

'New form of life' found

WASHINGTON (UPI) — In research with far-reaching evolutionary implications, scientists yesterday proposed that an uncommon oxygen-hating microorganism may represent a "new" form of life with a line of descent older than any other creatures on Earth.

Although these tiny organisms have been known for several decades, they had not been studied in detail and were believed to be a form of bacteria that thrive on carbon-dioxide and hydrogen and produce methane as their waste product.

A group of scientists headed by Dr. Carl Woese of the University of Illinois found instead that these organisms are as much unlike bacteria as are higher

organisms in the genealogical sense.

"The organisms are a distinct new class," Woese said. "They are a third form of life on this planet."

This apparently is the first serious suggestion that there may be a third line of descent from what is believed to be a common ancestor of all living things on the planet. If substantiated by other scientists, the work would take researchers a significant step back in tracing the beginning of life.

The Illinois scientists' conclusions, published in the October issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, are expected to generate controversy among biologists and Woese said he anticipates this.

"The idea has to be worked over," he said in a telephone interview. "Scientists must attempt to destroy it in order to validate it."

Woese said the organisms, known as methanogens, resemble bacteria in their size and general growth characteristics, but not in their genetic history.

Methanogens are found in places where there is no oxygen such as the rumen — first stomach — of cows, deep in stagnant marshes, in the muds of sea bottoms including San Francisco Bay, in sewage treatment plants and deep in the hot springs of Yellowstone.

Scientists believe all forms of life evolved from some common ancestor starting perhaps 4 billion years ago.

Captors release Dutch magnate

VINKEVEEN, Netherlands (UPI) — Freed Dutch millionaire Maurits Caransa said yesterday his kidnapers kept him shackled to a bed for 120 hours in a room so dark he feared he was going blind.

But Caransa — reputed to be possibly the richest man in Holland — said he haggled with his captors and whittled their original demands for a \$16 million ransom down to \$4 million.

He was released in a residential neighborhood of Amsterdam early yesterday, shouting "I am Caransa. I have been released." He said no one paid him any attention until a woman bicyclist stopped and helped him hail a cab.

"For 120 hours I have been kept imprisoned in handcuffs fixed to a bedstead in a dark room," the 61-year-old real estate tycoon, looking tired but otherwise healthy, told reporters at a yacht club near his estate in this village on the outskirts of Amsterdam.

"It was so dark I thought I would go blind. For two days they kept me under pressure, negotiating about the ransom. Initially they wanted 40 million guilders (16 million), but finally they accepted 10 million then (\$4 million)."

Police said it was the first kidnapping for ransom on record in Holland.

Caransa said in the entire five days of his captivity he remained fully clothed. But he said he was given food and

allowed him to listen to the radio and was never mistreated.

He told police his kidnapers first spoke to him in French, then switched to broken English with a "Mediterranean accent." But he was unable to see them because the room was so dark and they wore gloves and hoods.

Following his capture as he left a bridge club in downtown Amsterdam early Friday, a rash of anonymous phone calls to Dutch newspapers demanded the release of various imprisoned terrorists in return for his life.

But police said they were convinced all the calls were hoaxes. Caransa said his four abductors told him: "We only want money. We are not a political group."

Criminal law reform approved

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday approved landmark legislation that would revise and update the vast hodgepodge of federal criminal laws and consolidate them into a single code.

By a 12-2 vote, the committee approved the most sweeping reform of criminal justice administration in the nation's history, and sent the bill to the Senate floor for consideration, probably early next year.

Casting the "no" votes were Sens. James Allen, D-Ala., and James Abourezk, D-S.D.

The criminal code bill is the product of a year of liberal-conservative compromise work led by Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and John McClellan, D-Ark., who stitched together a code palatable to a majority on both sides of the panel's political spectrum.

Before completing action on the overall bill, the committee approved,

7-4, an amendment allowing federal intervention in "child snatching" cases where one parent kidnaps a child who is lawfully in the custody of the other and transports it across state lines.

At present, cases involving a child's lawful parents do not fall under federal kidnapping statutes.

The new consolidated criminal code in general attempts to improve and equalize the administration of the more than 3,000 federal laws enacted piecemeal over the past 200 years and described by Kennedy as "a Tower of Babel."

One of its major objectives is to establish a federal sentencing commission to set punishment guidelines for various federal crimes and reduce the vast range of sentences judges now may impose for the same crime committed in different places.

It also attempts to establish

guidelines for making sentences fit the crime committed.

The sentencing guidelines would be distributed to all federal judges, who would be expected to follow them.

Maximum terms imposed, for example, could not exceed minimum terms for the same crime by more than 25 percent.

A judge imposing a higher sentence would have to justify it in writing, and the prisoner could appeal.

The bill also would vastly restrict the concepts of parole, the amount by which a sentence may be reduced for good behavior, and concepts of rehabilitation in the prison system — all steps designed to increase certainty of punishment.

The new code also would repeal many federal statutes the committee considered archaic, such as the 1799 Logan Act that prohibits private communications with a foreign government for purposes of influencing foreign policy.

Ways to end Rhodesian guerilla violence discussed

SALISBURY, Rhodesia (UPI) — British peace envoy Field Marshall Lord Carver met for three hours yesterday with Rhodesia's top military commanders and a U.S. diplomat to discuss ways of ending the guerrilla war.

As the talks got under way, black nationalists of the Patriot Front — whose leaders Carver saw earlier this week in Tanzania — launched a rocket that "gutted" a \$3 million luxury country club hotel near Victoria Falls.

No one was injured but Foreign Minister Pieter K. Van der Byl said the attack showed that the guerrillas

fighting to topple the white regime had no intention of negotiating a peaceful settlement.

Carver arrived from Dar Es Salaam to the roar of two Rhodesian warjets flying overhead — "By coincidence," officials said — and a crowd of blacks protesting his refusal to meet their tribal chief. One of the demonstrators hurled a rotten tomato that splattered the back of Carver's car.

The Briton then drove to Salisbury's police training depot for the meeting with Lt. Gen. Peter Walls, Rhodesia's supreme military commander; Air Marshal

Frank Mussel, the air force commander; and Peter Aherren, the police commissioner.

Also present were U.S. Ambassador to Zambia Stephen Low and Indian Lt. Gen. Prem Chand, U.N. special representative for Rhodesia. Sources described the talks — which broke up after three hours — as "businesslike and serious," but gave no details.

At about the time they began, a rocket fired by Western Front forces from Zambia at a civilian aircraft missed and crashed into the Elephant Hills Country Club Hotel, "setting fire to the thatched roof."

U.N. inflicts S. Africa arms embargo

UNITED NATIONS (UPI) — The U.N. Security Council yesterday agreed to impose a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa in a compromise reached between the African bloc and the western nations led by the United States.

The agreement reached after a day of closed-door negotiations paved the way

for a Security Council vote either tonight or Friday and certain — probably unanimous — passage of a comprehensive arms embargo against South Africa's minority white regime.

"We have reached agreement," said Ambassador Mansur Rashid Kikhia of Libya, Council President for November. Kikhia said he expected the Council to

vote tonight "but more likely on Friday."

British Ambassador Ivor Ricard confirmed the agreement reached after the five western members of the Council accepted an African demand to widen the embargo to also prohibit cooperation with South Africa "in the development of nuclear weapons."

JFK killing files to be released

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The FBI announced Friday it will soon release most of its raw investigative files on the John F. Kennedy assassination, and a former Dallas agent predicted the material will put an end to conspiracy theories.

"Frankly, this will make the House Assassinations Committee put up or shut up," said Robert Gemberling, a retired FBI agent who coordinated the bureau's role in the presidential assassination probe.

"And it will put an end — I hope — to all this conspiracy business by some members of the public and the press,"

Gemberling said in a telephone interview from his Dallas home. "There wasn't any conspiracy to kill Kennedy."

In Washington, an FBI spokesman said the bureau, in response to a barrage of Freedom of Information requests, was readying for release more than 80,000 pages of raw investigative data from its long secret files.

He said the material, however, would censor the names of informants and other information exempt from compulsory release under Freedom of Information laws, and would also exclude documents classified by the Warren Commission.

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UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday, November 3

STS-Two Cultures Dialogue. Deans Arthur Lewis and Thomas Knight on "Public Concerns about Science and Technology and Related Value Issues," noon, State College Hotel.

Graduate Commons, a play with your lunch, "The Golden Fleece," 12:10 p.m., Room 112 Kern. Free admission.

ASA Budget Committee meeting, 12:45 p.m., Room 307 HUB.

Super Mud Opening Reception, Maria Martinez, 1:30 - 5 and 7:30 - 9 p.m., HUB.

Peace Corps films, 2 p.m., Room 316 HUB.

CDPC seminars, "Resume Preparation," 5th period; "Job Search Strategies," 6th period, Walnut conference room.

FSHA, Norwegian seafood dinner, Maple Room, Henderson. For reservations, phone 865-7441.

Phi Mu Alpha Brotherhood recital, 6 p.m., Room 112 Kern.

Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, 6:30 p.m., Room 318 HUB.

Alliance Student Fellowship, 7 p.m., Room 319 HUB.

Student Film Organization meeting, 7 p.m., Room 107 Chambers.

Tau Beta Pi, 7 p.m., Room 104 Osmond.

Mormon Doctrine, 7:05 p.m., Room 207 Chambers.

Delta Phi Alpha, National German Honorary film, Der Zerbrochene Krug (The Broken Jug), 7:30 p.m., Room 271 Willard.

Free U. disco class, Room 301 HUB; yoga class, Room 225 HUB. Both 7:30 p.m.

P.S.O.C. Canoe Division meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 214 Boucke.

Penn State Science Fiction Society, 7:30 p.m., Room 273 Willard.

PSU Thespians, Her Fatal Beauty, 8 p.m., Pavilion Theatre.

Sigma Xi lecture. Robert Sprague, director of Institute for Child Behavior and Development, University of Illinois, on "Ethics of and Litigation about Human Research," 8 p.m., HUB main lounge.

University Theatre, Something's Afoot, 8 p.m., The Playhouse.

Artists Series, The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, 8:30 p.m., Eisenhower Auditorium.

REACH FOR THE SUN

SOLAR DAY

Friday, Nov. 4

9am-4pm: Films on Solar Energy
HUB Assembly Room

8pm-10pm: Informal Talks & Workshop,
Displays, Slideshows,
Refreshments, HUB Ballroom

Saturday, Nov. 5

10am-2pm: Films on Solar Energy
HUB Main Lounge

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