



<http://eaglefeather.org>

EAGLE FEATHER RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

VOL III, NO. 1, January, 2010

Welcome, Willkommen, Bienvenue, Bienvenidos, Benvenuto. First and foremost, we would like to extend our best wishes for the year of 2010. With the new energy objectives affecting our homes and cars, we would like to begin with the latest study that indicates reliability of current cars on the road.

AUTO NEWS: HOW RELIABLE IS YOUR CAR?

Recently, 1.4 million owners of cars were surveyed by *Consumer Reports*. The findings are surprising for certain American cars. As expected the most reliable cars and trucks come from Japanese and Korean brands. The Scion scores first for the second year in a row followed by, Honda, Toyota, Infiniti and Acura. Also scoring high were the Ford Fusion (16) and Mercury Milan (10). At the bottom of the list were Cadillac (32) and Chrysler (33). In the family car category the Fusion and the Milan finished second to Toyota's Prius gas-electric hybrid but outscored the Camry and Accord. The Dodge Ram pickup was the only Chrysler model recommended. Expensive cars assembled in the U.S are not necessarily the more reliable. Inexpensive small cars and midsize family sedans were the most reliable in the study that surveyed 17 potential problem areas. The following is a sampling of the reliability rankings:

Small Cars: Most reliable (Honda Insight Hybrid); Least reliable (Nissan Versa)

Family Cars: Most reliable (Toyota Prius Hybrid); Least reliable (Chrysler Sebring)

Upscale Cars: Most reliable (Infiniti M35 –rear wheel drive); Least reliable (Jaguar XF)

Small SUVs: Most reliable: Honda CR-V); Least reliable (Saturn Vue)

Midsize SUVs: Most reliable (Toyota FJ Cruiser); Least reliable (Jeep Commander)

Upscale SUVs: Most reliable (Mercedes-Benz G1K); Least reliable (Volkswagen Tuareg)

Large SUVs: Most reliable (Toyota Sequoia); Least reliable (Chevrolet Suburban 2500)

Pickups: Most reliable (Toyota Tundra V6); Least reliable (Chevrolet Colorado)

MEDICAL NEWS: BISPHENOL A (BPA) AND ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS

If you live in the U.S., Europe or any industrialized nation, your body is probably home to a chemical called Bisphenol A, a chemical that has been shown to disrupt the hormonal system, leading to reproductive defects as well as brain damage, cardiovascular disease, cancer, obesity and diabetes. It is a chemical that mimics estrogen that factories use in everything from

plastics to epoxies accumulating at a rate of 6 pounds per American per year. More than 92% of Americans have BPA in their urine. Scientists have linked it to erectile dysfunction, hyperactivity, early puberty, prostate cancer, from attention deficit disorder to genital abnormalities in boys and girls alike. Additionally it is in our food. It is in the lining of cans as well as in plastics. Just drinking out of a plastic bottle raises your BPA levels 70 percent. According to the Breast Cancer Fund which is trying to ban the chemical from food and beverage containers, there have been more than 200 studies recently of this chemical toxin (first introduced in 1930) showing its link to adverse health effects. Even the official journal for the *American Medical Association (JAMA)* has published articles linking BPA to “an increased prevalence of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and liver-enzyme abnormalities.” While Canada as well as other countries has condemned it, politics in the U.S. via special interest lobbying have kept the FDA dormant as it continues protectionism of Big Business in America at the expense of our health. This is only the tip of the iceberg. This is not the only harmful toxin that is affecting our health. There are over 85,000 chemicals in commercial use which often find their way to our bodies and the environment. There is also Phthalates which affects or contributes to gender problems. In California alone, 58 million pounds of chemicals are released annually but unfortunately scientists do not have the methods necessary to detect but 10% of them. In an effort to save money, California will be the first state to introduce legislation that shifts the cost of developing methods for detecting chemicals from the taxpayers to the manufacturers. While this dismisses the responsibility of the State to the manufacturer, how objective can the testing be? Is this not the same as leaving the fox in charge of the chicken coop? We need independent scientific testing not industry sponsored testing. Leaks to the media reveal that the chemical industry may soon have a commercial featuring a pregnant woman stating there is nothing wrong with BPA.! The emerging toxic problems are serious as was the case with the discovery of PBDEs (toxic flame retardants) and rocket fuel in drinking water. For more information, articles relevant to BPA research will be posted shortly under News and Tips\Natural Health\Health Issues.

CULTURAL NEWS: SWEAT LODGE CEREMONY: APPROPRIATION OF SACRED CEREMONIES

We are attaching an article concerned with the desecration of religious Native American Sacred ceremonies and subsequent suit by the Sioux Nation Treaty Council and the Pima-Maricopa-Yavapai Nations. The following commentary is from Gregory G. Gomez, a Lipan Mescalero Apache :

- Most of the Indigenous people I've been around in the Americas, practiced or practice Sweat Lodge Ceremonies.
- It is not only the Lakota of the Sioux nation who practice the Sweat Lodge Ceremony. The Dakota and Nakota do also.
- Most Natives in the USA and Canada that I've gone into the lodge with have "taken on" the N/S Plains Tribes type of structure, simply it's easier to build and maintain.
- As an Apache our traditional lodge was dug into the earth; although the structure and purpose was/is the same.
- Many other Indigenous people around the world had/have the use of sweat lodges for much the same purpose as we do in the Americas.
- If Indigenous people in the Americas and the World united in this common issue of our Sacred Ceremonies being used immorally, unethically and without scruples by non

Indigenous people for money or power, then perhaps the Worlds Religious Leaders would listen and help.

ARQUEOLOGICAL NEWS: LARGEST PYRAMID DISCOVERED

Surpassing the Sun pyramid outside of Mexico City as well as the Egyptian Giza pyramid in sheer volume, a new pyramid was recently discovered in Guatemala by archeologist Dr. Richard Hansen. Known by the populace for some time as the City of *Mirador* largely because of its high lookout point, it is only after an archeological dig did it reveal what is reputed to be the largest pyramid in the world. The pyramid is in the center of a large pre-Columbian city comparable to any large city today. Moreover, the city is comprised of 10 square miles of the greatest concentration of civic and religious buildings, carvings and artifacts of the Mayan world. The *Danta* Pyramid is 72 meters high or 230 ft that is representative of one of the earliest and important Mayan sites that flourished from 200 B.C. to 150 A.D. It is important because it predates the Spanish arrival and subsequent revisionism by more than a millennium. As Director of the *Mirador Basin Project*, Dr. Hansen projects there are thousands of pyramids yet to be discovered. Assisted by local archeologists, they have found in stone sculpture (dated at 2,200 years), stelae showing images and glyphs from the *Popol Vuh*, a pre-Columbian document generally seen as revealing data relative to the creation of the planet. This is very significant because the Spanish religious church writers and Inquisition in their proselytizing and hegemonic intent interpreted in their own manner reflecting moreover, a Greco-Roman and Christian paradigm of an essentially non-Western pre-Columbian worldview. Now, if native interpretation or paradigm is allowed by the academics, we may get an entirely different perspective in terms of its real meaning. It may reveal what native *Maestros* and this writer has known all along and that is that it contains scientific astronomic and cosmological data as opposed to religious information. Now, for the first time we have an attempt at re-evaluation of all the past data reflecting pre-Columbian cultures: “The first step in the NASA Blue Beam Project concerns the breakdown [re-evaluation] of all archaeological knowledge... of supposedly new discoveries which will finally explain to all people the “error” of all fundamental religious doctrines. The falsification of this information will be used to make all nations believe that their religious doctrines have been misunderstood for centuries and misinterpreted.”- [Serge Monast](#) on the NASA Blue Beam Project.

For a video of the CNN story, please click to the following link:

<http://www.getxnews.com/2009/10/mayan-city-of-mirador-the-worlds-largest-pyramid-discovered/>

THANKSGIVING AND THE PILGRIMS: MYTH VS. FACT

It is assumed that the Thanksgiving tradition of eating turkey, corn on the cob, apples, pears, potatoes or even cranberries was a gathering that involved family, and religion. None of this happened according to noted historian Dr. Richard Shenkman. So how did we get the idea that one has turkey and cranberry on Thanksgiving? It was because the Victorians prepared Thanksgiving that way much later. And they are the ones who made Thanksgiving a national holiday, beginning in 1863, when Abe Lincoln issued his presidential Thanksgiving proclamations...two of them: one to celebrate Thanksgiving in August, a second one in November. Before Lincoln, Americans outside New England did not usually celebrate the

holiday. (The Pilgrims, incidentally, didn't become part of the holiday until late in the nineteenth century. Until then, Thanksgiving was simply a day to celebrate harvests not a day to remember the Pilgrims.). There is much confusion on Pilgrims today. They did not land on Plymouth Rock (it was Provincetown) nor did they live in log cabins nor did they dress in black, hate sex, or fun. Actually, Pilgrims and Puritans were two different groups. And speaking of that assumed first harvest celebration, it actually happened before there was a Mayflower landing in the eastern coast.

The first recorded euro-American Thanksgiving actually took place in little San Elizario, a community near El Paso, in 1598 -- twenty-three years before the Pilgrims' festival. For several years they had staged a reenactment of the event that culminated in the Thanksgiving celebration: the arrival of Spanish explorer Juan de Oñate on the banks of the Rio Grande. De Oñate is said to have held a big Thanksgiving festival after leading hundreds of settlers on a grueling 350-mile long trek across the Mexican desert.

Then again, you may want to go to Virginia. At the Berkeley Plantation on the James River they claim the first Thanksgiving in America was held there on December 4th, 1619....two years before the Pilgrims' festival....and every year since 1958 they have reenacted the event. In their view it's not the *Mayflower* we should remember, it's the *Margaret*, the little ship which brought 38 English settlers to the plantation in 1619. The story is that the settlers had been ordered by the London Company that sponsored them to commemorate the ship's arrival with an annual day of Thanksgiving. Hardly anybody outside Virginia has ever heard of this Thanksgiving, but in 1963 President Kennedy officially recognized the Berkeley Plantation's claim. According to Prof. Shenkman there is no proof that turkey was ever eaten in the Pilgrims' celebration. In terms of meat, what is known is that there was plenty of deer meat for the harvest gathering.

While we recognize that harvests feasts are common among many cultures, if we are referring to the Americas, then it is clear that the tradition was entrenched clearly and very early in all pre-Columbian Native American Nations before the arrival of the Pilgrims. Case in point is the *Itse selu* Cherokee Harvest Festival. In fact these thanksgiving harvest festivals can be traced to the pre-classic Maya period, several millennia B.C. We refer to the most important public Maya festival of the year which was timed to coincide with the main corn harvest in mid-November. For the most part, this also served as the New Year's Day of the solar calendar, when Governing-ship was renewed. If the idea is to give thanks for our "harvest," why do we have to single out a single animal and slaughter millions of turkeys each year?

Happy and Insightful Reading,

Arnoldo Carlos Vento, PhD

