

# The INDEPENDENT

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## Opinion

### Ordinance could be a negative difference

The "Parental Responsibility" ordinance under consideration by the Vernonia City Council is one of those straws that people grasp and cling to as though it had value. Well, it has, but only as much value as any fad. It is the current fad in our cultural rush to develop a new class of law breakers. (See ordinances on page 17.)

Parents are already responsible for the actions of their minor children; that responsibility is both cultural and legal. Another ordinance isn't going to be a panacea for vandalism, whether it is caused by juveniles or adults.

If parents are neglectful or abusive, there are ways to help their children.

But, if juveniles are out of control, if they will not obey parents who are trying desperately to do their job right, how will the situation be improved by hauling those parents into court. Does anybody really think the parents aren't already at wit's end?

The legal mechanisms already exist to do what this ordinance purports to do. There is no reason for the city council to pass an ordinance that won't fix anything, but will create more law breakers.

This ordinance and a curfew ordinance will be considered by the council on Monday, Aug. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the city library.

### What is good, effective law enforcement?

A visitor was recently saying how much his children enjoyed Vernonia's Rock Creek swimming pool, and reminiscing about his own visits here as a child.

"I swam in that pool from the time I was 10 until I was 22," he said. "And then I got kicked out."

He wasn't complaining, in fact he was laughing at the memory because he had been caught drinking tequila and knew the scolding he got from Officer Sharon Ashcroft was deserved.

"If a kid did that today," he added, "He'd be arrested and end up in jail."

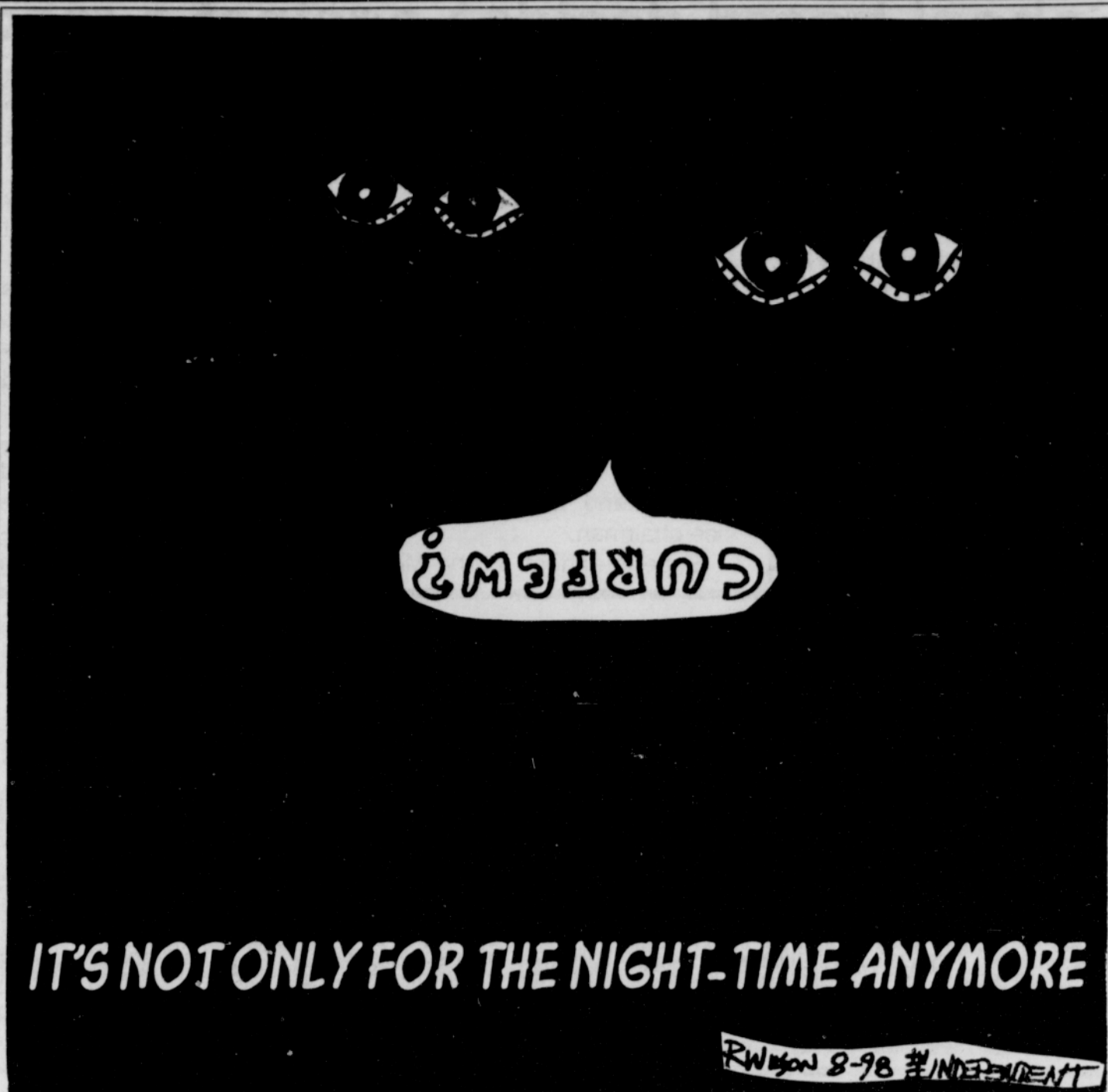
This man is a college graduate, a productive person, a good family man, and a leader in his community. His story is an illustration of the best side of lenient law enforcement.

The whole job of law enforcement would be a lot easier if only our officers were clairvoyant and knew when they could use that method; unfortunately, it just doesn't work for everyone.

### It was a great Jamboree!

The crowds came early and stayed late during Jamboree, and they had a wonderful time. No doubt the police presence kept a few people from becoming obnoxious but it was generally a happy and relaxed crowd.

Chief Jim Walters said it best: "It was the quietest Jamboree I can remember."



## Letters to the Editor

### Parrow decides to file for mayor after all

To The Editor

The last issue of *THE INDEPENDENT* indicated that I had chosen not to become a candidate for election to the position of Mayor of Vernonia. This assumption was understandable as I had often expressed reluctance to seek another term. However, with the urging of some citizens, I have made the commitment to become a candidate. Two basic reasons have influenced me to do so.

The City, under the present administration, has several major projects underway. The construction of a new city hall and library buildings is progressing. Renovation of the water distribution system is scheduled to begin next spring. Extension of the linear trail to Vernonia lake via a bridge over Rock Creek is planned. A "Streetscape" plan for revitalizing main street is also in the works as is a Master Plan for all of the city infrastructure. We hope to continue the progress of making Vernonia ready for the 21st Century while continuing to keep it a most liveable community. I would like to continue to have a part in the completion of the major projects.

The second reason for the decision to become a candidate is that, with three city positions open, at the time this letter was written, no one else has volunteered for election to fill any one of them. That is not in the best interest of the community. I would encourage and strongly urge any and all public spirited citizens to become candidates for all of the open positions—mayor and two council positions. The citizens of Vernonia deserve a choice.

The pay for serving is just the satisfaction of serving the

community and it offsets the criticism that comes to any decision making body.

Complete packets of information on how to file for election are available to all potential candidates at City Hall. HURRY--The filing deadline is August 24.

Art Parrow  
Vernonia

### Advertised sleep aid didn't work out well

To the Editor:

I haven't been sleeping too well lately and I received this catalog from an outfit which promises, with each sale, free gifts of merchandise and millions of dollars. How could I lose?

I spotted this bra that I can sleep in — two for less than ten bucks. So I ordered a couple.

I put one on and crawled in to bed and didn't sleep worth a damn!

Not only that, next morning I looked in the mirror and what I saw terrified me so that I may never sleep again.

Anyone out there want an unused bra? I'll even throw in the slightly used one.

FREE—but don't blame me if they don't work!

Todd Bowerman  
Portland

### As written, Vernonia Incident was good

To the Editor:

I am the producer of the movie *The Vernonia Incident*, which was filmed in Vernonia in 1989. In your July 15th issue of *The INDEPENDENT* you stated that my film was "fun to watch being filmed but painful to view when finished". Regrettably, that is true. The original

script was very good, and had I been able to complete the movie "as written", it would have been a good movie. However, I had two major production problems which nearly prevented the movie from being released at all. Problem number one was the fact that the film's negative was developed after the entire movie had been shot, and due to a mechanical breakdown at the processing lab, over one hour of footage was ruined beyond use. The movie was pieced together with "leftover" footage, with many scenes being modified or eliminated completely. Secondly, a problem with the audio recorder rendered the soundtrack completely unusable. Every voice, every gunshot, every explosion, every piece of audio had to be artificially reproduced at a recording facility in Los Angeles. (Where I was living at the time.) There was no budget left to go back and reshoot any scenes, nor was there time or money to fly the original actors to California to re-record their own voices. I produced the film with my own money, and at that point all of it was gone...some \$325,000.

The fact is, nobody sets out with the intention of making a bad movie on purpose. Things sometimes happen that are totally beyond our control. Such was the case with my film.

On the positive side, many, many people in Vernonia were paid good money for acting, special effects, location rentals, catering, supplies, and vehicles...and nobody's check bounced! We all had fun. I never worked so hard in my life, working seven days a week for nearly two months. But most importantly, we finished the film despite impossible odds, the film was released worldwide on

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