

# Huracán

500 YEARS OF RESISTANCE

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Alliance for Cultural Democracy

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Summer 1991

## San Carlos Apache Demand Halt to Columbus Project

by Sal Salerno

The Columbus Project (aka Mt. Graham International Observatory) is proceeding with its plan to build a \$200 million observatory on San Carlos Apache sacred ground in southeastern Arizona. The San Carlos Apache Tribal Council and the Apache Survival Coalition have demanded an immediate halt to all construction activities, citing violations of four Federal laws protecting human, cultural, and religious rights and freedoms. The Columbus Project observatory is sponsored by the University of Arizona in Tucson, Ohio State University, and the Italian government. The Italian government has guaranteed the financing of a telescope for the Vatican. Project collaborators include Italy's Arcetri Observatory and Germany's Max Planck Institute, which will construct separate telescope installations.

Located in the Coronado National Forest, adjacent to the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation, Mt. Graham represents one of the most biologically unique and diverse of mountain ranges in North America, and is home to the endangered Mt. Graham red squirrel. Novelist Tony Hillerman likens the project to "the Israeli government putting a radar

tower on top of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem". In spite of numerous legal and procedural violations, promises from Pope John Paul II in his 1987 address to Native Americans in Phoenix "to preserve and keep alive your cultures, your language and customs...", and a resolution passed by the San Carlos Apache Council, a local construction company broke ground in the fall of 1989. They have built a road and begun the process of clearcutting for the proposed site. The history of the Columbus Project has been characterized by astronomers and congressmen ignoring claims of harm by Native Americans. Federal agencies have been pressured to accept hasty and flawed biological studies, the public and judicial review processes have been travesties, and legislation has been passed to exempt the project from environmental laws.

Dzil nchaá si an (Big Seated Mountain, aka Mt. Graham) is the birthplace of San Carlos Apache culture. Mt. Graham is identified by Apache traditionalists as the home of the Mountain Spirit Dancers, who taught early Apaches their sacred songs and dances, and where healing herbs and water could be gathered. There are numerous religious shrines on the peaks of Mt. Graham that date

back over a thousand years. The Columbus Project threatens to destroy the home of the Crown Dancers and the sacred power of the mountain. Apaches and members of Zuni religious societies continue to voice their concern that sacred sites will be desecrated, interfering with the conduct of their religious ceremonies. The San Carlos Tribal Council passed a resolution in unanimous opposition to the Columbus Project on July 10, 1990. The resolution, in part, states that Dzil nchaá si an is of vital importance in maintaining the integrity of Apache culture and tradition, and is essential to the continued practice of physical and spiritual healing by Apache Medicine men and women. Ola Cassadore Davis, Apache Survival chairperson, asks "Why do the University of Arizona, German, and Vatican astronomers violate the rights of Indian people? They would crush what is most sacred to us and our traditional ways...Why do they now destroy the foundations of our spiritual heritage?"

The University of Arizona proudly boasts in its literature that "construction is expected to be well underway by 1992, the 500th anniversary of the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus". Michael Schwartz, a

member of the Alliance for Cultural Democracy and an opponent of the Columbus Project, points to the Project's subversion of the University's commitment to cultural pluralism. "We must never forget that Columbus was funded with monies pirated from the Sephardic Jews by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabel from the 1492 Edict of Expulsion. It must also be remembered that the 'discovery' of America included the exportation of the inquisition. For the University of Arizona to glorify this discovery by symbolically crowning the mountain, sacred to the San Carlos Apache, with a monument to Columbus, is a clear act of cultural imperialism."

Franklin Stanly, an Apache medicine man, in a letter to the Tempe Daily News dated June 9, 1991, wrote: "If a Vatican telescope is built, the Vatican will celebrate it's telescope's completion next year and mark the shameful continuation of 500 years of cultural genocide against Native Americans." Irene Rude, Science Counselor for the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Washington D.C., responding to the accusation of cultural genocide, wrote "to reproach the German Government with financing a course of

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## Columbus Commission on the Rocks

by Dan Nicolai

The Federal commission in charge of the "official" celebration of the 500th anniversary of Columbus' first voyage started in 1985 with big plans: a tour of three duplicate ships, a scholarship competition, various traveling circuses and, in the most crazed Columbo-philes' minds, a solar sail race to Mars. But only 16 months before the big day, the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission is in big trouble. Financial scandal, the resignation of the first chairman, and a Congressional inquiry have left the Commission struggling to pay the rent.

A U.S. General Accounting Office audit released in April found that "what should be the 'home stretch' for the Commission has become a rescue operation to salvage whatever benefits are possible in the limited time remaining. The GAO reported that from 1986 to 1990, the Commission raised only \$888,700 from private sources compared to a predicted \$3.3 million, leaving it more than \$700,000 in the hole. Much of that money may

simply be gone. The GAO found that the Commission "kept four sets of books that contained conflicting financial information."

Despite its inept fundraising, the Quincentenary Commission managed to scare up more than \$1 million from a supportive Administration and Congress during 1986-90. The U.S. House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service is considering whether to throw them another \$220,000 this year.

The Reagan administration picked up on the Quincentenary celebration as a grand tribute to capitalism, on the level of the downing of the Berlin Wall or the 50th anniversary of SPAM. John Goudie, the Commission's first chair, dubbed Columbus "the world's foremost optimist." Goudie himself, a Miami real estate hustler and Republican fund-raiser, was the Reagan version of the American Dream: a Cuban immigrant who helped break a strike at the Miami Herald, learned his trade during the Houston, TX building boom and got out before the bust. But Goudie resigned as chairman last December.

Now it looks like his wheeling and dealing are responsible for many of the Commission's financial woes.

The Quincentenary Commission has the power to award contracts, but since it was supposed to be financed mostly from non-government sources, it's not bound by Federal regulations or oversight. According to the New York Times, Goudie used his position to award contracts to his business associates, including the publisher of the Commission's official magazine (Five Hundred) and a consultant to the Christopher Columbus Licensing Group, which will make 85% on all "official" souvenirs.

Goudie also told NYT reporter Jeff Gerth that he asked for political contributions from people doing business with the Commission. During this time, Goudie's Florida real estate license was revoked for using escrow funds in a campaign, and he failed to file income tax returns. This kind of P.R. is making Chrysler and other sponsors reconsider their donations.

But the most monumental screw-up of the Commission was losing

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### INDIAN READING SERIES AVAILABLE

A new series of classroom reading books, designed to teach both reading and traditional Native American values, is now available. Consisting of 100 short books in six reading levels, the series, entirely researched, written, and illustrated by American Indians, presents authenticated Indian legends and contemporary stories of interest to all students.

The series is being published in an effort to integrate Indian culture with public school curriculum, something much needed in schools serving Indian students. Educational experts around the country agree that the series is of high quality. "The materials provide high interest reading and would definitely promote learning for any child," according to the National Indian Education Association.

For information and a complete brochure: *Indian Vision, Box 42, Coulee Dam, Washington 99116 or call (509) 633-2193.*

### AMERICAN INDIAN CHRISTIANS MARK QUINCENTENNIAL

The Council for American Indian Ministry and The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, in response to the upcoming Columbus quincentennial, has issued an education/action packet entitled "A Quincentenary Sourcebook". Many of the items in this packet duplicate items found in the packet released by the governing board of the National Council of Churches ("A Faithful Response to the 500th Anniversary of the Arrival of Christopher Columbus"—see review elsewhere in this issue). Items found here that are not in the other packet include copies of the quincentennial resolutions adopted by the Council for American Industry and the U.C. Board for Homeland Ministries, a "history of relations between the U.S. and Native Americans", and an expanded booklet of "worship resources".

To order packets, send \$3.00 to: *Council for American Indian Ministry, 122 W. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404 or call (612) 870-3679.*

### CALC SAYS "COLUMBUS WASN'T FIRST!"

Clergy and Laity Concerned, a national organization with 45 chapters working for justice and peace, is working to publicize the Native American perspective on the Quincentennial. Chapters in Western Oregon, Baltimore, Baton Rouge, Chicago, Minnesota, San Francisco and other parts of the country have established planning committees geared toward "rediscovering the history of the Americas." Among the groups working with CALC on this nationwide project are the International Indian Treaty Council, the National Indian Youth Council, and the National Indian Law Alliance.

CALC's National Council is meeting in Atlanta July 25-28, with special emphasis on local, regional and national planning for 1992. A Resource Guide (\$1.25 postpaid) and Organizer's Packet (\$8 postpaid) are available. For the address of your local CALC chapter contact: *Rev. Emory R. Searcy, Jr., Exec. Director, CALC, PO Box 1987, Decatur, GA 30031 or call (404) 377-1983.*

# Alliance Gathering Spurs Plans

by Rachel Buff

Appropriately, the first issue of *huracán* was ready for distribution in time for the 14th annual conference of the Alliance for Cultural Democracy: "After Columbus: Cultural Diversity in the Southwest" in Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 2-4, 1990. Approximately 250 artists, teachers, organizers, and cultural activists from diverse regional and cultural backgrounds gathered to discuss and strategize about the upcoming quincentennial, as well as to share local interpretations and experiences of cultural diversity, racism, colonialism, cross-cultural organizing, "border arts", bilingual theater, and cultural policy.

Among the project ideas that came up in panels, lectures, and discussions were: a mock trial of Columbus; an alternative curriculum for use in public schools; a festival of cultures; legislative actions designed to abolish Columbus Day as a national holiday and also to require the US government to honor its treaties with American Indians; guerrilla theater and civil disobedience aimed at disrupting quincentennial celebrations; a videotaped puppet show

*"The U.S. Quincentennial Commission has approved a draft plan for its Columbus Scholars Program which is intended to serve as a 'lasting memorial to the spirit of learning and daring with which the name Columbus is associated... The goal is to create a cadre of talented, accomplished individuals capable of leading the nation in conquering the challenges of the 21st century.'"*

— Louisiana Quincentenary Commission Newsletter

*"Never again may mortal men hope to recapture the amazement, the wonder, the delight of those October days in 1492 when the New World gracefully yielded her virginity to the conquering Castilians."*

— Columbus biographer Samuel Eliot Morison

*"Enormous tracts of Indigenous lands are currently being occupied for raising livestock and for agricultural purposes as part of a quasi-official policy carried out in the name of progress. The forests, hunting and gathering ground, sacred sites [and] burial grounds have become the private property of livestock owners and non-Indian farmers. The entire process of leaving the Indigenous people destitute and marginalized leads irrevocably to ethnocide. In other words, this process leads to the elimination of Indigenous culture and values and, most importantly, the destruction of the collective identity associated with the land/territory. The 'place of indigenous culture,' or Tekoha, disappears."*

— Marilyn Rehnfeldt, on takeover of Mbaya lands by Mennonite settlers in Paraguay

*"To justify usurping the lands of the Sioux Indians at the end of the last century, the United States Congress declared that 'community property is dangerous to the development of the free enterprise system.' And in March 1979, a law was promulgated in Chile requiring the Mapuche Indians to divide up their lands and turn themselves into small landowners with no links among them;*



designed for national distribution on cable television; theatrical performances offering alternative views of Columbus; art installations celebrating Native American culture; and an essay contest for original work on the history of the European exploitation of the Americas. Conference participants celebrated our coming together at a New Mexican peña.

Participants left the conference with added resources and contacts, and with renewed resolution to make the quincentennial, the celebration of 500 years of resistance to conquest and colonialism, truly a year to remember and celebrate, adding to the memory of the heroic struggles that have taken place on this continent against the legacy of Columbus.

*the dictator Pinochet explained that the communities were incompatible with the nation's economic progress. The U.S. Congress was right. So was General Pinochet. From capitalism's point of view, communal cultures that do not separate human beings from one another or from nature are enemy cultures. But the capitalist point of view is not the only one."*

— Eduardo Galeano

*"Endless testimonies prove the mild and pacific temperament of the natives. But our work was to exasperate, ravage, kill, mangle, and destroy. In a short time this land which was so great, so powerful and fertile, was depopulated. My eyes have seen these acts so foreign to human nature, and now I tremble as I write. From 1494 to 1508, over three million people had perished from war, slavery, and the mines. Who in future generations will believe this?"*

— Bartolome de Las Casas

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### *huracán*, the name

*huracán* (oo rah kahn) is the name given by the Taino people to the great tropical storms that periodically batter the shores of Borinquen (now Puerto Rico) and other islands. Huracáns were unleashed at the whim of the storm goddess, Guabancex. Under her command the other gods were called on to make wind and gather the waters in the mountain valleys to make floods. (Europeans later tried to fit Taino belief into a Christian mold by inventing an "evil" Huracán to do battle with the "good" god Yuquiyu.)

The image of the hurricane has also been used to describe the devastation wrought by colonialism. In all its forms — European and North American armies, or multinational corporations and banks — the colonial onslaught uproots farms and forests, washes away rich soil, and destroys homes, leaving dislocation and poverty in its wake.

In the face of tropical storms, military invasions, and International Monetary Fund debt repayment schemes, "*huracán*" denotes the turbulence of five centuries of unceasing resistance by the people — native, transplanted, and transformed — of these battered lands.

### Alliance for Cultural Democracy Contacts

The following regional contact people are members of the Alliance for Cultural Democracy board of directors. They can give you information about the Alliance, quincentennial organizing in your region, and *huracán*. Those needing to reach *huracán* by telephone may call Ricardo Levins Morales at 612-721-5491.

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# The Birth of Resistance 500

by John Curl

Oakland's Laney College Forum was electric, as Indian delegates from across North America met with environmentalists, educators, artists, media people, and a wide variety of progressive and human rights activists at the 1992 All People's Network Conference on March 25. At the end of deliberations a new coalition emerged, **RESISTANCE 500**, with a plan of leading coordinated actions for 1992 and beyond.

Over the previous three days, the Indian delegates had gathered at the Native Network Conference at DQ University, the Indian college in Davis, CA, a few hours' drive away. The Native Network Conference, coordinated by the 1992 Bay Area Regional Indian Alliance, was the North American follow-up meeting to last July's continental gathering of indigenous people in Quito, Ecuador. The Quito conference was a flash point of an international movement which has grown quickly since, with one strong base of leadership in Indian South America. Now at DQ over 100 North American Indian people were consolidating nine intense months of organizing in their communities.

"The DQ gathering," said Tony Gonzales of the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) "planned major events on behalf of our ancestors, those that have gone before us. And it is from this spiritual and inspired position that we will move the agenda forward for 1992 and beyond, all for the love of our coming generations."

The Native Network conference resolved to:

- inform the current King of Spain that the replicas of the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria will not receive permission from the Native Nations to land in the western hemisphere unless he apologizes for the original incursion 500 years ago and meets certain other conditions, still under discussion;
- declare and reaffirm October 12, 1992 as International Day of Solidarity with Indigenous People;
- "encourage legislation that liberalizes border crossings - we do not recognize borders.";
- call on the United Nations to sponsor a conference on 1992 activities for indigenous people;
- encourage networking with progressive international and environmental organizations;
- "advocate for treaty rights and the rights of non-treaty indigenous nations.";
- call on the churches to apologize, to join in the oppositions to the 1992 celebrations, and to support the opposition with resources;
- send delegates to the Mexico-Central America regional conference being held this May; and to the signing of the Declaration for Indigenous Peoples Rights in New York this October.

The Quito and DQ conferences were all-native people meetings, with non-indigenous people present only in the status of observers. The Indian people needed to solidify their own plans and organization before build-

ing a coalition with others. The All People's Network Conference at Laney College the day after DQ was the first jump in expanding the network to non-indigenous allies and organizations. The conference's goal was to form for the first time a real coalition of equals.

The primary Laney conference organizers were the South and MesoAmerican Indian Information Center (SAIIC), the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), and the Alliance for Cultural Democracy (ACD). Also sponsoring were the National Chicano Human Rights Council, the Chasky, and the African People's Revolutionary Party. Also present were over 200 representatives and activists from the environmental movement, education, human rights, and progressive cultural groups.

The conference opened with a ceremony of burning sage, led by June Le Grand, Cherokee, and Ed Burnstick, Cree.

"We need to bring out the truths of history and of the present, for the sake of all the unborn generations," Le Grand said. "We've got to educate the educators. Our schools need to teach the facts, not the falsehoods that fill many of the books today."

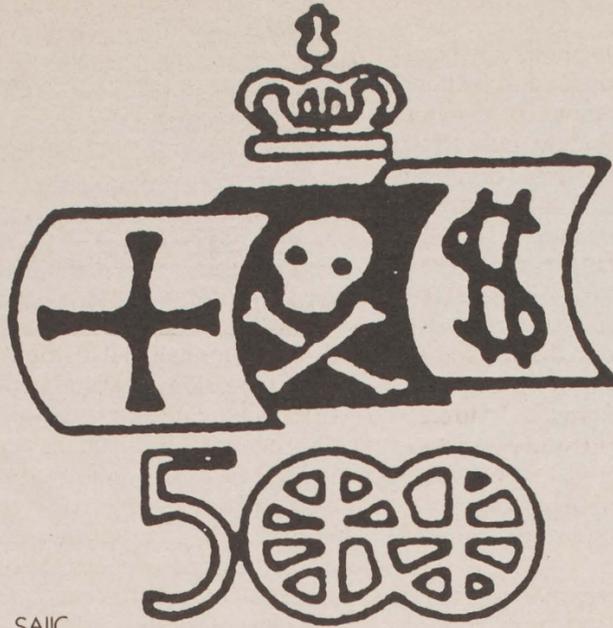
Inspired speeches by Oakland Councilmember Wilson Riles, Jr., SAIIC coordinator Nilo Cayugueo, and Betty Kano, National Coordinator of ACD, detailed how the invasion that Columbus led caused devastation to Indian civilizations, and how this oppression continues today.

"After all the destruction and violations of human rights, repression of indigenous people and devastation to the earth," Cayugueo said, "they are trying to impose a 'New World Order', which for us is the same order of oppression we have been suffering under for 500 years. We need to say 'no' to the official celebration."

Betty Kano, artist: "The 500 Years of Resistance challenges us to struggle together against the New World Order and to work together for the future of the planet for the next 500 years."

Riles, a leader in the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement, proposed that the Quincentennial get back to the original meaning of the Biblical word "Jubilee", which signified that every fifty years all land would revert to its original owners and all debts would be forgiven.

Most of the day was spent in workshops: Education; the Environ-



SAIIC

ment; the Media; Culture and Art; and 1992 Actions and Activities. Each workshop developed an action plan for its area of discussion.

Then each workshop reported back to the plenary, and the universal consensus was to form a new organization to carry on the work of the coalition. We chose the name **RESISTANCE 500**, and empowered the conference organizers to proceed with follow-up meetings and actions.

The coalition has already been working with Berkeley Mayor Loni Hancock to set up a Quincentennial citizen task force "to develop, recommend and help implement activities for the 500 year anniversary...that present an alternative view to the traditional Eurocentric presentations of this event in ways that will involve and inform the community." The coalition is contacting the mayors of San Francisco and Oakland to set up similar groups and institute coordinated activities around the Bay. The Bay Area will be an international focus of the Quincentennial, when replicas of Columbus' three ships, having sailed from Spain, will enter the Golden Gate on October 12, 1992.

**RESISTANCE 500** is off to a jumpstart in developing a unified action plan of native and non-indigenous people for 1992 and beyond. For information contact: **South and Meso-American Indian Information Center, P.O. Box 28703, Oakland, CA 94604.**

## Alliance for Cultural Democracy

ACD is a national network of cultural workers — artists, teachers, organizers — who work for grassroots empowerment and democratic participation through cultural activity. We are committed to celebrating and defending free cultural expression for our many diverse communities. The Alliance holds an annual conference, and publishes a series of regional bulletins and a magazine, *Cultural Democracy*. ACD regions sponsor additional activities. ACD is a volunteer, member-funded organization.

## ACD and the Quincentennial

The Alliance committed itself in 1988 to take part in a quincentennial campaign. The goal of this effort is to counteract the official celebrations of the European conquest, to provide alternative perspectives, and to provide a link among other groups in the campaign. This campaign complements our ongoing work of helping the untold and suppressed stories of our peoples to be told. We believe that the re-examining of our past will help us to better support each other in the ongoing struggles of today.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### THE QUINCENTENNIAL EDUCATION PROJECT

...is the name of a program developed by the Central America Resource Center (CARC) to address the need for education on 1492 and its present day legacy that is historically accurate as well as racially and culturally unbiased. With the theme "Exploring the Past to Discover the Present" the project offers the following to educators and students for use in schools, churches, and community groups:

- study sessions and workshops;
- criteria for analysis of textbooks, curricula, and literature;
- lesson plans;
- resource library;
- packets of background materials.

For more information, or to order, contact: **Quincentennial Education Project, CARC, 1407 Cleveland Ave. No., St. Paul, MN 55108 or call 612-644-8030 or FAX 612-644-2529.**

### CHILEAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE PROTEST KING OF SPAIN VISIT

Indigenous peoples' groups representing the Mapuche, Rapanui and Aymara peoples have denounced an invitation by the Aylwin government to King Juan Carlos of Spain, to visit as part of the "celebration of the discovery of America." The National Commission of Mapuche Communities has been carrying on a campaign focusing on "the teachings of Mapuche ideology" in Chile over the past 500 years. The Mapuche comprise about 10% of Chile's population.

In an April 1990 conference, Mapuche and other indigenous people from Chile, Argentina, Bolivia and Canada met to discuss issues affecting them, and another conference in October promoted activities rejecting the "discovery" celebrations. Mapuche people in Chile and Argentina are involved in struggles with those governments and multinational corporations for control of their ancestral forest lands. This information comes from the South and Meso-American Indian Information newsletter. For more information, contact: **SAIIC (see notice this issue) or Nehuen Mapu, Juan B. Justo 33, 8300 Neuquen, Argentina.**

### THE COLUMBUS, OHIO 1992 COMMISSION

...seems to be the most active pro-Columbus group celebrating the 500th, outside of the Federally-funded Commission in Washington D.C. The 1992 Commission has ties to D.C. but its own membership and agenda, and its own Corporate Network '92 to do private money-grubbing. Columbus is building an 80-foot replica of the Santa Maria, to be docked on the Scioto River by September. The Columbus Commission has enlisted groups to contribute to the celebrations, including the Ohio Society of CPAs, Professional Florists of Central Ohio, Columbus Public Schools and Ohio State University. Corporate sponsors for this stuff include Price Waterhouse, Battelle, GMAC Financial Services. For more information: **Columbus 92, 10 West Broad Street Suite 1300, Columbus, Ohio 43215.**

## "First Encounters": The Role of the Museum

by Patrick Scully & Daniel Swan

*Editor's note: "First Encounters: Spanish Explorations in the Caribbean and the United States, 1492-1570", an exhibit developed by the Florida Museum of Natural History, will be appearing at various museums around the country from now through October 1992. The racism and Eurocentric bias that permeates the exhibit has elicited outrage from indigenous activists and others sympathetic to their point of view. Mr. Scully and Mr. Swan, employees of the Science Museum of Minnesota, submitted the following article as one contribution to the debate on the proper role of scientific and scholarly institutions in a just society.*

The Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM) will host the exhibit "First Encounters: Spanish Explorations in the Caribbean and the United States, 1492-1570" between May 14, 1992 and September 15, 1992. This exhibit was developed by the Florida Museum of Natural History with funding from the Quincentennial Initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. "First Encounters" was conceived and developed by scholars of considerable reputation and stature, and their funding proposal was subjected to peer review by a national panel of academicians and museum professionals.

The fact that this process could produce an exhibit that exemplifies the insensitive and elitist manner in which the Columbus Quincentennial

is being observed speaks directly of the current state of scholarly and political affairs in America.

As SMM staff members we are often asked why the museum would host an exhibit that interprets the history of the conquest and exploitation of the western hemisphere from only the perspective of the dominant society. Answers to this question focus on our desire to seize the tremendous opportunity for public education that will be generated by the Quincentennial. An additional, direct result of this decision is the opportunity to address the Eurocentric nature of the staff, programs and audiences of the our institution, and of the museum community in general.

Museums must overcome their perceived role as repositories for the trophies of colonial conquest and begin to provide a forum for the discussion of controversial issues in science and the humanities. The decision to bring "First Encounters" to the museum, at a time when other institutions have opted to ignore the Quincentennial altogether, demonstrates a commitment by SMM to this philosophy.

The opening of the exhibit at the Florida Museum of Natural History in October 1989 was accompanied by an appropriately critical response from the American Indian community. SMM had ample opportunity to cancel the exhibit, but after much internal staff discussion it was recommended to the Board of Trust-

ees that we stand by our decision to host "First Encounters." This recommendation was based on the staff's belief that the museum has an ethical responsibility to provide a forum for a multiplicity of perspectives regarding the legacy of genocide and ethnocide that has characterized the exploitation of indigenous societies by colonial interests.

During earlier conversations with the American Indian Advisory Committee to SMM, committee members expressed serious misgivings regarding the exhibit. The committee agreed to follow the judgement of the museum staff on this matter with the firm guarantee that SMM would dedicate adequate resources to develop additional exhibit and program components that present alternative perspectives on the Quincentennial. In the spring of 1991 SMM formed a 1492-1992 public education initiative planning team including members from the African American, American Indian and Hispanic communities. These individuals deserve tremendous credit for their participation in this effort, largely for their courage in taking a chance on an institution that has limited experience in working with, and for, their communities.

For more information on "First Encounters" or the 1492-1992 planning team, contact: **Dan Swan, Science Museum of Minnesota, 30 East 10th Street, St. Paul, MN 55101 or call (612)221-4750.**



Sandy Speiler

## Conservative Catholics Pushing for Isabella Sainthood

A committee of Catholic clergy and laymen are lobbying the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints on behalf of the canonization of Queen Isabella of Spain, the sponsor of Columbus' voyages to the Americas. According to researcher Kenneth Woodward, the Vatican has more than 1200 candidates for sainthood awaiting consideration, but Isabella has been given priority consideration.

The international committee includes conservative cardinals Archbishop John Law of Boston and retired Archbishop John Carberry, and Spanish Bishop Alvaro Portillo, head of a Catholic society established during fascist rule in Spain. Isabella is being touted for sainthood because she sponsored Columbus' voyages, and for her promotion of Catholic faith and culture.

In 1492, the year of Columbus' first voyage, many Sephardic (Spanish) Jews also left for Turkey or Africa, after Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand passed a law forcing them to convert or leave Spain. During the previous hundred years, many Jews and Muslims were persecuted, forced to convert or killed.

Isabella and Ferdinand also started the infamous Inquisition, which terrorized, tortured and killed Jews, Moslems and others who questioned official church doctrine. The motivation for canonization is less based on piety, Woodward wrote, than "the fusion of Roman Catholic faith with the political order," for which Isabella is idolized by some conservative Church leaders.

The Vatican recently held up the canonization process because of protests from European Jews, Mos-

lems and Roman Catholics, but Isabella is still a candidate. Activists in the U.S. Jewish community are suggesting a linkage between the 1992 Spanish celebrations of Columbus' voyage with remembrances of the Spanish expulsion of Jews the same year. Turkey is planning to commemorate the Ottoman Empire's welcome of exiled Jews that same year, according to David Raphael of American Jewish World.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has not endorsed Isabella's sainthood. However, the Conference has been supportive of Columbus as a positive figure: a recent pastoral letter recommended observance of the Quincentennial "to call attention to the crucial role evangelization has played in forming the civilization of our continent."

## NEWSBRIEFS

### EDUCATORS AGAINST RACISM AND APARTHEID

...sent us a 3-page newsletter published just before last Columbus Day. They are a group of New York City teachers interested in developing student projects to counter the Columbus myth. They have a lot of good ideas, like: having students critique their school textbooks' chapters on Columbus; teaching about Native American culture and history of the period when Columbus "discovered" America; calling on school principals and/or librarians to provide balanced materials on the 500th; connecting math problems with the legacy of Columbus (for example: "There were 5 million American Indians in the land area of the U.S. in the 15th century. There were only 250,000 by the last decade of the 19th century. How many people were eliminated from the Native American population? Was this genocide?")

Contact: **Educators Against Racism and Apartheid, 164-04 Goethals Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11432.**

### COLUMBUS IN THE SCHOOLS

IBM is funding a huge multi-media project on "the life and times of Columbus" for use in the school-rooms of the USA, according to a Los Angeles Times article reprinted in the June 6, 1991 San Francisco Chronicle. Hollywood film maker Robert Abel, whose special effects team worked on "2001: A Space Odyssey" and "Tron", has been hired to direct a team of 30 researchers, technicians, and "assorted media geniuses" in developing what is turning out to be the largest educational multi-media project that IBM has yet undertaken. The article states that, in terms of cost, the project "dwarfs" the highly publicized Columbus projects being readied by film, television, and publishing companies.

According to the article, the project's TV, laser-disc, CD ROM, and personal computer technologies portray Columbus as "neither good nor bad. The material is presented and the viewer makes the decisions." As with much of the supposedly "value-free" curriculum materials in the schools, however, the crucial decisions about how the material is selected, edited, and portrayed is left in the hands of the corporations that produce it.

The article goes on to state that "What Columbus did for the flat Earth theory the computer may be doing for the 3 R's: jumping off." This despite the fact that the shape of the Earth was well known in Columbus' day; another myth lives on.

A quote from Abel concludes the piece: "It's Nintendo with a purpose, a meeting of the video-game crowd with the coffee-table crowd." Perhaps he just forgot to mention "the indigenous crowd".



## TWO RIVERS CULTURAL EXPLOSION

The American Indian Movement and the Mississippi River Revival, along with the City of St. Paul and the MN Department of Natural Resources, will be hosting the **Two Rivers Cultural Explosion** from Aug. 30 through Sept. 2, 1991 at Fort Snelling State Park in Minnesota. One of the largest traditional pow-wows in the country will be held to celebrate AIM's 23rd anniversary, and the River Revival will create the Mississippi River Environmental Walkway as well as sponsoring a one-day conference on environmental threats to the Mississippi. Children and youth will be a large part of the event, with their own area, stage, and conference.

Big concerts will occur on each of the three nights of the Explosion. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the gate. No drugs or alcohol will be allowed on the grounds. For tickets, to volunteer, or for more information, contact: **Two Rivers Cultural Explosion, P.O. Box 581669, Minneapolis, MN 55458 or call 612-724-6744.**

## THIRD CONFERENCE OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN

...is proposed for 1992, to call attention to 500 years of resistance by the indigenous peoples of the Americas, in Cuernavaca, Mexico. The proposal was made at the **2nd International Indigenous Women's Conference** in northern Norway, Aug. 1990. For information about that conference or the 1992 conference, contact: **Lea Foushee, c/o North American Water Office, P.O. Box 174, Lake Elmo, MN 55042 or call 612-770-3861.**

## BARCELONA GROUP PROTESTS 2ND COLUMBUS VOYAGE

Carrying pirate flags with the slogan "Stop the exploitation of Indian people", **Alternative Verda** (the Greens) picketed the building site of replicas of the Niña, Pinta and Santa Maria. The group informs organizations on the American side when the ships leave and are scheduled to arrive at ports on the tour. FFI contact: **Alternative Verda, Apartat de Correus 10017, S-08080, Barcelona SPAIN.**

## TORONTO ACTIVIST ILIAM BURBAN

...is a South American living in Toronto who wants "information regarding activities ('1992 and beyond') that are happening in your region."

"Recently, I did Spanish translations for 'PROJECT INDIGENOUS RESTORATION', a conference that gathered over 50 elders, chiefs and traditional teachers from the Amazon to the Arctic (April 21-23). I am also a volunteer with **TORONAH SUPPORT GROUP**, a forum of people that organizes activities in Toronto and in the region. I am also in personal contact with the **WORLD COUNCIL OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES** and with Luis Macas, president of the **CONGRESS OF INDIGENOUS NATIONALITIES OF ECUADOR**. If I can be of any help to your organization or if there is a need to access particular information, I would be able to do it." Contact: **Iliam Burbano, 9 Renova Drive, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9C 3E8 Canada, phone: 416-626-7288.**

## THE CONTINENTAL CAMPAIGN

...is coordinating actions of indigenous people in the Americas, both to combat the "official" Quincentennial celebration and to build a network of "communication, encour-

ter and coordination" among indigenous people and "popular sectors." The campaign was initiated at the first Latin American meeting of Campesino and Indigenous Organizations in Bogota, Colombia in 1989. At the first Continental Commission meeting in 1990 in Quito, Ecuador, the headquarters was moved to Guatemala.

The **2nd Continental Meeting of Indigenous and Popular Organizations** will be celebrated in Guatemala from Oct. 7-12, 1991. For information contact: **Secretaria Operativa, Apartado Postal 7-B, Sucursal El Trebol, 01903 Guatemala Ciudad, Guatemala, C.A. or call (502-2)29040, 80375. Or contact: Consejo Mexicano (Northern Regional Coordinator), Apartado Postal 28-145, C.P. 06080, Col. Centro, Mexico DF, Mexico or call (52-5)5524139, 5422796.**

## GLOBAL AWARENESS PROJECT FORMS COUNTER COLUMBUS COMMITTEE

The **Global Awareness Project of Northwestern Ontario** is a locally-based organization working to educate people on the connections between "First World" lifestyles and issues in the developing world. They have recently formed a **Counter-Columbus Committee**, which has a two year program designed to deal with the teaching of history to young people, encourage action against the upcoming celebrations of Columbus' landing, and to make connections between the history of colonialism and present day repression of indigenous and other peoples.

The first year of research, resource development, and education will climax with a public event in Oct. 1991, which will kick off a year of public education and action leading up to the quincentennial in Oct. 1992.

The Committee is interested in establishing contact with other groups and organizations working on the Columbus issue. Contact: **Counter-Columbus Committee, Global Awareness Project of Northwestern Ontario, 283 Bay St., Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada P7B 1R7.**

## QUINCENTENNIAL EDUCATION TRIP TO GUATEMALA

The **Central America Resource Center (CARC)** and the **Center for Global Education** are sponsoring a trip to Guatemala on Oct. 4-13, 1991. The trip will correspond with the **Continental Meeting of Indigenous Peoples and Popular Organizations**, and will focus on the history and culture of indigenous peoples. The cost is \$1325, trip is limited to 20 persons, and scholarships are available to educators and Native American people.

**Now through 1992:** CARC, with **Heart of the Earth Survival School**, is also developing alternative 1992 curricula available. For more information contact: **Meredith Sommers, c/o Quincentennial Education Project, 1407 Cleveland Ave. North, St. Paul, MN 55108 or call (612)644-8030.**

## QUINCENTENNIAL CURRICULA SOUGHT

A committee of education and community groups has launched a project to promote multicultural and cross-cultural perspectives on the 1492-1992 anniversary. The **Human Rights Center** at the University of Minnesota will collect school curricula and information on events, and keep a master calendar. For informa-

tion and contributions, contact: **Kerrie Workman or Kristi Rudelius, Human Rights Center, 437 Law Building, 229 19th Ave. S., Mpls., MN 55455 or call (612)626-0041.**

## CALL TO INDIGENOUS WOMEN ARTISTS: POSTER CONTEST

Theme: 1992 *Reconciliation with Native Peoples*

1992 marks 500 years of Indian resistance to the colonization of the Americas. As conscious community workers and communicators, we are aware of the great lie being perpetuated by those affiliated with the US Quincentennial Jubilee Commission, which is promoting Columbus as a "national hero" with massive international celebrations.

In response to this gross insult to native peoples, and in hopes of having the Indian voice be heard, the **Indigenous Women's Network**, along with many native organizations world wide, is developing creative "counter-colonialism" projects.

We know that art can be utilized as a tool to educate the masses and provoke viewers to understand the plight of our people. In keeping with our objectives to empower indigenous women and to respond to the 500 year "anniversary", we are *calling on all indigenous women artists* to submit a poster design depicting 500 years of native people's resistance and ultimate hope and vision of a positive future for our continued existence in the next 500. We will be developing one poster and 3 postcards for international distribution. Awards: 1st Prize: \$500 (poster), 2nd, 3rd, & 4th: \$100 each (postcards). Send submissions to: **IWN Poster Contest, P.O. Box 3870, Austin, TX 78764.**

## LUTHERAN HUMAN RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

...is developing a resource packet on an alternative vision of the Quincentennial. They are seeking articles to be published in the packet on the subjects of: tribal history since 1492, role of religion and spirituality in the Native American experience(s), reflections on the Quincentennial, and pressing issues in the Native American community. To contribute, or for guidelines, contact: **Joseph E. Ramirez, Lutheran Human Relations Assoc. of America 2703 North Sherman Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53210 or call (414)871-7300.**

## MONDO NOVO

Is an interdisciplinary performance piece subtitled "The Christopher Columbus Story Re-told". ACD member **Matt Silverstein** is developing the piece, which will incorporate dramatic narrative, dance, music and video. **Mondo Novo** will premiere at **Highways Performance Space** in Santa Monica, CA this October. Silverstein is "looking into the possibility of taking it to other festivals around the Quincentennial, if they exist. Do they?" Contact: **Matt Silverstein, 1333 N. Stanley Ave. #14, Los Angeles, CA 90046**

## NATIVE RADIO SERIES TO AIR

The **Native American Public Broadcasting Consortium** and "Radio Smithsonian" have begun production of a major series for public radio, "Spirits of the Present: The Legacy from Native America." The 13 half-hour documentaries offer a hemispheric view of Native Americans, focusing on contemporary and historical issues.

Proposed program titles include "Responding to the Quincentennial", and "Through Arawak Eyes: The Columbus Encounter in the Caribbean".

The project, a part of the Smithsonian's Columbus Quincentennial commemoration, is making every effort to ensure the quality of the production and content, according to **Peggy Berryhill** of the Muskogee Nation, and producer of the series.

The series is looking for additional input from many sources within the Indian world, and seeks opportunities to record, when appropriate, celebrations, festivals, pow-wows, conferences, workshops, and other events. "Our intent is to show the diversity of Native American culture," says Berryhill. For information, contact: **Peggy Berryhill, Smithsonian Institution, Office of Telecommunications, Washington, D.C. 20560 or call (202) 357-1935.**

## COLUMBUS BOOK IN THE WORKS

The **Toltec Collective** is publishing a book on the true story of the Columbian legacy, providing a forum for voices that would otherwise go unheard, and encouraging an opening up to other cultures on the part of mainstream America. We are soliciting opinions on the official celebration; contributions to chapters on the Maya, the Aztecs, and Native North American cultures; thoughts on what we might learn from Native American, Latin American, and other cultures today; observations, comments, quotes, cartoons, poetry, and artwork. For further information, contact: **The Toltec Collective, Joel Skidmore, Secretary, 202 Edgewood Ave., San Francisco, CA 94117 or call (415) 664-8889.**

## MONTHLY RADIO PROGRAM FROM WBAI-FM, NEW YORK

**Rediscovering Columbus: Countdown to 1992** is a monthly radio program co-produced by **Columbus in Context** and the public affairs department of **WBAI-FM**, the New York affiliate of **Pacifica Radio**. The program focuses on providing progressive analyses of the issues underlying the quincentennial, information about alternative events and organizations, and resources for grassroots activists.

**WBAI** is currently raising money to purchase satellite time to allow them to broadcast the program nationally. In the meantime, tapes can be purchased for rebroadcast or other educational uses. If you have information about organizations or activities in your area, or if you would like to submit broadcast-quality tapes of lectures, performances, readings, or interviews on topics related to the quincentennial, contact: **Mario Murillo, WBAI-FM, 505 8th Ave., New York, NY 10018.**

## BOOK ON THE QUINCENTENNIAL

Soon to be published, this anthology, put together by **John Yewell**, will include articles on the growth of the Columbus myth; how Columbus is portrayed in schools; the issue of ongoing colonialism and Native American sovereignty; and historical environmentalism. For further information, contact: **John Yewell, 1672 Wellesley Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.**

# THE MARKETPLACE

In this section we are pleased to make available a selection of books and other resources. We've selected a variety of items appropriate to the Quincentennial period and the themes of cultural empowerment and renewal. Enjoy!

## BOOKSHELF

**BH1 COLUMBUS: HIS ENTERPRISE**, Hans Konig. 128 pp. paperback, \$8.95. This book is an engaging, clearly written narrative of Columbus' journeys and interactions with people he encountered in the Caribbean. Drawing on contemporary sources, Konig chronicles the events that set in place the cornerstone of the modern colonial era. New postscript for educators.



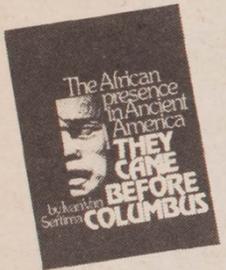
**BH2 INDIAN GIVERS:** How the Indians of the Americas Transformed the World, Jack Weatherford. 255 pp. paperback, \$8.95. This groundbreaking work documents how Native American agriculture, medicine, technologies and political thought have profoundly shaped today's world.

**BH3 OPEN VEINS OF LATIN AMERICA: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent**, Eduardo Galeano. 308 pp. paperback, \$10.00. Passionately written, meticulously researched, banned by dictators, this pioneering work lays out Latin America's turbulent history from Columbus' unwitting arrival to the relentless battering by the International Monetary Fund. A great introduction to the region.



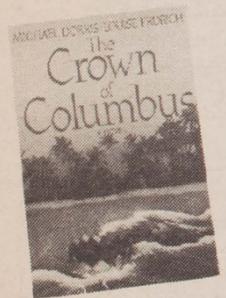
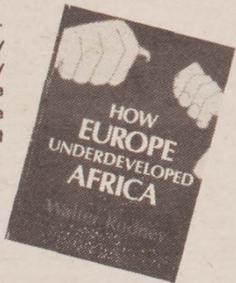
**MEMORY OF FIRE**, Eduardo Galeano. An epic story of the Americas, told by many voices. With entries for virtually every year of the past five centuries told with passion, anger and humor. This trilogy gives you not only the facts, but the feel. **BH4 GENESIS** (vol.I) covers the time up the end of the 1600s. 282 pp. paperback, \$14.00. **BH5 FACES AND MASKS** (vol.II) 1700-1900. 259 pp. paperback, \$14.00. **BH6 CENTURY OF THE WIND** (vol.III) The twentieth century. 279 pp. paperback, \$14.00.

**BH7 THE CONQUEST OF PARADISE**, Kirkpatrick. Sale. 428 pp. paperback, \$7.95. A revisionist assessment of Columbus that counters the myth of the "great explorer." Sale focuses on Columbus as the product of an unstable, dispirited Europe. He explores how European views of nature resulted in widespread environmental devastation.



**BH8 THEY CAME BEFORE COLUMBUS**, Ivan Van Sertima. 270 pp. hardcover, \$21.95. A compelling, dramatic and detailed documentation of the presence and legacy of Black Africans in ancient America. Illustrated.

**BH9 HOW EUROPE UNDERDEVELOPED AFRICA**, Walter Rodney. 288 pp. paperback, \$8.95. A pioneering work by the late Guyanese scholar/activist. Rodney explores economic development and trade in Africa before and after the arrival of the European colonial and slave system. First published in 1971, revised edition in 1981.



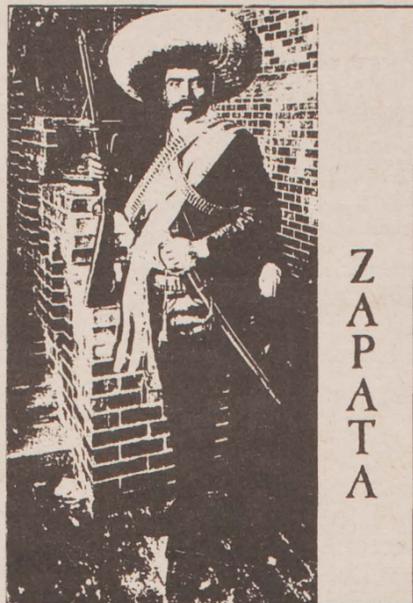
**BH10 THE CROWN OF COLUMBUS**, Michael Dorris and Louise Erdrich. 382 pp. hardcover, \$21.95. A "novel of history, recovery and new beginnings." Two bestselling authors team up for a historical love story that pivots around the discovery of Columbus' lost diary.

**BH12 REIMAGING AMERICA: the Arts of Social Change**, Craig Little and Mark O'Brien, editors. 304 pp. paperback, \$18.95. Explorations by more than 40 artists of how they create, think about and judge their work in relation to community, mass culture and political realities. Foreword by Bernice Johnson Reagon.



## POSTERS

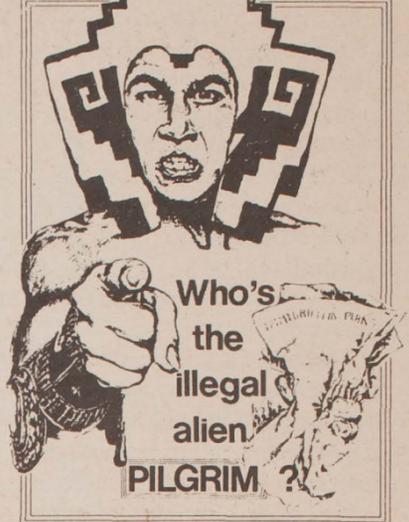
Posters are delivered in a sturdy mailing tube.



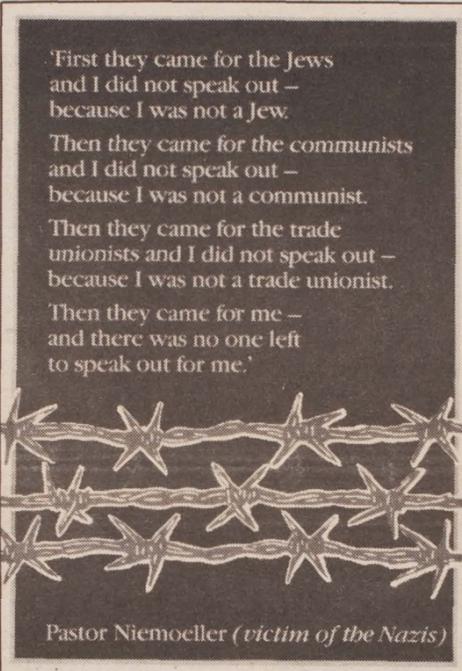
HP 405 Zapata. The honored leader of Mexico's Indian revolution. Black & white, 24" x 36". \$10.95



HP 208 Water Not Weapons. Brown & black on white. 17" x 22". \$5.95



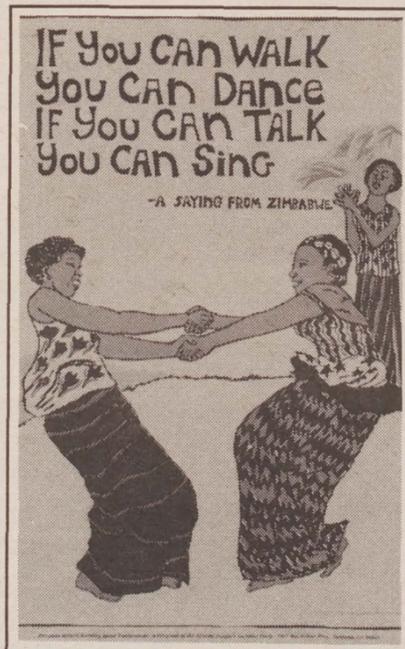
HP 150 Illegal Alien. Immigration in perspective. Black & white. 17" x 23". \$5.95



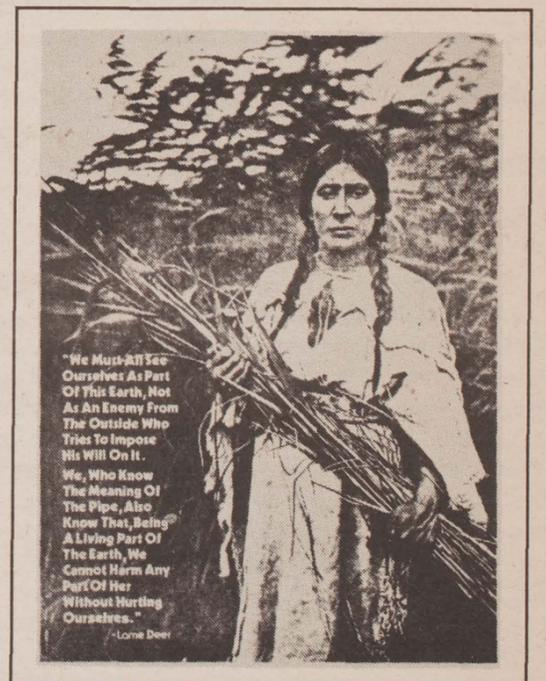
HP 193 Then They Came. A hard but vital lesson on unity. Red, green & black. 16" x 23". \$7.95



HP 164 Folk Instruments of Latin America. Almost 60 of the region's thousands of musical instruments from many cultures. Black on tan. 17" x 22". \$3.95



HP 157 If you can walk. Popular wisdom from Zimbabwe. Red, green & black on cream. 11" x 17". \$3.95



HP 382 We are part of this earth. Blue & red on white. 17" x 23". \$5.95

## 1992 CALENDARS



**CH1 366 Days of Black History.** An entry for every day covering Black history from around the world, from 900 B.C. to the present. Each month has in-depth description of a featured individual or community. 13" x 12" (opens to 13" x 24"). \$10.95



**CH2 Paintings from Latin America.** Includes works by well known and lesser known (mostly male) painters from throughout Latin America. 13" x 12" (opens to 13" x 24"). \$10.95



# Arts and Media

## ATLANTA QUINCENTENNIAL ALLIANCE

...is a group of artists, educators, performers, professionals and Atlanta-area residents who will present alternatives for marking the Quincentennial. AQUA projects include: *A Bit of Cheese* and *The Beloved Earth*, videos with modern perspectives on Columbus' voyage; a Ceremonial Space constructed for storytelling and performances; *Kindred Bloods*, a dance, drumming, storytelling piece on cultural similarities between Africans and Native Americans; other multimedia and performance pieces, a video/film festival, publications, etc.

AQUA is also planning a symposium to address the issues of curriculum and education about the Columbus landing, European colonization, and indigenous cultures. The tentative plan is for one or two Saturday sessions, with workshops on curricula and classroom issues, in the Spring of 1992 at Georgia State University. FFI contact: **AQUA, c/o Sandy Corley, 765 Myrtle St. NE, Atlanta, GA 30308.**

## NEW FILM ON WOUNDED KNEE AVAILABLE

*Ghost Dance*, a 10 minute film commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Wounded Knee Massacre, was recently named Best Poetry Documentary at the National Poetry Film Festival in San Francisco. Filmed on location in South Dakota, the film uses the words of poets woven together with images from paintings and drawings, inspired by the massacre and its aftermath, to convey despair as well as to offer insight and hope. The film was produced by Unity Productions, which specializes in films dealing with the history and culture of the Great Plains. Available in 16mm film and on VHS videocassette. Contact: **Unity Productions, Christine Craton or Tim Schwab, 7400 SW 70th St., Aberdeen, SD 57401 or call (605) 225-2559.**

## IN THE HEART OF THE BEAST PUPPET AND MASK THEATRE

...will be taking the occasion of the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival on the continent to examine and recognize how this event changed the land forever. HOTB and CHIRP, the Continental Historical

Reclamation Project, are involving people from a variety of cultures to explore the implications of the event. In the past two years, HOTB has presented several events to the community: *The Reaper's Tale*, the story of Columbus remembered by skeletons, from the perspective of Bartolome de las Casas; *Tales from the Aftermath 1492-1992*, a series of new works that viewed the quincentennial from a variety of cultural perspectives; *Discover America*, a school show; *Return to Turtle Island*, South Minneapolis' annual May Day parade and festival, and; *Continental Historical Residencies* for schools and communities.

For 1991-1992, HOTB will be continuing to present *Discover America*, and in addition will be presenting *The Circles of 500 Travelling Historical Extravaganza*, plus *Continental-Cultural Historical Residencies*, all in their traditional form of puppets, masks, poetry, movement, and song. For more information, contact: **In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, 1500 E. Lake St., Minneapolis, MN 55407 or call (612) 721-2535.**

## TWO RIVERS NATIVE FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL

The Minneapolis American Indian Center will host the Two Rivers Film and Video Festival, October 9-13, 1991. The films and videos shown will be drawn from entries in four categories, entitled *Mother Earth/Father Sky*, *Web of Time*, *We Are Sovereign*, and *Walking in Beauty*. In addition to presenting films and videos to the public and choosing nine winners in three categories, the festival will also be offering workshops and forums for Native film- and video-makers.

All entries must be postmarked or shipped by August 24, 1991. For further information, contact: **Gordon Regguinti, Festival Coordinator, Two Rivers Film Festival, 808 E. Franklin Avenue, Suite 7E, Minneapolis, MN 55404 or call (612) 871-3141.**

## VIDEO DOCUMENTARY AVAILABLE FOR 1992

An hour-long video documentary on the representation of history and

the performance of ethnicity in one of the country's oldest community celebrations will soon be available for rental and purchase from Quotidian Independent Documentary Research. Following three young people through the cycle of the Santa Fe Fiesta, from the planning stages through the Fiesta itself, the documentary examines how complex interethnic relations are negotiated in a multicultural North American community and how the history of the past is renewed in the present through participation in public celebratory rituals.

Produced and directed by Alliance for Cultural Democracy board member Jeanette DeBouzek, the documentary focuses on issues of mestizaje and the formation of Spanish-American identity, on the ongoing impact of "cultures of conquest" on Native peoples and the difficulties of creating alternative local histories, and on the more recent problems of tourism and Anglo-American cultural hegemony in the Southwest. Contact: **Quotidian Independent Documentary Research, P.O. Box 16467, Santa Fe, NM 87506 or call (505) 983-9641.**

## SEEKING PERFORMANCE WORKS

The Science Museum of Minnesota is planning a wide range of live programming for its quincentenary exhibit. They have as yet no title for the exhibit. Suggestions have ranged from *From the Heart of Turtle Island to 1492: The Big Lie, the Truth*. The Science Museum is currently seeking out performance works (dance, theatre, music, performance art). If you know of work that may be of interest, please contact: **Patrick Scully, Science Museum of Minnesota, 30 E 10th Street, St. Paul, MN 55101 or call (612) 221-9482 (call collect).**

## SYRACUSE CULTURAL WORKERS

...are producing a series of resources presenting the Native American perspective on the Quincentenary. Projects planned are: a 1992 calendar with Native American images combined with dates which show the Americas' flourishing pre-1492 cultures; a 2-color poster by artist Jan Peterson; notecards with

quotes from Native leaders and photos by Jan Phillips; and other posters. They are seeking loans and/or contributions to the effort. FFI contact: **Syracuse Cultural Workers, P.O. Box 6367, Syracuse, NY 13217.**

## UNDERGROUND RAILWAY THEATRE

...will this fall be producing a new play for school and family audiences, called "The Discovery of Columbus". Mayor E. Meanswell is given the task of putting together a pageant for the quincentennial of Columbus' landing in the Caribbean. As he investigates, he finds that many of the facts and tales surrounding the story are not as he thought they were!

Using a mixture of actors, audience participation, live music and various styles of puppetry, "The Discovery of Columbus" will be available for touring beginning in the fall of 1991.

Coming in 1992, URT will be producing "The Christopher Columbus Follies: A Eco-Cabaret". Columbus returns to the Americas in the year 2092, where he is met by an American Indian guide and rediscovers the America which has by this time "felt the full benefit of his legacy". For more information, contact: **Underground Railway Theatre, 41 Foster St., Arlington, MA 02174 or call (617) 643-6916.**



Heart of the Beast Puppet Theatre

"...teachers of children in the United States of America wrote this date on blackboards again and again, and asked the children to memorize it with pride and joy:

1492

The teachers told the children that this was when their continent was discovered by human beings. Actually, millions of human beings were already living full and imaginative lives on the continent in 1492. That was simply the year in which sea pirates began to cheat and rob and kill them.

Here was another piece of evil nonsense which children were taught: that the sea pirates eventually created a government which became a beacon of freedom to human beings everywhere else...

Here is how the sea pirates were able to take whatever they wanted from anybody else: they had the best boats in the world, and they were meaner than

anybody else, and they had gunpowder, which was a mixture of potassium nitrate, charcoal, and sulphur. They touched this seemingly listless powder with fire and it turned violently into gas. This gas blew projectiles out of metal tubes at terrific velocities. The projectiles cut through meat and bone very easily; so the pirates could wreck the wiring, or the bellows, or the plumbing of a stubborn human being, even when he was far, far away.

The chief weapon of the sea pirates, however, was their capacity to astonish. Nobody else could believe, until it was much too late, how heartless and greedy they were."

— Kurt Vonnegut



## Periodicals of Note

### THE ALLIANCE FOR CULTURAL DEMOCRACY

...is creating an illustrated handbook, *How To '92*, which is a description of cultural activist tactics with which to repossess the history of the last 500 years, with a focus on Native American leadership. The comic-book format guide, to be published in Fall 1991, is designed as a resource for grassroots resistance and education projects related to the Quincentennial. Part of the guide will be a pull-out map and calendar with suggested concerted national activities on certain dates.

The 32-page booklet will eventually be available for \$2, with a discount on bulk orders for distribution. To order, contact: **Lucy Lippard, 138 Prince St., New York, NY 10012.**

### BEEDAUDJIMOWIN

...is a Toronto, Canada publication subtitled, "A Voice for First Nations." Thorough coverage of news & events relating to Canadian Native people. The Spring 1991 issue includes sections on AIDS and Native people, several concert and book reviews, a review of a project of the Artists' Environmental Forum, and an article on Australian aboriginal people. Subscription to the quarterly is \$15 U.S., \$10 Canada. Contact: **Beedaudjimowin, 263 Roncesvalles Ave., Toronto, Ontario M6R 2L9.**

### EL SEMBRADOR

...is the title of a Spanish & English publication of El Partido Nacional de La Raza Unida, a Chicano Mexican nationalist group. The Spring 1991 issue includes a description of a slide show and information tour that they will be presenting beginning this fall. Starting in the southwest U.S., the tour will begin with universities and community colleges, aiming especially at Chicano Studies Departments. The tour is entitled, "Five Hundred Years of Colonization and Resistance in Indio-America." Presentations will be two hours long, with a question and answer session, and will operate on a sliding donation scale to cover travel expenses.

The issue also has a well-reasoned editorial condemnation of the Persian Gulf war, and plans for a campaign against human rights abuses by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (La Migra). For information on the tour, or to subscribe to *El Sembrador* (\$10 donation), contact: **El Partido Nacional de La Raza Unida, P.O. Box 4265, Chula Vista, CA 91909 or call (619)422-4520.**

### INDIGENOUS THOUGHT

...was started this January by a group called Agriculture and Human Values, Inc. as "A Networking Newsletter to Link Counter-Columbus Quincentenary Activities." Mostly national in scope, it's a good

source for other organizations involved in activism, direct action, conferences and so on relating to the Quincentennial. It also contains book reviews and some original analysis, mostly in the area of cultural imperialism.

Their first issue includes article and photos about protests, and two arrests, at the University of Florida Museum of Natural History, where the "First Encounters" exhibit was being shown. That exhibit is coming to the Science Museum of Minnesota (see article this issue). Such protests may have caused the National Endowment for Humanities to back off funding Quincentennial events (see a second article this issue). Subscriptions are \$10 U.S., \$15 international. Contact: **Jan Elliott, Editor, Indigenous Thought c/o CAIH, 6802 SW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32608 or call (904)378-3246.**

### REPORT ON THE AMERICAS

The North American Congress on Latin America, an organization set up "to research the political economy of the Americas," publishes *Report on the Americas*, which is the definitive source on the subject. The six issues published in 1991 will focus on themes reflecting the last 500 years in America.

The first issue, published in February 1991, was entitled *Inventing America 1492-1992*. The April issue focuses on the proposed "Free Trade Agreement" with Mexico and its effects on the Mexican and U.S. economies.

Subsequent issues will include the titles *The Ecology of the Americas*, *Native Peoples of the Americas*, and *African Peoples of the Americas*.

Ordering 5 or more copies of any *Quincentenary Report* entitles you to a 40% discount. Subscriptions are \$22/year (6 issues). Send to: **NACLA, Report on the Americas, 475 Riverside Dr., Suite 454, New York, NY 10115 or call (212)870-3146.**

### NATIVE NATIONS

This monthly publication covers some news, mostly analysis and features of interest to mainly U.S. Native Americans, with some information from South America and Canada. The latest 32-page issue included, as did several periodicals reviewed this Spring, articles on the Persian Gulf war from a Native perspective, including a censored photo of an Iraqi victim of U.S. napalm, and a study showing that more American Indians are enlisted in the military, as a percentage of population, than any other ethnic group.

Also has an article entitled, "What 1992 Means to American Indians," by Jose Barreiro with interviews of U.S. Indian leaders. Published by the Solidarity Foundation, a non-profit research, educational and networking organization.

Subscriptions are \$20/year. Contact: **Native Nations, P.O. Box 1201, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10101-1201 or call (212)765-9731.**

### NORTHEAST INDIAN QUARTERLY

has published a three-volume series on American Indian contributions to world civilization, including *A View from the Shore*, about "the relevance as felt and perceived by the indigenous peoples of the Americas, while exploring the effects and impact of the 500 year celebration on contemporary Indian identity." The other publications in the series are *Indian Roots of American Democracy*, on the influence of Iroquois law on the drafter of the U.S. Constitution; and *Indian Corn of the Americas - Gift to the World*, on the importance of corn to American Indian agriculture, society and cosmology. Each is available for \$12 including postage, and a subscription the NEIQ is \$15/year, from **NORTHEAST Indian Quarterly, 400 Caldwell Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 or call (607)255-4308.**

### RETHINKING SCHOOLS

...is an "urban education journal" published by classroom teachers and educators in the Milwaukee area. The 20-page issue we saw was heavy on teachers' perspectives on the War in the Gulf, how students react to war, including drawings, etc. The issue also had a great section on teaching about work, ethnic and multicultural studies programs, and an article on problems confronting Mexican teachers and their organizing efforts.

In the issue they sent us, the journal is beginning a column on the Columbus quincentennial; this one features a kids' letter to Wisconsin Senator Robert Kasten. They seem to be on top of a lot of resources for progressive education strategies and multiculturalism. 1 year subscription is \$10, includes notification of discussion circles. Also accepts submissions on education and school reform.

*Rethinking Schools* is publishing a resource guide on Columbus for teachers, school districts, universities and community groups. Includes review of children's books on Columbus, teaching strategies, bibliography, Native American perspectives. This special issue, *Rethinking Columbus*, will be available September 1991, with a special rate for bulk orders.

Contact: **Rethinking Schools, 1001 E. Keefe Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53212 or call (414)964-9646.**

### SOUTH & MESOAMERICAN INDIAN INFORMATION CENTER

SAIIC was one of the organizers of the All Peoples Network Conference and Native Network Conference in the Bay Area, reported on by John Curl in this issue of *huracán*, and they publish a quarterly newsletter. SAIIC has a Spanish-language version of this newsletter, plus they do multi-

media public presentations, send out human rights action bulletins, run other programs for Indian activists, and have a resource library.

The newsletter covers indigenous peoples' issues, environmental and human rights struggles in five areas: Amazon, Southern Cone, Andes, Meso America, and North America. Their sources, especially in South and Central America, are very grassroots-oriented and detailed. This is also a good source for indigenous peoples' conferences relating to cultural democracy and the Quincentennial. Individual subscription is \$15, and is free to Indian organizations in South & MesoAmerica. Also available is the guide: *Amazonia - Voices from the Rainforest, A Resource and Action Guide*, \$8; and *The Quito Resolutions from the 1990 conference on 500 years of Indian resistance*, \$5. Contact: **SAIIC, P.O. Box 28703, Oakland, CA 94604.**

### THE CIRCLE

...is a monthly paper, published by the American Indian Center in Minneapolis, combining local and global news and analysis with features, humor, event and pow-wow updates, and even monthly horoscopes. Winner of the Native American Journalists Association 1st Place Award for general excellence this year, *The Circle* offers a rich source of information and intelligent commentary about the goings-on in Indian country.

This is a valuable source of news in a community not well-covered by mainstream publications. Of particular interest to readers of *huracán* is the new column "Views From the Shore", which will be a regular column featuring questions, comments, essays, poetry, artwork, information, or comics relating to the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival on these shores. "Views From the Shore" has called for readers to submit pieces; if they use your stuff, you get a free subscription to this exceptional paper. Contact: **The Circle, 1530 E Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404.**

### INDIGENOUS WOMAN

Art, interviews, information and stories combine to make a vivid new magazine in *Indigenous Woman*, a publication of the Indigenous Women's Network. This is a rich combination of calls to action and solidarity; news of events in Indian country, including Latin America; analysis of news stories like that of Norma Jean Croy, serving a life sentence in California for defending herself against a racist attack by police in 1978; commentary; art; and poetry. This is a promising, and needed, new publication. Contact: **Indigenous Women's Network, P.O. Box 174, Lake Elmo, MN 55042.**

## TREATY RIGHTS OPPONENTS OPPOSE NEW INDIAN CURRICULUM

Members of an anti-treaty rights group, Protect Americans' Rights and Resources (PARR), have begun organizing against the new Wisconsin law that mandates the teaching of American Indian history and culture. The group has threatened to picket schools in the fall. The chairman of PARR, Larry Peterson, was quoted in the Milwaukee Journal (2/25/91) as saying, "I will park my car at the principal's desk." The vice-chairperson, Chuck Valliere, said, "Teaching culture to children is something to be done in your home." The Wisconsin law takes effect September 1, 1991.

## THE LONGEST WALK 1992

...is a *spiritual journey* being planned by a group of Native Americans to commemorate 500 years of genocide and slavery. The main walk will begin January 1, 1992 at Alcatraz Island, San Francisco, and end October 7-10 in Washington, DC at the Native American Spiritual Conference. Other walks will start in Wounded Knee, SD in April, meeting the main walk in Leavenworth, KS in June; and Minneapolis, MN in May, meeting the main walk in St. Louis, MO in July. A fourth walk is planned from Seminole, FL in April to Charleston, WV in July. For more information and a schedule contact: Gyngi Shimanuki, P.O. Box 867, Kykost-movi, AZ 86039. Or contact: **Skip Mohawk, International Indian Treaty Council, 710 Crayton, San Francisco, CA, phone: (415) 566-7251.**

## MIXED BLOOD THEATRE

...has received a \$236,000 grant from the Northwest Areas Foundation to produce a community-based work on the arrival of Columbus and other Europeans to the Americas. Most of the grant will go to "Sink the Ships", which will premiere in Fall 1992. The West Bank, Minneapolis theater plans to involve the Native American community and to perform free of charge for schools; a tour of outstate Minnesota is possible.

from the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

## EXPULSION 1492

...is an international conference dedicated to the expulsion of the Jews of Spain in 1492. It will explore the consequences and modern significance of the exile and repression of Sephardic Jewry under the Inquisition. For more information, contact: **The Sephardic Educational Center, 6505 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 403, Los Angeles, CA 90048 or call (213) 653-7365.**

*"Once we got far enough down the road, I started thinking about the experience. We should have had such a system in place when the white guys first got here.*

*Chris Columbus would have had to declare that he was not carrying any drugs, weapons, or weird diseases. Every other white man would have had to do the same thing. It sure would be a different country if we had invented Customs."*

— **Jim Northrup, reflecting on going through U.S. Customs**

## TWO COLUMBUS MOVIES OUT IN 1992

Two major studios plan to produce movies about Christopher Columbus to be released next year, according to the St. Paul Pioneer Press. The producers of both started working on the idea together, then split over control of the project.

Alex Salkind's "Christopher Columbus: The Discovery" has been in the works for three years, and plans for TV spinoffs and merchandising are being made, according to St. Paul Pioneer Press writer Bill Diehl. Alain Goldman, who was supposed to direct Salkind's film, is making a competing "Christopher Columbus" film starring Gerard Depardieu. The cost of both will be in the \$40-50 million range.

Salkind's movie, Diehl writes, will be an adventure epic "culminating with the Columbus discovery of the New World". The Goldman version is a biographical drama with a tragic ending.

## QUINCENTENNIAL ACTION PACKET AVAILABLE FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

In May of 1990, the Governing Board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCC) adopted a resolution entitled "A Faithful Response to the 500th Anniversary of the Arrival of Christopher Columbus". The resolution points out the significance of 1492 to people of the Christian faith in these words: "For the Church, this is not a time for celebration but a time for a committed plan of action insuring that this... moment in history not continue to cosmetically coat the painful aspects of the American history of racism."

The Racial Justice Working Group of the NCCC has published a study/action packet based on the sentiment expressed above.

Entitled "Responding Faithfully

to the Quincentennial", the packet includes: the May 1990 Quincentennial resolution of the NCCC; the Quito Declaration of the First Continental Meeting of Indigenous Peoples; a 13-page listing of organizations around the world that are planning both "official" and "alternative" commemorations of the Quincentennial; a review, by Cherokee activist Jan Elliot, of a museum exhibit entitled "First Encounters: Spanish Explorations in the Caribbean and the United States, 1492-1570"; a reprint of a background paper for the Continental Consultation on Racism in the Americas, entitled "Blacks, Indigenous People and the Churches: 1992 - Ending the Pain, Beginning the Hope"; an article by, plus an interview with, George Tinker of the Osage nation; a set of bookmarks with 1492-1992 questions; a short listing of significant dates from 1492-1600; a suggested reading on Columbus for use in a congregational setting; a short, but useful, bibliography; a list of 25 suggested "Action Suggestions" for work around the quincentennial. Packets are \$9.00 each; less if you order 10 or more. For more information, or to order: **Racial Justice Working Group/1992, NCCC Prophetic Justice Unit, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115 (make checks payable to NCCC, earmarked "RJWG").**

## GAY AND LESBIAN MARCH DELAYED

150 Gay and Lesbian leaders from around the country decided this past May to hold a national march on Washington, DC in 1993, rather than in 1992, as earlier planned. The march was changed to give organizers more time to plan the event and, according to the GLC Voice, "because Native Americans want to use 1992 to celebrate the survival of indigenous people through 500 years of European domination since Columbus got lost here."

Contact: **NGLTF, 1734 14th Street NW,**

Washington, DC 20009, telephone: 1-800-832-2889.

## AFRICANS WANT REPARATIONS

This summer, the Organization for African Unity plans to demand reparations from the West for the slave trade, according to the Wall Street Journal. Nigeria is leading the way in an effort to ask the United Nations for a Marshall Plan-style aid program, and a write-off of Africa's \$250 billion foreign debt. Proponents of reparations say centuries of slave labor in the Americas, and exploitation by European colonial powers, has cost Africa tens of millions of people and prevented economic growth.

## COLUMBUS ENSHRINED

Up until the weekend of June 22, 1991, you could pay your parking tickets, go to jail, and commemorate the notorious explorer all in one trip to the Hennepin County Government Center in Minneapolis. Sponsored by the Italian-American Organizations of Minnesota and the Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission, the show, entitled "Columbus the Discoverer", emphasized Columbus' life and adventures with nary a mention of native peoples or genocide.

Sammy Watso, director of the Two Rivers Gallery at the Minneapolis American Indian Center in Minneapolis, complained loudly to the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. Pointing out that the board had earlier turned down a request by a pro-Nazi group for an exhibit, Watso pointed out the need for education to make the glorification of Columbus equally unacceptable. To help make the point, Watso distributed fliers in the corridor that told of other details of Columbus' life, portraying the explorer as "wanted for genocide, initiating the destruction of a culture, rape, torture, and murder." *The Circle*, July 1991

## Columbus Commission... from page 1

Texaco's money, or the case of the missing caravels. Spain (the country) agreed to build replicas of the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria; the Commission would manage a U.S. tour; and Texaco would sponsor the tour with \$5 million, \$850,000 of which was to go to the Commission. Last Sept., however, Texaco suspended payments, ostensibly because of a contract dispute. The Commission lost its main corporate sponsor.

Now imagine you're Spain. You already built the ships once, they didn't go where you thought they were going, and you ended up losing all that land anyway. So you built these replicas, and the grabbiest country on earth is stiffing you on the payments. (Spain terminated the agreement, and is planning to manage its own tour.)

The Quincentenary Commission, with its cast of real estate investors, prominent wives, and Cabinet members, continues to limp along. The new chair is Frank Donatelli, another consultant who was Reagan's Assistant for Political & Intergovernmental Affairs can anyone be a "consultant"? Local celebrations are planned in many places, especially those named after Columbus, but the national hoopla won't be on the grandiose scale once envisioned.

The attempt to rebuild the national celebration has been slowed by a sudden reluctance on the part of the National Endowment for the Humanities to fund anything related to the Quincentennial. In the past five years, the NEH awarded more than \$1.8 million outright to such projects, and more in matching funds - most of this went to projects like a Columbus, GA Museum of Art exhibit on "the ways Columbus has been remembered in the fine and popular arts of the U.S. through heroic statuary, monumental paintings... and other memorabilia." Earlier this year the NEH took some public heat for chair Lynne Cheney's veto of continued funding for a TV series about 1492. Peer panels recommended the series for funding, but Cheney cited "distressing aspects of the Aztec culture being minimized while excesses of Spanish are maximized."

The Quincentennial has become so controversial that little or no funding is available for related research or programs this year, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education. Apparently Cheney, the point person in Bush's war on culture, has decided to stop all funding rather than adopting a more balanced approach. (See article this issue.)

The efforts of cultural activists,

like pickets of museums by Native American groups, have no doubt helped dry up public and corporate funding for expressions of praise and adulation for Christopher Columbus. Even the Minneapolis Star Tribune chided the NEH for its hypocrisy. In some cities, "alternative" events are now far more visible than those selling the official story.

But the rip-offs and mismanagement of the Quincentenary Commission shouldn't come as a surprise, really. The whole idea of celebrating the 500th is that 1492 was the beginning of the greatest piracy campaign of all time. The deal cut by Columbus then was basically one of those public/private partnerships with which George Bush has such a love affair: in 1990, the magazine *Five Hundred* lauded the Quincentennial as "a unique opportunity for the private sector to band together in support of a cause which is non-controversial and universally appealing."

More recent official and non-official partnerships, like the nuclear weapons industry and HUD under Reagan, have been similarly disastrous for the people of North America. Maybe the virtual collapse of the Quincentenary Commission is the best commemoration of all.

## San Carlos Apache... from page 1

cultural genocide is unacceptable. This language abuses and belittles genocides performed throughout history; by the Nazis, recently by Saddam Hussein, and regrettably by many others."

The status and economic benefits which the proposed observatory will supposedly bring to the University of Arizona have blinded the University's Board of Regents and their congressional cohorts to alternative sites which exist in the state. Ignoring flagrant violations of the rights of San Carlos Apaches to their sacred land, Vatican astronomers eagerly await to engage the church in a new dialogue with science which the new observatory symbolizes. The Vatican's study of the heavens dates back to Pope Leo XIII, who founded an observatory in 1891 in response to critics who never forgave the church for forcing Galileo to deny that the Earth revolves around the sun. The Reverend George Coyne, director of the Vatican Observatory which consists of researchers in Italy and the University of Arizona, acknowledges that the Vatican telescope will be the first to be placed atop Mt. Graham. Michael D'Amico, an environmental activist, feels that the Vatican is "...about to make as big a mistake with Mt. Graham as they did with Galileo".

The Smithsonian Institution, the University of Arizona's longtime partner in the project, has withdrawn its support from the Columbus Project in response to mounting criticism. The Smithsonian has chosen Hawaii as the site for their observatory.

The Zuni Tribal Council has added its voice to the chorus of criticism opposing the Columbus Project. Numerous environmental and grassroots organizations continue in their support of the San Carlos Apache's struggle to retain their sacred land. Accusations of cultural genocide and news of the mounting protest have reached the Federal Minister for Research and Technology in Germany, who will decide how much money is given to the Max Planck

Institute. Readers are encouraged to send letters protesting the planned observatory to:

**Germany:** Dr. Heinz Riesenhuber, Federal Minister for Research and Technology, Heinemannstr. 2, 5300 Bohn 2, Federal Republic of Germany, tel: 228-59-3013, Fax: 228-59-3601.

**Italy:** Pope John Paul II, Phone 011 39 6 698 5266 or c/o Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, Apostolic Nuncia Ture, 339 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.

**Univ. of Arizona:** Dr. Manual Pacheco, President, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, (202) 621-1514.

To Support or Request Information, contact: **Apache Survival Coalition, P.O. Box 11814, Tucson, AZ 85734.**

*Sal Salerno is a member of the Italians/Sicilians Against Columbus Committee.*

### FIRST PEOPLE'S GATHERING HELD

Hundreds of native people from across the Americas gathered outside Winnipeg, Canada June 20-24 for the first of five International First People's Gatherings planned to take place before October 12, 1992. Organizers shared diverse experiences, from Navajo legal issues, to the Mohawk Indian standoff last summer, to a strike in Ecuador that immobilized the city of Quito last year.

Discussion sessions addressed a variety of important native issues, including: sovereignty; land claims; accountability in leadership; decolonization; family and community; business and economic development; a forum hosted by the Aboriginal Writer's Association of Manitoba; and a 500 years quincentenary focus. Participants shared one another's strength and wisdom, leaving to bring tidings and strategies back to their own communities.

The next gathering will be held in Grande Cache, Alberta, the homeland of the Rocky Mountain Cree, August 12-18.

### PROGRESS IN PELTIER CASE

The same judge who denied Leonard Peltier a new trial in 1976 has now written a letter encouraging President Bush to commute the sentence of the Indian activist. Judge Gerald Heaney of Duluth, MN, now states that, "We as a nation must treat Native Americans more fairly. Favorable action by the President in the Leonard Peltier case would be an important step in this regard."

According to an article in the Mpls. Star Tribune (7/4/91) Heaney's letter was written at the request of Sen. Daniel Inouye, chair of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, who has been trying to meet with President Bush to discuss the case of Peltier. Despite the fact that the murder convictions against Peltier, for the shootings of two FBI agents at Wounded Knee in 1975, were obtained using highly questionable evidence and "improper" legal maneuvers, Judge Heaney continues to deny that a new trial is justified in the case.

The letter stops short of calling for the full pardon that is due Peltier. Nonetheless, the fact that the judge, in his letter, gives the president several reasons for considering the commutation of his two life sentences led Peltier to remark, "It should do some good. I have a lot more optimism."

*The universal dollar sign (\$) can be attributed to the mission of Columbus. It was a symbol imprinted on all Spanish treasures coming from the Spanish-American colonies. It represented the "S" for Spain, and the two vertical crossing bars || for the gold and silver treasures that were claimed by Spain. from the official newsletter of the Louisiana Quincentennial Commission.*

— **The Father of Dollars**

*"What is important is what the sun is saying. It's important what the trees are saying, what the grass is saying, what the clover is saying, what the birds are saying, what those wonderful soaring birds in the sky are saying... Because they are the missing element of community and we have been talking about the Earth and dealing with the Earth as a*

*collection of objects and that's a disgrace."*

— **Thomas Berry**

*"What Columbus did to the arawaks of the bahamas, Cortez did to the Aztecs of Mexico, Pizarro to the Incas of Peru, and the English settlers of Virginia to the Powhatans and the Pequots."*

— **Howard Zinn**

*In an attempt to reverse former government policies that were geared toward assimilation of indigenous peoples by suppressing their languages, the Native American Languages Act was passed by the 101st Congress last October. It includes provisions designed to encourage the use of Native American languages as a medium of instruction, and to affirm the right of Native governing bodies to conduct their business in their own languages. In an ironic twist, the law requires that proficiency in Native languages be given academic recognition to fulfill foreign language entrance or degree requirements at all institutions of elementary, secondary, or higher education.*

— **Indian Report**

*"The expeditions to America by Columbus were very important events in history because they opened lines of communication between Europe and America, which led to lasting relations." from a letter to Milwaukee students, reprinted in rethinking schools, March/April 1991, p 4.*

— **U.S. Sen. Robert Kasten (R-WISC)**

*"But what about those of us who are not of Indian blood? I think our civilization has not yet made it's peace with this continent; we are in it but not yet of it. We are not yet indigenous. To become indigenous people, European-Americans must first make our peace with history and with the Indian people. What has been lost in the European-American version of liberty, is community. We have gained mobility but have paid the price of rootlessness. The Indians' struggle for control of their communities can light the way."*

— **John Curl**

### FIGHT THE HYPE:

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## Join Us!

- We are not able to investigate all of the resources and events of which we are informed. We appreciate feedback from readers who make use of the resources listed. All readers are encouraged to send us clippings, write descriptions of your activities or plans, graphics, or photos. We will also print requests for information that others in the network may help you to find.
- Readers in the Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis are invited to volunteer to help with the production of *huracán*.
- *huracán* is available for conference distribution or as an insert in your group newsletter.
- *huracán* is published in a spirit of cooperation with all organizations involved in the quincentennial campaign. We rely on other groups and activists to keep us informed and to help us distribute the paper. We also hope you will let us know how we may be of most use to quincentennial organizers.

# huracán Editorial

A lot of water has gone by the prow since John Goudie, the chairman of the U.S. Quincentenary Jubilee Commission, invited corporations to join in celebrating "that first great entrepreneur, Christopher Columbus." At that time, he promised a commemoration "that is uncontroversial and universally appealing." Since then, Goudie has resigned in disgrace (see story, p. 1), and the commission has been unable to raise funds or provide leadership to local commissions. When the major media take an interest in the quincentennial (which the print media are increasingly doing as 1992 nears) they now invariably cover the story as a controversy.

In many parts of the U.S., opponents of the Columbus love-fest are more active and visible than the official boosters. Increasingly, local groups have been forming city-wide and regional coalitions to coordinate counter-quincentennial efforts. In some cases, these groupings represent new relationships that may continue beyond 1992.

During the coming year, the corporate and governmental heirs of Columbus will pull out all the stops in their campaign: two feature films; exhibits; re-enactments; ad campaigns; TV shows; the re-naming of roads, parks, and landmarks; a major assault on schoolchildren; parades; and, if they can pull it off, the launching of a flotilla of spaceships to Mars, the marriage of the Statue of Liberty with one of Columbus, a commemorative postage stamp, and the extension of honorary citizenship to Columbus. Other governments will also be on the band-caravel, most notably Spain, which hopes to cash in once again on the conquest with its

exposition in Seville and the Barcelona Olympics.

All indications are that each of these events will be met with resistance and protest by those who don't identify with the project of enslavement and conquest with which Columbus is associated. The cancellations by many museums of the "First Encounters" exhibit (see article this issue) are a good example of the effectiveness of early protests.

Some plans, like the "Columbus Project" observatory (see story, p. 1), are even more sinister, combining as they do the reverence of Columbus with an extension of his assault on Indian lands and independence. In fact, the quincentennial is taking place in the context of a continuing assault on Indian land rights and religious freedoms. From James Bay to Amazonia, governments are acting as the enforcers for mining, energy, and agribiz corporations.

The United Nations "Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism" is unfolding in the shadow of the recently proclaimed "New World Order". Under this "order", the old colonial powers pool their military and economic might to enforce strict obedience from their former and current colonies. In this way they can ensure the continued flow of wealth from the Third World which has been the fuel of Western development since the days of the gold caravels and slave ships.

A New World Order requires Old World thinking. It is in this context that Columbus' intellectual defenders have gone on the offensive. The historical record makes it very difficult to defend Columbus' enterprise directly. Instead, they attack his critics as conspiring to destroy



From 1492 by Deborah Small with Maggie Jaffe

Theodore de Bry

"Western Civilization". According to their scenario, these "politically correct" conspirators have infiltrated the universities, where they seek to "stifle debate" by urging that the debate include people of color. Columbus is being attacked, we're told, for bringing the seed of civilization to these savage shores. While these arguments are intellectually ludicrous, they nevertheless have support in the media (with articles appearing recently in Harper's, The Atlantic, The New Republic, Newsweek, and Time, among others) and right-wing think tanks.

The memories being released by the anniversary of the conquest will not return to the bottle after October,

1992. The issues raised by the quincentennial speak to the human condition: How do diverse peoples live together on a small planet in a mutually respectful and sustainable way? Columbus' landfall was not an historically isolated event, but the real start of the "New World Order" that George Bush has inherited. In the same way, today's quincentennial campaign should be seen as part of the process of bringing an end to the Age of Colonialism. As a Salvadoran brother pointed out at the Alliance for Cultural Democracy conference last November, the first order of business is to stop the wounding that is going on today. Only when the wounding has stopped can the healing begin.



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