



Q&A

DEAD LANGUAGE

THE KENNEWICK MAN TELLS HIS STORY

The Kennewick Man gets almost as much press as Paris Hilton (and he's clearly got the bigger brain), but up until our exclusive interview, no one has thought to talk to the chap himself. Currently living at the Burke Museum (after years in legal limbo, while Native Americans and scientists fought in court over him), the 9,400-year-old was found by a couple of college students on the bank of the Columbia River near Kennewick in 1996.

SEATTLE MAGAZINE: How's it feel to be a celebrity almost 10,000 years after your death?

KENNEWICK MAN: Fifteen minutes of fame would have been plenty. After 12 autopsies, I'd like to rest my weary bones.

SM: It's been said you've got Caucasoid characteristics. Native Americans claim you as their own. Was the first American settler a white guy or an Indian?

KM: How 'bout neither—I canoed over from Polynesia, and boy, are my arms tired!

SM: *Time* magazine (March 13, 2006) put you on its cover, and you kinda look Chinese.

KM: Anybody more than 9,000 years old is gonna be from a blended family, OK? My dad was from Southeast Asia, and my mom from northern Japan.

SM: A CT scan showed a stone spear stuck in your pelvis. Who shot you?

KM: Dick Cheney. HA! No, I was fight-

ing a guy from another tribe over a woolly mammoth carcass and things got ugly.

SM: Was anyone else here when you arrived in America?

KM: Oh, yeah, there was already a Starbucks. Naw, I was here first, but some Siberians had made their way to California (Daisy Cave) 20,000 years before I showed up. I put a "Go Back to L.A." sign outside my hut, and lo and behold, they come here 9,300 years later anyway.

SM: You died around age 50. What killed you?

KM: Bad sushi.

SM: At first it was thought you curled up and died in the fetal position, but it turns out you were actually buried in a shallow grave.

KM: Just cuz we're old, doesn't mean we're not civilized. Is there anywhere we can get a nice Chianti around here?

SM: OK, but you're going to need to put some clothes on. *Michael A. Stusser*

BY THE NUMBERS:

\$15,000

Amount former Seattle Mayor Corliss P. Stone embezzled from his real estate development company before escaping to San Francisco with another man's wife in 1873

→ Number of Seattle streets named after Mayor Stone (Corliss Avenue and Stone Way): **2**

0

Number of streets named after Bertha Knight Landes, who became the first woman to run a major U.S. city when she was elected mayor of Seattle in 1926

→ Number of Seattle woman mayors since Landes' term ended in 1928: **0**

\$310

Estimated cost to the Fremont Neighborhood Council to change the name of the two-block stretch under Aurora Bridge—home to the Fremont Troll—from Aurora Avenue N to Troll Avenue N in 2005

→ Height of the Fremont Troll: **18 feet**

→ Tons of concrete used to build the Fremont Troll: **2**

1

Number of beers named after the Fremont Troll (Hale's Ales' Troll Porter)

→ Percent of all beer consumed in Washington that is brewed out of state: **99**



ILLUSTRATION: SCOTT POLLACK