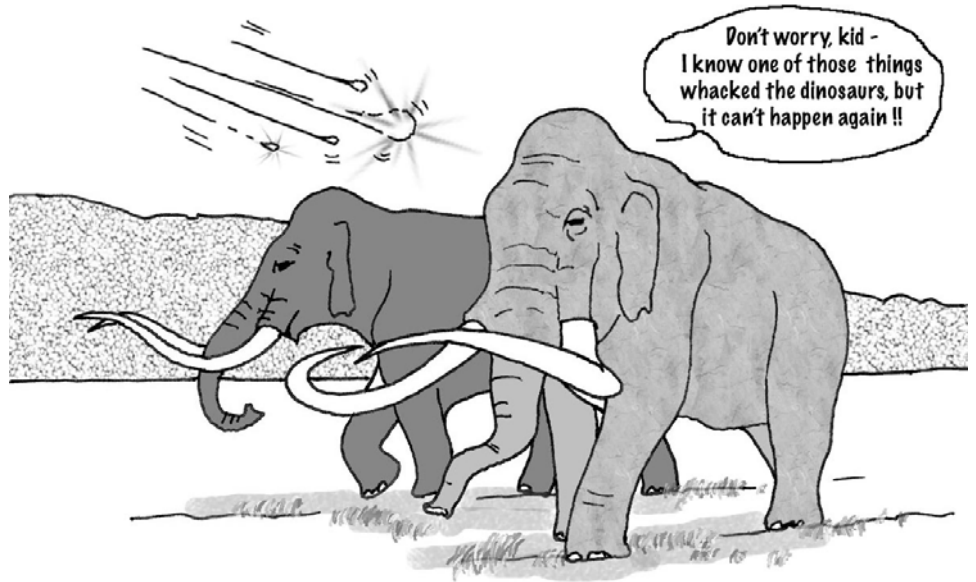


Friends of Archaeology Lecture Series:
Fridays at 5:30, January 11 - February 8
New Mexico Film Museum Theater (the old
Jean Cocteau Theater), 418 Montezuma, in
the Guadalupe District, Santa Fe.

The Sky is Falling! Did an Extraterrestrial Impact Change the Course of History in North America?



Truly revolutionary ideas are not very common these days, but one is peeking up above the horizon of North American prehistory. Dr. Richard Firestone, an isotope physicist from the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, has uncovered evidence for cosmic collisions at times that would have influenced humans and their environment. Impacts at 39,000 and 12,900 years ago devastated portions of the northern hemisphere, treating the ice-age megafauna to smaller versions of the type of shock that contributed to the extinction of the dinosaurs. The 12,900 BP impact may have changed the course of the cultural as well as natural history of North America, and the possibility is challenging accepted views of Paleoindian archaeology.

January 11 – *How Cosmic Catastrophes Killed the Mammoths* – Dr. Richard Firestone, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley.

January 18 – *The Paleoindian Environment and the Possible Impact Scenario* – Dr. Vance Holliday, Departments of Anthropology and Geosciences, University of Arizona.

January 25 – *Continental Perspectives on the Peopling of the New World and the Paleoindian Period* – Dr. James Dixon, Director, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, University of New Mexico.

February 1 – *Impacts? Clovis and Folsom Archaeology of the Southwestern United States* – Dr. Bruce Huckell, Research Director, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, University of New Mexico.

February 8 – *A Synthesis and Commentary on Catastrophe and Archaeology* – A panel of archaeologists (including Drs. Robert Dello-Russo and Eric Blinman, Office of Archaeological Studies).

Dr. Firestone begins our lecture series by presenting the case for the recent impacts and their consequences for the landscape, climate, flora, megafauna, and people of the northern hemisphere. In the subsequent lectures, archaeologists with research interests in the Paleoindian time period will explore the implications of the proposed 12,900 BP impact and how the archaeological evidence fits with this new “wrinkle.” The concluding lecture will be a panel discussion summarizing the points of the previous lectures, tying up loose ends, and bringing in other evidence for catastrophic archaeology around the world.

For Museum of New Mexico Foundation members, cost is \$12 per lecture or \$50 for the series. For non-MNMF members, cost is \$15 per lecture or \$65 for the series. Reserve tickets by calling the Friends of Archaeology reservation hotline at 505-992-2715 ext. 8. Please leave your name and phone number, and a volunteer will call you back for complete reservation and payment information.