

50 Years of Service

1975-2025



State Representative Margaret Carter (center) and Bernie Foster greeting presidential candidate Bill Clinton at the airport

The Skanner's Journey

50 Years and Counting

By Helen Silvis
Special to The Skanner News

When we launched *The Skanner* in October 1975, we said we were here to stay. Fifty years later we are proud to have kept that promise.

The first Black publishers, John B. Russwurm and Samuel Cornish, knew that African Americans needed a newspaper where we could tell our own stories in our own voices. “We Wish To Plead Our Own Cause,” they wrote in the first issue of *Freedom’s Journal* in 1827. “Too Long Have Others Spoken For Us.”

“Thank You to all our readers and supporters wherever you are

Almost 150 years later when *The Skanner* started publishing, Black folks and minority communities in the Pacific Northwest still lacked representation in media. That’s why for many years our masthead affirmed, “No Other Can Speak For Us.”

We set out then to give a voice to African Americans and other minority communities in the Pacific Northwest. Now as we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we want to say a heartfelt Thank You to all our readers and supporters wherever you are.

For the last four decades you have brought us your stories of struggle and success. Through creating visual art, music, poetry and dance you enriched life for people of all colors and backgrounds. You campaigned tirelessly to right injustices and to improve opportunities in education, work and business. You helped us tell the world what must change—and why. Without your voices and your support we would not be here. Your trust and confidence empower us to hold leaders accountable and to pursue your hopes and dreams for the future.

Over the years we found our brand of journalism appeals to people of all colors who care about justice and equity.

So, dear readers, we dedicate this 50th anniversary edition of *The Skanner* to you. Let’s celebrate together.



At *The Skanner*’s 15th anniversary, from left Gloria McMurtry, Jerry Foster, Shirley Minor, and friends



Portland Trail Blazer Mark Bryant (right) listening to director Brian Grubb (in baseball cap) during filming of a public service announcement for the Northeast Community Development Corporation

