



“Challenging People to Shape a Better Future Now”

BERNIE FOSTER
Founder/Publisher

BOBBIE DORE FOSTER
Executive Editor

TED BANKS
Advertising Manager

JERRY FOSTER
Account Executive

LISA LOVING
News Editor

BRIAN STIMSON
Reporter

DAVID KIDD
Graphic Designer

MONICA J. FOSTER
Seattle Office Coordinator

JULIE KEEFE
SUSAN FRIED
Photographers



The Skanner Newspaper, established in October 1975, is a weekly publication, published each Wednesday by IMM Publications Inc., 415 N. Killingsworth St., P.O. Box 5455, Portland, OR 97228. Telephone (503) 285-5555. E-mail: info@theskanner.com World Wide Web site: <http://www.theskanner.com> Fax: (503) 285-2900

The Skanner is a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and West Coast Black Publishers Association.

All photos submitted become the property of *The Skanner*. We are not responsible for lost or damaged photos either solicited or unsolicited.

© 2011 *The Skanner*. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION PROHIBITED.

Knowing What's Important Can Change Your Life!

Subscribe to *The Skanner* – don't miss an issue!

Please sign me up for:

- 1 year \$74
- 2 year \$140
- New Subscription
- Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP _____ Phone _____

Mail with check or money order to: **The Skanner**
P.O. Box 5455
Portland, OR 97228

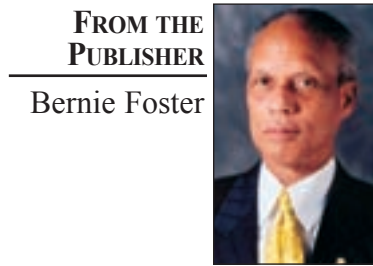
Comcast, FCC Too Cozy for Comfort

In January, the Federal Communications Commission approved a controversial deal allowing telecommunications giant Comcast to buy broadcaster NBC. Last week, FCC Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker, one of the strongest advocates for the \$13.7 billion deal, announced she was leaving the FCC for a top lobbying job with Comcast—NBC. Talk about a hit and run.

Here at *The Skanner News*, it's hard for us to believe that the fix wasn't in from the start. It's hard to believe that Attwell Baker had no idea that she was going to work for this company within four months. We suspect this was prearranged early in the game.

Federal Communications Commissioners are supposed to protect the interests of the American public. They are charged with upholding laws designed to curb monopolies, promote fair competition and prevent industry abuses. That's why it matters when a commissioner supports policy that benefits a giant corporation, and then moves into a highly-paid position with that corporation. Something here looks and smells....

What's to stop future FCC Commissioners from doing favors for the corporations? After all, a few months down



FROM THE PUBLISHER
Bernie Foster

the line, they'll be the next ones in line for an industry lobbying job.

Ms. Attwell Baker is hardly the first person to skip through the revolving door between a federal agency and the industry it

regulates. Former FCC chair Michael Powell now earns millions as the top lobbyist for National Cable and Telecommunications Association, for example. And similar sleazy stories have emerged from the FDA, the Department of the Interior, the EPA and...the list goes on.

It's beyond time for Congress to regulate the regulators. We need a law that makes it illegal for regulators to work for any company they regulate for at least two years.

Here in Oregon, the

Metropolitan Exposition and Recreation Commission passed a rule that commissioners cannot lobby for industry companies for at least one year after their service. I know because I was one of the Commissioners who made that rule. And we are talking about fairly small budget local government here. Not a national agency with the power to approve multi-billion dollar deals.

The Comcast-NBC deal struck many consumer advocates as counter to the public interest for several reasons.

content – as Comcast now owns NBC. Do you really believe that they won't be tempted to do anything at all to prioritize NBC content over competitor and independently created content?

Ms. Attwell Baker couldn't see any problem. Instead she argued that consumers would see benefits from the Comcast NBC merger. She said nothing about going to work for Comcast. Of course, she has a right to her opinion. Diversity of opinion is part of any democracy. But as an FCC regulator, she has a duty not to let the prospect of a fat corporate paycheck influence her vote. Frankly, it is now hard to believe she was not just voting the industry ticket all the way along.

Apologists for this corrupt system argue that it is the only way to keep the brightest and best in government. We say: anyone whose self-interest is tied to corporate interests is unfit to serve the public. Congress should act immediately to shut the revolving door.

Do you think Commissioner Attwell Baker was too cozy with Comcast when she voted in their favor? Yes or No.

You can post your comments on www.theskanner.com

Leave your comments here
Comment

Tuition Equity Will Make Oregon Stronger

Imagine you are the child of hard-working parents. You participate in school activities, achieve academic distinction and contribute to your local community. Your dream is to continue your education by going to college. But through a simple twist of fate, you are undocumented. Under current Oregon law, you must pay out-of-state tuition regardless of how long you have attended school in Oregon. With out-of-state fees as much as three times the cost of in-state tuition, college is out of the question.

On March 29, 2011, the Oregon State Senate voted to pass Senate Bill 742 (Tuition Equity), bipartisan legislation that will grant in-state tuition to students regardless of their immigration status. Under the bill, students must attend school in the U.S. for at least five years, attend school in Oregon for at least three concurrent years and graduate from an Oregon high school. The bill now moves on to the State House for debate and final vote.

Rick (not his real name), a student at Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC), offers insight into why this measure is so important. Rick and his mother immigrated to Oregon when he was 12. He dreams of attending a four-year school once he has completed his two years at MHCC. He is uncertain how he will manage with costs so high. For now, Rick intends to take one class at a time. For many of Rick's friends, however, this is not the case. As Rick

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

'Ski' Sygielski

said, "A lot of friends in high school just give up. They know they won't be able to afford an education. If there was some kind of hope, they would be more encouraged to complete high

school."

A key argument against Tuition Equity is that granting in-state tuition to undocumented students equates to a subsidy that would

more restrictive. According to the National Immigration Law Center, the experience of states that have already passed similar measures indicates this is not the case. What

202, 1982). Tuition Equity simply extends this access by making higher education more accessible to undocumented students. Oregon's employment base stands to become better educated and more competitive, our universities benefit through increased revenues and our overall tax base increases due to increased earning potential. It is now our turn to follow the lead of the 10 states which have already enacted similar legislation.

Last but not least, providing tuition equity is simply the right thing to do. The children of Oregon's undocumented residents are not here out of choice. For many, this is the only home they have ever known. They are invested in our society and our lives. The hundreds of students who made their voices known as the Senate debated the Tuition Equity bill were not asking for a handout. They were merely asking for an opportunity to continue their education so they can move a little closer to fulfilling their dreams and contributing to the state they call home — in other words, to help us all become a little better off.

Please let your legislators know that you support the Tuition Equity bill. Ask them to vote "yes" when it comes time for them to make their voices heard on this important legislation.

John J. 'Ski' Sygielski, Mt. Hood Community College

Young, undocumented people brought here as children deserve to pay in-state tuition

... it would ensure that if students meet the requirements for acceptance, they would pay tuition comparable to other residents. The bill would merely provide equal access

cost the state unjustified expense. The Tuition Equity bill would not provide funding. Instead, it would ensure that if students meet the requirements for acceptance, they would pay tuition comparable to other residents. The bill would merely provide equal access.

does happen, however, is that the percentage of local students pursuing college degrees increases. This is good for the state.

We long ago recognized the right to equal access to K-12 students regardless of immigration status (*Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S.