

THE SkannerChallenging People to Shape
a Better Future NowBernie Foster
Founder/PublisherBobbie Dore Foster
Executive EditorJerry Foster
Advertising ManagerChristen McCurdy
News EditorPatricia Irvin
Graphic DesignerArashi Young
Donovan M. Smith
ReportersMonica J. Foster
Seattle Office CoordinatorSusan 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 97228Telephone (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.

THE Skanner.com

Local News

Pacific NW News

World News

Opinions

Jobs, Bids

Entertainment

Community Calendar

RSS feeds

**SIGN UP FOR
BREAKING
NEWS**Go to
TheSkanner.com

Opinion

Blackonomics: Unrepresented by Our Representatives

Does it really matter who wins the Presidency?

How can it matter to Black folks, considering the way we “play” politics? We have no power, no leverage, and little or no influence in the political arena – and even worse it seems we are reluctant to do what it takes to gain any political clout. So why do we care so much about the upcoming election?

Is our political strategy to say, “I got plenty of nothing, and nothing is plenty for me”? Or, “You got to give the people, give the people what they want”? Do we even have a strategy other than listening to flowery words from politicians and watching them give speeches and participate in debates?

We have empowered an aristocratic class of pompous, self-righteous, lying, condescending, affluent, aloof, money-grubbing, narcissistic, insincere, unconcerned, yet powerful individuals that many of us hold in high esteem, for reasons unbeknownst to me.

All the incumbents and candidates need are a few nice sounding phrases to make us think we are in high cotton. To make matters worse, Black “leaders” once again are telling us to vote, but they are not in specific discussions about

James Clingman
NNPA
Columnist

who to vote for and why. Oh yeah, I forgot; the NAACP is “nonpartisan” (yeah, right) and cannot endorse or support any candidate. How convenient – and what a joke that is.

The vast majority of Black folks are already in the tank for Hillary. Anyone can see that. Black organizations will

“If you want equity, justice, and equality, you must...become irritants, become abrasive

–Rep. William “Bill” Clay

feature her at their conventions, and preachers will invite her to their pulpits.

On the other hand, Bernie is courting Blacks via his “Black lives matter” rhetoric, and Trump is saying how much Black people love him, while the other Republican candidates are reluctant to seriously lobby the Black vote – including Uncle Ben.

We are merely props for a circus act.

Where does all of this political high drama leave us? Our unemployment rate is still double that of Whites, and we are not creating jobs. Our health is the poorest in the nation, especially with illnesses like diabetes, and we don’t own a dialysis center. Our education is substandard, and we are not establishing our own schools. We are disproportionately incarcerated, but we are not selling anything to the prisons. Many economic solutions are in our hands.

And here’s a political solution courtesy Rep. William

as kings and queens, the price for which can be found in 1st Samuel, Chapter Eight:

“This is the way the kind of king [you want] operates. He’ll take your sons and make soldiers of them... regimented in battalions and squadrons. He’ll put some to forced labor on his farms, plowing and harvesting, and others to making either weapons of war or chariots in which he can ride in luxury. He’ll put your daughters to work as beauticians and waitresses and cooks. He’ll conscript your best fields, vineyards, and orchards and hand them over to his special friends. He’ll tax your harvests and vintage to support his extensive bureaucracy. Your prize workers and best animals he’ll take for his own use. He’ll lay a tax on your flocks and you’ll end up no better than slaves. The day will come when you will cry in desperation because of this king you so much want for yourselves. But don’t expect God to answer.” – The Message Bible

Unnerving, isn’t it?

James Clingman is the nation’s most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. His latest book, Black Dollars Matter! Teach your dollars how to make more sense, is available on his website, Blackonomics.com.

Gov. Rick Snyder Poisons Poor to Save a Few Bucks

Flint, Mich., is impoverished. The auto plants have closed. Forty percent of the city’s 100,000 residents live below the poverty level. It is majority minority. It’s been in fiscal crisis since 2011, with the state taking over budgetary control and a state-appointed “emergency manager” driving policy focused on cutting spending.

Flint residents are Americans, but – like many impoverished Americans – they are forgotten. And state officials led by Gov. Rick Snyder have shown that they consider the residents disposable.

In Flint, the water supply has been poisoned by lead. Police are now delivering bottled water from door to door. But it may be too late for hundreds of kids who are already suffering from elevated levels of lead in their blood. The damage done is irreversible with lifelong consequences, including lowered intelligence and long-term mental and emotional damage.

How did this happen? The emergency manager – accountable only to the governor and state officials – decided to save money by switching Flint’s water supply from Lake Huron to

Rev. Jesse Jackson
NNPA
Columnist

a cheaper source, the Flint River. Only the river had been poisoned by waste from nearby factories for generations. The toxic wastes not

“Flint residents are Americans, but – like many impoverished Americans – they are forgotten

only turned the water brown, it corroded the aged pipes of Flint’s water system, unleashing lead into the water. Federal law required that the water be treated, but that would have cost \$100 a day, so it was not done.

Parents began to complain of rashes and hair loss. The state’s environmental quality agency denied there was a problem. High-level state officials knew that the water supply was lead poisoned for six months before declaring an

emergency. Finally, a Flint pediatrician tested the blood of children and discovered lead levels double and even triple the prior amounts. State officials denounced her work before realizing the truth could no longer be hidden.

Finally, Gov. Snyder ended the denial. He declared an official emergency, and four days later called for delivering bottled water. The head of his environmental agency resigned. Snyder apologized for the ca-

lack hospitals, grocery stores, and decent public spaces. The poor are left to fend for themselves, rising to attention only when violence breaks out, when innocents are shot, when tragedies like Flint become public.

The cost of this callousness – in lives lost, disease, mental damage, crime, drugs, hopelessness – are immense. This isn’t about money. We pay more on the back end – in prisons and emergency rooms, cops and guards, prisons and addiction centers – than we would have to spend on the front-end investments that would give every child a chance.

Conservatives continue to call for dismantling environmental regulations. They slash budgets for policing violations by corporations or cities. They want to slash support for poverty programs and block-grant them to the states and localities. The next time you hear that rap, think of Flint, its poorest children betrayed by state officials. Think of Flint, deprived even of safe water in order to save a few bucks.

Think of Flint and investigate your own community. The horrors of Flint are not exclusive to that city.

tastrophe, but calls for him to resign continue to build.

Flint is not alone. Across America, in ghettos and barrios, reservations and rural valleys, the poor are isolated and too often forgotten. Systems basic to civilization – plumbing, water systems, school houses, garbage collection and treatment, roads and public transport – are in squalor, lacking even the investment to keep them up to minimum standards. Impoverished neighborhoods often