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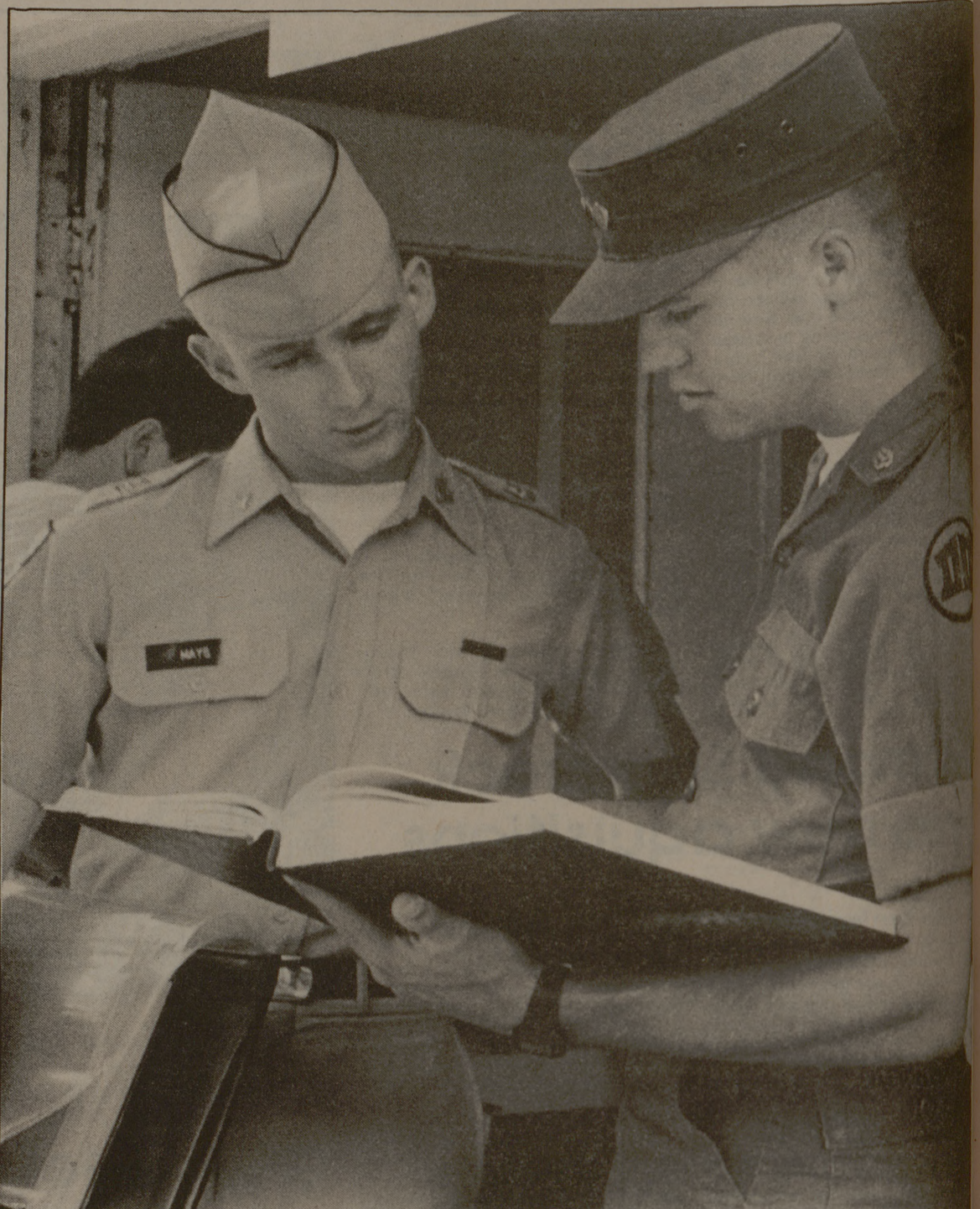
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I made the book

Photo by DAVID LEYENDECK

Sophomore Andy Mays, left, and senior Barry Boberson look through the new 1983-84 Aggie yearbook before going to class. The distribution of the yearbooks began Monday at the English Annex

Astronomer disagrees with Chaco sun dagger

United Press International

CHACO CANYON, N.M. — A
hard trek across a sagebrush-splattered
canyon floor and straight up a
30-foot rock chimney has convinced
an astronomer to disagree with the
best-known theory about an ancient
community's time-telling system.

Michael Zeilik, a University of
New Mexico professor who has been
studying archaeoastronomy in Chaco
Canyon for the past year, says sci-
entists who tout a Fajada Butte forma-
tion as a highly accurate calendar for
the Anasazi who lived in the area
900 years ago reflect just one theory
of an unsettled controversy.

Zeilik, who wrote a chapter of
"New Light on Chaco Canyon" pub-
lished by the School of American Re-
search and who has written two
books on archaeoastronomy, said Fa-
jada Butte's Sun Dagger — so-called
because a dagger-like shaft of light
pierces the heart of a spiral petrogly-
ph on summer solstice — is actually
a poor forecaster of time
changes and most likely a shrine for
a sun priest.

The Sun Dagger is a natural forma-
tion of three large slabs of stone
on the face of Fajada Butte about 2

miles from Una Vida, the nearest of
the group of Anasazi pueblo ruins in
New Mexico's northwest corner.

The slabs shield the face of the
rock they rest against except at mid-
morning, when shafts of light strike
an area where a large and small spiral
are carved into the stone. On
winter solstice, two shafts of light ap-
pear on either side of the large spiral,
and on summer and winter equi-
noxa a large shaft of light cuts
through the side of a large spiral and
a smaller shaft cuts through the center
of the small spiral.

The petroglyphs were first re-
corded in the early 1970s but the ef-
fect was not recognized until Anna
Sofaer and Jay Crotty visited the site
as part of a rock art field trip.

After study, Sofaer released her
findings and a fascinated public
snapped it up. The site was called a
North America Stonehenge by one
science magazine, but Zeilik scoffs.

"That comparison implies we
know what Stonehenge is all about,"
he said.

He said observation of existing
pueblos, ancestors of the Anasazi, in-
dicate the Sun Dagger fails to fulfill
certain needs of a calendar used for

agricultural and ceremonial timing.

"In the pueblos, keeping to the
ways of ancestors is held in very high
regard. There is a very strong ten-
dency to be conservative," he said.

He said in pueblos like Zuni and
Hopi, which mostly were left alone
by the Spanish, the sun priest kept
track of time with a calendar that
in the pueblo or close enough to
make daily observations.

He said daily observations are
necessary because ceremonies and
planting must be anticipated ahead
of time so that the community can
prepare.

"The people have to be prepared.
If they don't carry out the ceremony
with a good heart, they've lost the
purpose of the celebration," he said.
"When you define precision the way
the sun priests were forced to op-
erate, the play of light on the slabs of
Fajada Butte changes throughout
the year is not precise enough."

He said the Sun Dagger, a name
he avoids because the dagger only
appears on summer solstice, also is
inaccessible during the winter be-
cause ice forms along the chimney
formed by the slabs, making it diffi-
cult to reach a point to make obser-
vations.

Japanese journalists competitive tamer than Western counterparts

United Press International

JAPAN — Japan's three major na-
tional newspapers, two wire services
and countless smaller publications
have been free and fiercely competi-
tive since World War II.

However, though independent,
the Japanese press is fairly tame by
Western standards. The close
relationships that Japanese report-
ers establish with the officials they
cover would, to an American re-
porter, sometimes seem like conflict
of interest.

"Sometimes reporters become too
friendly with the politicians and bu-
reaucrats and don't report enough
that is critical of them," conceded
Masakuni Hashimoto, formerly
Washington bureau chief of the
Kyodo News Service and now execu-
tive adviser to the Japan Publishers'
Association.

"Compared with the United
States, the Japanese media is more
cooperative with the ruling class," he
said.

He added, however, that the press
is gradually becoming "much
bolder."

Recently, the Japanese media ral-
lied to successfully oppose passage in
the Parliament of an anti-pornogra-
phy bill for fear the government

might not stop there if given the
power to ban publications.

The local press also vigorously re-
ported the Lockheed bribery scandal
that forced Premier Kakuei Tanaka
from office in the mid-1970s. But,
Hashimoto noted, the Lockheed
scandal was first brought to light in
the United States.

In contrast, the Chinese press
doesn't have the freedom the
Japanese press does. The Chinese press
is controlled by the state. Various
newspapers, led by the Communist
Party's official mouthpiece, the Peo-
ple's Daily, dispense the socialist the-
ories and customs China's more
than 1 billion people are to live by.
The press may not challenge the au-
thority of the party or communist
principles or question the integrity,
capabilities or decisions of national
leaders.

But in the last five years, there has
been an unprecedented loosening of
restrictions. Corruption, crime, natu-
ral and man-made disasters and bu-
reaucratic fumbles are now re-
ported.

The relaxation on "negative"
news reflects the post-Mao govern-
ment's attitude that problems should
be exposed and opened to discussion
if China to modernize. Middle-level

officials and whole enterprises are
not spared when an example is to be
made.

And there appears to be a grow-
ing confidence among reporters as
they flex the muscles of a press
backed by the government.

"If we investigate a complaint but
don't identify ourselves, the respon-
sible people will just ignore us," said
a reporter for Peking Evening News
known for Western-style investiga-
tive reporting.

"But when we tell them who we are,
they cooperate. They cannot avoid
us."

Foreign journalists in China are
not harassed or followed like those
in the Soviet Union. Travel to many
parts of the country is relatively easy
to arrange.

Senior government officials also
have mastered the tricks of talking
on "background" or unattributable
source basis to convey their views.

There is no pre-censorship of sto-
ries by foreign correspondents. The
government instead controls the
news by accessibility.

Most interviews have to be ar-
ranged through the government.



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