

Urban Planning, Conclusion: "The Africans Did It With Such Style And Grace".

By Prof. McKinley Burt

I appreciate the comments of the readers who have been following this series on "Urban Planning" as it really developed as a historical process. It was the great Roman orator and statesman, Cicero, who said, "To remain ignorant of what went on before you is to remain a child."

Apparently, that is precisely what the establishment has in mind for us when, as a general case, we are deprived of knowledge of African contributions to civilization--and in the particular case, the historical development of urban planning--the record remains deliberately scattered among such diverse and arcane sources as magazines like *Archaeology* and *Biblical Archaeology Review* or *Smithsonian Magazine*. And in such books as Claudio Barocas', *Monuments of Civilization: Egypt; Secrets Of The Great Pyramid*; Clarke and Engelbach's, *Ancient Egyptian Construction And Architecture*; (The "Pyramid" book is by Tompkins; excellent!).

And tumbling out of limbo the last decade or so, we have such disclosures as the fact that excavations around the monumental temples and buildings of ancient Egypt and the Sudan (Nubia) put to the lie, the pejorative statements that these edifices were built by "hundreds of thousands of slave laborers." On the contrary, it is found that the workmen and their families were provided with spacious and comfortable housing with all the amenities and dignity befitting freemen.

Archaeologist Zahi Hawass, director of the Egyptian Antiquities Project described the pictures, statues, inscriptions, clothing and personal effects that were found (LA Times-Washington Post Service, 9/8/94). "They were a happy people enjoying their work... They enjoyed life, drank beer and ate bread and garlic." They painted pictures and made sculptures of their work and their families--laborers, artisans and foremen/supervisors were allocated living quarters and pay scales that paralleled their place in the hierarchy. Salaries included offerings for dead kings and nobles.

PGE Celebrates Energy Awareness Month

Portland General Electric will host several events in early October in celebration of Energy Awareness Month -- the 15th annual energy awareness campaign sponsored by the United States Department of Energy.

Thursday October 6 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., PGE will host "Light as Art", a showcase of high-design and energy efficient lighting fixtures and lamps at their Downtown Energy Resource Center, 410 S.W. Oak Street.

The show will continue through October 13. Hours other than the first Thursday opening are as follows: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free.

Saturday, October 8, PGE will host an Energy Fair in Portland's Tom McCall Waterfront Park. Representatives from PGE, the Oregon Department of Energy, the Portland Energy Office, Tri-Met, Division of Environmental Quality and others will be on hand with educational booths aimed at helping people learn how to use energy wisely. In addition, the musical group The No Delay Band will be performing.

In conjunction with the Energy Fair, PGE will host the second annual

Last week I introduced black Queen Hatshepsut, "designer of the panoramic urban vistas of broad tree-lined boulevards". This granddaughter of Ethiopian Queen Nefertari-Aahmes sent great expeditions to the "Biblical lands of Punt", the original East African home of the Egyptians. These expeditions would return with "gold, myrrh, incense, strange animals and other products". It is recorded that, along with her city gardens that graced the urban expanses, she established the first municipal Zoo; almost 4000 yrs. ago.

Also, I could have recited other fashions and modes that were brought back to Europe by Napoleon's 1798 expedition to Africa. There was the "Empire" state style of dress and furniture whose resplendent modes became the rage for the haut monde of France and, then, the "in-crowd" of the world. Africa was in vogue, and the fad soon spread across the ocean to America where it was named the "American Empire Style". From 1818 on, furniture makers in Boston, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. were kept busy satisfying the tastes of the elite. Today, we may see this African style in the "Red Room" of the White House.

It is said that "The truth shall make you free", but it also takes money planning and politics. It seems incredible that the American descendants of the African who pioneered the Urban planning process should be despoiled of the opportunity to practice the art in our cities--or deliberately discouraged by the planning schools (check out Portland State University). Again there is a need for new visions, concepts and drive. We wonder if that is to be provided by Jerry-built organizations like "Metro" which is confused as to either its mandate or the Financing.

And in earthquake-stricken Los Angeles the vision is of acres upon acres of devastated real estate, still unrepaired or torn down. Government loan promises are meaningless because the banks won't participate; over insured and overleveraged properties still stand vacant, attracting drug dealers, prostitutes and the homeless. Any hope from today's planners?

Electric Car Quarter Mile Drag Race. PGE members of the Oregon Electric Car Association and high school Electron Run cars will take part in three rounds of races.

"Our goal throughout the month," said Dick Reiten PGE President and Chief Operating Officer, "is to help our customers learn new ways to use energy wisely and to be aware, throughout the month and every day of the year of how they can make a difference in the amount of energy this region requires and consumes."

In addition, PGE will co-sponsor an Energy Fair Friday, October 14 at the Capitol Mall Plaza in Salem from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Fair will include informational booths and entertainment. The next day, PGE will participate in the Portland Energy Office Energy Fair at the Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 Capitol Highway from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Many products to help consumers be energy efficient at home will be demonstrated and on display.

Every day throughout the month, PGE will sponsor free rides on Portland's Vintage Trolleys, which run between Lloyd Center and downtown. PGE operated Portland's original trolleys from 1906 until 1946.

Ballot Measure Five Has Negative Impact On State And Local Finances

The Municipal Debt Advisory Commission today released its findings on the impact to state and local government finance should the new ballot Measure 5 pass this November. The Commission conducted several statewide public hearings on the Measure in May and June. The new Measure 5 would require that any new state or local tax or tax increased be approved by a general election. Also all state and local government fees or other charges are considered general taxes and would be voted.

"According to the Commission's findings, if governments cannot increase fees to cover their costs on required services, then general taxpayers will fill the bill. . ."

"The Commission's findings are startling and reveal some new insights into the negative effects this Measure will have on state and local government financing," State Treasurer Jim Hill said in response to the report's findings.

"One of the most reveal findings was that property taxes are likely to go up as a result of the Measure. This will certainly surprise the proponents of Measure 5 who are looking to reduce their taxes under this Measure," Hill said.

"According to the Commission's findings, if governments cannot increase fees to cover their costs on required services, then general tax-

payers will fill the bill through increased property taxes, which the Measure would allow. This is because the Measure classifies all fees and charges as 'taxes' and then provides an exemption for 'incurred charges' which are based upon property or property ownership. Thus, many fees and charges can be imposed on property or property owners," Hill added.

Testimony at the hearings also indicated that higher property taxes will be used to subsidize users of government services and products. For example, if building inspection fees (the inspection to see if a structure meets safety codes) fail over time to be increased by a vote of the people to cover costs, then the government must shift to property taxes to provide the service required. Thus, a developer who is currently paying the inspection fee would be subsidized by the general taxpayer for the developer's use of that service. Shifting from a "user pays" philosophy to "the general taxpayer pays" is a fundamental change in the way governments pay for their various services.

The MDAC did not seek to take a position on the Measure. Its goal for conducting these hearings was to develop information regarding the impact Measure 5 may have on state and local government debt and to prepare a report containing this information so that the electorate may be better informed on the Measure. Hearings were held in Salem, Coos Bay, Ashland, Pendleton and Portland.

Public Help Sought In Hit And Run Case

Traffic investigators are seeking witnesses to a hit and run accident that seriously injured a 71 year old woman. The incident occurred on September 10th a about 9:55 am.

Patricia N. Bowles, of Southwest Portland, was walking across the intersection of NW Northrup St. at 21st Ave. when she was struck and run over by a pickup truck.

The vehicle is described as a 1970's style full size domestic pickup, dark brown or black in color, with no rear license plate.

After the collision, a passenger in the pickup got out, but the driver yelled at him to get back in the truck. The vehicle then fled eastbound on NW Northrup.

Anyone with information on this case can call Sgt. Jerry Jones at 823-2151.

The Portland Observer

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While a lot of small businesses are worrying about the cost of healthcare or payroll taxes, one of the biggest costs of all is usually overlooked. Drug and alcohol abuse is virtually a hidden tax that saps the strengths and profits from Oregon corporations. Currently in Oregon one out of every seven employees is abusing drugs and alcohol.

It's the weekend parties, the weeknight parties and the noon parties that are hurting your bottom line. A substance abusing employee costs an employer an average of \$8000 a year in lost productivity. Last year that lost productivity amounted to a \$60 billion tax on American business. An employee assistance program can save your company money and save a valuable employee. If you'd like to hear how other Oregon small businesses have improved their bottom line with a drug-free workplace, give the Regional Drug Initiative a call at 294-7074.

This party has been in power too long and it's time for a change.

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