



“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

**HELEN SILVIS**  
Multimedia

**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](mailto: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.

## Saltzman: Why Single Out Equity?

GUEST COLUMN

Sharon Gary-Smith

**R**e: Saltzman Has Stern Words for New Equity Office: ‘I’ll Be Watching Very Closely.’

I’m pleased, in fact, excited really, that our long-serving City Commissioner Saltzman, has now declared that he’s going to ‘watch very closely’ the expenditures from city coffers. It’s about time, and too bad, only occurred on Sept. 21, at the Portland City Council’s historic vote on equity.

I direct a social justice foundation that has been watching and supporting Oregonians working at the grassroots level, that move community justice issues to the forefront, that develop and enhance the youth and adult leadership in communities of color; that work for racial and economic justice, promoting environmental health, and seeking peace, not war. As a result, MRG Foundation has awarded \$12 million in funding over 35 years, so we know a lot about watching and listening; that’s how we all learn from the people and communities that are speaking. So, my concern when I heard Commissioner Saltzman suddenly remind us that he’s watching was, what had he been doing the other times?

My problem wasn’t as much with his stern facade and statements, although I, too, found it interestingly-timed, and condescending. No, I was struck by the fact that he’d apparently just arrived at this position of watchfulness. If watching closely and

expecting results is his mantra, what happened to that attention, while listening to the request for tens of millions of dollars for a new, world class Sustainability Center? That’s the presentation that proceeded — and ran one-half hour overtime into the time-certain OEHR vote.

Perhaps he was lulled because that presentation - and presenters - looked so familiar; primarily European men in suits, including PSU’s President; and an Intel

I was interested at his challenging tones, the rebuke he chose to center on proponents of the Office of Equity & Human Relations

executive, a PCC woman administrator, among others. They were big on rhetoric and ‘hopefulness’ about how their proposed Sustainability Center would promote ‘social equity’ and ‘accessibility.’ They had aspirations of higher diversity numbers among vendors and contractors than have been achieved; they were not so clear when pressed to explain how the city’s 50 percent contribution would only yield 25 percent ownership.

They were not so surprising in their lack of specifics about that;

or when they offered only potential scenarios about how those high square footage costs would attract diverse ‘space owners’ or increased City ownership over 30 years. Hmm, Commissioner, now

developers, and to professional sports, would be called to consider all of us. Maybe Saltzman wasn’t aware that a city that’s repeatedly overspent on expensive private ventures -- including an expensive

What happened to that attention while listening to the request for tens of millions of dollars for a new, world class Sustainability Center?

that appears to be a place for watchfulness. Even when his colleague, Commissioner Nick Fish, raised questions about the projects potential for intergenerational debt and the possibility of 30 years of not knowing whether the payoff would be as sweet as the sell, Saltzman merely smiled in his familiar way.

So, I was interested at his challenging tones, the rebuke he chose to center on proponents of the Office of Equity & Human Relations, including his colleagues on the Council. Perhaps he hadn’t imagined that many Portlanders believed it was time that a city that has repeatedly danced to private

‘train’ from OHSU’s South Waterfront up to Pill Hill -- could be challenged to put \$1 million dollars (only one year guaranteed) toward ensuring equity in all services and departments.

Maybe he didn’t imagine there was a real need to centralize processes, procedures and practices, and pay attention to ensuring the development, management, monitoring and measurement of openness, accessibility, equity and opportunity for all, not just the traditional beneficiaries. My momma used to remind us that ‘when you point a finger at others, you’re pointing three at yourself.’ We’re all watching, Commissioner.

### What do you think?

Leave your comments here:

Comment

Post your comment on articles in *The Skanner News* at [www.theskanner.com](http://www.theskanner.com)

## Interstate Dental Clinic



BACK-TO-SCHOOL  
CLEANINGS AND  
CHECKUPS

- New Patients Welcome
- Close to Max & Bus
- Appts. Tailored for Working Professionals
- Same Day Emergencies
- Denture Care
- General Dentistry
- Cosmetic Dentistry

# 503-285-5307

5835 N. Interstate Ave.  
Portland

Day & Evening  
Appointments

Mon - Thurs. & Sat.  
8am - 4pm

Fri. 8am - Noon

SAME DAY EMERGENCIES  
most insurance accepted

Serving the greater Metro Area for over 29 Years

### Caldwell's, Hennessey, Goetsch & McGee Funeral Home



Von D. Bailey  
Funeral Director  
20 NE 14th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232  
503-232-4111  
Fax 503-231-1586  
[von.bailey@sci-us.com](mailto:von.bailey@sci-us.com)



Now read

The Skanner  
News on

your Android  
or iPhone at



TheSkannerMobile.com