

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

Leonetti and Sword

Two good candidates are running for the unpaid position of mayor of Vernonia, Mario Leonetti and Scott Sword. Both are involved in the work of the city, both are energetic and both of them really care about this town, its future and its people.

They're both seeking the responsibility because of concern; they're sure not doing it for the pay.

The only real difference we can ascertain is a difference in approach: Leonetti's heart sometimes clouds his judgement while Sword sometimes lets analysis override his feelings. They usually end up in agreement.

Which would be the better mayor is a question we can't answer. Either way, Vernonia is a winner.

Heimuller and White

In the race for Columbia County Commissioner, Mike White is a fresh face on the political scene, but Dale Heimuller has stronger credentials.

White has worked effectively on various projects in the Scappoose area, but has only recently become involved with other parts of the county. We hope he continues to expand his experience.

Heimuller has broader public experience, including serving as a director for the Port of St. Helens, which includes all of the county except this area. Perhaps, with his extensive experience in the sand and gravel industry, he may even have some of the answers to county road problems.

We recommend Dale Heimuller for county commissioner.

Dukes and Mitchell

State Sen. Joan Dukes (D-Astoria) has done a good job in some parts of her district, but, with the exception of her help on the Bacona landfill, this isn't one of them.

She worked, unsuccessfully, to defeat the state linear park, the only bright light in Vernonia's economic scene in years. Worse yet, her personal animosity toward the state parks department outweighed any benefits her constituents might gain.

Dukes is obviously out of touch with Vernonia when she tells us the way to get natural gas service here lies with local people working with the city and the county, after all, she talked with people at Northwest Natural Gas and finds them easy to get along with.

Her statement belittles the hard work of local people, the city and the county, to obtain use of the natural gas taken from under our feet. It ignores both NNG's admission that their refusal to serve Vernonia was based on an inadequate survey and their later offer to provide service if the school district converted to natural gas—only to renege at a special 47J board meeting called at NNG's request.

Sykes Mitchell, Dukes' opponent, is a political novice who doesn't how to help us, but he knows of our efforts, understands our needs and won't sell us short.

We urge support for Mitchell on Nov. 6.

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch
Vernonia City Librarian

In anticipation of Vernonia's Centennial this coming year, I plan to include a few highlights each month from Vernonia's past. The following quotes were taken from 1933 issues of the Vernonia Eagle:

"Mr. and Mrs. Joe Magoff were charivariated Monday evening." "Bridgers' store robber is caught." "Three dollars has been set as the limit which any girl may spend for her graduation dress. The boys' suits are to be similarly inexpensive." Other articles in the 1933 Eagle told about the beginning and spread of the Tillamook Burn and the destruction of Camp MacGregor. There was also an ad listing a 3-bedroom furnished house for rent at \$6.00 a month, with water included.

Getting back to the present, November, 1990, we now have several new books that patrons have requested. These include *The Snare of Serpents* by Victoria Holt, *The Plains of Passage* by Jean Auel, *Four Past Midnight* by Stephen King, *Buffalo Girls* by Larry McMurtry, *Harvest* by Belva Plain, and *The Burden of Proof* by Scott Turow. These have all been in such demand since we acquired them that the last two are the only ones that I have had a chance to read.

In *Harvest*, Belva Plain continues the saga of the Werner family as Iris and her husband Theo, a successful surgeon, find their marriage disintegrating. When their son becomes

involved with a dynamic and dangerous campus radical and Theo loses the use of his hand, Paul Werner, who holds the secret of Iris's dubious parentage, offers his assistance. I would encourage anyone who has read and enjoyed Belva Plain's previous novels to also read *Harvest*.

The main character in Scott Turow's, *Burden of Proof*, is one who had been introduced in an earlier novel (*Presumed Innocent*). When celebrated defense lawyer "Sandy" Stern returns from a business trip to find that Clara, his wife of thirty years, has committed suicide, he is forced to confront all he doesn't know about his life. As he works to untangle the web of his brother-in-law's financial dealings, his entire world—marriage, family, career—is brought under intense scrutiny. I enjoyed this book, but found the financial matters somewhat difficult to understand.

One more addition that I want to mention has come to us from Vernonia Recycles. This is a 30-minute videocassette called *The Rotten Truth*, which contains some amazing facts about garbage and recycling. The music, animation and live-action footage in this tape will increase your awareness of the need to recycle.

Library Hours: Monday and Friday 1-5 p.m., Wednesday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Preschool Story Time is every Wednesday from 10:30-11 a.m.

Opinion

Treasures (?) of measures

The INDEPENDENT recommends the following on County Measures:

5-14—Would establish a tax base for 9-1-1 emergency services dispatching.....Yes

The next two measures are both designed to raise money for construction, repair, maintenance or other improvement of county and city roads. It's unfortunate that fuel prices have increased because of national and international events, but that doesn't fill the hole in local road budgets.

5-17—County motor vehicle fuel tax of 2¢ per gallon, would raise approximately \$400,000 and would be divided with the cities in the county.....Yes

5-18—Imposing a fee of 10¢ per ton on sand, gravel, rock and other unrenewable natural resources mined in the county, this would raise \$100,000-\$150,000 annually.....Yes

There are several state measures on the ballot that are very important, but three really stand out:

5—Constitutional limit on property taxes for schools and local government would replace lost school income with state general fund money through 1995-96 school year, with no provision for school funding after that. Sets a limit of \$10 per thousand for all local governments combined (county, city, fire district, etc.). Would also eliminate tax breaks for agricultural land and greenbelts and replace the timber severance tax with an

annual property tax. Very, very poorly thought out.....**No**

7—Work in lieu of welfare is what this is called, but it should be labeled the Slave Labor Act of 1990. It would, indeed take people off welfare in the six county pilot program, putting them to work at 90% of the minimum wage at no cost to the employer. Salaries would be paid from funds earmarked for unemployment benefits, food stamps and AFDC, which would no longer be available in the pilot program counties, and there are no health or child care benefits. **It makes no distinction between able-bodied people and senior citizens who scrape by with the help of food stamps**, nor does it protect the jobs of workers who could be replaced by their employers at no cost.....**No**

11—School choice system and tax credit would allow students to attend any public school by requiring open enrollment throughout the state. It would also allow a tax credit of up to \$2500 per child for attending a private school or home school. The people of this state are committed to a free public education for all students; we even determine with our votes how much we want to spend for local education. This doesn't prevent private religious or secular schools, nor does it ban home schooling. Those are options open to everyone, but that doesn't release us from our responsibility to public schools. Private school operators should also look closely at this proposed constitutional change because it puts government right in your bankbook and you may not be able to keep it there.....**NO**

Letters to the Editor

Parenting is tough

To the Editor:

Being a parent today is one of the most difficult roles one

may have. The challenge of keeping pace with our children and their many activities and directions seems near to impossible. As a mother of six, ages 4 to 21, there are

many days I want to throw up my hands and say "I can't do it anymore, slow down, give me a break." But then there is a new crisis, a new

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