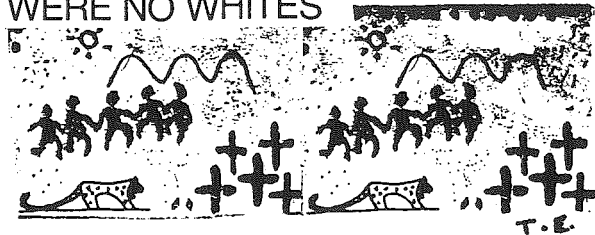


## "IN THE BEGINNING THERE WERE NO WHITES"



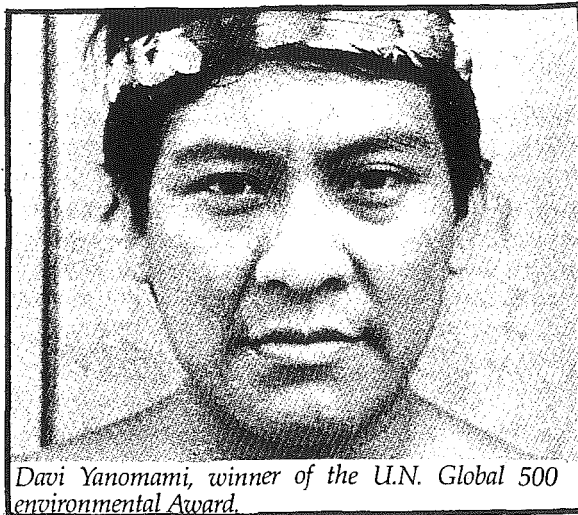
Ivanildo Wawnaweytheri Yanomami, 34, speaks about the situation in his territory:

"In the beginning, when there were no whites, there were no planes, there were only Yanomami on the Earth. They say that the Yanomami have a god, and the white man has his god. And there came a time when the god of the white man made the Naba. Our god, Omama, lived with the Yanomami, instructed them. When the time changed, the Naba appeared, planes began to fly, and boats came on the river. It was at that time that the Naba began to appear, that he came into contact with the Yanomami. Until that time, no one suffered from diseases, the Yanomami lived well, always had plentiful food, the children did not suffer as they do today. The Yanomami began to become sad and Omama went away.

Now [my people] think that there will come a time when there will be no more Yanomami. And they are very worried. At Surucucu, where whites never before entered, any kind of ailment, even a weak flu, kills the Yanomami. They are very weak and I have already seen much sadness.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Send telegrams to Pres. Sarney insisting that Interministerial Decree (Portaria) 250 be annulled, that the gold prospectors (*garimpeiros*) be expelled and the Yanomami be guaranteed their constitutional right to use of their lands. (Pres. José Sarney, Presidência da República, Gabinete Civil, Palácio do Planalto, CEP 70150 Brasília, DF, BRASIL—Telex 61 3117 PRDF) SOURCE: "Urihi," Commission for the Creation of the Yanomami Park (CCPY), Rua Manoel da Nobrega 111 3a. cj. 32, CEP 04001 São Paulo SP, Brasil.

## YANOMAMI LEADER WINS U.N. AWARD



*Davi Yanomami, winner of the U.N. Global 500 environmental Award.*

Claudia Andujar

Davi Yanomami joins the late Chico Mendes as winner of the United Nations Environmental Program's Global 500 Award. He says, "With this prize I am stronger. In my tribe the Yanomami, we are backward, we are primitive; there everybody runs around naked. I was not born to live in the city. I was raised in the forest, and I never left my home where my parents were born and raised

I knew that the gold prospectors would come to my land, I knew all this. I knew the FUNAI would allow the gold prospectors to invade. The Indians asked the FUNAI to remove the gold prospectors and nothing happened. I am not against the gold prospectors. I am against gold prospecting, because it makes holes and ruins the rivers and the river channels. The Yanomami do not do that, cut the ground, cut the trees, burn the forest. We are not enemies of nature. The whites also suffer — the poor. Aren't they suffering? For they have no land to plant things on, no land to live on. Most of my relatives do not know I have won this prize. We are so spread out — it is hard to communicate. They will only know when I arrive. But I have other relatives who are very worried about me. The medicine men who work to protect me are very worried. Because I am an only son who defends the Yanomami people. So the medicine men are doing their work so that what happened to Chico Mendes will not happen to me. There are also warriors who are on my side, taking care of me. And that is what I had to say.