

VERNONIANS: Pass the Bond, Not the Buck!

Every month from June thru November you will see an article on the school bond issue produced by the Vernonia School Bond Committee—a group of your neighbors and friends working to make sure you have all the information you need to vote YES in November – YES for our children and grandchildren and YES for the future and prosperity of our entire community.

This month our interview is with our very own Ax Man, Mike Pihl

Question: Why is a new school campus important to you personally?

Answer: I have young kids and grandkids that will go to the new school and even if I did not, I would support the bond because it makes a solid community.

Question: As a business owner, how do you think new schools will impact Vernonia?

Answer: When we have the new school built, it will keep responsible family people in Vernonia which make for good employees for our businesses.

Question: As a property owner, a school bond will increase your annual taxes by about \$1.90 per thousand of assessed value. In a weak economy, why are you in support of higher taxes?

Answer: My answer to this question is my slogan “NO SCHOOL/NO VERNONIA” it’s that simple!

Question: As a resident and taxpayer who will help pay the school bond bill, do you think it is necessary to build a super energy efficient, “green” building?

Answer: Energy efficient only makes dollar sense. What I know about the “green” building is that it is the wave of the future. So to answer your question, YES!

Question: What do you think will happen to Vernonia if this bond does not pass?

Answer: I believe many parents of school age children will leave the district because they believe that their children deserve to be educated in a safe building that the children can be proud of. It is a subject that has been brought up at my house and I love Vernonia so PLEASE VOTE YES!

What Led Dave Anderson to Create *To Break A Butterfly*?

By Brandy Fosdick

At the end of July, I had the pleasure of interviewing Dave Anderson. We all know Dave as the creator of the moving Holocaust art exhibit he calls *To Break A Butterfly*. But what motivated Dave to create this wonderful exhibit? That’s the story I had him tell me as we sat down at The Black Bear and drank our coffee.

It turns out Anderson actually started off in music at around two and even had his own band, The Suedes, by the time he was fifteen, in which he played the drums. Out of school, he traveled all over playing in his band. He even played in Las Vegas. But he started to realize that music just wasn’t really where his heart was and decided to give college a try.

He thought about studying music, but then decided he liked art better. In his second year, he had to start specializing and decided to go into commercial art, rather than fine art, which involves painting and sculpture

and that sort of art. His main studies were graphic design and he took classes in things like typography and design layout.

Out of school, he got to Portland with about five dollars in his pocket and started looking for work. In the meantime, he took night classes in art. And that’s when he caught his big break and got into advertising, where he stayed for more than twenty years. He started out in grocery stores and then went to Payless drug stores and became their ad manager. After that, he went to work for Fred Meyer and eventually became their creative director. He worked in TV, radio and print while with Fred Meyer, before he got an offer to do a really big job for TG&Y in Oklahoma. Unfortunately, just when the company started doing well they shut down, so he called his old boss and got his job at Fred Meyer back.

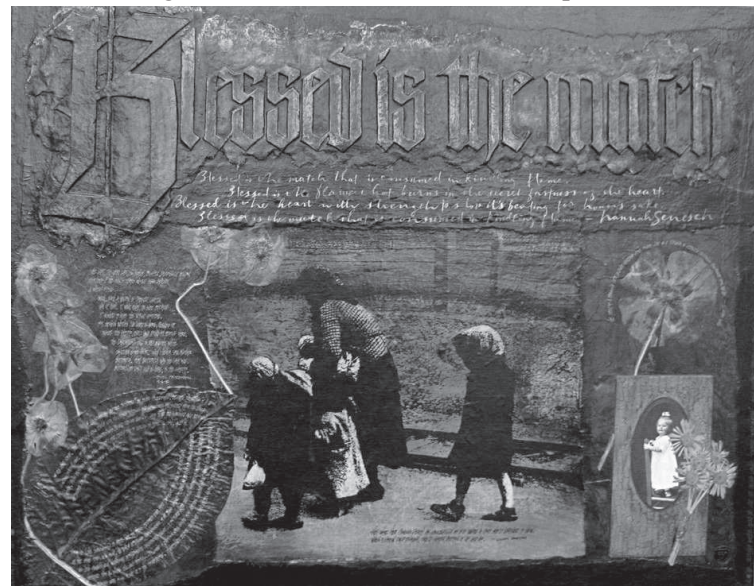
Soon after that, he decided that he wanted to go out on his own. He and a partner opened up their own design firm, Anderson McConaughy, and it’s still running today. That was about the same

time he took more night art classes, this time on papermaking and that’s when he started making books. Making the books is how he got into the Holocaust art. He made a series of books for a family that later donated them to Pacific University. When they were appraised at the beginning of 2000, an art dealer from New York called him and asked if he was still doing any Holocaust art. Dave told him no, that there wasn’t much of a market for something like that in Portland. The

say it is amazing. He takes old cabinets and pieces of metal and paper and any other old piece of junk he can find and puts it together. He then uses pen and ink to draw images and quotes from the Holocaust. He has an innate ability to make pieces of art that just draw pure raw emotion from the people who view it. He has two personal favorites, one being a violin set inside a sort of frame made from old, old metal. The other is a flat pen and ink drawing. It has woman and children lined up along a wall and has a big, circular quote on it. Most of his pieces have a kind of antique and rustic look to them. The paper in them is frayed and yellow and the colors he uses tend to circle around browns, maroons, and navy blues. When he first got into college he was told that he



An example of Dave Anderson's art from his exhibit *To Break A Butterfly*.



Dave Anderson's exhibit *To Break A Butterfly* is a tribute to children of the Holocaust.

dealer offered to help him get his work into New York, but that didn’t pan out. He was, however, encouraged to keep doing the Holocaust pieces, which were shown at the Learning Center last month.

If you’ve never seen any of his work, then please believe me when I

didn’t have a clue what that was, but now that’s the only way his work turns out. Well, I would have to agree. If there’s anything Dave Anderson has, it’s definitely style.

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