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"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

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Africa The Zoo, Conclusion: Tarzan Was Kinder

by Prof. McKinley Burt

Coming out of the movie, the woman said to her companion, "Don't you just love Stewart Granger, honey? . . . so masterful." What she meant was that the aging movie idol had played to the hilt his role in another Hollywood version of the "African Mystique." Striding through the jungle, slapping cowering ebony giants possessed of physiques like the ancient North African King for whom the "Atlas Mountains" were named, this modern day successor to a "kindler, gentler" Tarzan gave a stirring performance in the Charles Darwin "Favored Races" repertory theatre. The movie was, "The Last Safari." We wish!

Last week I cited the Chevron Oil Company's query of Tanzania, "Will there be room for all in Eden?" But as we expand our examination of the garden to the "Safari Heaven" of Kenya, the Africans themselves may have cause to wonder. My latest catalog from Saga Tours advises that for a \$3259 one could have left here today on a 19-day excursion to a land "steeped in cultural traditions as old as the seasons, of extraordinary primeval beauty and sweeping savannahs, guarded by the serene snow-tipped peaks of Mount Kilimanjaro . . . home to a fantastic variety of wildlife where herds of wildebeest, antelope, or zebra thunder across the trackless plains in an unforgettable spectacle. Burly lion or lithe cheetah prowl through the scrub in an age-old stalking ritual, and elephant and rhino bask in or near precious watering holes."

Y'all hush yo mouth! Makes me wonder why I ever left the homeland--to see those "porkchop trees" or those "golden slippers" the missionaries described. But, then I turned to the National Geographic Special and concluded that I must have been channeling to the

future. Here, before your eyes was the destructive depredation of rampaging elephants as they destroyed the precious crops and farm buildings of villagers, rendering the land to gully-riven morasses, useless for years to come. In a rather matter-of-fact manner, the commentator cited the dire consequence



to Africans already in a borderline economic situation--and pointed out the slowness and inadequacy of the compensation process (where it existed at all).

Two facts immediately come to mind. First, there is the confusion engendered by the proprietary (and misleading) rhetoric of American intervenors in the affairs of the African continent. Last week's classic quote was of just such a suspect message. "Wildlife or people? The challenge becomes . . . to respect and protect nature while responding to the imperatives of modern, human life." I wonder which corporate division handles the hundred-million dollar, four-wheel drive African Safari operation? And there are many such corporate sponsors

for the annual "East African Safari Rally", an annual 3000 mile motor car race, "the world's most punishing for man and machine," zig-zagging across brutal terrain in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. European sportsmen take a break from the pursuit of big game.

Secondly, the very same night of that marauding elephant scenario, we had only to turn one channel to have Richard, the son of famed anthropologist, Louis S.B. Leakey, proudly display the shot-dead body of a young African brother, flies attacking the fixed, staring eyes of the indecently-uncovered face: "... despicable criminal, the African poacher--of that gentle, noble, endangered beast, the elephant. As in the case of 'Alice Through The Looking Glass', I suppose the establishment believes that we have brought into the admonition, 'Things are what I say they are,' and 'Words mean just what I say they mean.'"

After throwing up, I sat back and mused; now, the American Indian got blamed for the extinction of the buffalo, but turned out the U.S. Calvary did it to implement the Native American genocide. He is blamed for the depletion of salmon runs, but he built no dams--there were oodles of fish when the white man arrived (and old growth timber). Now, why would I (or an indigenous African) seriously consider the viewpoint or philosophy of an interloper who has also clear cut the forests. (Beginning with England's Industrial Revolution), aborted the Ozone Layer, depleted or oil-slicked the resources of the ocean, drenched entire continents with acid rain, and has ruined the soil and ground water with nuclear wastes and toxic dumps. To quote Shakespeare's famous line, "Me thinks the lady doth protest too much."

I feel that the preservation, comfort and advancement of humankind should take precedence. We can always go to real zoos, and besides, I hardly miss the dinosaurs at all. Many of us are, with good cause, increasingly suspicious of the shrill, messianic outbursts calling for yeoman efforts to "preserve the pristine Eden bequeathed to our forefathers." Run that by me again? Perhaps the impetus for those crusades spring from depths deeper than we think.

It is not just that the elder Leakey in-



disputably established the African continent as the original home of man--but, that each week there emerges new or previously hidden documentation supporting the seminality of Africulture and technology. At a time when the Greeks in their animal furs were only able to marvel, or have their oral historians to comment (like the illiterate Homer). Is it that the "Manifest Destiny" gambit of the "favored races" is beginning to look shaky? What gives? Let's hear from you readers, we'll print it.

Lee Brown to Give Commencement Address At PSU

Lee P. Brown, who is commissioner of the nation's largest police force in New York City, a former Multnomah County sheriff and a former Portland State University faculty member, is the scheduled commencement speaker during PSU Spring Quarter Commencement Day ceremonies Friday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m. in Portland's Memorial Coliseum (1401 N. Wheeler Avenue).

Brown, a nationally-recognized proponent of community policing who first came to Portland in 1968 to direct PSU's newly-formed law enforcement certificate program, will receive the university's Doctor of Humane Letters (honoris causa) during the commencement.

Scheduled to preside while degrees and awards are conferred upon an estimated 1,400 students crossing the Coliseum stage is Interim University President Roger N. Edgington. Edgington has served in that capacity since January 1989, and will be succeeded August 1 when Dr. Judith A. Ramaley becomes the sixth permanent president of Portland State University. She currently is executive vice chancellor at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas.

Police Commissioner Brown, 52, took office January 22, heading a department with some 26,000 officers and 7,200 civilian employees in the nation's largest city. This fall, he also becomes president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He is the former chief of police in Houston, Texas (1982-1989) and served as public safety administrator in Atlanta,



Police Commissioner Lee P. Brown

Georgia beginning in 1978. Before assuming his post in Houston, Brown served as a consultant to the Portland Police Bureau. He served as Multnomah County Sheriff from 1975 to 1978.

Brown earned a bachelor's degree in criminology from Fresno State University while serving as a patrol officer in San Jose, California. He later earned master's degrees from San Jose State University and the University of California at Berkeley, where he also earned his doctorate in criminology. Following his instructional work in PSU's criminal justice program, he served as associate director of the Institute for Urban Affairs and Research at Howard University.

Lynn Earl Smith: Dentist/Attorney At Law



Dr. Smith points to x-ray of cavity damage of patients wisdom tooth.

The call from the Oregon State Bar Association was newsworthy in every sense of the word. The caller stated that on Friday, April 27, 1990, the Bar Association would be swearing in an African American, who, in addition to holding a law degree, was also a dentist. They wanted to know if we were interested in an interview. Our response was a resounding "Yes." The interview was even more newsworthy.

In 1968, Grant High School was State Football Champions. The quarterback on that championship team was Lynn Earl Smith who was also the first Black to quarterback a Grant football team. Leading his teammates to a championship and being the first Black to do so was the beginning of a championship career for Smith.

After graduation from high school, he entered the Marine Corps (following in the footsteps of his father). After serving a tour of duty in Vietnam, Smith returned to Portland and "became dead serious about finishing my education," as he puts it. Portland State University was his choice for college and after graduation, he entered the Oregon Health Sciences Institute, School of Dentistry.

Graduating from O.H.S.I. in 1979, Dr. Smith entered his general practitioner residency in Los Angeles, California at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital. "Serving my residency at M.L.K., Jr. Hospital was one of the most rewarding experience in my life,"

claims the doctor. Upon graduation in 1980, Dr. Smith moved to Phoenix, Arizona, setting his general practice in 1981.

Even though he had a successful practice as a dentist, the lure of being an attorney was always a strong desire and in 1985, he enrolled in law school at Arizona State University in 1985, graduating in 1987. Afterwards came finishing course work at Santa Clara University in California. His return to Portland in mid-1989, was for one purpose: to concentrate on passing the Oregon Bar, which the doctor claims "is one of the toughest in the nation."

When asked which profession takes priority, Dr. Smith indicates that while he will continue both, his priority will be in the legal area, hopefully with a large law firm but if it doesn't happen, "no big deal," he says.

He plans to specialize in sports medicine law or corporate law, and also will devote time to dental cosmetics and oral surgery. Dr. Smith is the only known dentist/attorney in the state.

Now that he has established his priorities, the doctor states he intends to become active in community involvement. He also now has time for social activities. Dr. Smith resides in N.W. Portland, and for the information of those interested ladies, he is single, 40 years old, and drives a beautiful convertible sports car.

"Room 227" Star Visits Portland



Hal Williams, star of the NBC hit comedy "Room 227", paid a visit to Portland recently to look at possible business investments and to visit with local businessman and cousin Harold Williams.

The comedy star indicated he was impressed with the business opportunities in Portland and would discuss them with his business associates upon his return to Los Angeles.

Minority Students To Be Recognized May 18

EUGENE--The University of Oregon Office of Multicultural Affairs will present its Jewell Hairston Bell Award to Callan Coleman and Gretchen Freed-Rowland on Friday, May 18, during the third annual Recognition Awards Reception in the Alumni Lounge at Gerlinger Hall, 1468 University St. on the UO campus.

Coleman, an African-American senior majoring in psychology, and Freed-Rowland, a Native American doctoral student in the College of Education, are both Eugene residents. Each will receive a cash award of \$500 at the 7 p.m. reception honoring students of color who have made outstanding contributions to the university and community through academic excellence and leadership.

The Bell award honors an outstanding student of color whose pres-

ence and performance has furthered the cause of diversity at the University of Oregon, according to Diana Kale of the Multicultural Affairs staff. Recipients of this award are selected from UO faculty nominations by a committee of faculty and community participants.

Bell, in whose honor the award was established, headed the Multicultural Affairs office, then known as the Council for Minority Education, from 1983 to 1986.

Nearly 120 other students will be cited for outstanding service and scholarship during the event, which is co-sponsored by the UO Office of Student Development.

Of those students who will receive Academic Excellence and Great Start awards, 19 earned straight-A (4.0 grade point) averages.

International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters Hold Regional Conference This Weekend In Portland

The International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters will be holding their regional conference in Portland on May 18 and 19. This year's theme is "We Need Each Other."

The purpose and aims are to create a liaison between African-Americans across the nation, to collect and evalu-

ate data on all deleterious conditions incumbent in all areas where minorities exist, and to compile information concerning the injustices that exist in the working conditions in the Fire Service, and implement action to correct them. To also promote interracial progress throughout the Fire Service and to see that competent Blacks are recruited and

employed as fire fighters, wherever they reside, and to aid in motivating our Black Brothers and Sisters to seek advancement to elevated ranks throughout the Fire Service.

A luncheon will be held Saturday, May 19, 1990, 12:00 noon at the Red Lion Coliseum. The Keynote Speaker will be Seattle's Fire Chief Claude Harris.

Chief Harris is a 30-year veteran of the Seattle Fire Department and the first African-American to hold the position in the City of Seattle. The cost of the luncheon is \$15.00. Reservations must be made by May 15, 1990. Remit check and reservation to William Kendrick, IABPF, P.O. Box 13654, Portland, OR 97213.