

*Guinea Coast who told Columbus of a route to America.*

Yes. That might be found in Harold Lawrence's little pamphlet *Africans and the Exploration of America*.

*Many people seem to be confused as to whether Africans were enslaved because we were black or for economic reasons.*

Both ways. Both ways. And there is nothing to be confused about. White people in Europe were coming out of a form of slavery called feudalism at the time when Blacks were being pushed into slavery based on racism. But the concept we know as racism developed during the period as a rationale for slavery, developed mainly by the Church.

*What would you say to those people who try to quantify slavery in terms of numbers? Some say 10 million were killed and others say as much as 60 million or more.*

Well, I don't think we'll ever know for sure, but we know damn well it was more than 10 million. Some of the best new work has been done by a Nigerian named Ankora. He's gone through the slave logs and he's searched diaries of captains and slave catchers. For every slave that got to the shore, seven died before they got there.

*Seven!?*

Seven died en route from the hinterland to the coast.

*Before they ever left Africa?*

Before they ever left Africa. As the slave trade moved deeper and deeper inland you

find miles and miles of skeletons.

We'll never know for sure and we should stop arguing about it and even pretending we'll ever know.

*So it doesn't make a difference?*

It makes a difference but there's nothing we can do about it. We can estimate and go on our way.

But I'm sure you'd agree that regardless of whether it was one or twenty million it was...

Whether Hitler killed one million Jews or six--if he killed six million Jews he was wrong. If he killed them for racial reasons he was wrong killing six and he was wrong for killing six million. So I can't get involved in any body

count over something that would have been wrong even if it was only one. Because my

*today--is directly and intricately tied to Columbus' voyage.*

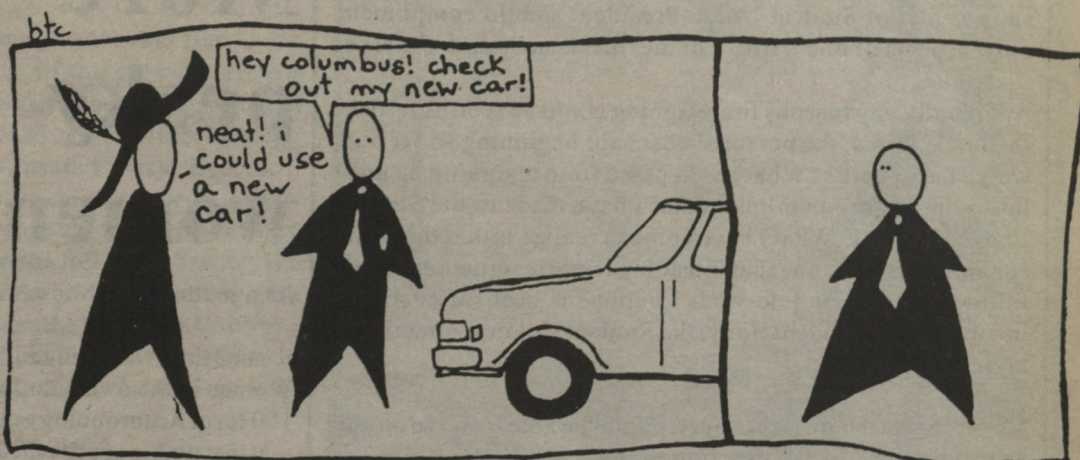
*"...the single greatest act of protracted murder in human history."*

He opened up the hemisphere for European settlement and that, in turn, changed the history of the world for all time. And I did not say for the better... What he set in motion is still part of our daily lives. And nothing is that far behind us. *Were the changes he brought about inevitable?*

main involvement is how wrong the act was.

*We can say without doubt that the ramifications of Columbus' voyage to the America and the plight--not only of African peoples, but of people of the Third World*

They were not inevitable quite that way. Europe could have entered into a partnership with the same people it conquered, and there would have been more for Europe and more for everybody. But they were so destructive, wanting everything, that they killed the goose that laid the egg. ■



*columbus discovers a used car*