



“Challenging People to Shape a Better Future Now”

BERNIE FOSTER
Founder/Publisher

BOBBIE DORE FOSTER
Executive Editor

JERRY FOSTER
Advertising Manager

LISA LOVING
News Editor

HELEN SILVIS
Multimedia Editor

PATRICIA IRVIN
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>

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.

© 2014 The Skanner. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION PROHIBITED.

To see The Skanner News on your smart phone go to theskannermobile.com or scan this QR code with your app.



- Local news
- Opinions
- Jobs, Bids
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Music reviews
- Bulletin board
- RSS feeds

Countering Voter Suppression Moves

The Supreme Court recently blocked an appeals court ruling that would have restored seven days of voting in Ohio. In just three sentences, the court reduced voting access for tens of thousands of Ohioans, in yet another effort to suppress the vote. In North Carolina, the appeals court granted an injunction to restore same day registration and out of precinct voting. It didn't strike down early voting restrictions because of time constraints, but did acknowledge that reducing early voting is a way to suppress the vote. If the North Carolina case goes before the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court is likely to lift the injunction against North Carolina, again making voting more difficult.

When the Voting Rights Act was attacked, too many tuned out and turned off from the details, though leaders such as Barbara Arnwine of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law warned that we would begin to feel the effects of this legal setback with various forms of voter suppression. The Lawyers' Committee developed a "map of shame" to show the many states that had curtailed ballot access. Either more ID has been required, the days and times of voting have been changed, the number of polling places has been reduced, or other



BENNETT COLLEGE

Julianne Malveaux

barriers have been introduced to curtail voter access. Those who would suppress the vote in 2014 have put those who advocate ballot fairness on notice. This year marks the first step toward a suppressed or stolen 2016 presidential election.

The stakes are high, both now and in 2016. Presently, Democrats

ber 4 (and in the weeks before, with early voting).

President Obama's effectiveness has been weakened by the John Boehner Congress that has thwarted the him at every turn. Although these last two years of the Obama presidency are lame duck years where little is likely to get done, the duck will be not lame, but paralyzed, if the Republicans hold both the House and the Senate. President Obama's only powers, then, will be the executive order and the veto. It is unlikely that the minimum wage will be adjusted upward, or that other economic fairness matters will be addressed if Congress is a Republican stronghold.

(or fewer) voting machines available, and to manage the details of voter registration. In Ohio, where a week of early voting has now been eliminated, Nina Turner, a charismatic African American state legislator with her efforts clearly focused on justice, is a candidate for Secretary of State. Her election would be an antidote to voter suppression efforts in Ohio, and an inspiration for those who cherish election fairness. Imagine how different voting conditions would be if in states like North Carolina, Florida, and other "stars" on the Map of Shame had progressive Secretaries of State.

Voter suppression is not new. We've seen grandfather clauses, poll taxes, and literacy tests as historical barriers to the vote. Now, we see a reduction in voter flexibility, with more ID requirements, fewer early voting days, and stricter rules about voter registration. Still, those who would suppress the vote can do so only if we allow it by failing to vote. There are too many important elections to be decided, like Nina Turner's in Ohio, for voters to stay home.

Julianne Malveaux is a Washington, D.C.-based economist and writer. She is President Emerita of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, N.C..

This year marks the first step toward a suppressed or stolen 2016 presidential election

hold the Senate, and provide at least some help to President Obama on issues of political and economic fairness. It is very possible that Republicans will take the Senate; it is a foregone conclusion if people don't vote this year. Republicans now hold the House of Representatives; their presence is the House is likely to increase without a strong vote on Novem-

Lots of pro-democracy organizations are working to get out the vote for the 2014 elections, with local and state office as important as federal office. Secretaries of state, for example, are the chief elections officers for their state. As such, they have significant power around the mechanics of voting. They can decide to open more polling places, to have more

The Ebola Case in Dallas: A Blame Game

Amid heightened concern in the U.S. about the ferocious Ebola disease, two prominent Republican officeholders last week seized upon the proper concern over a Liberian national in Dallas testing positive for the virulent disease as a chance to show they think the GOP's political cesspool has no bottom.

Both Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky and Rep. Louie Gohmert of Texas, asserted that the president's sending 3,000 troops to West Africa to aid those nations' efforts to contain the spread of the virus there, was endangering America itself by exposing these troops to the virus, which they, in turn, would spread to other Americans once they got back to the states.

Paul voiced his concern "about 3,000 soldiers getting back on a ship. Where is the disease most transmittable? When you're in the close confines on a ship - we all know about cruises and how they get these diarrhea viruses that are transmitted very easily. Can you imagine if a whole ship of our soldiers catch Ebola? I think because of political correctness, we're not really making sound, rational, scientific decisions on this," Paul told conservative talk show host Laura Ingraham.

Paul didn't specify what "political correctness" has to do with the vital global effort to prevent Ebola from spreading beyond its current "hot spots." When the White House unveiled its plan last month to send the troops, it drew widespread agreement in Congress, including from the GOP's Senate Minority Leader Mitch



LAST CHANCE

Lee A. Daniels

McConnell of Kentucky and Ohio's John Boehner, the Speaker of the House.

But then, it's also nonsensical that Paul would liken a military transport ship - undoubtedly operating under the strictest military

happened. It's here."

This, too, is the attempt to score cheap political points. To say that Ebola is "here" because one individual contracted it out of 300-plus million people in America, or even just among the citizenry of Dallas is abominable. True, we won't know for another three weeks - the time for the Ebola infection in individuals to manifest itself - if the now-10 people in Dallas government officials think he might have exposed to the virus are infected. Nothing untoward in that regard has surfaced so far, and all those people

assessment was reaffirmed over the weekend when doctors determined that two individuals, isolated in hospitals in New York and Washington, D.C. because they had flu-like symptoms, did not have the virus. Federal officials said that while they've investigated more than 100 suspected Ebola cases in recent weeks, Duncan's remains the only confirmed case.

What the Duncan case has exposed, however, are certain gaps in the screen of containment governments have built to contain the disease. Of course, one must start closing the gaps in that screen where the task is the most crucial: in the countries of West Africa. Those nations must do a better job of screening all those who want to leave those countries. And airlines and the U.S. government must improve screening procedures for passengers coming to the U.S. In Texas, the still-unclear initial response of hospital officials to Duncan's emergency-room visit and the fact that local and state officials spent days scrambling to get a hazardous materials team to disinfect the apartment of Duncan's relatives is clearly a warning that government officials everywhere must heed.

Tightening these and other parts of the "screen" against Ebola in the U.S. and abroad will undoubtedly require more U.S. federal aid. The question for the Ebola-is-here and it's-all-Obama's-fault screamers, and all the rest of us, is are we willing to back up our talk with our money?

While they've investigated more than 100 suspected Ebola cases in recent weeks, Duncan's remains the only confirmed case

discipline and specially outfitted for this tour of duty with the most sophisticated medical facilities and medicines - to a civilian cruise ship.

However, Obama-bashers Paul and Gohmert also got some interesting company. MSNBC talk show host Chris Matthews seemed to blame the president for not preventing the Liberian national who has died from Ebola, Thomas Eric Duncan, from entering the country. Matthews contended "that the president said it would be unlikely if we had a case in this country. Unlikely to have even one case ... Well, it's not the unlikely. It has

are being monitored.

It's also worth noting what Matthews did not: that the Ebola virus actually was first brought "here" deliberately when the three American aid workers who had been working in West Africa to treat the ill themselves became infected and were repatriated to U.S. hospitals for treatment under the strictest conditions. All have recovered.

The success of their treatment and the lack of any evidence that the Ebola virus escaped those hospitals' special treatment facilities is evidence that the Ebola virus is not in the United States. That