

THE
Skanner[®]
*Challenging People to Shape
 a Better Future Now*

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The Skanner Newspaper, estab-
 lished in October 1975, is a
 weekly publication, published
 every Wednesday by IMM Publi-
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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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The Skanner Celebrates 50 Years

By Lisa Loving
 Special to The Skanner News

If you are reading this right now,
 it means you're celebrating half
 a century of independent, com-
 munity journalism by The Skan-
 ner News publishers Bernie and
 Bobby Dore Foster. For 50 years,
 The Skanner News has been a fear-
 less advocate for everyday people
 and strong local leaders, in busi-
 ness and politics.

With its motto – Challenging
 people to make a better future now
 – this paper has, for generations,
 successfully challenged people
 and institutions from a construc-
 tive point of view.

We've told the stories of indi-
 viduals, families and community
 groups that have been caught in
 unfair situations. Our readers are
 elders, students, elected officials,
 business owners, janitors, retail
 workers, healthcare workers,
 lawmakers, laborers, educators,
 bureaucrats and visionaries. In
 other words, everybody reads The
 Skanner News.

To commemorate our 50th year
 in business, we've created this
 special edition packed with photos
 and remembrances of yesterday
 and today. We also feature an es-
 say by former sta reporter Don-
 ovan Scribes about why the Black
 press is crucial on a personal level,
 and also on a political level.

Looking back over the years, it's
 hard to boil down so much news
 reporting, feature photography,
 community events, commentary,
 and don't forget the ticket and tur-
 key and houseplant giveaways!

But here in these pages you'll
 find a special section highlighting
 the Martin Luther King Breakfast,
 focusing on the sometimes-con-
 troversial keynote speakers; and



Bobbie and Bernie Foster

a closer look at local leaders hon-
 ored with civil rights awards.

The Fosters have in many ways
 shaped our communities over the
 generations, weaving together
 national thought leaders, elected
 officials, educators, police, spiri-
 tual leaders and everyday working
 people who make up the heart of
 North and Northeast Portland –
 what we call Albina.

As I recently interviewed dozens
 of longtime The Skanner readers,
 I found that almost every single
 person came back to one topic:
 family. Some people I spoke with
 talked about the Foster family; the
 newspaper business they built;
 how many people were featured in
 the paper in some way and never
 forgot the sense of pride they felt
 about it.

Others talked most about their
 own family: which family mem-
 bers kept it on the coffee table or
 the kitchen counter where kids
 picked it up and read it too. Who
 saw themselves or someone they
 loved in The Skanner's pages, and
 how important that was over the
 years.

If you are reading this right now,
 thank you for being part of The
 Skanner News family, and thanks
 for supporting independent com-
 munity media.

Viewpoint

THE SKANNER NEWSPAPER is designed with Portland
 people in mind, and is an advocate of freedom of the
 press. What does this mean to our readers? With
 every issue, we will be offering an independent news-
 paper and freedom of choice in our editorials. Yours
 is the freedom to follow the news, to form and choose
 your own opinions based on the facts, to choose what
 interests you from national news, local events and
 business activity.

We at THE SKANNER hope that by using us to the ful-
 lest no one will be shortchanged. It is our belief that
 the establishment "status quo" cannot and must not
 remain; it must be changed. Tokenism is not enough.
 Full equality must be obtained especially in employ-
 ment, housing and education, if we as Blacks, living
 in this society are to exist.

In the past, numerous other community newspapers
 have started which have fallen short of serving the
 needs of this area. Some have folded, others have
 moved on to other areas. THE SKANNER is here to
 stay, and intends to provide that vehicle of communi-
 cation we feel is desperately needed.

At this point I would like to thank the many people who
 inspired us to accept this challenge: my wife, my daugh-
 ter, Monica, my mother, other members of my fam-
 ily and many very special friends.

THE SKANNER is located at 4843 N.E. Union Street.
 You are invited to stop in for a visit, bring in articles--
 school, community, entertainment, politics, church
 business, whatever. We are here to be of service to
 the community, and we welcome your ideas. The words
 of a famous poet often quoted by a gentleman I once
 worked for reflect our philosophy, "I shall pass this
 way but once, therefore, any good that I can do or any
 kindness that I can show, let me do it now, for I shall
 not pass this way again."

Bernie Foster
 BERNIE FOSTER
 PUBLISHING

The Skanner's first editorial as published Oct. 7, 1975.



Shirley Chisolm, center, speaking at a special
 event sponsored by The Skanner, from left:
 Charles Jordan, Bobbie Dore Foster, Eddie
 Rye Jr., Sen. Bill McCoy, Judge Aaron Brown,
 Judge Mercedes Deiz



Over the years the World Affairs Council of
 Oregon has brought many visitors to The
 Skanner's offices.