

perspectives

by Professor McKinley Burt

Readings for Survival and Self-Image

Black History Month has rolled around and it is again time for me to advise the readers of some easily accessible material relevant to both current and past issues that have shaped or thwarted the progress of peoples of African and Asian descent.

The first volume cited incorporates and expands the commentary that appears in my *Portland Observer* article of January 8, 1992, "The Origin and Spread of AIDS Is Finally Revealed." This book, "Seeds of Change," will have further revelations for you as it moves past the first chapter, "Quinine," with its correlation to malaria and syphilis. An excellent job is done of documenting developments to date, beginning from early European exploration, slave trading and colonialism in Africa, India and South America.

My article quoted this book as I documented that the current deadly epidemic of the HIV Virus (AIDS) is the result of recent medical experiments related to the Malaria/Syphilis connection. These horror stories involve the deliberate injection of MONKEY BLOOD into both indigenous Africans and U.S. prison inmates; all blithely and boldly cited in the medical literature (remember the "Tuskegee Syphilis Experiments").

Further chapters detail how the development and exploitation of the world's major *cash crops*--sugar, tea, cotton, potatoes--has in each case involved the manipulation and often GENOCIDE of the people around the globe; Africa, India, Bangladesh, China, Indochina, Peru, The West Indies, and other of the Americas ("The White Man's Burden" they used to call it). Had there been a chapter on RUBBER we would have been given a new insight into the "seeds" of the Vietnam War viz-a-viz the desperate attempts of the French government to hold onto its trillion-dollar colonial empire. Not to be omitted is the role of American and European Rubber companies--or of the American military sucked into the holo-

caust at the cost of a hundred thousand lives. The cost of "cash crops" comes high. "The sins of Fathers are visited upon the sons."

The following may be ordered at a discount price from "A Common Reader Publishing Co.", 141 Tompkins Ave., Pleasantville, NY 10570. Add \$4.25 for shipping any quantity of books (all are in stock).

Seeds of Change, by Henry Hobhouse. "Plants are trod upon, eaten, smoked, and worn, but they are rarely recognized as movers and shakers of history. And yet, certain plants have had more to do with shaping our world than many revered statesmen. Pepper, for example, can be seen as the root cause of the discovery of America. This story of five plants that transformed mankind is history at its best; it changes not only how you see the past, but how you look at the present as well." (#3562, 252 pp., Paperback, \$11.95).

For those readers who are exasperated at forever hearing that it was the Greeks who gave the world its lyric poetry, and other gems of literature, I recommend the following documentation of an African genesis--preserved on papyrus and written in stone; the best written two thousand years before the others left barbarism (note that "Homer" was illiterate, and that the "Greek" plays were based upon African religious and agricultural rituals [Encyclopedia Britannica]). The culture of the time embraced Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan, Libya and Arabia. *Ancient Egypt: Literature*. In three superb volumes, Miriam Lichtheim has gathered, translated, and annotated a vast array of ancient Egyptian literature; passages are drawn from poems, stories, inscriptions, hymns, prayers, songs, theological and didactic treatises. The period covered ranges from the Old Kingdom (c. 2699-2100 BC) through the Late Period (c. 1000-300 BC). Lichtheim's labors allow us to examine the wonderland of myth, image, and

learning caught in the contours of the hieroglyphs. Her accompanying notes offer valuable insights into culture and context.

Vol. I: *The Old and Middle Kingdoms* (#7741, 245 pp., paperback, \$11.95).

Vol. II: *The New Kingdom* (#7742, 239 pp., paperback, \$11.95)

Vol. III: *The Late Kingdom* (#7743, 228 pp., paperback, \$11.95).

Last, but not least, I recommend the following book from the same publisher. Those who label themselves "historians" know (or should know) that if an ancient people were indeed as literate or as technologically productive as some have claimed, then, truly, there should be a valid substantiation and documentation.

Here we find a wealth of such evidence for an "African Genesis;" these libraries were described in detail by such scholars as George G. M. James (Stolen Legacy), Anta Cheik Diop (African Origin of Civilization) and Peter Tompkins (Secrets of the Great Pyramid), other greats.

The Vanished Library: A Wonder of the Ancient World, by Luciano Canfora. The Ptolemaic kings of Egypt--successors of Alexander the Great--sought to house under one roof all books ever written. From its foundation in the 3rd century BC, their Library at Alexandria was a wonder of the ancient world, and since its disappearance (Canfora dates its final destruction after 640 AD) it has haunted our cultural memory with its vanished treasure. In a difficult but rewarding essay, Canfora combines dramatic sketches, reconstructed conversations, and straight history to form an imaginative portrait of the Library and a fascinating examination of the historical and literary sources that have informed him. His procedure is labyrinthine, and but something about his indirect method casts the knowledge he imparts in an appropriately mysterious glow. (#7715, 205 pp., paperback, \$12.95).

Employment in Oregon: December, 1991

Oregon unemployment rate: 6.6% unchanged from November (seasonally adjusted)

National unemployment rate: 7.1% up 0.2 from November (seasonally adjusted)

Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate steadied in December, remaining at the November level of 6.6%. While the rate is higher than it was one year ago (6.2%), it remains well below the nation's 7.1%, suggesting that Oregon continues to handle this recession better than the nation as a whole.

Wage and salary employment appears somewhat stronger now than it did one month ago, partly because of slight growth in December, and also because the November employment estimates were revised upward. Food processing, retail trade, and services all had a better November than originally thought.

The major problem for the Oregon economy continues to be the lumber industry, in which major layoffs affected both sawmills and veneer and plywood mills in December. With 18,200 workers, sawmill employment has fallen by More than 10,000 from the levels of the

1970s. Veneer and plywood mills, which once provided incomes for more than 25,000 workers, now employ only 11,200. Layoffs were also recorded in the logging sector where the loss of 800 jobs exceeded the typical December drop of 500.

In looking at the lumber industry another way: employment was 54,600 last month; 68,800 in December 1988; and 80,100 in December 1978. Therefore, industry job losses in the last three years roughly amount to the entire population of a city the size of Wood-burn, Pendleton, or Forest Grove. Going back thirteen years, the job losses approximate the populations of Bend and Redmond combined, and approach the population of Albany.

While lumber layoffs have been going on for some time, the job losses in other manufacturing have increased throughout 1991. In December, primary metals took the largest hit, losing 300 workers. Other industries affected by layoffs included fabricated metals and instruments and related products.

After falling in November, seasonally adjusted construction employment

rebounded in December, continuing to provide much-needed strength to the Oregon economy. After allowing for typical seasonal differences, construction employment is ending 1991 with 900 more jobs than it started with. While this does not match the strong growth of the past few years, it is certainly better than the major cutbacks which might have been expected, given the overall economy.

Retail trade provided the most surprising news in December. In spite of sluggish sales and slow hiring in November, retail employment soared in December. General merchandise (or department) stores provided most of the impetus, adding 2,500 jobs.

Looking at 1991 as a whole, Oregon's unemployment rate has averaged 6.0%, the highest annual rate since 1987, but far below those recorded during the last recession, such as the 11.5% in 1982. All major industry groups except the durable manufacturing sector recorded growth between 1990 and 1991, though generally at a much slower rate than in the prior few years.

Additional Emergency Unemployment Benefits Available in Oregon

Unemployed Oregon workers who have been receiving the federal emergency unemployment benefits that became available in November will now be eligible for an additional seven weeks of benefits. According to state Employment Division officials, Oregon's total unemployment rate rose to the level necessary to increase the duration of benefits from 13 to 20 weeks.

Approximately 30,000 Oregonians who have been or will be receiving federal emergency benefits will be eligible to receive the additional seven weeks of benefits. Starting this week, the Employment Division will begin sending written notices to Oregonians who will be affected by the change. The first benefit checks will be mailed

beginning next week.

Those persons who are currently drawing emergency unemployment benefits will not need to file a new claim or visit their local Employment office in person. They will automatically be notified of their increased claim. Those persons who have exhausted their emergency benefits will also be notified by mail, with the necessary forms and instructions for restarting their claims.

Those who qualify for the benefits will be paid the same weekly benefits amount they received on their original claim. Oregon's maximum weekly benefit is \$259.

Under normal conditions, unemployed workers in Oregon are eligible

to receive a maximum of 26 weeks of benefits. During periods of high unemployment, federal extended benefits are triggered on for a maximum of 13 weeks and triggered off when the unemployment rate drops and stabilizes. With the federal emergency benefits program, Oregonians are now eligible for up to 46 weeks of unemployment.

The emergency benefits program is funded by the federal government, while the state's regular benefit program is funded by Oregon employers. The federal program will be in effect through June 13, 1992.

Unemployed workers who need additional information about the federal emergency benefits program should contact their local Employment Division office.

Restored Sally McCracken Building Opens with 95 New Single-Occupancy Rooms for Special Needs Citizens

Homeless graduates of drug and alcohol recovery programs will find new permanent housing at the refurbished 95-unit Sally McCracken building. The new housing is a project of the Downtown Housing Preservation Partnership (DHPP) which celebrated the building's opening Tuesday, January 14 at 11:00 a.m. The ceremony was held in the building lobby located at 532 N.W. Everett.

DHPP was created in 1988 to develop low-income housing in downtown Portland. The DHPP partners include PDC, Central City Concern (CCC), the Portland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and the Housing Authority of Portland (HAP). The Partnership's goal is to develop 800 new units of low-income central city housing by 1994. The Sally McCracken Building is the fourth project to be completed by the Partnership bringing the total number of rehabilitated units to 420.

Speakers at the opening ceremony included City Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury, PDC Commissioner Chairman Douglas McGregor, Chamber President Don McClave, HAP Commissioner Howard Shapiro and CCC Executive Director Debbie Wood.

The Sally McCracken Building Limited Partnership owns the single-room-occupancy (SRO) building--the first to be designated for graduates of substance abuse recovery programs.

Potential residents of the Sally McCracken are identified by social service agencies operating substance abuse treatment programs. Residents of the Sally McCracken were previously homeless individuals who utilized local shelter services. Central City Concern will manage the building.

"It's hard to believe this is the old Athens Hotel. It was filthy and people were literally freezing to death here a few years ago," said Commissioner Kafoury. "The renovation of this building for alcohol and drug-free housing demonstrates the City's commitment to move people out of shelters and into more permanent housing," she added.

Total project cost for the building was \$4 million. Corporate Housing Initiatives Limited Partnership (which is affiliated with the National Enterprise Foundation) provided \$1.6 million in cash investment in exchange for historic and low-income housing tax credits. Security Pacific Bank Oregon provided \$1.2 million in private financing and PDC provided acquisition and rehabilitation loans totalling \$1.1 million. The project received a \$75,000 weatherization grant from Multnomah County Community Action Program.

The Sally McCracken Building has four stories. The ground-level features retail space and the residential lobby. The top three levels are housing. The residential lobby features group meeting rooms and a library. Each floor has

a community kitchen for use by residents. Rents at the McCracken are subsidized through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Renewal's (HUD) Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Program.

The Sally McCracken Building, originally the New Houston Hotel, was built in 1912. It was designed by H. Hanselmann and built by the Leonard Construction Company. The Sally McCracken Building has recently been listed on the National Register of Historic Places and restoration was sensitive to the historic features of the building.

Built during the real estate boom of the early 20th century, the New Houston provided the city with one of its first medium-service hotels offering basic workingmen's accommodations, an alternative to downtown's elegant hotels. It attracted short and long-term tenants including business travelers, tourists and downtown employees.

The New Houston Hotel was owned by Mrs. Edith Goode, wife of prominent utility executive Henry Walton Goode. Today, the revitalized building is named in honor of Central City Concern charter board member, Sally McCracken, who has devoted countless hours in support of the project.

PDC is the City's agency for urban renewal, housing and economic development.

Kopetski Faults President's Speech

The following is the statement of Congressman Mike Kopetski in response to the President's State of the Union address.

"I was greatly disappointed with the President's State of the Union address because it had too much politics and not enough leadership. He talked about military savings, enhancing economic growth and implementing a health care proposal. On the surface, this sounds great, but at closer look you'll find his message lacks substance.

Identifying additional military savings, as the President did, is only one-half the job. The other half of the job is redirecting the skilled people and resources in our defense industries to our domestic needs. The President has

no transition program.

Our country desperately needs economic enhancement, but it's frightening to hear the President propose a 90-day moratorium on federal regulations to achieve this goal. Federal regulations are not always stumbling blocks to economic growth. This moratorium could suspend safety regulations in the workplace, inspection of consumer products and pollution control. Jeopardizing the lives of American workers is not going to help the economy.

The President's health care proposal shows he doesn't understand the needs of the middle class. One-fourth of the people in America without health insurance are unemployed, and senior citizens live on a fixed income. So, his

tax credits are useless to them.

Our "Environmental President" did not even show up for the State of the Union. President Bush didn't utter a word on preserving our country's environment. He also neglected to address the pressing issues of America's farmers, who greatly contribute to our country's economy. Times have changed.

The President's speech aimed at enhancing his ratings in New Hampshire rather than addressing the needs of all middle class Americans. Americans don't care about the popularity of the President, or the Congress for that matter. They care about having jobs to support their families. The President simply missed the boat."

The Portland Observer

(USPS 959-680)
OREGON'S OLDEST AFRICAN-AMERICAN PUBLICATION
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The PORTLAND OBSERVER is published weekly by Exle Publishing Company, Inc. 4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Portland, Oregon 97211 503-288-0033 • Fax 288-0015

Deadline for all submitted materials:

Articles: Monday, 5:00 pm--Ads: Tuesday, noon

POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to: Portland Observer, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208. Second class postage paid at Portland Oregon.

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The Portland Observer--Oregon's Oldest African-American Publication--is a member of the National Newspaper Association--Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc., New York, NY.

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community. Will coordinate and leverage public and private resources to provide a continuum of care for families. Lead agency: Portland Impact. Contact: Marilyn Miller or Mimi Fogarty (233-8491).

Portland: Touchstone, a Family Demonstration Project, will show how to intervene in alcohol- and drug-abuse problems of at least 40 families. Lead agency: Office of Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs, Oregon Department of Human Resources. Contact: Jeffrey N. Kushner (378-2163).

Grants Pass: Family Resource Center houses private and county support services for children and families, focuses on early intervention, child care, pre-school and parent-education activities, housing and health needs; partnerships with Oregon Department of Human Resources division. Lead agency: Coalition for Kids. Contact: Carolyn Kohn (479-1929).

Eugene: Family Centered Demonstration is a collaboration of Sacred

Heart General Hospital, University of Oregon Center on Human Development, Oregon State University Extension, and Birth to Three; Adult & Family Services, Children's Services and JTPA are expected to be added. Target group is parents who are addicted or at high risk of becoming abusers. Lead agency: Birth to Three. Contact: Minallee Saks (484-4401).

Hermiston: West Umatilla County Integrated Services Project seeks to maintain family integrity and promote self-sufficiency among families with at least one child under 18. Program developed by Adult & Family Services, Children's Services and Employment division of Oregon DHR; program will link to local service agencies, as well. Lead agency: Adult & Family Services Division of Oregon DHR. Contact: Twila Schell (276-4271).

Lincoln County: Combined Case Management Project will assist families in stress to achieve self-sufficiency. Target group is families with children

up to age 8 that are served by at least two agencies. DHR provides three staff members for the program. Lead agency: Lincoln County. Contact: Dinah Yessne (265-6611).

Jackson County: White City Community Action Project, located in a World War II housing development, intends to provide on-site services to 20 to 30 families with multiple needs. Program supported by Adult & Family Services and Children's Services divisions of DHR. Lead agency: Jackson County. Contact: Hank Collins (776-7354).

Condon: Gilliam County Family Resource Center will integrate services of state agencies in one location. Center hopes to contract with state agencies to provide integrated services rather than having staff come from outside the county for only a few hours a month. Lead agency: Gilliam County Court. Contact: Susan Brewer or Jan Moffitt (763-4235 or 384-2399).