

## A Timely Addendum To Urban Planning Series

Now, there is a word that really titillates my tongue, what with its Latin peculiarities, though my favorite of all time is "hiatus," a pause or break in the scheme of things. This "addendum" to the "urban" theme results from the extra-ordinary interest created by my documented revelations of the African initiatives of the art of "city planning."

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

For the inquiring teachers, I have provided the citations and text material (including pictures) that will enable them to construct the classroom models they wish to build. A parent came by to photocopy some material I could not release. Now, this is the kind of response that would have resulted had my submissions to the "Baseline Essays" been adopted in the multi-cultural process. I had emphasized the rewarding reception accorded my presentations at schools and on television in different parts of the country, including testimonial letters.

However, like the fabled Phoenix bird rising from the ashes, I am gradually getting on again with my business of delivering a "real" history of African and African American peoples. Particularly productive has been the format I mentioned several weeks ago; reaching several major city talk shows with my presentations - originating in my Alberta Street office and transmitted via the electronic information highway: In the "trade organization" to which I belong (Association of Oregon Industries) I have been talking with several communication engineers and executives -- it seems that if I continue to build a good public response to my multi-cultural theme via radio, then, with the rapid escalation of the technology I could be doing the same thing on television by 1995 from my own studio.

But, back to the grandeurs that were those of our ancestors. Here is more on that fabulous Queen Hatshepsut, the African genius who set the stage for the modern cityscape. The following excerpt is from J.A. Rogers' "World's Great Men of Color":

"Hatshepsut had yet another handicap besides that of sex, namely,

ancestry. On her father's side, she was not of pure Theban stock, though her mother was. Her enemies, the priests of Amen, now seized on this "taint" in her lineage and plotted to dethrone her. To offset this, she began to publicize herself in the most sensational manner of that time: the building of temples, pyramids and obelisks, the size and grandeur of which was regarded by the popular mind as a gauge of the ruler's power. Accordingly, Hatshepsut decided to build a temple the like of which the world had never seen before and sent for her chief architect, Senmut, who, to all appearance, was a full-blooded Negro. Together, they chose a site which was not only appropriate but strategic. This was on an elevation three miles away from the stronghold of her opponents, the Temple of Amen-Ra. From this site her temple looked down on theirs.

"Under Senmut's genius, Hatshepsut's temple developed into what is still one of the world's most remarkable specimens of architecture. It had a frontage of 800 feet and was for the most part hollowed out of the great cliff that overlooked it. Double and triple rows of columns lined the entrance, and the approach was marked by innumerable statues, wonderful terraces, and paradisaical gardens. Colorful inscriptions decorated the interior, which abounded in architectural novelties.

"Not content with this, Hatshepsut decided to carry her triumph into the very camp of her detractors. She ordered to be made two obelisks, taller than any others in Egypt. Each was hewn from mighty blocks of rose granite and when completed took two great rafts, each manned by 900 men to transport down the Nile. Hatshepsut intended these as a gift to the Temple of Amen-Ra but very astutely she had ordered them made so tall that they were higher than the temple, whose ruins, now known as Karnak, reveal it to be one of the most colossal structures made by man. Accordingly to make the obelisks fit, the roof of the temple was opened and from this Hatshepsut's obelisks reared their heads as chimneys over a roof. But that was not all. To make the obelisks still more conspicuous she had their tops encased in electrum, a metal costlier than gold."

And here is material from Arthur

Segals "City Planning In Ancient Times." (Minneapolis, Lerner, 1977). For those rascals who still "teach" that the glorious achievements of the Africans were constructed by hordes of slave laborers, try this hiatus on for size:

"In addition to establishing military settlements in Nubia, the Egyptians built planned towns in other parts of their kingdom. One of these was a town named Kahun. When archaeologists excavated the site of this ancient settlement, they hoped to settle an old question. Kahun was a planned town established for the purpose of providing a home for the workers who built one of the ancient pyramids. Scholars and historians had long wondered just how many people were needed to build a pyramid. While most of the experts agreed that hundreds of thousands of workers must have been employed on these colossal projects, there was no way of determining an exact figure. Scientists hoped that by studying the houses of the laborers' town, and counting the number of houses, they could determine the figure with greater accuracy.

"To everyone's surprise, the town of Kahun turned out to have enough houses for only a few thousand workers, a far lower number than anyone supposed. The old theories - according to which hundreds of thousands of slaves labored under terrible conditions to build the pyramids - were, to some extent, disproved. The workers' houses, while not luxurious, were still spacious and comfortable, each consisting of a small central courtyard surrounded by two or three bedrooms and a small storeroom.

"At the end of the town there was a group of luxurious buildings, quite different in size and appearance from the workers' modest houses. Each of these houses was built around a large courtyard bordered on one side by a row of columns. Living rooms were arranged around the courtyard, and the bedrooms contained raised platforms for the beds. These houses, which even had guest rooms and a bathroom, doubtless belonged to the engineers and the foremen who supervised the work of constructing the pyramid. Once the pyramid was completed, Kahun was abandoned, and the town was soon buried in the drifting desert sands."

## Jobs Agency Launches New Service For Kids During Children's Week

A group of state officials, community leaders, and children celebrated Children's Week in Oregon by inaugurating a statewide network of child-friendly waiting areas in 42 state Employment Department offices.

"Oregonians know how important it is to invest in the well-being of our children," said Secretary of State Phil Keisling. "Public and private employers need to do their part by encouraging family-friendly workplaces."

Keisling spoke at a ribbon cutting ceremony at one of the waiting areas, known as The Children's Corner, in the Employment Department's downtown office. Joining him were Employment Department Acting Director Roger Auerbach, Child Care Commission member Jo Rymer, and children of the office's employees and customers.

"This is another way to serve our customers better," said Roger Auerbach, Acting Director of the Employment Department. "Parents should have a more productive visit and children will learn about the world of work."

The Children's Corner allows children to read or play in sight of parents who use an Employment Department office to look for work. The special waiting area is stocked with toys, books, and educational materials about the workplace.

"Smart employers recognize that many workers and customers are parents, too," said Jo Rymer, who serves on the Oregon Commission on Child Care and owns and operates Pro-Tem, a temporary employment service. "To succeed in today's marketplace, you need to provide support for those dual roles through child

care and services like The Children's Corner."

After the completion of a successful pilot project developed with the state Education Department in Salem last year, the Employment Department decided to install The

Children's Corner statewide. It provided \$15,000 in toys, books, furniture, and other supplies to 42 offices. Most of The Children's corners are opening by October 2-8, which Governor Barbara Roberts has declared Children's Week in Oregon.

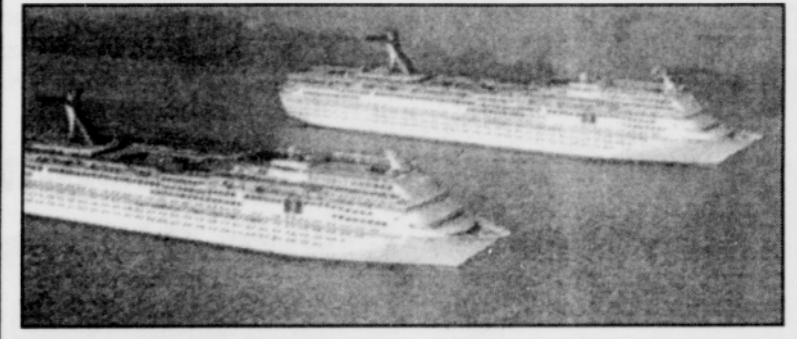
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## AFRICA INSIGHT



By Promise King

For across America stands distinct rest of the human

And almost everywhere stands out, as a symbol of the growing Africa continent. Many black folks all over the world are conscious of this ancestral link to this tropical land, where human civilization was born. And across these great minds of men and women of the golden black skin in diaspora lie the urge to go back to their motherland, someday.

Many have left their foreign land to settle in Africa where no one will question the dignity of the color of their skin. Where the sanctity of their culture is revered and respected. Where their equality will be guaranteed. And where they can walk freely and shop freely without harassment.

Many black folks who have resigned their fate to live in diaspora for life are eager to know their tribal

roots, many are also probing to know the particular nation or countries of their ancestors. The key to knowing the country you originate from is embedded in Africa tribal identity. This is because each tribe in Africa is uniquely different from one another, in physical body structure. The Swahili are different from the Tuaregs even though they inhabit the same region. In my native Nigeria, each tribe identify its own ethnic group through this mechanism. The Ibo tribe in the east differs in their physiques from Hausas and Fulanis in the north. Most of the Africans who live close to the desert are somewhat slimmer than those that live along the riverain area that are broadly built and heavier. Most of the slaves taken

from Africa came mainly from this group. These groups are darker with wide eyes and thick lips. They are found along the coast of Ghana, in the riverain area of Ivory coast, in Togo and an area surrounding Badagry in Nigeria. Others are the Congolese. The majority of this tribe are short and sturdy. The average height of the Congolese is 5 foot-2 inches. You could determine which African tribe you originate by comparing your frame with rest of the tribes. The good news is that nature's experiment on Africa tribal classification is very pronounced.

More so, visit the Zulus or the Hutus, the Watusi, the Edos, the Fulanis, the Nupes, the Kayamaris and the rest of the tribes.

Check out the country where they reside. You will find your roots. This is only a clue from someone who cares. Good luck.

(Promise King was born in Nigeria. He has worked for local and foreign media, and is a staff writer for the Portland Observer.)

## 1994 Minority Contractor Of The Year Award

For the first time, the annual Minority Contractor of the Year Award is being shared by two firms, according to Carl R. Culham, chair, Minority Business Opportunity committee of the Portland Federal Executive Board. Each year the Portland Federal Executive Board honors an outstanding minority-owned business whose selection is based on its superior performance on Federal Government contracts. This year the award is being shared by two firms, MRC Company and J.O. International Reforestation, Inc.

Iso Aguirre Jr., President of MRC Company, of Woodland, Washington, has been selected as one of the co-recipients to receive the Portland Federal Executive Board's 1994 Minority Contractor of the Year Award. MRC Company

is a nine-year old general construction company that specialized in railroad construction and excavation. The firm was nominated for the award by the Portland District, Corps of Engineers for outstanding performance in rehabilitating the railroad spur track at Bonneville Dam.

Javier G. Orozco, President of J.O. International Reforestation, Inc., of Grants Pass, Oregon, has been selected as the other co-recipient to receive the award. J.O. International Reforestation, Inc. is an eight-year old company that provides tree planting, pruning, and other reforestation services. The firm was nominated for this award by the Oregon State office of the Bureau of Land Management for the superior quality of contract performance in 1994.

Mr. Aguirre and Mr. Orozco will be honored at the annual Minority Enterprise Development Week Luncheon, to be held in Portland at the Oregon Convention Center, Tuesday, October 11, 1994. This event is held to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions of our nation's minority businesses. Tickets for the Awards Luncheon can be obtained by contacting Impact Business Consultants at (503) 245-9253.

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