

EDITORIAL

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p e r s p e c t i v e s

Columbus Sailed The Ocean Blue, Was In 1492, IV (Conclusion)

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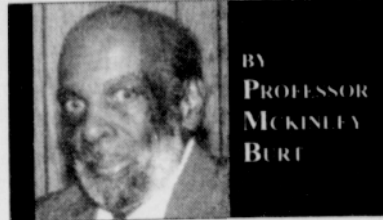
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BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

By Prof. McKinley Burt

It certainly brings a warm glow to a researcher's heart when he is able to establish an exciting and well-substantiated connection between two seemingly unrelated but quite relevant and important facts.

That happened for me last week and the World Wide Web is already humming with my disclosure that American Anthropologists and universities are playing an ugly racist game in respect to the clear evidence of African presence in the Americas long before Columbus - or any other Europeans. Observer Web-Site, http://portlandobserver.net

Specifically, I pointed out that while one group of physical anthropologists in Mexico are heatedly denying that any skeletons in ancient Olmec tombs are African - the same for the famous, huge, stone 'African' heads - their fellow 'scientists' in New York have cut all the ground from beneath them. 'African American historical Places', Park Service 1994.

"They have gleefully identified an 18th century African burying ground two blocks from city hall". Making world headlines, they boldly and blatantly state, "we can even distinguish between African-born and American

born individuals."

So could Columbus, and he documented an earlier, African presence in his logs which I have cited in this series (reproduction available). Shame on you academic charlatans, dusky "Lucy" is still looking over your shoulders and she won't go away.

A geologist called to day that he and his wife laughed themselves into hysteria at the art teacher who suggested that, "the Olmec head had 'Negroid' features because the sculptures had rolled over. Aquiline noses and thin lips had been squashed flat." The geologist pointed out that it would take the heat of the lava flowing from Hawaii, "Kilauea volcano" to recast the gigantic basalt statuery. He added, the Olmecs knew exactly what they were doing; their art depicted important visitors from Africa."

I hesitate to recommend a book on the Olmec Culture because of the pervasive racial bias. As a rule the authors devote pages to denying an early African presence, always a dead give-away. A case in point is the widely circulated publication of the University of California Press, "The Olmec World", Ignacio Bernal, 1976, pp 25,26.

The world and history is commanded to be viewed through an Anglo Saxon filter. A review of a thousand back copies of National Geographic, Smithsonian and scientific American magazines will not show a single black face on a university or museum expedition, or archaeological dig.

'Liberal, free-thinking' American

academia does not recommend or encourage African Americans to enter the related disciplines; in fact they are discouraged. The same situation as with law school faculty who do not recommend even the brightest black students for clerks to Supreme Court Justices - only 8 of the last 788 hired were black and 4 of them were hired by Justice Thurgood Marshall.

But back to our seafaring Africans and the indisputable evidence of their voyages and settlements. First, we recommend "Africa's Gift to America" by J.A. Rogers, the noted black historian. This readily available work not only documents the Pre-Columbian presence of Africans in the Americas but photo-reproduces 17th century maps that describe the south Atlantic as the "Ethiopic Ocean." ("Most of Africa at that time was called Ethiopia") P.16.

And on page 17 we have a more accurate citation of a key work, though I await an exact date of publication in answer to my fax. "Africa and the Discovery of America: Three Volumes", Leo Wiener, professor of philology at Harvard University. He too comments on "the representation of 'Negroes' in American sculpture and design and the occurrence of a black nation at Darien early in the 16th century."

It is interesting that other very early maps describe today's Persian gulf as the "Ethiopian Sea". That fits very well with some historian's description of African settlements in "Mesopotamia".

And from almost one end of the earth to the other we find that ubiquitous, utilitarian Reed craft first used by Stone age African seafarers; not only perfectly preserved in ancient tombs; but still used today in the exact shape, size and design (200 ft. wooden craft in Egyptian tomb).

"A woman at Lake Tana (opposite)...Steadies herself on a skiff of reeds called a 'tankwa'...Reed boats have sailed the Nile forages", pp.48,49, "Great Rivers of the World, National Geographic, 1984.

"The Reed fishing boat was another incredible craft "the paras' used in the Rano Raraku Crater Lake (Easter Island)." "Aku Aku", National Geographic Magazine.

The same Reed craft are mentioned in "Isaiah" in the New Testament, and are still found in use in Ethiopia. And generally have been "used on the Nile for millenniums"; see "pitch", pp. 539 and 540, "A dictionary of the Bible", William Smith, circa 1900.

The island people of Lake Titicaca, birth places of the Incas in Peru...fish from Reed boats called balsas". National Geographic, March 1982. And we find the same familiar Reed craft of a seminal African design was used by the Mayan and Aztec cultures, by the peoples of the West Coast of Africa, in India and in the Aegean ports of Greece. See indexes of magazines listed earlier. The best graphics of the large Reed rafts that plied the oceans in ancient times are in "Kon Tiki for Young People", Hyerdahl, 1960.

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Letter To The Editor
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Letter To The Editor

Dear Editors,

At first glance, Measure 59 appears to be a harmless initiative to clean up campaign laws and protect tax dollars. But as the old saying goes, appearances can be deceiving. And in this case, Measure 59 is all about deceiving. And in this case, Measure 59 is all about deceiving Oregon voters.

Measure 59 is part of a national corporate political agenda that would unravel public health, safety and environmental protection that are so basic and

important to all of us.

The man behind the national effort to silence working families and the public interest is Grover Norquist. The public should be advised that Norquist has championed legislation that would weaken or eliminate many of the commonsense laws that currently protect the environment and the lives and health of our families. For example, Norquist's extremist views against public health and safety protection mean that taxpayers would pay for the cleanup of toxic waste dumps, not the polluters who created those dumps in the first place.

Norquist has suggested legislation that would allow industries to avoid disclosing evidence of environmental violations. He has even proposed a constitutional amendment prohibiting federal public health, safety and environmental laws. That would mean the abolition of the Cleaner Water Act, the Clean Air Act, food safety laws, workplace safety laws and even laws that protect children from unsafe toys. Each and every consumer, environmental and workplace safety law could become unconstitutional in the extremist paradise the Norquist hopes to create.

It's frightening to think about the impact such an agenda would have on Oregon's environmental landmarks, like the Columbia River Gorge, our spectacular coastline, high desert, and the Willamette River watershed.

To accomplish these and other corporate goals, Norquist and his allies, including Bill Sizemore here in Oregon, have helped to sponsor Measure 59, which will appear on the November ballot. Measure 59 is the latest in a series of attempts by Norquist and Sizemore to weaken their political opponents, in this case Oregon's working families.

Sizemore has made his views on the environment clear. At a recent debate, he said that we should allow development on just about any piece of property in Oregon, apparently without regard for our state's proud tradition of protecting our natural resources and maintaining a beautiful place to live.

Backers of the measure want you to believe the measure 59 is about protecting working families and preventing the use of tax dollars for political purposes. But Measure 59 isn't about saving tax money, and it isn't about protecting the paychecks of

working families. Instead, it is a misguided initiative that would give corporate monied interests more control over Oregon politics, handcuffing the organizations that protect working families and the environment.

Not only that, but measure 59 is so vaguely and poorly written that it would prevent information about candidates and ballot measures from being printed in the Oregon Voters' Pamphlet...which would deny millions of Oregon voters their best source for political information and leave them in the dark on election day.

A diverse coalition of organizations have announced their opposition to Measure 59, including the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, the American Association of Retired Persons, the League of Women Voters, the Oregon Nurses Association and the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council. I hope you'll join us in opposing this misguided, unnecessary and dangerous ballot initiative.

Sincerely,
Maureen Kirk
Executive Director
OSPIRG

Letter To The Editor

I would like to brief you on one of the key issues affecting Oregon's economic development. This November, voters will have the opportunity to pass Ballot Measure 26-69, a regional bond measure that provides funds for expanding the Oregon Convention Center.

One of Oregon's great success stories, the Convention Center has exceeded all expectations in terms of attendance, job creation, and tax revenues generated. As a result of this rapid growth, the Convention Center has outgrown many of the national and regional groups it once serviced. In fact, in 1997 Portland lost \$35.3 million in potential business because the OCC was either too small or too busy to accommodate prospective groups.

Expansion of the OCC is expected to generate an annual \$170 million economic benefit and create 3,400 new jobs. Furthermore, this project represents the most beneficial type of growth for Oregon. Convention and trade show delegates come to Portland, spend dollars that benefit our economy and local services, and then leave. Expansion does not require any additional community infrastructure; in fact, revenues generated by OCC help pay for schools, fire, and other local services.

The Oregon Convention Center needs your help. I would like you to consider making a financial contribution to the campaign.

The Convention Center is important to the economic health of our region. As leaders in the community, we need to lend our support to this effort. I appreciate your consideration and the committee looks forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely
J.E. Isaac
Senior Vice-President,
Business Affairs
Portland Trail Blazers

Letter To The Editor

As a dedicated and informed voter, the Congressional 1st District Representative race has raised my hackles. I've watched Molly Bordonaro since she ran for this position in 1996. Then, she was fresh out of Washington's conservative Republican think tank and fond of spouting Gingrich-style sound bites. She lost our voters.

Now, she is repackaged as a moderate to get elected. I am suspicious of politicians who practice election-year conversion tactics. Molly's stance on the main issues: education, Social Security, and abortion has flip flopped more often than a freshly hooked fish.

This new Bordonaro poses an attractive moderate stance, but in recent debates, failed miserably to convince audiences who demanded honest answers. In fact, when asked to justify her platform switches, Molly's general response is to duck behind claims of negative campaign practices. If she can't answer straight forward questions about her positions, how can she work for Oregonians in Congress? I'm not voting to put another blame-game politician in Washington D.C.

The Democratic candidate, David Wu, plays a straight-arrow honest campaign. Wu's responses to questions are as true and to the point as if he were on a witness stand. I respect Wu's candor. As much as Molly would like to borrow from his smarter platform, she cannot poach David Wu's ethical strength.

As holder of a 57-year Labor Union card, and as an Oregonian who deserves honest and intelligent representation, my vote is for David Wu and for his plan to protect issues important to Oregonians. Vote on November 3rd. I urge you to put David Wu to work for us in Congress.

Sincerely
Lawrence J. Wood

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1:05 p.m. *Memory Changes as People Age: What Should We Expect?* — Jeffrey Kaye, M.D., OHSU Memory Assessment Clinic

1:30 p.m. *Local Research on Alzheimer's Disease and Family Caregiving* — Fred Miller, OHSU

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