

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
Reporter

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.



- Local News
- Pacific NW News
- World News
- Opinions
- Jobs, Bids
- Entertainment
- Community Calendar
- RSS feeds

**BE A PART
OF THE
CONVERSATION**

#SkNews

Opinion

Blackonomics: What the Kaepernick Protest Tells Us about Black Power and Money

Turnabout is fair play. Why can't more of us see that economics is the key to our freedom and the answer to the problems we talk about all the time? This political year has and continues to bring this fact to light, but the Colin Kaepernick protest illuminates the issue of economics even more. Here is a guy who chose to exercise his right not to stand at the playing/singing of the National Anthem, and as a result folks have called him everything, but a child of God. Folks who have burned the flag have not received the kind of treatment Kaepernick has garnered. Now, as other football players have joined in to do similar acts of protest, the real deal — economics — comes to the forefront.

Sponsors are exercising their rights to revoke their endorsements of these athletes. In other words, they are taking away their money in an effort to punish these players, the same thing they always do when a player says or does something they don't like or agree with. It has happened to Black and White players alike.

Opinions abound on what the players should do now,



James Clingman
NNPA
Columnist

and it's amazing that some of us tell them to keep it up no matter how much money they lose, but we are unwilling to

“It's amazing that some of us tell them to keep it up no matter how much money they lose, but we are unwilling to do the same thing at our jobs.

Yes, they make a whole lot more money than most of us do, but it's all relative.

Knowing that economics runs everything in this country and the world for that matter, Black folks in general and Black athletes in particular must exercise another basic right: Use money for leverage and punishment, the same way other entities do. What do I mean by that? Remember the incidents with Michael Vick, Adrian Peterson and Ray Rice? Several NFL sponsors notified the league that they would withdraw their support if the NFL did not

address those issues by punishing those athletes in some form or another. The league saw dollar signs flying out of the window and acted accordingly.

Remember the state of Indiana law that gay people said was discriminatory toward them? Corporations threatened to move their firms out of the state if the law was not changed. Gover-

accusing the owners and operators of the NBA as co-conspirators in “blackballing” him from the league because of his “outspoken political nature as an African American man.”

When the Bulls championship team went to the White House after an invitation from President George H.W. Bush, Hodges wore a dashiki and handed the President a letter that asked him to do more to end injustice toward

the African American community.

Ironically and unfairly, during that same period, stars like Dennis Rodman and Charles Barkley, both known for doing outrageous things, were tolerated and even celebrated. Craig Hodges stood on his beliefs as did Denver Nuggets star, Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf, formerly known as Chris Jackson, who was probably second only to Michael Jordan on the offensive end of the basketball court.

Read the rest of this commentary at TheSkanner.com

Managing Pain and Opioid Addiction in the Black Community

As America grapples with prescription opioid addiction, an epidemic shattering communities across our nation, healthcare providers face a challenging question: How can we help patients treat and manage their pain while reducing the risk of addiction?

Pain management is a serious health issue, as chronic cases of pain now affect more Americans than diabetes, heart disease and cancer combined. Not only does persistent pain afflict the emotional and financial well-being of people and their families, it also exacts a significant strain on our country — in the form of healthcare costs, long-term disability and lost worker productivity.

Pain does not discriminate based on background or health status, yet research points to substantial disparities in the prevalence, treatment and outcomes of pain. For many African Americans and other minorities, understanding why these disparities exist is paramount to achieving pain care equity and improving quality of life.

Minorities are not at a higher risk for pain-related conditions than their White counterparts, but African Americans consistently receive less adequate treatment



Patricia A. Maryland, Dr. PH
NNPA
Columnist

for acute and chronic pain — even after controlling for age, gender and pain intensity. What's more, research also shows that minorities are

“African-Americans continue to be skeptical of the healthcare system, and that lack of trust can lead African American patients to underreport their pain levels.

more likely to be prescribed less effective, non-opioid medications — or opioids at a lower prescription dosage — than Whites, even when pain severity levels are comparable.

That is not to say opioids are always the preferred tool for treating pain. However, the prescription of less effective medications or lower dosages does signal a troubling gap in instances when opioids can be an effective, pragmatic solution for African American patients.

Many factors are at play in understanding why African American patients are more likely to receive inadequate pain treatment, but physician

bias is perhaps the biggest factor. While most physicians are strong advocates for health equity, negative preconceptions can creep into how pain is addressed in the clinical setting. Eliminating these biases is one key way we can achieve better outcomes for African Americans experiencing pain, and that starts by understanding a patient's heritage and belief system.

Access is another instru-

prevented. We know some African Americans continue to be skeptical of the healthcare system, and that lack of trust can lead African American patients to underreport their pain levels, only furthering inadequate pain management. African American patients must take charge of their health and feel empowered to honestly communicate and set expectations with healthcare providers in order

to receive the right care at the right time.

At Ascension, we're working to achieve equitable pain management across all minority groups. We know our field is at a tipping point, and a failure to treat pain is not only poor medicine, it's denying our brothers and sisters a basic human right. That's why we are working in concert with our patients to develop national, comprehensive guidelines to pain management — standards that embed healthcare equity with our understanding of patient history and cultural sensitivity.

Read the rest of this commentary at TheSkanner.com