



“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 SILVUS
Multimedia Editor

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

Oregon Drops the Ball on UO Leader

University of Oregon President Richard Lariviere has been fired over alleged “insubordination.” We’re not surprised. We see it every day in Oregon — anybody who has a good idea is labeled an outcast. We can identify with that.

But what’s especially disturbing is how unprofessional the State Board of Higher Education has been over this situation. They agree Lariviere has been an effective and charismatic leader but when it comes to explaining exactly why they’re booting him out before the end of his contract the language gets fuzzy: “style differences” seem to be the final verdict.

What it all boils down to is that Lariviere wouldn’t stay on his leash. Not only that, he called state officials on the fact that only a fraction of UO’s funding comes from the state anymore anyway — but the state still wants full control over the university’s business.

That would be fine except the state has for generations obviously lacked any good ideas for running the university system, otherwise the community college system wouldn’t have surpassed it in size and scope, as it has.

While the Oregon Board of Higher Education fumes over whether or not Lariviere has damaged their weak excuses for future planning, other state officials are ranting about the nerve of the administrator who came up with his own ideas — rather than going along to get along like the other college presidents are apparently

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Bernie Foster



expected to do.

Did the UO president rock the boat? Good. Because in a state that spends more money on incarcerating offenders than nurturing college students, someone should be hollering at the top of their lungs

‘Oregonians deserve better than struggling to avoid mediocrity’

--Richard Lariviere

about it. And that’s exactly what Lariviere did, even as he steadily built positive relationships with communities of color around the state.

Saturday morning we received a long email from Gov. John Kitzhaber detailing all the ways that Lariviere failed to do as he was told.

But is that his job? It appears that the governor wanted a Yes Man rather than a strategic leader dedicated to pulling the University of Oregon out of the flames of our state’s economy.

“Dr. Lariviere’s popularity in the University of Oregon community

speaks for itself. But evaluating his performance requires more,” Kitzhaber wrote. “His responsibility to the Board of Higher Education and his contribution to the larger issues and success of the entire system fall short.”

In other words — he didn’t do as he was told.

Late Monday Lariviere sent out his own comments to the media:

“Oregonians deserve better than struggling to avoid mediocrity. If we hope to find a way out of this march to mediocrity in public higher education, Oregonians deserve our best thinking about new approaches,” he wrote. “They

eled all the way from Eugene to North Portland, where he and former State Sen. Margaret Carter — who hosted his trip — spoke with our staff about the idea of creating an automatic admission system at UO for students at Jefferson High School.

“I strongly believe that students of color have a significant contribution to make within the University community — and it’s a contribution that we are sorely lacking,” he said. “What if we could find a way to ensure that students of color had an opportunity to obtain an education the University of Oregon?”

Months later, the “middle campus” program at Jefferson High School was officially announced, fulfilling the question he posed — with the partnership of nearly half a dozen educational and governmental institutions stretched halfway across the state.

That’s the kind of leadership we can believe in, not the governor ranting about why his orders are being ignored.

deserve our willingness to engage in uncomfortable conversations that may challenge long-standing practices.”

Earlier this year Lariviere trav-

What do you think?

Leave your comments here:

Comment

Post your comment on articles in *The Skanner News* at www.theskanner.com

New York Life: Parades and ‘Nut Drivers’

“Jimmy, Jimmy...give this man what he wants but DON’T HELP HIM.”

It all started innocently enough with the purchase of a “nut driver” at my (former) favorite neighborhood hardware store. Normally, I would have searched out the tool myself but the nut drivers were hanging high above me so I asked “Jimmy” for assistance. I handed him the nut I needed to drive and he selected the tool. Unfortunately, when I got the tool home, it was the wrong size. I took it back. The manager was nearly apoplectic that I wanted to return the tool despite the fact that his employee had picked it out for me. So.... Jimmy was loudly instructed to not help me anymore. Finally, a New York shop keeper worthy of my disdain!

Now, it took me five months to come across such a jerk but, yet, many of our out-of-town friends would fully expect to encounter this type of treatment the minute they set foot in New York City. An Australian colleague, here on a business trip, recently asked me if it was safe to ride the subway to reach our apartment at 7 p.m. He, of course, didn’t realize that 7 p.m. is still rush hour, but, even if he had said 11 p.m., I would have told him it was safe. Old stereotypes about this town die hard.

One thing that hasn’t changed about New York is the need for resolve. I ride the train (subway) to work. One many days, I’m faced with a dilemma. A seat-hog

PORTLANDER IN NYC

Jeff Tryens

will, for either physio- or psychological reasons, occupy way more than one seat. Sometimes two seat hogs will sit next to one another hogging a middle third seat. Sure, I could just stand there waiting for a seat to open up at Times Square, OR I could plop myself down, cutting right through the hogger’s lit-

A seat-hog will, for either physio- or psychological reasons, occupy way more than one seat

tle “I dare you” shield. Well, believe me, that requires resolve to do on a regular basis.

I enjoyed my first perk of the job this weekend. I was a winner in the Mayor’s office lottery for bleacher tickets to the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade. What a scene. The same number of people that live in the entire state of Oregon line the streets of New York to watch this extravaganza. It was really fun but a little disappointing. After you’ve seen 20 giant balloons, number 21 looks a lot the same. Same goes for weirdly dressed marching band majorettes. And so on. There’s a kind of corporatized sameness to the procession that’s just a little boring.

My favorite part of the parade was the float representing the Oneida Indian Nation. It was a fantastic combination of Oneida beliefs, note creation story giant turtle (Oops, sorry about that missing head.), and total kitsch, note, well, the whole float. I understand that the Oneida’s gambling operations give them the luxury to be in the parade, but I admire their attempts to marry traditional beliefs with the dominant culture. Assuming, of course, it’s not a

ment started pushing back against the Occupy Wall Street movement. I haven’t had to do anything that I found distasteful but being on the other side of the metaphorical fence when the pushing and shoving starts is no fun. I find it very unfortunate that a group who’s purpose is to expose the increasing wealth disparities in this country by focusing on corporate greed has, in the process, made life miserable for some of the country’s most progressive mayors.

My latest challenge - I’m hiring a statistician to develop a new project in Operations based on a concept called predictive analytics. By integrating data from lots of different sources, we’re going to try to predict the likelihood of problems arising in the future. For instance, we’re already looking at how to better predict which accidents will result in successful claims against city government. A colleague has created a program that spits out a weekly list of the 25 residential buildings at highest risk of a catastrophic fire based on six different variables his team examines. The idea is use these techniques to better marshal scarce prevention resources.

Anyway, I’m hoping that the help in my new favorite hardware store (which looks amazingly like my old hardware store) will be nicer. Who, after all, wants to live in a neighborhood without a decent hardware store?

cynical attempt to fit in allowing them to maintain their monopoly on the lucrative gambling trade. Nah.

Every once in a while I am struck with disbelief that we’re actually living in Manhattan. The other evening Pat and I stood on a high rock in lower Central Park overlooking a busy ice skating rink framed with trees in the foreground, tall buildings in the background all set off by a gorgeous pink sky. Stunning. And to think we were just taking a little detour (that also included Rockefeller Plaza) on our way to a see a movie. It felt like we were in a movie!

Work has been a little more challenging for me since city govern-