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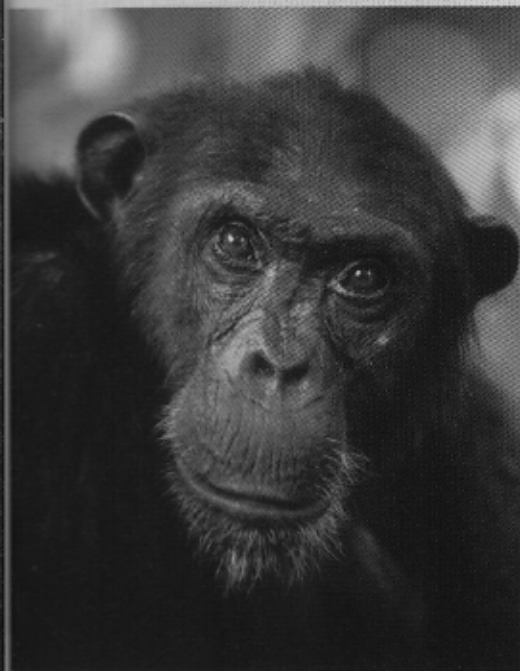
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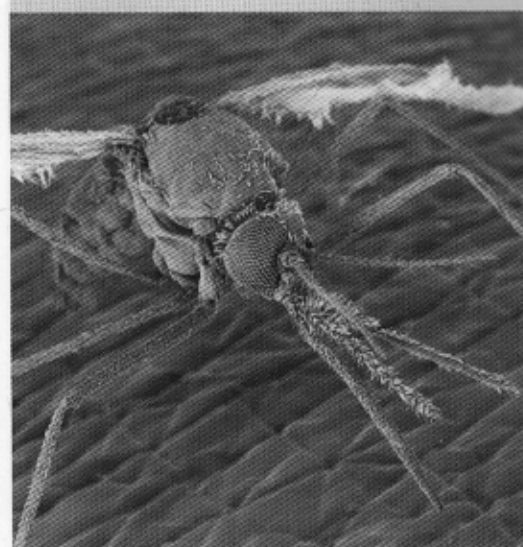
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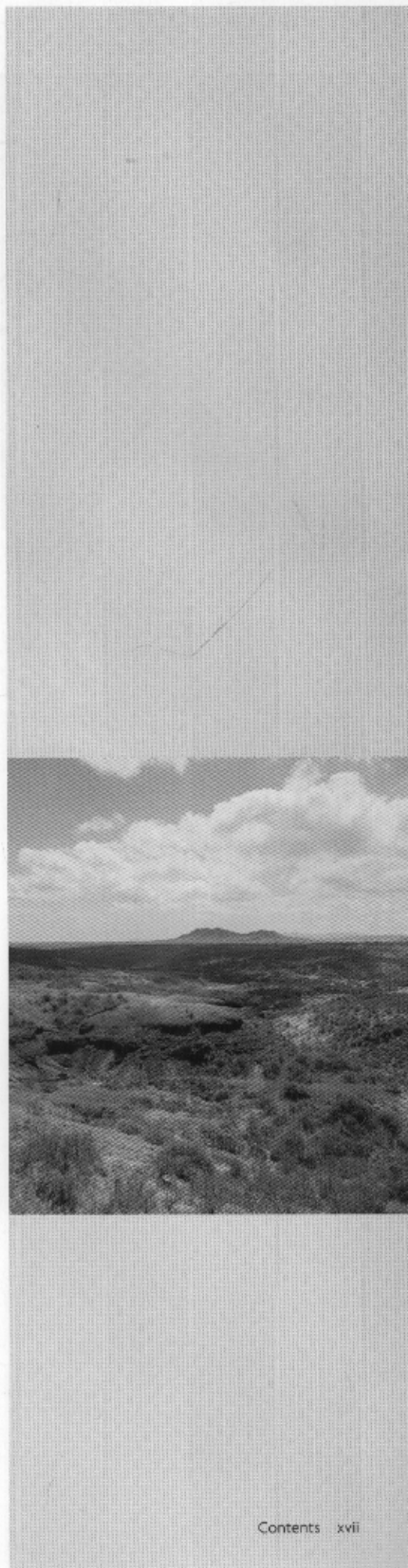
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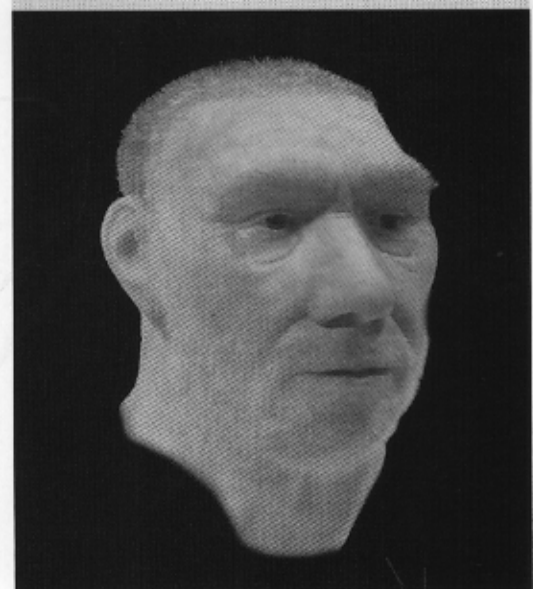
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HOW THIS BOOK CAN HELP YOUR STUDENTS DISCOVER PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

It Is about Engagement

Teaching is about engagement—connecting the student with knowledge, making it real to the student, and having the student come away from the course with an understanding of core concepts. *Essentials of Physical Anthropology: Discovering Our Origins* seeks to engage the student in the learning process. Engaging the student is perhaps more of a challenge in the study of physical anthropology than in the study of other sciences, mainly because the student has likely never heard of the subject. The average student has probably taken a precollege course in chemistry, physics, biology, or geology. Physical anthropology, though, is rarely mentioned or taught in precollege settings. Commonly, the student first finds out about the subject when an academic advisor explains that physical anthropology is a popular course that fulfills the college's natural science requirement.

Once taking the course, however, that same student usually connects quickly with the subject, because so many of the topics are familiar—fossils, evolution, race, genetics, DNA, monkeys, forensic investigations, and origins of speech, to name a few. The student simply had not realized that these separately engaging topics come under the umbrella of one discipline, the subject of which is the study of human evolution and human variability.

In writing this book, I made no assumptions about what the reader knows, except to assume that the reader—the student attending your physical anthropology class—has very little or no background in physical anthropology. As I wrote the book, I constantly reflected on the central concepts of physical anthropology and how to make them understandable. I combined this quest for both accuracy and clarity with my core philosophy of teaching—namely, engage the student to help the student learn. While most students in an introductory physical anthropology class do not intend to become professional physical anthropologists, some of these students become interested enough to take more courses. So this book is written