

THE Skanner

Challenging People to Shape
a Better Future Now

Bernie Foster
Founder/Publisher

Bobbie Dore Foster
Executive Editor

Jerry Foster
Advertising Manager

Christen McCurdy
News Editor

Patricia Irvin
Graphic Designer

Arashi Young
Donovan M. Smith
Reporters

Monica J. Foster
Seattle Office Coordinator

Susan Fried
Photographer

The Skanner Newspaper, established in October 1975, is a weekly publication, published every Wednesday by IMM Publications Inc.

415 N. Killingsworth St.
P.O. Box 5455
Portland, OR 97228

Telephone (503) 285-5555
Fax: (503) 285-2900

info@theskanner.com
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.

©2016 The Skanner. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission prohibited.

Opinion

Honoring Dr. King's 'New Definition of Greatness'

If you want to be important — wonderful. If you want to be recognized — wonderful. If you want to be great — wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That's a new definition of greatness. And this morning, the thing that I like about it: by giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

These well-known words are from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s sermon "The Drum Major Instinct," delivered at Ebenezer Baptist Church on February 4, 1968. He was explaining that we all start out with the ingrained instinct to be "drum majors" — everyone wants to be important,



Marian Wright Edelman
Children's Defense Fund

to be first, to lead the parade. Watch a group of children try to form a line and right away you'll see this instinct in action. But Dr. King said too many people never outgrow this instinct — and by constantly struggling to be the most powerful or famous

“Our children need to be reminded that Dr. King was a real person — just like all of the other ministers, parents, teachers, neighbors, and other familiar adults in their lives today

or wealthiest or best-educated, we forget one of the Gospels' and life's largest truths: the real path to greatness is through service.

This is one of the key lessons we should teach our children about Dr. King. Many of them have just studied Dr. King in school in the days leading up to his birthday, and many have learned to see him as a history book hero, a

larger-than-life, mythical figure. But it's crucial for them to understand Dr. King wasn't a superhuman with magical powers. Our children need to be reminded that Dr. King was a real person — just like all of the other ministers, parents, teachers, neighbors, and other familiar adults in their lives today.

I first heard Dr. King speak in person at a Spelman College chapel service during my senior year in college. Dr. King was just 31 but he had already gained a national reputation during the successful

ability and ability to rise above it that I most remember.

"If I Can Help Somebody Along the Way" was his favorite song. He was an ordinary man who made history because he was willing to stand up and serve and make a difference in extraordinary ways as did the legions of other civil rights warriors in the 1950s and 1960s.

We need to teach our children every day that they can and must make a difference, too. "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."

Towards the end of "The Drum Major Instinct," Dr. King told the congregation he sometimes thought about his own death and funeral. He said when that day came he didn't want people to talk about his Nobel Peace Prize or his degrees or hundreds of awards: "I'd like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to give his life serving others."



"... everybody can be great, because greatness is determined by service."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Together, we're making a great place.



Metro
oregonmetro.gov



OREGON
OREGON
Oregon
Convention
Center

