

# THE Skanner®

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# Opinion

## The Pernicious Power of Patriarchy

Our nation, these United States, is founded on the principles of racism and patriarchy. They are reflected in our very constitution, where enslaved persons were counted as a fraction of a person and only men of property were allowed the right to vote. The filthy inequality at the foundation of this nation has now bubbled up and boiled over, polluting every aspect of our lives.

Patriarchy places men at the center of life and women at the periphery. It suggests that women do not matter. It allows for the subjugation of women when they attempt to enter public spaces that have previously been earmarked as "male" spaces.

Thus, there were no restrooms for women legislators in the U.S. House or Senate, even as women entered those spaces. They were only created when women demanded them. Of course, restrooms are just a minor manifestation of the hegemonic patriarchy that rules our nation.

A great picture of our nation's racist patriarchy was the visual of doughy and dissipated white men interrogating the amazingly composed Anita Hill as she reviewed her experiences with now Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Though Hill was persuasive, she was attacked in



Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Columnist

the vilest of terms, accused of nonsense like "erotomania," and even recently harassed by Thomas' spouse who was still seeking apology after two decades.

In any case, Thomas is on the Supreme Court because

“Privileged white male culture allows a man who should not have been elected President to denigrate women on a regular basis. We are ‘fat,’ ‘dogs’ and ‘liars’

white men chose to disregard the word of a Black woman — a decision that then-Senator Joe Biden says he now regrets. Thomas was confirmed by the narrowest margin in history 52-48.

Here we go again.

By the time this is published the matter of 45's Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh may be resolved but the issue of pernicious patriarchy will not be.

Regarding Kavanaugh, he has been accused by Dr. Christine Blasey Ford of sexual assault form more than

35 years ago, when both were teens. She disclosed her accusations in a letter that California Senator Dianne Feinstein received in July, but did not share with the FBI until later, mainly because Ford asked for confidentiality.

Ford has requested that the FBI investigate her assertions, yet the Senate Judiciary committee is still fast-tracking their vote on Kavanaugh. The outcome, while necessary, is not the bottom line. The issue is the way that racist patriarchy makes some

a gaggle of white men who thought her body their right? Can I remind us of the Texas gubernatorial candidate, Clayton Williams, who said that if rape was inevitable, a woman should "lay back and enjoy it"? Ann Richards beat him, but that wasn't quite the point. The point was that some man thought that rape was inevitable enough to "enjoy."

Privileged White male culture allows a man who should not have been elected President to denigrate women on a regular basis. We are "fat," "dogs" and "liars."

He bragged about grabbing women's genitals, and our society is so poached in pernicious patriarchy that 52 percent of White women (and 41 percent of all women) still voted for him. They thought he was joking because, for too many women, patriarchy has so seeped into our consciousness that the abuse of women is a joke.

If we women were honest, we would say that we have all cosigned patriarchy in the interest of keeping it moving. We have deflected the sexist comments that come our way, even as we cringe from them. We smile at men that we abhor because they may have power over us.

Read the rest of this commentary at [TheSkanner.com](http://TheSkanner.com)

## College Students Share Sagas of Debt and Disillusionment

College students today come in many ages and from many backgrounds. In addition to recent high school graduates, there are laid off workers who need updated skills, and single heads of household returning to school to better provide for their families. Veterans seeking to transition to civilian life are also seeking higher education as a way out and up the financial ladder.

In a real sense, the number of people enrolling in some type of higher education is as diverse as the nation. And so are the choices.

Beyond four-year baccalaureate degrees and graduate schools, today's educational options include varied career and technical training programs in such fields as computers, cosmetology, criminal justice, fashion design, and entertainment business.

Prominent among the institutions offering this educational medley are for-profit colleges that use business strategies to target financially vulnerable consumers, then complete enrollment as quickly as possible. These institutions even encourage debt beyond what is needed to pay tuition and fees.

A new report released by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) analyzes



Charlene Crowell  
NNPA Columnist

how for-profit students who sought educational training to improve their lives wound up in worse financial circumstances after enrollment. For-profit colleges were found to be twin traps of poor outcomes and costly

“Students who sought educational training to improve their lives wound up in worse financial circumstances

debts that together often lead to loan defaults.

This finding is consistent with nationwide statistics on for-profit borrowers. Across the nation, for-profit college loan defaults occur at a rate three times that of students enrolled at either public or private institutions offering four-year and/or two-year studies.

Closely tied to this nationwide trend of more frequent for-profit loan defaults is the low number of graduates. Nationwide, fewer than 30 percent of for-profit students

graduate six years following their enrollment in two or four-year curricula.

"Debt and Disillusionment: Stories of Former For-Profit College Students," shares the stories of these former students as told in a nine-part focus group series. During these sessions, the former students candidly reflect upon their decisions, experiences, and ways to keep going at this thing called life.

Metro Orlando, Florida became the study locale due to both its racial and ethnic

diversity, as well as its dense concentration of for-profit institutions. Compared to other states, Florida also has one of the highest loan default rates in the nation.

The Sunshine State is also distinguished by its welcoming for-profit college climate:

- A legislature that passed at least 15 state laws friendly to for-profit colleges;
- A state Commission for Independent Education that employs multiple for-profit college executives; and
- An attorney general who

over a five-year period did little to investigate thousands of student loan complaints against the for-profit college industry.

All study participants borrowed large loans to finance their educations at one of 25 for-profit institutions within the last 10 years. Nationally-known schools such as the University of Phoenix, Kaplan and Strayer University were represented.

Against this backdrop, several participants noted the frequent commercials that initially sparked their interest. Meet Eric, who learned of the University of Phoenix from a commercial he saw on television.

"I remember this one commercial, I would always see, there was this chief of police from Cincinnati: 'I'm James Craig, I'm a Phoenix', and that always stuck in my head."

"It was like every time you watched a show the minute they do a commercial it was Everest or Florida Metropolitan University all day long," added Karla who felt similarly.

Others shared how aggressive recruitment tactics sought to enroll students as quickly as possible.

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