

## African-Americans In The Persian Gulf

No one welcomes the onset of war, but with the failure of diplomatic efforts and the clear will of the world's nations to roll back aggression, war is now upon us. Under the circumstances, we hope for a war that ends as quickly as possible, with minimum casualties on all sides.

As in all of America's past wars, African Americans take a major role in defending our nation's interests. The black presence in the Gulf war extends from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs

of Staff to almost a third of the foot soldiers in the desert.

Even as African Americans take pride in our importance to the nation's military efforts, we look to America to get on with the long overdue task of solving its domestic inequities.

As America asks African Americans to put their lives on the line in the Gulf, African Americans ask America to finally commit its will and resources to end racial disadvantage in our nation.

Our nation cannot expect African Americans to risk their lives in the desert only to return home to suffer disadvantage and discrimination. America's moral banner in the Gulf is credible only insofar as it lives up to its democratic and egalitarian ideals. We urge a nation willing to go to war for its principles to make the equivalent effort to end the inequality that subverts those same principles at home.

## Juvenile Denials Increase over 1989

Oregon's courts ordered more than 2,000 driver license denials for youths between the ages of 13 and 17 during 1990, according to the Motor Vehicles Division. This figure is 25 percent higher than 1989.

The 2,031 denials were based on court convictions or determinations involving alcohol or drug possession, use or abuse. After such convictions, courts order DMV to suspend licenses or deny the privilege to apply for a license or permit. Driving privileges

may be denied even when the offenses are not related to driving a motor vehicle.

There were 1,694 denials for possession of alcohol or drugs. This accounted for nearly 84 percent of the total. Of the remainder, six denials were for having an open container of alcohol or drinking in a motor vehicle; 261 were for intoxication for driving under the influence of intoxicants (DUI); and 70 were for miscellaneous alcohol and drug offenses such as theft, deliv-

ery or manufacturing of a controlled substance. Males accounted for 1,460 of the denials, or 72 percent.

Under the law, first offenders are denied licenses for one year or until the person becomes 17, whichever is longer. Repeat offenders are suspended or denied licenses for one year or until the person becomes 18, whichever is longer. DMV statistics show that 296 were second denials, 61 were third denials, 15 were fourth denials, four were fifth denials, and one was a sixth denial.

## The New Prohibition

In recent years, our nation's dominant health concerns have been AIDS and the spread of drugs like cocaine, heroine and marijuana. Yet, added together, they still don't equal the deaths or costs to society of alcohol. Alcohol abuse and dependence cost our country \$136.3 billion last year. Nearly half of traffic deaths are alcohol-related. Almost 18 million Americans are alcohol abusers. Should alcohol become the focus of the "war on drugs"?

The Oregon legislature is considering requiring alcohol servers to post

sign warning pregnant women of alcohol's dangers; another bill would ban drinking on boats. Blitz Weinhard Brewery wants Oregon to require alcohol content on beer labels. Others oppose the sponsorship of events by alcohol brewers, and believe alcohol ads should be restricted for the same reasons we limit ads for cigarettes. Baseball great Don Newcombe urges abstinence not only for teens but adults as well.

Is it going too far to urge total prohibition? Are some people better off NEVER drinking, because they're ge-

netically predisposed to becoming alcoholics? Do penalties for alcohol-related crimes reflect the true cost of this drug? Do we need more-or-less-regulation of alcohol? What do YOU think? Join Jack Faust and his guests for this timely debate on Sunday, March 10th from 6-7 p.m. For seat reservations, please call Frank Mungeam, Alison Highberger or Liza McQuade at 231-4620. Guests should arrive at KATU studios (21st & NE Sandy Blvd) between 5:00-5:15 p.m. the public is welcome, but reservations are required.

## Support Our Troops!



## Black History Month Flash Back

**Richard Allen**, a Christian gentleman, was born a slave, February 14, 1760, and died in 1831, after having challenged and revolutionized the religious philosophy of America. Richard Allen was the first black consecrated bishop on American soil. He is founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**, in 1963, said, "We have waited for more than 340 years for our Constitutional and God-given rights. The nations of Asia and Africa are moving in jet-like speed toward the goal of political independence, and we creep at horse-and-buggy pace toward the gaining of a cup of coffee at a lunch counter. I guess it is easy for those who have never felt the stinging darts of segregation to say "wait.""

**Granville T. Woods** is credited with having fifty patents recorded in the U.S. Patent Office. His patents for transmitting messages between moving trains were purchased by Westinghouse,

General Electric, and the American Bell Telephone. He also invented the Egg-Hatchery incubator.

**Dr. Daniel Hale Williams**, in Chicago, Illinois, at Provident Hospital, performed the first successful suture on the human heart.

**Maggie L. Walker** was America's first black woman banker. She was president of the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank in Virginia. That bank later became the St. Luke Bank and Trust Company.

**Madame C.J. Walker** was the first black woman millionaire in America. She was a cosmetic manufacturer.

**Norman Rillieux**, in 1845, invented a refinery process. His vacuum evaporating pan, used to refine sugar, became the backbone of the nation's sugar industry.

**Garrett Morgan** is the inventor of the gas mask.

**Elijah McCoy** invented the drip cup, used for automatically lubricating

moving machinery parts. The term "the real McCoy" originally referred to Elijah McCoy and his invention.

Benjamin Banneker built the first American clock. Also, he laid out the full survey of Washington, D.C., from his precise memory of the Frenchman's blueprints that were taken or sent back to Paris. Banneker was a noted astronomer, linguist and mathematician.

**Gwendolyn Brooks**, a poet, was the first black Pulitzer Prize winner. When Carl Sandburg died, Brooks was named Illinois Poet Laureate to succeed him in 1968.

**Dr. Charles R. Drew** developed the first large-scale method for separating plasma from red blood cells. This allowed blood to be typed, and refrigerated for future use. Today, this is called a blood bank.

**Matthew Alexander Henson** was a member of the Peary Mission in 1909. He was sent ahead of the main party by 45 minutes, which allows him the credit of being the first person to reach the North Pole on the Arctic Continent.

**Lewis Howard Latimer** invented the electric light bulb. In 1881, he invented and owned the patent to the first incandescent electric light bulb, complete with a carbon filament.

**Jan E. Matzeliger** invented the first shoe-making machine. He patented his machine in 1883.

**Clara Brown** was one of the pioneers who helped to establish the State of Colorado. She was the first black resident of that state.

**Rosa Parks**, in 1955, with her arrest for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man, sparked a movement that engaged the U.S.A. This act gave rise to a Martin Luther King, Jr., leadership in the Civil Rights Movement. Mrs. Parks has rightly been labeled "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement."

**Frederick Douglass** was an abolitionist and a prominent orator and educator. He was the first black to officially call on President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. In 1889, he was appointed U.S. Ambassador to Haiti.

**Thurgood Marshall** was trained by the brilliant Charles H. Houston, Dean of the Howard University law school. Attorney Marshall, Supreme Court Justice, is the first black to be appointed to the nation's highest court. He was a very successful attorney for the NAACP. Mr. Marshall represented the plaintiff in "Brown Versus the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas," a landmark desegregation case of 1954.

**Harriet Tubman**, the famous conductor of the Underground Railroad, brought a great many slaves, including members of her family, to safety and freedom.

## A History Lesson For Bush: The Gulf, Quinine & Sickle Cells

by Professor McKinley Burt

I am particularly disturbed by the frequent excursions of our president into rather suspect versions of history; such as stating "how ironic it is that Iraq, here on the 'Persian Gulf,' was THE CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION". What is ironic is that the "leader of the free world" is a victim of establishment INVENTORS OF HISTORY.

Almost 3000 years ago, the Greeks identified Africa, "The Black Land" Ethiopis, Sudan and Egypt-as the birthplace of culture and technology (Plato and Herodotus, among others). Several weeks ago, I documented here that the lands now known as Iraq and Iran were identified by the ancients as adjacent to the "Ethiopian Sea". This name reflects their firsthand knowledge of the inhabitants and the fact that at least 1400 years before Christ, these lands were subjugated and / or administered by African Kings. People who INVENT CIVILIZATION do not have to IMPORT teachers, physicians, architects, craftsmen, scribes, etc., or build with dried mud.

Early on I gained a quantum leap in my research upon discovering that a study of the major plants and food crops of the world led to new and startling insights into the "real" truths underlying the ills of our "globalvillage". I began with "cotton", obviously) but soon became fascinated with the history of QUININE!

Originally, extracted from the bark of the Cinchona tree, laboratory Synthesis of this compound for treating MALARIA produced the first "miracle drug". (Remember the movie, ~Dr Erlich's Magic Bullet"?). The 1891 discovery was of an aniline dye, methylene blue, used to trace the malarial parasite in the bloodstream of a German Sailor.

But the twisted, convoluted story of characters and events has scarcely begun. In this century we find that further development of the aniline dyes from coal tars led to the nurturing of a young Jewish chemist, Chaim Weizmann, who used the same technology to invent a process which the British USED TO make the millions of tons of explosives that won victory in World

War I. In gratitude, the British government promised a National Home For The Jews In Palestine (Balfour Declaration). Following on we have not only the seeds of today's ARAB-ISRAELI CONFRONTATIONS, but a contrived base for British exploitation of the VAST OIL RESERVES OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

The early discovery (17th century) of quinine's curative powers led directly to the world-wide dislocations of colonized races. Over-population and mass starvation quickly followed the harnessing of Asian millions to 'cash crop plantations'. Swampy, fever-infested lands which previously produced a marginal supply of subsistence crops, and where disease kept the population in check, were now converted to cash crop plantations. The mass importation of the malaria-curing cinchona bark kept the laborers alive to produce tea, rice, rubber, etc. The miseries continue today, particularly in India (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka). The establishment speaks only of the "ills of the caste system".

Though their resistance to malaria had not yet been related to the genetic complement of SICKLE CELLS, Africans were soon caught up in this savage quest for riches. They were enslaved by the tens of millions and taken to the rice plantations in the fever-ridden west Indies. Soon they were provided a new holocaust in North America, the cotton fields of Dixie. As late as the 1950s, the FBI was rescuing black and white victims from the new form of this involuntary servitude, SHARE CROPPING. Some British corporations were still involved, behind American and South African fronts (several senators owned plantations).

Mr. President, I would draw your attention to the fact that the same Dr Ehrlich also invented Salvarsan, a "magic bullet" for the treatment of Syphilis. Like tuberculosis, and the lately endemic AIDS, these diseases were not to be found in the lands of Africa, Asia and the New World--not until the "cash crop" human vectors of these plagues brought them to those shores from Europe.

The following quotation speaks

for itself (Henry Hobhouse, 'Seeds of Change', N.Y., Harper & Row, 1987). This tight (250 pp.) comprehensive survey of the incalculable misery inflicted by Europeans upon people of color throughout the world with the CASH CROP ENSLAVEMENT is a must for your library (Quinine, Sugar, Tea, Cotton and Potato). I wish the author had added OIL AND DESERT STORM to his account.

The latest thinking on antimalarial therapy brings us full circle back to the seventeenth century. Negroes suffer from a type of anemia known as the sickle-cell condition, which prevents them from having malaria although they may act as carriers.

In 1684 a Portuguese writer in Brazil recommended a cure for syphilis: "Buy a virgin black girl off a ship, and lie with her for a month, and the cure will be effected." A piece of cruel, self-indulgent nonsense, the modern reader will no doubt say. But he or she would be wrong. Between 1920 and 1950, when the first effective antibiotics became available, the cure for tertiary syphilis was, surprisingly enough, induced malaria. If a man had bought a black girl in 1684, and she had been a virgin (and therefore free from venereal disease), he would have acquired malaria from her which would have cured his syphilis. But there is never aught for nought in this world. The girl would in return have been infected with syphilis, and unless he had some quinine at hand, the man might have died of malaria.

The advice of that Portuguese writer was good as for as it went. He did not mention either malaria or quinine. Only now do we know why the cure might have worked. And the great question remained in 1684: How do you cure syphilis in a Negro who can't get malaria?" p.28

So, I bet you thought you were taught history in school. Many historians and academics learned early on that to invent history it is not necessary to publish FALSE INFORMATION--and be found out a liar. The same results are easily obtained simply by the OMISSION OF TRUTH! "Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we try to deceive" (Sir Walter Scott).

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## African Image Challenged

by Professor McKinley Burt

My introduction to history began in the second grade and it was in the form of a little poem that went something like this . . .  
"Christopher Columbus Sailed The Ocean Blue Discovered America In 1492"

Of course, it never happened that way. The only thing that Columbus discovered was that tool-making Africans had landed in the New World many centuries earlier. His detailed reports to Queen Isabella of Spain describe how the metal arrowheads sent back to the assayers proved to be of the exact same alloy as used by the peoples on the west coast of Africa. See Ivan Van Sertima's book, They Came Before Columbus (Mr. Van Sertima, a Black Rutgers University Professor, is a consultant to Portland Public Schools, and a world-recognized authority on the early presence of Blacks in the Americas). It was the Norwegian explorer, Thor Heyerdahl (Kon Tiki, 1950) who conclusively demonstrated that it was easily possible to traverse the broad expanses of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in the simple balsa and reed boats used throughout history by peoples of African descent.

Given the conventional omission of these accomplishments from standard texts, what then, is history. Is it simply a compendium of damnable lies concocted by an allegedly superior master race, with the intent of maintaining an ethnic and cultural oneupmanship? Is it a finely-tuned cultural device to justify the horrors of slavery and colonialism? Is history simply a manipulative tool for shaping the political and social infrastructure of Third World Countries to a format which permits a continuation of centuries-old economic exploitation? Is history the current scheme for denying identity and self-esteem to African-Americans in a society where image is every-

thing? History is any and all of these things. So who is it so blind and so naive to ask, what is the need for Black History?

In direct relevancy, it most immediately comes to mind that there is in this world a most monstrous travesty of a nation, South Africa, whose white (enfranchised) citizens still claim to have taken over an "unoccupied" land. Anyone who has read the well-documented book by Black historian, Walter Rodney (How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, Howard University Press, 1982) will well understand why in the preceding paragraph I have suggested the real intent of establishment versions of history. The fact of the matter is that the African owners of the land have left an 8,000 year old archaeological record of their occupancy, including vegetation-covered buildings and mining and smelting operations. Even more to the exploitative point we have this Associated Press report of January 17, 1987:

Minerals exempted

"Ten South African-produced strategic minerals, have been ruled exempt from the U.S. import ban under the anti-apartheid sanctions law because they were essential to the U.S. economy or defense, a State Department official said Friday.

Another official said five companies had been removed from a list of 144 South African companies that are being boycotted by the United States.

Among the minerals that can be imported are andalusite; antimony; chrysotile asbestos; chromium, including ferromanganese and ferrosilicomanganese; platinum group metals; rutile, including titanium-bearing slag; and vanadium."

This, of course, is in addition to the trillions in gold and diamonds produced by slave labor to date.

For years there has been a valiant effort on the part of African-Americans to regain and authenticate their history--with only partial success. An illustration is the following excerpt from an article appearing in the Portland Observer, January 4, 1984. In the 1970s there was a revolt on the part of the Black scholars in this white (African) organization, scholars whose disgust and resentment of the standard pervasions and omissions by the authorities prompted them to withdraw and set up their own African Studies organization. This development in no way implied that the problem had been solved--anyone than one Affirmative Action appointment of a single Black signifies that there is equality of opportunity in a given industry. Less than one-tenth of one percent of the membership of this African studies organization was (is) Black.

African image challenged

"To many Americans, the mention of Africa conjures up a land of wild beasts, dark jungles, half-naked natives and tyrant leaders--what some refer to as the 'Dark Continent.'"

"What I would like to do is try to transform the negative image of Africa," he says. "If Africa is not respected, then Black people are not going to be respected."

by Henry Duval

"Reinvestments in the Community" is a weekly column appearing in API publications throughout the USA.

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