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The Skanner Newspaper, established in October 1975, is a weekly publication, published every Wednesday by IMM Publications Inc.

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The Skanner is a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and West Coast Black Publishers Association.

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August 15



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Opinion

Congress Must Stop Family Separation

Like many Americans, the treatment of children and families at the border has shaken me to my core.

San Diego-based U.S. District Court Judge Dana Stribaw has essentially said to stop defying the courts and reunite these families.

The deadline to reunify parents with children under 5 was July 10th, and the deadline to reunify children five and older is July 26th. The Administration has asked for an extension saying it would need more time to reconnect parents and children in certain cases. They have requested an extension to the deadline, but the court is still monitoring and it has yet to be granted.

It's no secret that Donald Trump views immigrants with disdain. He has called Mexicans "rapists" and referred to immigrants as "animals."

The Trump Administration has embraced nativist dog whistles from day one.

Nowhere is this clearer than in the shameful "zero tolerance" policy pursued by President Trump, which has separated families, locked kids in facilities, and traumatized innocent children.

Families come to this country seeking asylum. They undertake grueling, danger-



Rep.
Barbara Lee
D-Calif.

ous journeys in the hope that America will provide safe harbor from the violence that they are fleeing. Some are escaping domestic abuse, others have come to our shores to save their families from gangs. None expect to have their children ripped from their arms when they finally reach safety.

Two weeks ago, I travelled to McAllen, Brownsville and Los Fresnos, Texas to visit detention centers and see the situation firsthand. I witnessed terrified kids sleeping on cold concrete floors. I saw scared toddlers separated from their families. I heard from mothers unsure if or when they would see their children again. Some parents didn't even have a phone number to reach their children.

This is not the first time in America's history that we have separated young children of color from their parents. It happened during the Middle Passage.

It chills me to the bone to know our government would

repeat this dark history of jailing children and splitting up families.

Before the abolition of slavery, children of Black slaves were sold by owners at will. This was a constant fear for enslaved families—that their beloved children would be sold away, never to be seen again.

Starting in the 19th century, Native Americans were forced to send their children to government or church-

“The Trump Administration is repeating the mistakes of our past

run boarding schools, known as "Indian Schools." There, these children were stripped of their culture, forced to cut their hair and given new names. These schools existed in America until the 1970s.

America also has a long history of jailing entire families, like the Trump Administration now wants to do with asylum seekers. Who can forget the devastating internment camps of the 1940s, where people of Japanese ancestry were forced to live during World War II. This policy

was such a source of national shame that in 1988, the U.S. government signed legislation formally apologizing and providing restitution to interned Japanese-Americans.

Instead of learning from our painful history, the Trump Administration is repeating the mistakes of our past and inflicting more trauma on families seeking safe harbor from the violence and abuse they left behind.

And now, rather than proposing real solutions, the Trump Administration wants to lock immigrant families up indefinitely. Let me be clear: jailing children is unacceptable under any circumstances.

Ending the policy of separating families—but forcing kids to live in jail for months on end—is just replacing one form of child abuse with another.

These human rights violations must be addressed immediately.

I have asked UN Secretary-General Anthony Guterres to send observers to report on the conditions at detention facilities and to ensure the thousands of children who have been separated from their parents are reunited.

Read the rest of this commentary at
TheSkanner.com

You Don't Have to Break the Bank to Give Back

Earlier this year, a man named Jack Weldon Patrick passed away in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. A long-time lawyer, Patrick was remembered as a family man, an advocate for social justice, and a respected community leader.

One day a check arrived by mail for the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) in memory of Jack Weldon Patrick. A few days later, another one arrived, and a few weeks later, another check. Individual donations kept coming to support the work of TMCF and our publicly-supported Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in honor of Jack. His obituary read, "in lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial donations in Jack's name to causes he cared deeply about." One of those causes was TMCF.

So many of us outside of TMCF headquarters and Menomonee may have never known Jack as a stalwart of access and opportunity for students attending Black colleges. Many of us aren't even aware that Jack was part of the reason why in 2016, private giving and contracts earned by HBCUs increased for a second straight year, posting a four-year high of \$320 million. But we do know he was a living embodiment



Dr. Harry L.
Williams
Pres. & CEO
Thurgood
Marshall
College Fund

of the famous quote by Nelson Henderson: "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

While philanthropic anonymity is honorable, philanthropic leadership helps organizations like TMCF reach new supporters, encouraging new donor circles to give. Showcasing the faces and stories of those who give is an important tool in cultivating similar donors, encouraging a culture of giving around our campuses. This is a critical strategy that grows an organization's base of support every year. For non-profit organizations, individual giving is the largest type of charitable gift – four times the amount as the next largest category in 2015, according to Giving USA.

Organizations like TMCF thrive due to the generosity of individuals who believe in our work and want to expand our impact, through monthly and annual donations, as well as the legacy gift. TMCF com-

bines these individuals' gifts with foundation grants and partnerships with major corporations and government agencies to provide the funds that allow us to transform lives. It takes a philanthropic village to develop young minds, and we are humbled to be good stewards of the resources that our donors and partners entrust to us.

TMCF, its 47 member-schools and the nearly 300,000 students attending them each year, want to play

“Anyone believing in the power of education to transform lives should invest in HBCUs

a role in redefining HBCU philanthropy and support. The data on finances and the number of degrees we produce in areas like STEM, education, social sciences and criminal justice already show just how productive HBCUs continue to be in graduating Black students. Seventy percent of our publicly-supported HBCUs attendees are first generation college students

(like I was) and eligible for Pell Grants. In comparison, the national average is only 37 percent for all public schools. By providing this quality education, students transform their lives and prepare to enter economically sustainable careers. Now TMCF wants to illustrate that same culture within our giving networks.

Anyone believing in the power of education to transform lives should invest in HBCUs. This includes alumni who want to have a tangible way to support their schools. All people in our networks at work, at church, in our communities, fraternities and sororities, and other circles of activity are worthy of soliciting for support. Age, earnings and personality are not elements for disqualifying those who might be willing to give, or those who have the capacity to do so.

TMCF member-schools like North Carolina Central University are experiencing record gains in gifts secured from younger donors. Texas Southern University recently raised more than \$1M at its annual Maroon and Gray gala, an event which just in its second year which has cultivated new supporters for the university and has raised nearly \$2M for student scholarships and institutional support.