

IN PROTESTING COLUMBUS DAY,  
FRAMINGHAM BLACK STUDENTS UNION INADVERTANTLY  
ESPOUSED THE SAME ANTI-COLUMBUS STANCE  
AS THE KLU KLUX KLAN

By

Frank Mazzaglia

When the Framingham High School Black Students Union asked the City Council to eliminate Columbus Day in Framingham, Italian Americans were hurt and deeply disappointed. They probably didn't realize it, but these students were espousing the agenda of the Klu Klux Klan who despised Columbus. African Americans, Jews and Italians were people that the Klu Klux Klan hated most. The Klan enjoyed lynching helpless Italian Americans, both men and women who didn't understand English just as much as they got a kick out of murdering innocent African Americans. Up until the Second World War, Italians were racially listed as "brown". So much for 'white privilege'!

Later, when so many Italian American men and women bled and died fighting for the US during the war, Columbus Day was decreed a national holiday by a grateful President Roosevelt.

The attack on Christopher Columbus is anti-Italian and anti-Catholic and the perpetrators of the anti-Columbus movement know it. The action of the Black Student Union in Framingham is unprecedented and disgraceful. When politicians and radical teachers encourage racial angst among high school students, it crosses a line and calls for an investigation by the Superintendent of Schools and perhaps the firing of irresponsible faculty.

Fortunately, these students do not represent the entire student body. More importantly, what are they being taught? Following the Ku Klux Klan, former communist Howard Zinn's twisted history book encouraged a series of revisionist fake historians who targeted Columbus for introducing capitalism to the New World. Even the revisionists depended on links that plainly identify themselves as "myths, legends, and fables".

In fact, Columbus never owned a slave. The genocide charge is ridiculous since the unintended clash of microbes is not genocide. If it were, then the Pilgrims on the Mayflower committed genocide for the plague that nearly wiped out the Wampanoag tribe. Columbus never cut off the hands of children in a greedy search for gold. If any of that were true, Italians would not revere him as they do. The Catholic Knights of Columbus commissioned a major study of Columbus and, after serious research, acquitted Columbus of many malicious claims against him.

It's sad that this could happen in a community known for its open acceptance of people from all races and ethnic backgrounds. Sure enough, other cities have eliminated Columbus Day, but that was before Italian Americans organized to protect their heritage. The forces that would remove Columbus Day are now facing stiff opposition.

Decent people are aware that there's been a sharp increase in racial animosity over the past year. Italian Americans see Columbus as a code word that promotes bigotry against them and their heritage. Who's next? The Irish, the Poles, the French, Brazilians, the Jews? Italian Americans will defend their interests as though they were our own. Surely, good people will remember what's happening in Framingham and take it to the polls where they can support friends and cast their votes against our common adversaries.

One wonders whether African Americans don't have enough real enemies that they feel the need to turn on their friends who marched along side of them in the struggle for Civil Rights.

Hopefully, reason will prevail. The Italian American Alliance is organizing a chapter in Framingham which welcomed people of all races and ethnic backgrounds. In any case, you can be sure that Columbus Day will be celebrated in Framingham regardless of what public officials decide.

Meanwhile, the Framingham High School Black Students Union would do well to read real and not revisionist history. Despite the damage done, they should work for true racial harmony. If they did that, they would discover a host of new friends instead of creating a long lasting list of angry adversaries.

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