

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
ReporterMonica J. Foster
Seattle Office CoordinatorSusan Fried
Photographer

The Skanner has received 20 NNPA awards since 1998

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

**BE A PART
OF THE
CONVERSATION**

#SkNews

Opinion

Macro-Aggression and the Offended Generation

Scores of dead White men glared back at them from the walls of the college dorm. The thought that some of these esteemed alumni could have actually owned their ancestors have apparently haunted the dreams of some of the privileged, elite students at Yale so much that they took to the yard in protest. The dorms at Yale, they declared, are no longer a 'safe space' for Black students.

In Yorktown, Virginia, a thirteen year-old kid forced to deal with the usual cruelties meted out by middle school kids, compounded with an extra dose of racial hostility wrote an open letter to his school demanding redress.

These two fragments represent in microcosm the state of racial relations faced by a new generation of Black Americans.

On the one hand, they are evidence of the immense progress that has taken place in the country over the past 60 years or so. The very fact that there are significant numbers of Black students at elite universities is a testament to that progress. And the fact that a twelve year-old boy attending a public school in a predominantly White Pennsylvania county has openly voiced his frustration speaks to his expectation that the grownups

Armstrong
WilliamsNNPA
Columnist

in the room must exhibit better leadership. That's progress too.

But we have regressed in some ways too. At the University of Missouri, students demanded (and received) the resignations of University Administrators, who they perceived as being inadequate

“They have not yet come to grips with the reality that much of life is about striving to correct the infelicities in our own character

ly responsive to their complaints about racial hostilities on campus. But their need to be coddled was so strong that even the ouster of the university's President and Provost were not enough. Their list of eight demands included the creation and 'enforcement' of a "comprehensive racial awareness and inclusion curriculum throughout all campus departments and units, mandatory for all students, faculty, staff and administration." Despite commanding the university to implement

mandatory 'inclusion' curriculum, the Black student activists then proceeded to ban White students who had joined in their protests from some of the planning activities, citing the need for a Black-only space for 'healing.'

One wonders how, at a University, which is over ninety-percent White, Black students hope to be able win friends and influence sustainable change using such immature tactics.

A group of 'poor,' 'righteous,' and indignant Black students at Dartmouth took us back even further. They

actually invaded what should be the safest space of all at a University – the library. They barged into the library as other students were studying and actually assaulted White students, hurling despicable racist epithets, which have been widely publicized and do not bear repeating.

It goes without saying that this group of rash, immature youngsters need to immediately issue apologies to the students they harmed, and seek to make amends. Or they

need to be suspended or otherwise appropriately disciplined by the University.

At the end of the day, these recent incidents are not really about attempting to achieve more inclusion or redress of age-old racial wrongs. It is about the "offended" generation expressing its' inherited right to be coddled, entitled and accorded a group privilege based on the assumed mantle of victimization. They have grown up on a steady diet of liberal media hogwash that finds a bigot behind every door to achievement, a racial slight in almost every utterance which challenges their world-view, whether it was intended or not.

The belief in an engineered "equality" to the exclusion of freedom of thought and speech leads inevitably down the road towards fascism.

The engineered equality attempted by Stalin wasted scores of millions of lives. The appeal to authoritarian intervention to guarantee outcomes almost always leads to disastrous consequences. Real equality doesn't mean everyone gets the same things, or even has access to exactly the same opportunities.

As the lessons of history have taught us, "equality" without freedom is utterly useless.

all over the nation compete for sports glory. But what about "May Sadness," when graduation time comes, and many athletes are left behind and left out.

Meanwhile, good minority students – and many, many good White students – struggle to pay excessive tuition and fees, too often ending up buried under massive loans, which will hem them in for decades.

On Saturday afternoons, those of us who are sports fans choose to root for our teams based on uniform color rather than skin color. This was not always so.

It's a change in American culture that deserves celebration.

And it teaches us a lesson for the rest of society, because young African Americans can compete and excel when the playing field is level, when the rules are public, when the goals are transparent, when the referees are fair.

Our sports playing fields are level, and our teams are diverse, multicultural, multi-racial and successful. Our societal playing fields are not so level, are less diverse, and the rewards are less evenly shared. College campuses are good places to learn this lesson and to begin to discuss how to do better.

to support young chemists. Good athletes are awarded scholarships (unless they get hurt), while their universities reap millions in tickets sales and revenue from jerseys and sports bling.

Athletic departments are supposed to be appendages of universities, but it often appears that the reverse is true. African American players are empowered on the field, but much less so in the classroom.

Think about college basketball. The entire sports world focuses on "March Madness," when integrated teams from

Missouri Students Teach Lesson in Nonviolent Change

Paul Robeson. Muhammad Ali. Bill Russell. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Jim Brown. Curt Flood. Hank Aaron. The "Black 14" at the University of Wyoming. The St. Louis Rams. Michael Sam. Tommy Smith and John Carlos, black-gloved fists in the air. LeBron James and Derrick Rose, wearing "I Can't Breathe" T-shirts.

These are only a few of the most visible African-American athletes who risked their positions, their high status in our culture, their endorsements and their high salaries in the cause of civil rights and equal justice.

Not all the athletes that championed fair play were African American, of course. Roberto Clemente comes to mind immediately. Bill Walton spoke out against the Vietnam War. Billie Jean King stood up for women's equality in sports. Brooklyn Dodgers captain Pee Wee Reese stood by Jackie Robinson out on the ball field, making it clear that the color line had been crossed for good.

Now the University of Missouri football team has shown us what real "Tigers" do when it's time to pick up the hammer of justice.

These African American players stood by the student protesters and hunger strik-

Rev. Jesse
JacksonNNPA
Columnist

er Jonathan Butler. Interestingly, their White teammates and their White coach, Gary Pinkel, then joined the cause, too. And change came to the campus.

“The University of Missouri football team has shown us what real "Tigers" do when it's time to pick up the hammer of justice

The students and the athletes showed that they had studied Dr. King and the lessons of the civil rights movement. They were disciplined, nonviolent, focused – and they used their leverage to demand a role in their own educations.

Strategically, they chose a moment to act when they had leverage over a million dollars in potential TV revenues. It was smart organizing, and it worked. As the old saying goes, rabbit hunting is a lot less fun when the rabbit has a gun.

In this case, of course, the "gun" was nonviolent protest against racial injustice.

African American athletes showed their clout.

A sleeping giant awoke.

Today's colleges spend a lot of time recruiting African-American athletes but much less time recruiting young African American scholars. No expense is spared to develop a young halfback, but fewer and fewer Pell Grants are available