



Stand Right Up for Who You Are.  
Answer the Census.

Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newspaper Room  
University of Oregon Library  
Eugene, Oregon 97403

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volume XX, No. 17

"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

May 9, 1990

## Africa The Zoo: Hollywood Stars Light Up The Dark Continent

My personal opinion is that there is not that degree of distinction between one trendy European foray upon the culture of people of color, and another, as can be readily determined by the rhetoric, or by the specific locale of the prey—but, rather, a good and sufficient criterion is the "size" of the contemplated acquisition.

In the case at hand we simply may assume that the admonition of Canadian author, Marshall McLuan, has been enthusiastically accepted—the world has indeed become a "global village." So it is no surprise at all that late night television hours are heavily interspersed with Hollywood stars beating the drum for support of their particular program to save African wildlife. Competition is heavy, for the electronic evangelists are there also, pitching for their millions to save African souls. Never have there been so many platinum blonde ombudsmen for marauding elephants, many lions, and "placid, peace-loving gorillas", who, like the late Greta Garbo, just want to "be left alone." It is unfortunate that these latter beasts were unable to communicate this preference of Dian Fossey in time ("Gorillas In The Mist").

Now, I am not such a fool as not to suppose that there is considerable merit in proposals to preserve some endangered species, or to maintain the integrity of the biosphere/ecosphere at a time

when there are serious concerns about the ozone layer, rain forests, and the dumping of toxic waste by European nations. But, I have had a lifetime of experience with these would-be saviors of Africa, and I stand with the American Indian—their motives are always suspect. And, even where the acquisition of huge acreages, ostensibly for game preserves, does not mask an ultimate intent to acquire a future site for a toxic waste dump, we need look no further than the spotted owl gambit here in Oregon for economic catastrophes in the works.

This situation, replicated on the African continent (albeit quietly), exemplifies the damage that apocalypse-now environmentalists can wreak upon the economic infrastructure of a people. Only now is the full financial impact of emotionally-driven efforts to lock up huge tracts of old-growth timber being fully revealed. The new figures on the resulting unemployment, loss of tax base, and the drastic curtailment of funds available for education indicate that, while the naive were being charmed to tears over the plight of a few dozen owls, the messianic fringe of a bored middle class pursued the real objective of their media-enhanced crusade—nothing like it since their forefathers hit the popular "abolitionist" circuit. Can Africa be far behind?

Let us look at two African nations in particular where the stage is set for similar social dramas (read "tragedies"). As a matter of fact, the curtain went up some time ago, and the critics' reviews are coming in fast. We know that these assessments are highly controversial and we welcome letters and comments throughout this series. I had many Africans among my students during the years at Portland State University, and I certainly expect to hear from them—and from both sides of the "developmental fence".

Tanzania: "Within an expansive East

African ecosystem of savannas and woodlands, are 5,700 square miles of parkland with rare significance.

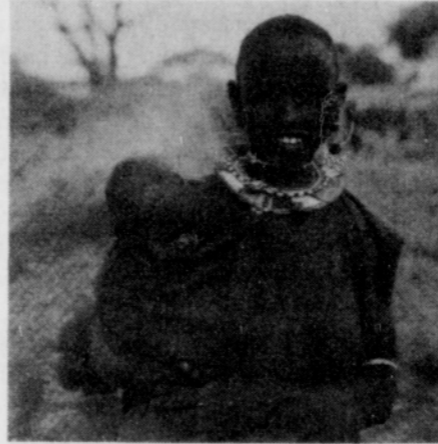
Long ago, the Masai people named this region siringet—a name that means an extended place. We know it now as Serengeti—a land that remains as it might have looked in the Pleistocene epoch.

It lies atop a broad plateau, 150 miles south of the equator and 5,000 feet in elevation.

Here, in an area roughly the size of the state of Connecticut, roam more than two million large plains animals."

This descriptive prose is from a Chevron Oil Company institutional ad in the March 1989 issue of "National Geographic" magazine. The reader is asked in a large bold-face heading, "Will There Be Room For All In Eden?" We wonder. I am reminded of my recent query concerning the availability of jobs for African Americans under the pressure of the "new immigration". In that article I asked, "Will there be room at the inn?"—this was a take-off on the situation of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Other parts of the Chevron ad state the establishment position quite clearly. "Wildlife or People? In Africa, as elsewhere, a growing, developing human population competes with animals for the basic needs of existence. The challenge becomes one of striking the proper balance—to respect and protect nature while responding to the imperatives of modern, human life."

Wait a minute now, whose Africa is it? I suppose we should understand the proprietary tone, considering that it is over a hundred years ago that a New York newspaper editor put into words that classic element of the European ethos, "The Manifest Destiny of the White Race". Just as few people are familiar with the latter half of the title to Charles Darwin's classic on evolution, "The Origin of the Species By Means of Natural Selection—And the Preservation



of the Favoured Races."

In another place we find, "Crowding the Serengeti National Park borders are settlements of impoverished villagers. The only humans allowed inside are tourists, Africans who work in and police the park, and a few dedicated environmentalists and scientists.

Around the northern and eastern edges of the park live seminomadic Masai herdsmen and their livestock. They move from place to place seeking good grazing and water. But, as their population increases, the Masai are wandering less, increasing problems of overgrazing and water shortage.

Because of the conflict between domestic demands for agriculture and the needs of wildlife, Tanzania established a large multi-use-land area where some farming and grazing by local inhabitants were allowed. But the central plain was reserved exclusively for the wild animals.

That was thirty years ago. Today, the growing population has pushed to the very edges of the reserved area."

As we further explore this theme, we will take an unorthodox approach to an evaluation of poaching, the Safari and the post-modern Great White Hunter, and other issues. Again, we want to hear from you.

## PCC and Fire Bureau Cooperate in Affirmative Action Training

By September, 185 women and minority students are expected to complete a special affirmative action learning experience co-sponsored by the Portland Fire Bureau and Portland Community College.

The PCC Fire Science Department is presenting the six-month course to teach basic fire-fighting techniques and to provide the students with an understanding of job requirements and standards for professional fire fighters.

The students will complete the training in time to take the Portland Fire Bureau's civil service examination September 7. Those who pass the exam will be placed on a list from which new employees will be drawn or the next few years, said Leo Krick, a PFB fire fighter and coordinator of the bureau's Affirmative Action Training program.

Most of the students are residents of the Portland Metropolitan area, but some come from much farther afield, because the PFB-PCC venture is the only one of its type in the Northwest, Krick said.

The students range in age from 18 to 40. About half are women of various races, 30 percent are Black males and females and 30 percent are Hispanic. "Quite a few Asian students are enrolled, too," said Krick.

The PCC Fire Science Department is offering 14 sections of classes de-

signed to meet the needs of women and minority students who are interested in careers as fire fighters, said Ed Lindsey, the department's instructional coordinator.

An additional 16 sections will be offered this summer so that students taking the training for college credit can earn a total of 25 credit hours toward an associate degree in Fire Protection Technology by the time they finish the special training.

Courses include physical fitness, building construction and blueprint reading, fire apparatus, pump construction, hydraulics and introduction to fire protection.

The classes are being taught by 30 Portland Fire bureau employees who have been hired by PCC as adjunct, or part-time, faculty members. Training is taking place at Marshall High school, the PCC Southeast Center and at two fire bureau training centers.

The program's \$112,000 cost is being shared by the fire bureau and PCC. Some of the cost will be offset by tuition payments from about one third of the students who are taking the course for college credit. Lindsey said those who have chosen to take the training without receiving college credit will earn certificates of completion.

## "800" Telephone Number To Report Hate Violence And Racial Harassment Started

The Community Relations Service (CRS) of the Department of Justice today announced its new "800" telephone service for reporting complaints of racial violence and harassment that led to racial disputes in communities. The telephone number, which begins operation April 30 will be 1-800-347-HATE. This is the hotline service that President Bush announced at the White House Ceremony during the signing of the Hate Statistics Crime Act. "The establishment of this hotline by CRS for the reporting of racial incidents and disputes compliments the other DOJ functions in this area such as the collection of hate crime statistics by the FBI and the enforcement of Civil Rights laws by the Civil Rights Division," said CRS Director Grace Flores Hughes.

"Increasing racial violence and harassment from small hate groups in virtually every corner of the country requires a better mechanism for reporting racial disputes for our conciliation and medication services," said CRS Director Hughes.

"No community should suffer from the fallout of racial disputes arising out of hate violent acts at home, school, work, or in their neighborhood. These incidents can now be reported to CRS for resolution of conflict," Director Hughes said.

Calls received by the Community Relations Service's "800" number will be referred to one of the agency's 10 regional offices for possible resolution. Those ten offices are located in Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Kansas City, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, San Francisco, or Seattle.

The Community Relations Service handles conciliation and mediation of disputes resulting from discrimination based on race, color or national origin. CRS will provide referral information or refer complaints regarding non-racially motivated incidents based solely on age, gender, handicap, sexual orientation, or religious discrimination to other appropriate agencies.

## Northeast Training Center Filling Void As Job Training/Placement Agency

After less than one year in operation in the area considered as the core area for unemployment, the Private Industry Council's Northeast Training Center is showing signs of dramatically impacting the job placement market in North/Northeast Portland.

The Center proudly boasts successfully placing 120 formerly unemployed applicants on jobs with an average beginning salary of \$6.14. And according to center manager Williams Jennings, "We find that many of our trainees are from single parent families (mostly female heads of households) and once training and placement is successfully completed, the additional income is welcomed.

Recruiting primarily from Columbia Villa, Maywood Park, North/Northeast Portland, the northeast training center offers classes in GED, basic skills and building trades, preparing students for both long and short term employment.

Successful placements have been with the Portland Urban League, Blue Bell Products, The Wacker Company and Empire Security.

Of the 120 applicants places so far, 111 have been minorities.

The center is currently developing curriculum for Workforce 2000.

## Police Bureau Begins Community Policing Test Run in N/NE Portland



Shown above is Police Lt. Mike Garvey (left) and members of the Portland Police Bureau's Community Policing Unit as they begin a test run of the Community Policing Concept.

The unit will operate out of the Northeast and Central Precinct and will concentrate on drugs and parks security during the summer. The project in northeast Portland is currently comprised of 4 sergeants and 12 officers but according to some police officers and community residents, is seriously understaffed.



Don't Forget to Vote on May 15, 1990!  
See Our Endorsements on Page Eight.

Happy  
Mother's Day . . .



from the  
Portland Observer