

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 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.

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

My White Male Privilege Is Complicit In Black Male Killings

I am the outward embodiment of privilege. A 39-year-old heterosexual white man. A six-foot-tall lawyer with no physical impairments living on a safe street with my white lawyer wife and our two kids in a safe part of an overwhelmingly white city and state...and this letter is about shame.

Shame that so many lives in my community and this country have been quietly lived and loudly taken in such demonstrably unjust ways. Shame that our collective inaction, and our cumulative public policies have led us to a place where death from guns, and death from the police, have become so brazen and so common, that even now, despite the advantage and widespread use of recording devices, my own inaction is complicit.

When I was 16 years old I was pulled over for the first time in my life. I was speeding in northern Virginia. The police officer was standing on the side of the road with a radar gun pointed at my car and he was shouting and motioning at me to pull over to the side of the road. The officer approached me quickly and said I was driving 12 miles an hour over the limit. He angrily told me that I was a new driver and therefore needed to drive more slowly. When he walked back to his motorcycle to issue me my ticket, I

Robert S.
MilesnickAttorney at
Law, Oregon

yelled out my window at him: "Officer, can't you just give me a warning this time?"

It is a shame. It is a shame that at 16 years of age I was already well aware of my white male privilege — or at least not afraid to throw the police

“I am ashamed that white America has not demanded a systemic realignment about who we hire as police officers, how we train them, what we expect from them

such an arrogant question, which is a byproduct of the same thing. I was just a naïve teenager, but I didn't have an inkling of concern that I might increase my chances of being targeted for later harassment, or told to "step out of the car", or told to "watch myself" or told to "calm down" or ultimately become the victim in a reflexive escalation that might lead to my own death over a speeding ticket. How many Black or brown or yellow or red or mentally ill or LGBT or female teen-

agers would have yelled out the window of their formerly speeding vehicle at 16 years of age to ask... challenge... a white male officer after they had been so plainly at fault? For how many would that request have been granted?

It was granted for me. The officer was visibly upset and shouted that he had just ticketed a woman who was driving slower than I was, but a lecture was all he gave me before he waved me forward and I drove away.

I am a plaintiffs' civil rights attorney now. All around me

of police officers who, if not legally, were physically responsible for any number of far too many untimely black deaths.

Death for "offenses" like speeding...or selling CDs...or loitering...or looking too poor...or looking too rich...or running away...or standing one's ground...or being a 12 year old boy playing with a toy gun despite growing up in an American culture that so vociferously promotes one's right — indeed obligation — to possess all manner of real guns (as long as the possessor is white) ...or asking "what's the charge?"...or saying "I want a lawyer" or asserting any number of constitutionally guaranteed rights ... or pleading with closed eyes, "Officer, can't you just give me a warning this time?" ...or crying, and then whispering while they died, "I can't breathe."

I am ashamed that White America has not demanded a systemic realignment about who we hire as police officers, how we train them, what we expect from them, what crimes we enforce and for what actions we hold the public as well as police accountable. Police officers have an incredibly difficult job, but we must redefine the rules of engagement.

Read the rest of this commentary at
TheSkanner.com

Moving Forward After Last Week's Tragedies

One Hundred Black Men, Inc., is deeply disturbed by the homicides of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile at the hands of police officers. Our hearts and prayers are with their families. This tragedy has unfortunately become commonplace in our society, and the promotion of body cams on police officers has not become the panacea many hoped would provide restraint and accountability by law enforcement.

Some of our nation's most notorious White criminals in history have been delivered safely by police to courtrooms to exercise their constitutional rights. However, too many accused Black men never make this journey. We are struck down and strangled on site, even after already being restrained.

History teaches us that in the coming weeks and months, we can unfortunately expect more Black men to be shot and killed by police under questionable circumstances. We are not prey. We are engineers and architects who build cities, we are businessmen who serve communities, we are doctors who

Michael
GardnerPresident,
One
Hundred
Black Men

heal the sick, clergy who save souls, and mentors who inspire children. We are fathers, husbands and sons. We are One Hundred Black Men, and Black Lives Matter.

As an organization born

“Some of our nation's most notorious white criminals in history have been delivered safely by police to courtrooms to exercise their constitutional rights

out of an incident involving police misconduct more than 50 years ago, we believe in the collective power of Black men standing together to address injustice. Some of these men are law enforcement officials themselves, who exemplify the noblest efforts to protect and serve.

At the same time, One Hundred Black Men mourn the loss of five police officers

in Dallas who were gunned down yesterday in the line of duty during a peaceful march. These sniper-style shootings of Dallas police officers were a "vicious and calculated attack" on law enforcement, and we condemn violence against police officers. The officers, and the injured survivors, have become the latest victims in a national epidemic of gun violence that stains the soul of our great nation. All of us have an absolute right to live safely and be treated with

respect, and our hearts and prayers are also with their families.

As we approach the anniversary of the senseless killing of Eric Garner, we, the Founding Chapter of 100 Black Men of America, remain committed to addressing all forms of gun violence that plague our community. However, despite our historical commitment, we must acknowledge that over

the past half-century in New York and half-millennium in the Americas, justice has not been realized. How long must Black Americans — and all Americans — expect to wait for equal justice?

The new civil rights slogan of our youngest leaders, "Black Lives Matter," has unique resonance in its defiance of dehumanization. It not only serves as a call for transparency, constitutional law enforcement, and fairness in police reform, but also demands unapologetically that we be recognized for our beauty and humanity.

One Hundred Black Men supports the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights division taking over the investigation in Baton Rouge to increase accountability, and we will continue to support state and federal legislators looking to pass criminal justice reforms that increase accountability for the abuse of police powers. We will also work with various law enforcement agencies, local officials, and our communities to end gun violence, and ensure that racial justice and civil rights remain at the forefront of political discourse.