

## Letters to the Editor

From page 12

the sooner the city officially recognizes this, the better.

The notorious state of the commercial media is also certain and regrettable, as has been pointed out by previous correspondents. Unfortunately, absolution rests not on the recognition of sin in others.

I cannot see where the question of "leaking" arises at all. Old No. 20 was in the public domain. The published local letter circulated outside the cadre of native Vernonians. The world doesn't end at Sunnyside. What is public here in public everywhere. Now it is also public everywhere that terrorist tactics beguiled a local respondent momentarily — though for now, he promises restraint. And a local official, in an act bordering on illiteracy, characterized a most polite and sincere letter as a condemnation, while pleading for the author's

civic participation. Mightn't the words *shooting oneself in the foot* come to mind?

In point of fact, a brief list of a community's red letter dates published on a kiosk at a public park has no more claim to the defenses allowed a history than does a personal resumé. Both are artifacts of unabashed boosterism. The erroneous assumption that those events are regarded with pride in the community is, therefore, natural and valid. This literary form admits no other interpretation.

I agree it is fair to point out that the city relied on the work of untrained volunteer amateurs here. Such persons may, indeed, not recognize a distinction between a history and a laudatory paean or recognize what is appropriate to each.

Please remember, many visitors to Vernonia Lake may identify strongly with persons who were the targets of the ter-

rorist organization whose establishment in Vernonia was commemorated by Old No. 20. Reading it, their natural response may easily defeat the ostensible purpose of the kiosk. This is obviously an amateur mistake, no matter what the

personal belief. Puzzling that our experienced pro-growth editor has failed to point out this mistake. The rapidity of the entire document's disappearance shows this lesson wasn't lost on everyone.

Perhaps it is best to face

### Area targeted by telephone scam

The Vernonia Police have warning that a phone scam is operating in the area by someone seeking Social Security numbers.

On January 28, a Vernonia resident received a message on his answering machine asking him to return the call at a toll-free number. When he called, the phone was answered "EDSI" by someone named "Ted," who said he didn't know who had called, but if the Vernonia resident provided his Social Security number, he "could determine who had

called."

Pressed for information, Ted never said what EDSI stood for, but said they were "part of the government" and were "updating college level educational records." He continued to request the Social Security number and, not getting it, eventually hung up.

As a rule, the Police Department warns, it is best not to return calls to any number you do not recognize. Also, never give your social security number to anyone you do not know.

such a situation fortified with the wisdom of the great Danish thinker, Kierkegaard. Human passion and understanding are as mud and gold. A great steed teamed to an aged nag. The best in us easily goes astray. Experience is not so much a guide as a further puzzle. And, in the end, only honesty counts. A mistake acknowledged is a mistake surpassed.

Wayne Acton  
Vernonia

### Columbia County Sheriff

Jan. 10 - Sheila M. Nolan, 53, Mist/Birkenfeld, reported a theft on Freeman Road.

Jan. 16 - Robert Fitzgerald, 45, reported a break in at his home on Hwy. 47 in Mist.

**More Law Enforcement information may be found on pages 14 and 15.**

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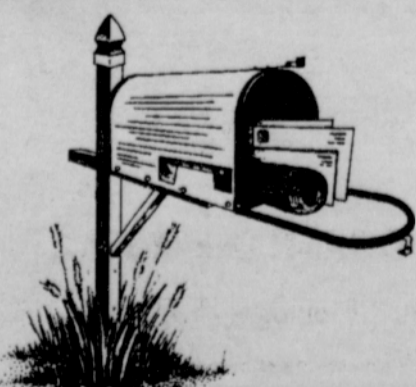
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