



Federal Government acts like Nevada is expendable

by La Rae Bringham

In researching the article on the fossil bones and archeological remains that have been taken out of Nevada, I came to a definite conclusion: the federal government dislikes Nevada and will do anything it can to harm it. This is because of the policies of federal officials toward Nevada. Let me number them:

First: They put the test site to test atomic bombs here, after having lied about how it would be dangerous.

Second: Refusing to let the process of choosing a nuclear dump go through regular channels, they crammed it down Nevadans' throats, making Nevada the "toilet hole" of the nation, forcing us to take wastes other states generate and do not want to dispose of.

Third: They take all the fossils and artifacts found in Clark County to other states even when Nevada now has places to put them and the proper personnel to process them.

Nevada's mistreatment is bad, but the removal of fossils and artifacts is the worst. Nevadans have received all sorts of promises from Bureau of Land Management that they will be brought back, but to date they have not.

1. During 1937-1938, 30 fossil bones were found near Glendale. Dated at 32,000 years old, they included 11 kinds of Mammoth, 13 general mammals, including Camels and Horses, five amphibians, and a snapping turtle. These were sent to Arizona by the Forest Service.

2. In the 1930's, Gypsum Cave was excavated by the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles and the sloth bones found were taken there.

3. In the 1960's, Mammoth bones estimated to be between 11,000 and 13,000 years old at Tule Springs Site were taken to California.

4. In 1987, remains of a primitive horse, camel and an antelope-like animal, es-

timated to be between two million to 30 million years old, found at Moapa, were taken to the San Bernardino County Museum.

5. In 1990, a Shasta Ground Sloth was found and allowed to sit for over six months because the BLM Head Archeologist Stanton Rolf said he thought it was a cow. When it was discovered to be the sloth, it was sent to the San Bernardino County Museum.

6. In 1991, the tusk, tooth and skull from a Columbian Mammoth dated to be 13,000 years old was taken to the San Bernardino Museum.

The earlier finds being taken out of the state may be explained that Southern Nevada at that time did not have the facilities to house or process such remains. However, Nevada now has a certified museum in Las Vegas. According to a Southwest Museum employee, the employees do not know where about half of the artifacts from Gypsum Cave are, including the



Illustration by Jason Birmingham

sloth bones. Because they were loaned out to researchers, they did not know who had them. Could Nevada have done any worse?

Only when there was a fuss made about recent fossils going out of state did the BLM finally recognize that we have a certified museum here in Las Vegas.

Also, I wonder how many finds there have been

that we do not know about. When the sloth bones were brought back to Las Vegas, background information told of the fossils found at Moapa four years ago.

Rolf was not willing to publish the sloth bones find and said he wanted this information kept secret.

The Forest Service is not much better. When the state took over the Lost City Mu-

seum, they took the artifacts they had and put them in the basement of the Lake Mead Visitors Center where no one can see them.

As I stated at the beginning, the Federal Government seems to regard Nevada and the citizens here as being expendable. Everything good is taken away and everything bad is given to us at the point of a knife.

Real diversity needs real reflection

by David Bernstein

As a black college student at the University of Maryland, I learned the truth the hard way. As a black conservative, I was ostracized by the very people who claimed to value difference because I was, well, different. They didn't mind that I was black, of course, but College Park's politically correct student leadership seemed to prefer ideological lockstep within their "diverse" student body.

Fortunately, I was never subjected to the kind of overt intolerance that many black conservatives endure, but there was always a palpable disdain for me and my views among other minority students. One black sophomore, for example, explained to me that, "White people are puttin' those ideas in your head."

Another of my peers wrote in the student newspaper that black conservatives must be "neutralized" (whatever that means.) Still another person once complained, "You just don't understand." It came as no surprise when the president of Maryland's Black Student Union refused to work with me and the other black Col-

lege Republicans when we wanted to bring conservative black speakers to campus.

Like many black college students, I found the student leadership's attempts to insulate me from diverse opinions condescending and antithetical to the idea of a

when he explained that, "There are, in the United States today, tens of thousands of colored girls who would be happy beyond measure to have the chance of educating themselves that you are neglecting." He further warned her that, "Ig-

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university education. Black collegians should learn to appreciate the rich heritage of intellectual debate and dissent that has defined the black American experience.

Men like W.E.B. Du Bois, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Malcom X and Martin Luther King, Jr., did not share a single set of ideas. Each came to his own conclusions through study and honest reflection. If any of us hope to understand the "black thing" referred to by those popular T-shirts, we must try a little study and reflection on our own.

In 1905, W.E.B. Du Bois scolded a young black girl

norance is a cure for nothing ... every time a colored person neglects an opportunity, it makes it more difficult for others of the race to get such an opportunity. Do you want to cut off the chances of the boys and girls of tomorrow?"

The campus diversity mongers should ponder Du Bois' words. Each time we refuse to consider diverse opinions, we are "neglecting an opportunity" to learn. Each time a minority student leader demands "solidarity" from his peers, he makes it more difficult for others of the race to get such an opportunity.

Ignoring or extinguishing "western culture" in the curriculum is truly a cure for nothing.

Perhaps more importantly, this desire for intellectual unanimity and separation by the minority threatens to undermine more than twenty-five years of civil rights' gains. Black Americans are closer than ever to being treated by white society simply as individuals, but now many

minorities are asserting that race is the defining characteristic of every person.

How quickly we forget that this was the very attitude that made slavery possible, that has kept apartheid alive in South Africa and that delivered Jews into the Holocaust. I, for one, would prefer that the average American not believe that all blacks act a particular way because they are black!

Similarly, I would rather not toss aside many of the great works of science, philosophy and literature just because their authors are white. Black collegians can understand and appreciate James Madison, John Milton and Charles Darwin as well as any white student. To suggest otherwise is racism in its most pristine

form. My college experience has not left me as discouraged as it might have because of the quiet reawakening of independence among most young minorities. During the past year I have met several other young college graduates who agree that we need more genuine diversity — diversity of thought.

David Bernstein is the editor of Diversity magazine.

Let your opinion be heard.

Yellin' Rebel

by Ray Collins

Boulder Dan and Dipstik Duck

