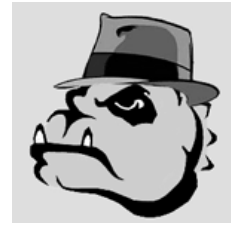


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JOKE:

Convention Center Critic's 'April Fools' Press Release

***"Ron Harper, Jr. to Become LCCCA Executive Director of Convention Center
If You Can't Beat 'em, Join 'em***

"After battling the Lancaster County Convention Center for 8 years, I have decided to end the fight. Art Morris ... has convinced me that the best thing that I could do is to join the Convention Center Authority as its new Executive Director....

"Thank you for your years of reading *5thEstate.com* – everything on the site will be gone by the end of the month since I have decided that I was wrong these many years.

"See you at the meetings!"

TRUE:

Lancaster Newspapers to Face Competition

It was announced on April 3 that the *Lancaster Post*, a weekly tabloid, will be launched on April 17. The *Post* will also provide supplemental coverage and features at *LancasterPost.com*.

The *Post* is the joint creation of Ron Harper, Jr., publisher of *5thestate.com*, and Christiaan Hart Nibbrig, a veteran journalist. Harper recently announced that *5thEstate.com* will shut

down at the end of April.

The *Post*'s motto will be "*The Lancaster Post....nothing but the truth*".

NewsLanc welcomes the *Post*. The public will benefit from an additional source of news and commentary to counter the occasional bias and frequent omissions of the local monopoly press.

LETTER: Questions *Intell's* Coverage

"Your excellent coverage of the TRAC meeting Tuesday night is what the reporter at the meeting for the *Intelligencer Journal* should

have written and didn't. My question is: why didn't he?"

Break free from the monopoly press! Visit www.NewsLanc.com daily.
Suggestions and letters welcome at info@NewsLanc.com.

Hazleton Mayor's Allegations Unfounded, ACLU Tells Rotary

Last August, the Rotary Club of Lancaster invited Hazleton Mayor Lou Barletta to speak on the subject of his city's crackdown on illegal immigrants.

It is said that Rotary gave him a standing ovation.

At last week's meeting, they heard from someone who says that Mr. Barletta's claims, linking immigrants with increases in crime and burdens on social services, are unfounded.

Vic Walczak is the Legal Director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, a position he has held since 2004.

Prompted largely by the murder of Derek Kichline by two undocumented immigrants in

May 2006, Mayor Barletta and the Hazleton City Council decided that immigrants as a group were causing a rise in crime and draining the city's resources, Walczak explained.

But actual statistics do not bear out any such claim, Walczak argued.

Over a 6-year period in Hazleton, 428 violent crimes were committed, Walczak related. "Four were committed by illegal immigrants."

"Studies show that the vast majority of immigrants come to this country, they work hard, and that when you have a large influx of immigrants, crime actually goes down. First-generation immigrants commit crimes at lower rates than citizens," he continued.

Rotary Forgets to Invite Media to Candidate Forum

Candidates Paul Thibault, Lloyd Smucker, Bill Neff, and Steve McDonald discussed and debated issues of local political significance, according to well-placed sources.

Rotary Club President Alexandra Weisensale acknowledged the event and attributed the lack of invitation to an apparent error or "miscommunication" among the committees charged with organizing programs

LETTER: Thibault Distancing Self From Convention Center Vote

"Based upon the *Sunday News* account of the MT senate candidates forum ... it appeared to me that Paul Thibault is changing his tune:

"1) He is retreating somewhat on the bond guarantee and is now raising concerns that the project has exploded in size, scope, dollars.

"2) He is attempting to place blame and his

own Convention Center position on the dysfunctional system that the state heaps on 3rd-class counties.

"If he was so concerned about the rising costs, he should have come out and supported Dick and Molly who were doing nothing more than objecting to that fact."