

THE SkannerChallenging People to Shape
a Better Future NowBernie Foster
Founder/PublisherBobbie Dore Foster
Executive EditorJerry Foster
Advertising ManagerChristen McCurdy
News EditorPatricia Irvin
Graphic DesignerMelanie Sevckenko
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 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.

©2017 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**

@theskannernews

Opinion

The Art of the Deal: Trump Loves Confusion and Chaos

In politics, I have been told that you pick your battles, but President Donald Trump has a different theory. He has decided to fight everyone that does not agree with his opinion, and it's probably the worst way that he could have started his administration.

There are over 600 administrative positions that must be filled, and staffers who have been hired are having meetings in the dark, because they don't know how to turn on the lights. There are leaks coming from aides who are questioning if the top staff understands the processes of the White House and/or the federal government.

At this point, Trump's most significant political setback in his new administration is the 9th Circuit Court ruling against reinstating the president's travel ban. The unanimous ruling from a three-judge panel means that citizens of seven majority-Muslim countries will be able to continue travel to and from the U.S., despite Trump's executive order last month.

Trump's immediate response was an angry tweet: "SEE YOU IN COURT, THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION IS AT STAKE!"

So, now Trump's top staff

Roger
CaldwellNNPA
Columnist

will hold numerous meetings trying to determine how they can circumvent the Circuit Court's decision and fall further behind in organizing the administration.

Instead of presenting evidence to explain the need for the executive order, Trump's

“An environment of chaos is not new for Trump, and he appears to thrive on disorder

legal team came to the hearing unprepared. This is significant, because it raises questions about how his other executive orders will be defended in court, as lawyers across the nation begin to file lawsuits.

An environment of chaos is not new for Trump, and he appears to thrive on disorder. During the campaign, then-Republican presidential candidate promised that he would drain the swamp and now people are watching it

happen every day.

Trump, the reality TV star, loves confusion, and believes chaos produces the sort of results he likes.

“Read any of those stories and the word ‘chaos’ jumps to mind. Or ‘turmoil.’ Or ‘dissension.’ All of them convey the same thing: “Less than three weeks into his presidency there is a knife fight happening daily among Trump's top aides.” wrote Chris Cillizza for “The Fix,” a politics blog for “The Washington Post.”

Then National Security Advisor Michael Flynn was

disapproval with the dysfunction of the administration. As the aides support different factions in the administration, someone from the senior staff will become the most powerful.

Many think that Stephen Bannon, Trump's senior advisor, is the architect of many of the executive orders and the top staff person in the Trump Administration with all the power.

Bannon's appointment to the National Security Council has upset America, because now he has unlimited power. With Bannon on the National Security Council, he has a political platform for hateful ideologies instead of the council making critical decisions based upon facts from experts on the ground. Things are a mess, and nearly a month into this presidency, very little has actually been accomplished.

There are still hundreds of jobs to be filled and very few bills have been passed by Congress and sent to the White House.

Most con men give the impression that they are rolling, but in this administration, when you roll back the fluff, there is no substance and no one knows what they are doing.

forced to resign after it was reported that he had contact with Russian officials after the election. Trump's Labor Secretary pick Andrew Puzder withdrew from consideration for the post amidst decades-old domestic abuse claims, which his wife later recanted, and shortage of support among Republican senators.

The West Wing is basically empty, and there are small cracks of disappointment and

Building the Movement to Fight American Extremism

Moral resistance, Americans are quickly learning, is a civic duty under President Trump.

But even as mass protests remind us that the Constitution was not un-elected last November, history suggests that our resistance must prepare for a long-term movement.

Things are going to get worse in America before they get better. We will win, but it's not going to be fast and it's not going to be easy. Let us lose perspective, we need to soberly face the challenge before us.

From Hitler to Franco to Suharto, fascist regimes in the 20th century seemed implausible in their beginnings. Nevertheless, their strong men defied the political establishment and appealed to “the people,” even as they undermined the democratic process, a free press, organized labor and the arts. In no instance, did this happen all at once, and in every case there were opponents who expressed outrage at some point (Eighty percent of Germans disapproved of the Kristallnacht attack on synagogues).

But outrage did not stop fascism. The consistent scapegoating of some minority group inevitably turned na-

Rev. Dr.
William J.
Barber, IIPresident,
NC NAACP

tional attention to security, law and order. Every fascist regime has blessed its corporate leaders and invested in infrastructure projects; in turn, so-called religious

“We are building a movement of people who are not only determined to fight extremism, but also to build the America that has not yet been

leaders consistently bless the marriage of God and country. The only thing that can stop fascism is a broad coalition of people determined to stand together against extremism.

What will protect us, four years from now, from a fascism that delays normal elections during war time?

When extremists took over state government in North Carolina in 2013, we had to face the reality of anti-democratic populism in 21st-century America. Yes, we were

outraged. But when 17 moral leaders were arrested in an act of civil disobedience on the first “Moral Monday,” we committed ourselves to a fight with every nonviolent tool available to us in the courts, in the streets, in the legislature and at the ballot box. We spent some long nights in jail, and we suffered some hard defeats in the midterm elections. But this past November, when Trumpism swept the South, extremists in North

cans who are moved to resist, even as political differences remain (11 percent of Moral Monday supporters were Republican in 2013).

Second, we have to build cross-racial, cross-class coalitions that put a face on policy changes that hurt real people.

Third, we must be willing to put our bodies on the line in nonviolent direct action and escalate our campaign until the cost of oppression is greater than the willingness of oppressors to continue.

Finally, we must be committed for the long haul. Our protest cannot be about a moment. We are building a movement of people who are not only determined to fight extremism, but also to build the America that has not yet been. We are working for a Third Reconstruction, and we know our history well enough to know that this work will not be fast or easy.

With the ascent of Steve Bannon to the White House, we are closer to fascism than America has ever been before. But we also know what can beat fascism. Others fought before us; it's our time now. We needed a movement of moral resistance in every community, holding elected officials accountable for the extremism that is fast becoming U.S. policy.

Carolina lost control of two of the three branches of government. In addition to that, a federal court has ordered special elections in 2017, because the racially gerrymandered legislative districts, which gave extremists a supermajority in the legislative branch, were deemed unconstitutional.

We need a sustained moral resistance. We cannot let this debate be about party. Some things aren't left or right. They're right or wrong. Democrats and Independents must link up with Republi-