region, which spans across the lower region of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Belize

Andrews became interested in Maya architecture after he visited a site in 1958. After returning to the U.S., he began looking for research about the ruins he had seen. However, he found there was very limited information available

It was then that he decided to begin his project of recording information about the lower Mayan

'My idea was to visit all of the lower region Maya areas and record everything I could," Andrews said. "That turned out to be a very substantial project because the area is approximately the size of Oregon.

Thirty two years and many trips south later, Andrews has nearly completed the extensive research. He said he hopes to be able to publish his findings

Andrews said that publishing a report of this size will require a substantial subsidy. However, he is confident that it will be published upon

Andrews said he looks foward to finishing the research which will cap a lifelong commitment to aiding architectural studies.



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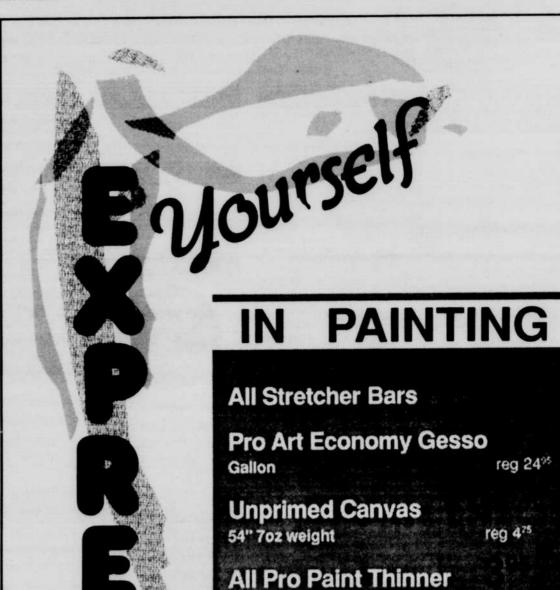
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