

The New Stonehenge

-- Plans for the new Stonehenge will make it look more like the old. --



BACKGROUND:

The monument we see today is the much ruined final phase of Stonehenge, the prehistoric temple in use some 3500 years ago. There were three phases in Stonehenge's development.

The first phase was a large earthwork 'henge' used as a place of Neolithic worship and burial about 5000 years ago. This includes the circular bank and ditch which surrounds the later placed stones and the Aubrey Holes. The Aubrey Holes are round pits in the chalk about one meter wide and deep. There may have been a timber building in the center, but no evidence of that remains. The site was only used for about 500 years, after which it reverted to scrub.

The second phase, about a thousand years later, 2000 BC, Stonehenge was rebuilt using stones from the Preseli Mountains in Wales (bluestones). About 80 bluestones, weighing up to 4 tons apiece, were set up to form two circles, one inside of the other around the center of the site. A pair of stones, the Heel Stones, were imported to mark the entrance, which was in line with the rising of the sun at mid-summer. Excavations have shown however, that this double circle was never completed.

Soon after that, the present temple was constructed of much larger stones from the Marlborough Downs (Sarsens) and the bluestones were rearranged within the circle. The new structure was the lintelled circle (two upright stones with a horizontal stone resting across the

top) and horseshoe of large sarsen stones, whose remains we see today.

Ever since the early eighteenth century it has been recognized that the axis of the sarsen stones points roughly to where an observer at the center of Stonehenge would see the sunrise on the longest day of the year. More recently it has been suggested that the lines joining the four Station Stones could also have marked the most northerly and southerly positions on the horizon of the risings and settings of the sun and the moon, and the latitude of Stonehenge has chosen so that pairs of these directions would be at right angles. In addition, the theory has been advanced that the ring of Aubrey Holes could have been used as a simplified model of the motions of the sun and moon, so as to predict eclipses. It has also been claimed that Stonehenge served as an observatory for very precise observations of the extreme risings and settings of the moon.

Studies of other stone circles in Britain and indicated that most of these alignments are fortuitous, or may only be generally correct.

Another point: Many believe that Stonehenge was created by the Druids for ceremony. This is incorrect. By their time, Stonehenge would have already been standing for 2000 years, and were probably already in ruins.

The people who did work on these stones were the tribes of the late Neolithic, Early Bronze and Late Bronze Ages.

****For much more information, please visit the English Heritage website****

STORY:

A heritage group announced an \$88 million plan Wednesday to rescue Stonehenge from the 20th-century clutter that has sprung up around the ancient circular stone monument. Branded a "national disgrace" by some lawmakers

In This Issue:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 2 | UPDATES |
| 5 | Christopher Columbus/CC Sets Sail |
| 6 | Bruce Springsteen/The Bicycle |
| 7 | Free Falling |
| 8 | Order and Other Information |

as it now stands, Stonehenge is flanked by highways, and visitors trying to imagine its original splendor do so with the steady hum of traffic in the background.

English Heritage and the National Trust have announced plans to transform the ancient landscape, uniting it with the stones and dramatically improving visitor access. The plans also include radical suggestions for more environmentally friendly handling of the World Heritage site and its flora and fauna.

The busy A344 road which runs past the stone circles will be diverted back onto the nearby A303 which will then be placed under a controversial "cut and cover" tunnel. A new, less obtrusive, visitor center would replace the current building near the monument.

English Heritage plans to build the new information center outside the archaeologically sensitive site, from where visitors will be able to walk, hire bicycles or take "environmentally friendly" shuttle buses to the viewing area for the circle of stones. There also will be improved access for the disabled.

Designed by award-winning Australian architects at Denton Corker Marshall, the visitor center would be buried into the landscape, making it appear, from above, simply as lines on the ground. It is expected to be completed by 2006. The plans to alter the roads around the monument will be put to a public inquiry toward the end of 2003. If approved, construction will start in 2005 and be completed by 2008.

The government has pledged \$15 million for the project, with the remainder of the funds to be provided by English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the proceeds from a public appeal scheduled for later this year.

Announcing the funding for the scheme, Heritage Lottery chairwoman, Liz Forgan said: "This support illustrates our commitment to a shared vision of Stonehenge. It's not an easy site and there is much work to do before a final scheme can be agreed. Our board was persuaded that support at this moment was right. What we

are all after is a holistic and considered view of the site. The pleasure which vast numbers of people get from visiting the stones can be reconciled with the quality of the experience they get when they do so."

The announcement came on the day that Stonehenge was voted one of the top tourist attractions in Britain in a major public survey.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The last in a sequence of circular monuments built between 3000 B.C. and 1600 B.C., Stonehenge is one of Britain's most popular tourist attractions and a spiritual home for thousands of self-styled druids, New Age followers and mystics who gather there for the solstice, the northern hemisphere's longest day, and the first day of summer.

Although about 830,000 people a year from around the world pay to visit Stonehenge, they spend on average just over half-an-hour at the stone circle. Visitors to Stonehenge deserve better than this, and hopefully after these renovations they will be able to engage with the wonder of the Stonehenge landscape as never before. Sir Neil Cossons, Chairman of English Heritage, praised the plans "We have battled for more than 16 years to provide visitors to Stonehenge with the setting, access, understanding and enjoyment that is expected at such an internationally important pre-historic site."

UPDATE: VP Dick Cheney

-- A lot has happened since Cheney was mentioned in the July 15 issue.--

UPDATE:

It has been a busy couple of weeks for Vice President Dick Cheney between fundraising, supporting his Republican party, watching the

President sign a tougher bill on corporate fraud and denying allegations of former fraud himself.

The practices under dispute are now known in further detail and include investigation into changes made by the company in its accounting practices for construction projects while Mr. Cheney led Halliburton.



But the company and its shareholders have also suffered from the hidden costs from a deal that was, at the time, the high point of Mr. Cheney's five-year Halliburton career: his acquisition in 1998 of Dresser Industries. The deal, which Mr. Cheney hailed as a "win-win" merger, ended up saddling the company with the growing costs of legal claims from people who say they were injured by or are at risk from asbestos in products made by Dresser and a former Dresser subsidiary that was spun off in 1992.

Mr. Cheney's office said the Halliburton-Dresser deal was thoroughly vetted at the time. Halliburton said the degree of the asbestos problems could not have been anticipated at the time of the merger. At issue now is whether Halliburton under Mr. Cheney was aggressive enough in investigating the asbestos liabilities it was taking on in acquiring Dresser, and whether it adequately informed shareholders of the risks at the time they were asked to approve the deal.

Previously undisclosed court documents show Dresser was notified a month before the merger that it might face greater asbestos liability from its former subsidiary than it had disclosed. Halliburton said it was kept in the dark by Dresser about the greater risks until after the merger was completed.

Halliburton's stock price has fallen sharply as the extent of the asbestos problem has become clear since Mr. Cheney left the company to join the Republican presidential ticket in August 2000. Mr. Cheney sold nearly \$40 million in Halliburton

stock about the time he left the company at prices above \$50 a share. He had said he would sell his Halliburton stock if the Republican ticket prevailed in the fall. The stock closed today at \$13.20.

The adequacy of each company's (Halliburton and Dresser's) due diligence remains in dispute. Former oil executives involved in the merger said that the two companies did not look that closely at the other's operations because they felt so comfortable with each other. Others described the due diligence process as thorough.

A group suing Vice President Dick Cheney says it was rebuffed by the White House when it tried to provide legal notification to the vice president about the lawsuit.

Judicial Watch said its process server was threatened with arrest by the Secret Service on Monday after the server telephoned the White House from one of the outside gates and was unable to find anyone who would accept a copy of the lawsuit. Cheney spokeswoman Jennifer Millerwise said the server was not threatened in any way, merely told that without a contact he could not leave papers at the gate. "He just showed up without a contact," Millerwise said. "You can't do that."

SIGNIFICANCE:

Vice President Dick Cheney conceded Monday that corporate scandals have shaken confidence in the economy but said reforms will "bring out the best of the free enterprise system. When there are reports of corporate fraud the American people can be certain that the government will fully investigate and prosecute any wrongdoers," Cheney said. "That system will be stronger and better." We are assuming he means the bill that President Bush signed into law giving the government broad new tools to combat corporate fraud. Bush celebrated the law in a formal White House ceremony just a few weeks after he had opposed some of its main elements. The measure, he said, includes "the most far-

reaching reforms of American business practices since the time of Franklin Delano Roosevelt."

Scandals at Enron, WorldCom and others have been blamed for shaking investor confidence and causing the plunge in the stock market. Congress rushed through a measure toughening penalties for corporate wrongdoing in an effort to restore investor confidence.

"Confidence in the free enterprise system has been tested recently," he said. "The president's reforms will bring out the best of the free enterprise system." Cheney conceded the nation has suffered through an economic recession, but he said things are turning around. "On the economy, there is a great deal of work yet to do," Cheney said. "We are proceeding from a condition of considerable strength." He said there are clear signs of recovery in all segments of the economy. "Clearly we believe we're on the path to what we believe will be a strong and prolonged recovery," Cheney said.

AOL's cookie jar

--Opinion regarding AOL's current circumstances.—

UPDATE:

PALO ALTO, Calif. (CNN/Money) - There are two ways a reasonable investor can react to revelations this week in the Washington Post that AOL might have acted too aggressively in its accounting of certain revenues. Some -- even those that are steering clear of AOL's AOL stock (AOL: down \$0.87 to \$11.58, Research, Estimates) -- are dismissive, noting that the numbers in question are minuscule, just \$270 million, or 5 percent of AOL's total revenue. (Just as many investors excused recent accounting allegations against Bristol Myers and Merck.)

But there's a much more cynical way to interpret the Post's findings, and it seems to be the more popular approach these days, explaining the market recent plunge. The Washington Post is not a forensic accountancy. It operates without the subpoena power of the Justice Department. It doesn't have the investigations staff of the

Securities and Exchange Commission. And yet it found \$270 million in questionable revenues.

Imagine what else lies beneath the surface. (By the way, I am an employee and shareholder of AOL Time Warner.) Of course, this is shooting first and asking questions later (AOL's stock is down some 12 percent since Wednesday's close). Presuming the accused is guilty until proven innocent. Choose your cliché. But again, this isn't a moral lesson. It's an explanation of why the market is behaving the way it is. Until every stone is turned over and scrubbed, investors will assume there's dirt below it, from the best companies in the land to the worst.

Incidentally, AOL -- which my sources said earlier in the year was worth \$22 for its Time Warner component alone -- has been down this path before. Back in 1996 short sellers were convinced America Online was playing fast and loose with its marketing expenses by calling them capital costs (that is, treating them as assets).

In fact, AOL was practicing fuzzy math and eventually was fined \$3.5 million in mid-2000. Two messages were clear at the time, one that explains why AOL allegedly continued to push the envelope and a second that might offer hope to investors today. The gentle wrist slapping AOL received from the SEC told the entire market that breaking the rules isn't such a bad thing. What if the SEC had come down hard on AOL then?

The second lesson cuts the other way. Short sellers were right about AOL's aggressiveness, but their accounting savvy prevented the short sellers from seeing that AOL had a helluva business in signing up new customers to the Internet. Could it be that investors today are just as blind to the value of a magazine, movie, music, television and yes, Internet subscription business?

Deutsche Bank wireless analyst Brian Modoff puts his best spin possible on the investment thesis that has disappointed investors almost as much as the broadband debacle -- namely so-called third-generation wireless services, or 3G for short. The title of the new report: "The Rise of the 3G Empire: Even Rome Had Its Bad Days."

WHO YOU NEED TO KNOW:



Christopher Columbus

1451-1506

Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy as the oldest five children. Columbus spent some of his early years at his father's trade of weaving. Later he became a sailor on the Mediterranean. Shipwrecked near the Portuguese coast in 1476, he made his way to Lisbon, where his younger brother, Bartholomew, an expert chart maker, lived. Columbus, too, became a chart maker for a brief time in that great maritime center during the golden era of Portuguese exploration. Engaged as a sugar buyer in the Portuguese islands off Africa by a Genoese mercantile firm, he met pilots and navigators who believed in the existence of islands farther west. He married (1479?) the well-born Dona Filipa Perestrello e Moniz.

By the time he was 31 or 32, Columbus had become a master mariner in the Portuguese merchant service. It is thought by some that he was greatly influenced by his brother, Bartholomew, who may have accompanied Bartholomew Diaz on his voyage to the Cape of Good Hope, and by Martin Alonso Pinzon, the pilot who commanded the Pinta on the first voyage.

Columbus's enterprise to find a westward route to Asia grew out of the practical experience of a long and varied maritime career, as well as out of his considerable reading in geographical and theological literature. His plan was not to prove that the world was flat, but was to find a shortcut to the Spice Islands. He wanted to establish a city there for trade, seaports, and much more. First he went to the king of Italy and presented his idea before him. Italy wasn't looking for a way to Asia, they were still receiving riches from their old trade routes. He settled for a

time in Portugal, where he tried unsuccessfully to enlist support for his project, before moving to Spain. After many difficulties, through a combination of good luck and persuasiveness, he gained the support of the Catholic monarchs, Isabel and Fernando, with whom he conducted four voyages and became well known as the "discoverer of the new world."

After five centuries, Columbus remains a mysterious and controversial figure who has been variously described as one of the greatest mariners in history, a visionary genius, a mystic, a national hero, a failed-administrator, a naive entrepreneur, and a ruthless and greedy imperialist.

 THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:

Christopher Columbus Sets Sail for the America's

Christopher Columbus' first expedition began on Aug. 3, 1492, when he sailed from Palos, Spain, with three small ships, the Santa Maria, commanded by Columbus himself, the Pinta under Martin Pinzon, and the Ni-a under Vicente Ya-ez Pinzon. After halting at the Canary Islands, he sailed due west from Sept. 6 until Oct. 7, when he changed his course to the southwest. On Oct. 10 a small mutiny was quelled, and on Oct. 12 he landed on a small island (Watling Island) in the Bahama group.

He took possession for Spain and, with impressed natives aboard, discovered other islands in the neighborhood. On Oct. 27 he sighted Cuba and on Dec. 5 reached Hispaniola. On Christmas Eve the Santa Maria was wrecked on the north coast of Hispaniola, and Columbus, leaving men there to found a colony, hurried back to Spain on the Ni-a. His reception was all he could wish. According to his contract with the Spanish sovereigns he was made admiral of the ocean sea and governor-general of all new lands he had discovered or should discover.

ENTERTAINMENT:



Is Bruce Rising?

After 7 years of breathless waiting, Bruce has broken his silence with a Septemeber 11th inspired album, *The Rising*. Springsteen's home county, Monmouth, lost 158 people in the World Trade Center bombing, more than any other in New Jersey. He noticed from reading The New York Times obituaries how often his songs, like "Born in the U.S.A.," were played at memorial services. Two widows of men killed in the terrorist attacks told Time magazine that Springsteen, 52, called them to learn more about their husbands and their loss.

His last studio album, 1995's *The Ghost of Tom Joad*, won a Grammy for best contemporary folk album. The new album, *The Rising*, is not Springsteen as lone troubadour, but Springsteen reunited, finally and completely, with the E Street Band. The group had reformed pre-Tom Joad to record three new tracks for a 1995 greatest-hits album, and it embarked on a triumphant comeback tour four years later; but *The Rising* is its first full album since 1984's *Born in the U.S.A.* Springsteen lives on a 400-acre farm in Monmouth County, New Jersey with his wife, Patti Scialfa, who sings backup in the E Street Band, and their three children, Evan, 13, Jessica, 11, and Sam, 8. In recent months, Springsteen's most time-consuming pastoral endeavor has involved making his farm organic. As he explains, it's a five-year process, during which inspectors regularly test the soil for chemicals.

At the official Springsteen site they have the cities for the new world tour by Bruce and the E-Streeters. There will be 46 concerts in 46 cities, 39 in Northern America (for a complete list please see <http://www.brucespringsteen.net/>), and 7 in Europe. The tour will continue next year with shows in Australia, Europe and the US.

SPORTS:

The BYCYCLE

The name velocipede is often given to early forms of the bicycle and to its predecessor, the dandy horse, a wooden two-wheeled vehicle moved by the thrust of the rider's feet upon the ground. Probably the first practical dandy horse was the draisine, originated c.1816 by Baron Karl Drais von Sauerbronn, chief forester of the duchy of Baden, to facilitate his inspection tours.



The Draisine, or Dandy Horse.

It was slowly improved, and in 1839 Kirkpatrick MacMillan, a Scottish blacksmith, developed a machine propelled by foot treadles and incorporating cranks, driving rods, and handlebars. The French inventor Ernest Michaux introduced in 1855 a heavy crank-driven bicycle. This was perfected in 1865 by Pierre Lallement, whose velocipede, known as a boneshaker, ran on ironclad wooden rims, the front wheel larger than the rear. Major improvements followed rapidly, including a light, hollow steel frame, ball bearings, tangential metal spokes, and solid rubber tires. By the 1880s the front wheel attained a diameter up to 64 in. Although the larger the wheel, the greater the potential speed, size was limited by the length of the rider's legs, and speed by their strength. The safety bicycle, with wheels of approximately equal diameter and a sprocket-chain drive connecting the pedals with the rear wheels, was first manufactured in.

Subsequent modifications include the freewheel (a rear wheel that turns freely when the pedals are stopped), the coaster brake, the hand brake, variable drive gear, and adjustable handlebars. In the 1880s cycling became a fad of

major proportions in the United States and Europe. Bicycle clubs were formed; both sexes participated in rides into the country, often on tandem bicycles. The League of American Wheelmen, organized in 1880, was a leader in the agitation for good roads. Although cycling declined in the United States with the introduction of automobiles, it has recently grown in popularity, notably since the introduction in the 1970s of wide-tired, off-road mountain bikes. In many parts of the world the bicycle remains a more important means of transportation than the automobile.

FEATURE:

Free Falling

Sky diving gives new meaning to the coined phrase, "a leap of faith." It's a rush that few of us experience, but for those thrill seekers who do, it is the adventure of adventures.

Leaving the plane at 2500 to 3000 ft from the earth, sky jumpers experience a free fall of about 45 seconds. During these moments the ground is so far away that there is almost no perception of its approach. It is almost as if the jumper is being held in place by an upward force of air. At the proper altitude, the parachute is released and the leaper can twist, turn, glide and flip the rest of the way down to the ground. The good ones can land on a square foot. The entire process (minus the plane trip to starting elevation) takes about five minutes.

The moment feet hit earth the leaper can gloat in victory, for he has survived. The brush with death has passed and all that is left is the adrenaline rush. It hits everyone a little differently the first time: some are bursting out of their jumpsuits, some are in shock, and some are just sick. But most are glad they did it.

The Ancient Chinese and Leonardo de Vinci are both credited with conceiving the idea of a parachute. Although alive in theory, it would not be a part of reality until the 18th century, when the

first parachute was made and used by frenchman, Andre Jacques Garnerin. Garerin had been experiencing some trouble with the law because of an act in his traveling show. It seems that he was somewhat of a swindler and he had developed a nasty habit of charging people money to see his balloon fly, and then was not able to get it off the ground.

Spectators were enraged and as a result Garnerin was arrested. He was later released but with the arrangement that he either perform his promised balloon ascent and parachute jump, or go straight back to jail. He now had a very real psychological incentive to succeed.

When he arrived at the takeoff site, everything had already been prepared for his show. The takeoff location was in the Park Monceau and the date was October 22, 1797. At 5:28 PM the hot air-balloon rose rapidly to an altitude of 700 meters. The balloon exploded and Andre-Jacques had to cut the rope sooner than he had planned. The crowd below turned their heads away when they saw the explosion, fearing it was the end of parachute maker.

Luckily for Garnerin, it turned out to be his crowning moment; he will forever hold his place as the first parachutist in history. His homemade parachute, 10 meters in diameter, with a reported 30 square meters of canopy fabric and 36 suspension lines saved Garnerin from certain death. His uncontrolled landing occurred in the Plaine Monceau, about 1 kilometer North of the park, and he quickly got a ride back to his point of departure. Garnerin's passion for aeronautics would finally be his death when he was killed by a blow from the wooden rigging of his balloon on August 18, 1823.

The sport of sky diving grew in popularity as the years progressed. The first World Championships were held in Bled, Yugoslavia in 1951. Today, both professional and amateurs alike are capable of making that leap from a plane and be awed by the danger, the speed, the view, and adventures of sky diving. Watch the first push, it is the hardest.

Quote of the Week:

When any great design thou dost intend,
Think on the means, the manner and the end.
-Sir John Denham

Fact of the Week:

The earth weighs 6,600 billion billion tons.

Word of the Week:

intrepid (in*trep'id), a. Fearless; bold; brave;
undaunted.

Thank You For Reading
And
Have a Great Week!

To order by **credit card**, please visit us at
www.theweeklyreport.com/orders.html

To order by **check**, please send

- Name and e-mail address
- Check for \$15.00 (*CA Residents: \$16.09*)
For a 3 month subscription

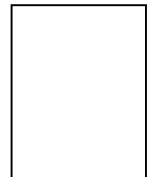
To: New Accounts; The Weekly Report;
19 Elda Drive; San Rafael, CA 94903

Please visit our web site at:

theweeklyreport.com

We will tell you
What You Need To Know!

The Weekly Report
19 Elda Drive
San Rafael, CA
94903



TO:

Empty rectangular box for recipient name and address.