

# THE Skanner

Challenging People to Shape a Better Future Now

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# Opinion

## FROM THE PUBLISHER: Looking Ahead to the 2016 Presidential Race

It's January 2016 and we are just days away from Iowa's first vote in the presidential election. The political season is in full swing. Then 99 caucuses later the candidates will be on to New Hampshire, South Carolina, Nevada and other states. In November America will choose a new leader to steer our way into the uncertain future.

So far I'm not impressed with most of what I have seen. If Donald Trump was auditioning to be a radio shock jock I might hire him. But his statements on Muslims, immigrants and women — in fact just about everyone who isn't a White male billionaire — terrify me. Who's next? It will be you and me. Trump's shoot-from-the-lip approach is not just racist, it's down-



Bernie Foster  
Publisher

right dangerous. The other GOP candidates are no better. All they seem to want is to cut taxes, repeal Obamacare and put a gun into the hand of every newborn.

And it's all about the money for the candidates. Without big donors they're out of the game. The Koch brothers, for example, now have more than three times as many paid staff as the Republican National Committee, and they plan to spend more than \$889 million on this election.

Are you mad yet? If you're not, you should be.

As for the Democrats, at least they are talking about the issues.

Still, it's not easy to get excited about another Clinton presidency. And it's just as hard to get behind career pol-

itically exercise our privilege and right to vote. That weakens our democracy. If more of us voted our choices would look very different.

In 2016, America needs wise leadership more than ever. We need a president who understands the big picture.

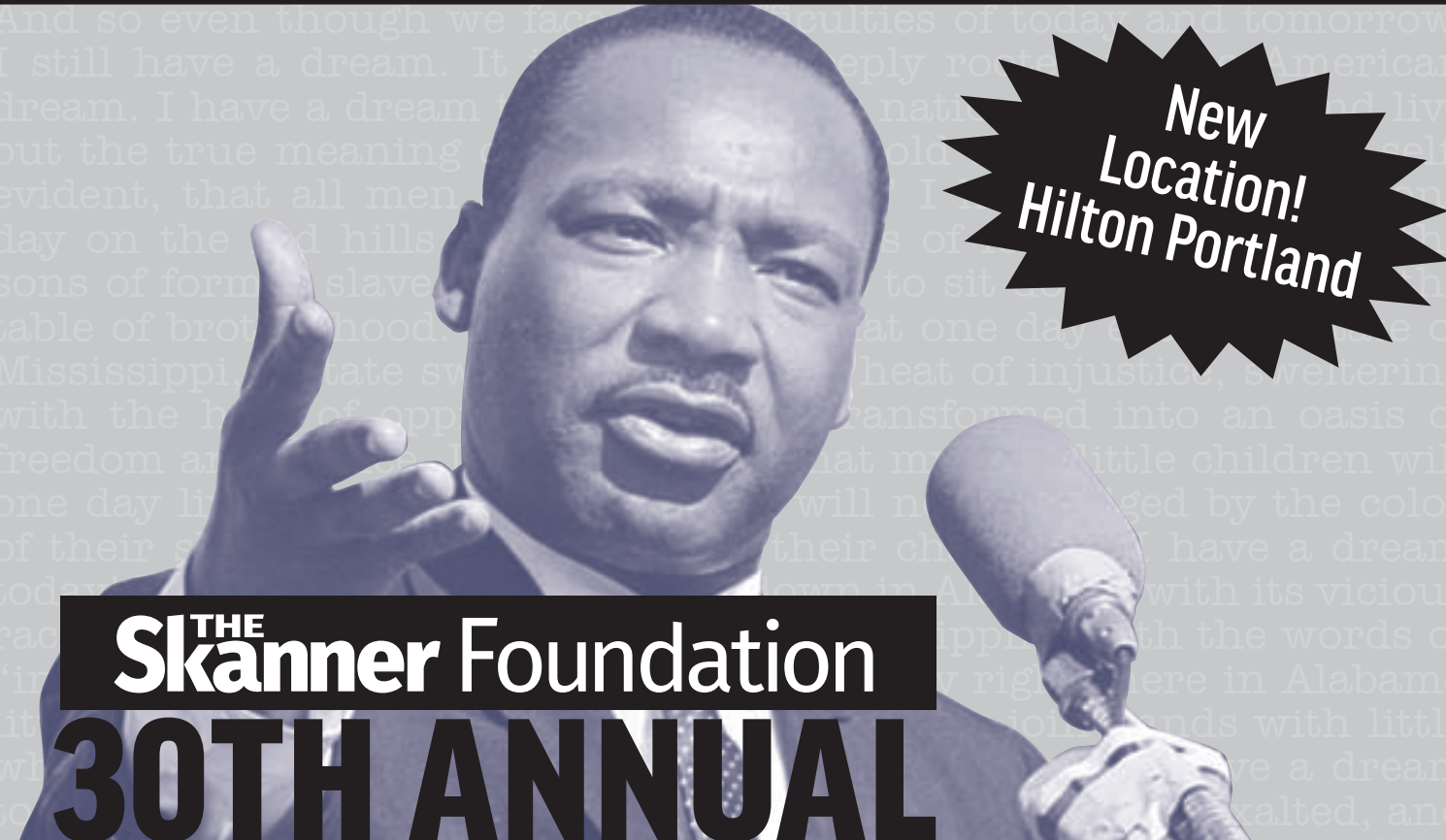
**“If more of us voted our choices would look very different**

itician Bernie Sanders, who, when confronted by the urgency of the Black Lives Matter movement, didn't have the sense to stand back and give those women in Seattle the microphone.

None of this means that voting doesn't matter — it does. Fewer than 6 in 10 of us ac-

And we need to think of the big picture too. Only by taking part can we help build a better system with better candidates.

So this year when two contenders finally emerge, I'm going to pick the better one. And I'm going to vote for that candidate. You should too.















New Location!  
Hilton Portland

THE Skanner Foundation  
 30TH ANNUAL  
 Martin Luther King, Jr.  
 BREAKFAST

January 18, 2016  
 Hilton Portland, Grand Ballroom  
 921 SW 6th Ave., Portland, OR 97204  
 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

sponsors:
 

#SKBreakfast  
 #KingBreakfast2016

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Trial lawyer, author and lifelong activist Charles Bonner was born in Selma, Ala. At the age of 16 Bonner joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1963 and participated in sit-ins, marches and other actions for voting rights in the South. Two years later he became a field director for the organization. Bonner was one of hundreds who were beaten on Sunday, March 7, 1965 by Alabama State troopers on the Edmund Pettis Bridge during the "Bloody Sunday" Selma to Montgomery March for the right to vote.

