plants lures botanist deep into Amazon jungle

For three centuries, the legendary Amazon jungle has played its siren song for adventurers and soldiers of fortune. First they came seeking gold, then rubber, now oil. But botanist Walter Lewis is lured by treasure that may prove greater than any of these.

Fascinated by a primitive tribe’s vast knowledge of medicinal plants used to control fertility, heal poisonous snake bites and even mend broken bones, Lewis treks to the headwaters of the Amazon river to learn ancient secrets of the jungle.

There, shielded on the west by the thundering wall of the Andes and on the east by unending miles of jungle, small enclaves of one of the world’s last culturally intact aboriginal tribes lie in splendid isolation. These are the Jivaro Indians of Peru, better known as the headhunters of the Amazon.

"The Jivaro are custodians of a tremendous cultural treasure," says Walter Lewis, Ph.D., professor of biology. "Their knowledge of hundreds of rare medicinal plants is unique." In an extensive study involving several trips a year over the next three years, Lewis hopes to learn ancient secrets of the Jivaro Indians and their home, the Amazon jungle.

Botanical gold mine

Primitive tribe’s knowledge of medicinal plants lures botanist deep into Amazon jungle

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Richard N. Rosett, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, will continue in that position, but also will hold the new additional title of vice chancellor with responsibilities for the schools of Architecture and Fine Arts, and for Library Services. Harry Kisker, dean of Student Affairs, will continue in that role, but will have the additional title of vice provost. Besides his present duties, he will be given responsibility for three other areas — Career Planning and Placement Service, Student Educational Service and University Health Services.

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Amazon—continued from p. 1

In an extensive study involving several trips a year over the next three years, Lewis hopes to find the answers.

The upper Amazon basin contains one of the richest florists in the world, says, "yet many of the plants remain entirely unknown to the Western world." Relying solely on note and test, Lewis釉ed on local plants, the Jivaro maintain excellent health in an inhospitable climate. "It can only be assumed that the Jivaro der coveted throughout the centuries," Lewis believes.

But extracting secrets from the jungle is no easy task. Both the land and the people have deterred adventurers and scientists in the past.

Iquito, the closest jungle outlet, is 500 miles from the Jivaro heartland of the upper Amazonian basin. "In the jungle, 500 miles is forever," says Lewis. He and his wife and co-researcher, Memory Elvin-Lewis, Ph.D. (a medical microbiologist at the WU School of Dental Medicine with extensive knowledge of diseases), along with Italian linguist Maurizio Gnerre (a specialist in Jivaro and contiguous languages), received a chilling ultimatum: Leave or be forceably expelled.

Although the ghoulish custom is now illegal, it is still as proficient with the silent, deadly weapons that are so evident in her latest book, Tongue-Tied American: Confronting the Divided Spouse, couples caught in an ongoing analysis should tell Lewis and his colleagues what the concoctions contain and how they work.

Regardless of whether such cures prove effective or not, the study has already brought unexpected bounty. "Among the hundreds of samples of extensive plant species we brought back, we believe at least several are new species," he declares. Lewis believes this study also will benefit the Jivaro, who become more proficient as civilization encroaches. "Our study aids the long-range welfare of the Jivaro by preserving information relevant to their health," says the botanist. As acculturation, including the use of modern medicines, proceeds and accelerates during the period of constant contact with oil company workers, the Jivaro may well lose many folk-medicine practices. When oil production ceases, the Jivaro may need to rely once again on local plants for their well-being.

Lewis and Gnerre plan to return several times each year to gather samples from different sub-tribes at different times of the year. With each trip they grow more entrenched with Jivaro ways.

"In the past, visitors have looked down on the Jivaro as savages," says Lewis. "Either they paid them little attention, as they searched the jungle for riches, or worse, they tried to 'civilize' them. But we go as students, eager to learn what they know, and interested in something of which they are very proud."
Robert L. Vigil, D.B.A. (left), dean of the School of Business, was among those at a reception honoring Leroy Nunery (center). MBA ’79 assistant vice president of the First National Bank of Chicago, who received the first Business Minority Council alumni award, and Sterling H. Schoen, Ph.D., professor of management in the Graduate School of Business, who was recognized for his commitment to the Consortium for Graduate Study in Management.

Schoen honored by minority council for commitment to MBA consortium

Sterling H. Schoen, Ph.D., professor of management in the Graduate School of Business, was honored recently by students of the Business Minority Council for his role in founding the Consortium for Grad-uate Study in Management.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, the consortium began with three universities — Washington, Indiana and Wisconsin — committed to attracting minorities to master’s in business administration (MBA) study. It has expanded to nine schools across the country, including the universities of Michigan, North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Rochester, Southern California, Texas at Austin and New York University. Since its founding, over 1,150 Black, Hispanic and Na- tive American men and women have earned the MBA through the consortium schools.

Speaking at the reception honoring Schoen, Business Minority Council President Chanda Stephens (MBA ’97) said: “At a time when under-representation of minorities in business was a topic best discussed behind closed doors, Dr. Schoen displayed great initiative in his pursuit of a means to correct the problem.

“Through his commitment, and through the dedicated efforts of individuals and organizations that lent support along the way, the consortium has become a national entity providing a means for minority stu-dents to hasten their way into significant managerial positions. We applaused his vision and foresight.”

Reorganization continued from p. 1

sent the enhancement of continuing efforts of the University to foster sound academic programs and student activities. The arrival of a scholar of Max Cowan’s stature and leadership capability will be comple-mented by the additional responsibilities for Deans Rosett and Kisker.

“Our retiring provost, Ralph Morrow, and I have carefully studied our administrative structure and be-lieve that these changes will continue to enhance the performance of our programs for each of the school’s many areas of student affairs. And I am particu-larly pleased that our Research Office will work directly with a scientist of Professor Cowan’s stature,” he added.

Cowan currently is serving as vice president of The Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, Calif. Until 1983, he was on the WU faculty and director of the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences. He also was head of the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology in the School of Medicine. His graduate de-grees are from Oxford University.

Rosett was dean of the Univer-sity of Chicago’s Graduate School of Business from 1974 until 1983, and previously was head of the depart-ment of economics at the University of Rochester. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Columbia University and a master’s degree and doctorate in economics from Yale.

Richard L. Coligson, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology, recently par-ticipated in the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, held March 26-29 in Des Moines, Iowa. He presented a paper titled “View of Organizations and Environment: Embeddedness in a Wider Societal Context,” in a panel discussion on organizations and environment, and he also was a discussant on a panel on occupational soci-ology.

Gary R. Dyhouse, affiliate professor in the civil engineering department, presented a paper to the Fourth Fed-eral Inter-Agency Sedimentation Con-ference, held March 27 in Las Vegas. His presentation described the tech-niques currently used in the design of water resource projects to analyze watershed sediment yield inserting the added area for future research in sedimentation. This paper marks his fifth technical publication prepared and published in the last 12 months.

Shanti K. Khinduka, Ph.D., dean of the School of Social Work, discussed the faculty of the University of Social Sciences, Bombay, India, in "Excellence in Social Work Educa-tion" in January. In March, he led a group of social workers from 10 states on a two-week study tour of China and Hong Kong. Participants in the "Sino-American Social Workers Seminar" visited health care facili-ties, homes for the elderly, commu-nities and townships, and nursery and kindergarten schools as part of their study comparing Chinese and U.S. social problems and human ser-vices.

Venita Lake, assistant to the dean of University College, has been selected by the Department of Foundation to partici-pate in its first Emerging Leadersh-ship Program. She is one of 12 St. Louisans chosen to attend the public affairs training course to run from April 26 through June 28, 1986. The course will introduce participants to strategies for more effective partici-pation in the public decision-making process and help them develop man-agement, project-planning and com-munications skills. According to Robert C. Williams, Ph.D., dean of University College, Lake is a "widely respected citizen of both St. Louis and Washington University, who balances the demands of family, career, education, and neighborhood with grace and enthusiasm." She leads by doing.

Robert S. Leventhal, Ph.D., assis-tant professor of German, has been awarded a two-year Andrew W. Mel- lon Fellowship for Research at the Center for Advanced Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville. The grant carries a stipend of $20,000 a year with no teaching or administra-tive obligations, enabling the scholar to devote full time to research. Leventhal’s application “survived a rigorous screening of more than 80 applications.” At the center, which serves as a meeting place for distin-guished humanists such as Richard Rorty and Eric Donald Hirsch, Leven-thal will work on the relationship be-tween academic culture and instruc-tions, literature and criticism in the German territorial states, 1770-1820.

The working title of the book-length project is “knowledge, institutions and the public sphere in Germany, 1770-1820.” A pilot article, titled “The Emergence of Philosophical Dis-course in Germany, 1770-1810,” will appear in June in ISIS: International Journal of the History of Science, and another article on the scholarly disci-plines of the 18th century will ap-pear in September in the Deutsche Vierteljahresschrift.
CALENDAR

LECTURES

Thursday, May 1
9:30-10:30 a.m. Annual Carl G. Harford Visiting Professor of Infectious Diseases Lecture, "AIDS — Prospects for Control," Martin S. Blatch, assoc. prof. of medicine, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. Clifton Aud. (Basement, West Clinic Bldg.).

Friday, May 2

Saturday, May 4

Monday, May 5

4 p.m. Dept. of Biology Seminar, " Sindbis Virus as a Gene Expression Vector," Keping Huang, WU ass. prof. of microbiology and immunology. 322 Rebrock.

Tuesday, May 6


Wednesday, May 7
4 p.m. WU Medical School Irene Walter Johnson Rehabilitation Institute Employee Fitness Program Lecture Series, "Exercise in the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Cardiovascular Disease." Schwartz Hall, Barnes Hospital.

Thursday, May 8
Noon. The 33rd Annual Alpha Omega Alpha Lecture, "Diabetes Mellitus: A Case Study of the Impact of Modern Biomedical Science on a Common Disease," David M. Kipnis, prof. of medicine, WU School of Medicine, Barnes Aud. (Basement, Wohl Clinic Bldg.).

Saturday, May 10

Thursday, May 15
4 p.m. Dept. of Chemistry Seminar, "New Methods in the Synthesis of Macrocyclic Lactams and Lactones of Biological Interest," Harry Wasserman, prof. of chemistry, Yale University. 311 McIlhenny.

PERFORMANCES

Thursday, May 1
8 p.m. Student Union and Thysrus Student Dance Concert, 207 Millenickrodt. (Also May 2-4, same time, 207 Millenickrodt.)

MUSIC

Thursday, May 1
8 p.m. Dept. of Music Student Composer's Concert. Targem Rehearsal Hall.

Friday, May 2
8 p.m. Dept. of Music Electronic Music Concert. Targem Rehearsal Hall.

EXHIBITIONS

"Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition." May 4-18. Gallery of Art, upper and lower galleries. Noon-5 p.m. weekdays; 1-5 p.m. weekends. For more info., call 889-4523.

"Core Exhibit." May 4-July 25. Works by freshmen and sophomore students in the School of Fine Arts program of drawing, two-dimensional and three-dimensional art. Biddy Gallery, Biddy Hall. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays; 1-5 p.m. weekends.

FILMS

Friday, May 2
8 and 10 p.m. and Midnight. WU Filmboard Series. "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai." $2. Brown Hall. (Also Sat., May 3, same times, and Sun., May 4, at 8 and 10 p.m., Brown.)

MISCELLANY

Saturday, May 3
10 a.m. The Family Activities Section of the Woman's Club will participate in the family recreational swimming program at Millstone Pool. For more info., call Ingrid Lentz at 721-4721 or Mary Wilson at 962-690.

Sunday, May 4
5 p.m. School of Fine Arts Annual Fashion Show. Adam's Mark Hotel, Fourth and Chestnut streets. General admission is $10; students, $5. For reservations, call 889-6500.

Monday, May 5
5-30 p.m. Lesbian Issues Discussion Group, sponsored by the WU Lesbian Organization. Call 889-5943 or stop by the Women's Resource Center at 125 Primmer Hall for meeting location.

Calendar Deadline

The deadline to submit items for the June 5-7 Career at Washington University Record is May 22. Items must be typed and double-spaced. Include your name and telephone number. Address items to King McKinley, calendar editor, Box 1070.

Lights, action! Ryan T. Baldwin, a leukemia patient and the first Thru hernia Center patient to learn that the lights to start the 1986 U.S. Open are on, is cheered on by the crowd.

Eighteen graduate students in the School of Fine Arts will participate in an art exhibit titled "Art Attack" May 11 to June 12 at the new St. Louis Design Center, 917 Locust St. An artist's reception for the show will be from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 11.

The student show will occupy the entire ninth floor of the building, according to Scott Brandt, graduate student and exhibit coordinator. The 56 works exhibited will range from ceramics to metalsmithing.

The students are: Bonnie Anqueira, Brandt, Tina Brown, Andrea Carroll, Nathaniel Clark, Patrick Duncan, Grace Ferguson, Tanny Knipp, Ann Lindell, Joe Munch, David Nelson, Marin Robinson, Karen Schmitendorf, Keith Seybert, John Smithers, Matthew Stolte, Tim Whitcomb and Mark Zangara.

The Design Center, in a former Scruggs-Vandervoot-Barnery warehouse, provides showcases for contract design manufacturers to display their products. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Admission to the exhibit and reception is free. For more information, call 889-6500.

RELATIVES OF ALZHEIMER SICKS VICTIM

A study to determine the expenses incurred in caring for an Alzheimer's disease patient at home is being conducted by investigators in the George Warren Brown School of Social Work.

Family members who are caring for an Alzheimer patient at home, persons who provided care to an Alzheimer patient who is currently institutionalized, or caregivers of recently deceased Alzheimer patients are being sought to participate in this study.

Joel Leon, Ph.D., assistant professor in the social work school and director of the school's Training Program in Geriatric Case Practice, is directing the study, titled "The Economics of Alzheimer's Disease." The investigators are interested in learning any functions and behaviors of the patient that would incur an expense.

Because there are few options for financing the care of a victim of this catastrophic disease, the results of this study will be important to policy makers, both public and private, so programs can be devised to meet the financial needs of both the Alzheimer patient and the caregiver," said Leon.

A $10 compensation is available to participants in the study. For more information, call 889-6472.