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INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL NEW ERA

Front page article **“Computer problems create rift between libraries, Lancaster County library system”** reports:

“Computers are unreliable at some Lancaster County libraries, a city librarian has charged.

“And, according to Joyce Sands, deputy director of Lancaster Public Library at 125 N. Duke St., the Library System of Lancaster County, which administers the network, is unresponsive when problems occur.

“‘It would be difficult to overstate the effect this is having on both the patrons and the staff,’ Sands said.” ...

WATCHDOG: Three wags of the tail for a rare forthright expose in the Lancaster newspapers. It was well researched and presented quotes from local libraries and the System.

More and more, the issue is whether there is any purpose to the System other than to divert and consume funds sorely needed by member libraries.

The time may be coming when libraries will assert their right to withdraw with a few months’ notice. That might be considered a ‘mercy killing.’

Is Lancaster Newspapers, Inc. riding to Rick Gray’s rescue?

Over the past week, the following five front page articles appeared, all consisting of hundreds of words (one a thousand) and portraying Mayor Rick Gray in a positive and sympathetic light:

“Lancaster’s Mayor Gray pushes for ‘reasonable’ gun regulations”

“Rendell visits Lancaster to stump for Gray”

“Lancaster city is financially sound”

“Promoter: Mayor Gray put kibosh on DMX rap concert”

“Lancaster mayor narrowly misses accident involving four cars on Route 283 “ (This stretch is actually funny.)

On the other hand, **“Smithgall takes a swing”** about candidate and former mayor Charlie Smithgall did appear on an inside page. It ran a scant 46 words.

THE SUNDAY NEWS: *“Just over a year after he was appointed executive editor of Lancaster Newspapers, Ernest J. Schreiber is retiring. ... Or rather, he’s retiring again.”*

WATCHDOG: It is hard to explain why our immediate emotion was sadness. After all, it has been Schreiber whom we have targeted with a steady stream of criticism over the past decade for what we considered his trampling the dignity of individuals, low journalistic ethics, and his ‘hit man’ role in furthering the Lancaster Newspapers business interests, something that continued to his last day.

But at a certain age, which perhaps begins with retirement, it no longer matters that much whether someone has been on our side or the other side. The point is that we traveled the same ground together and fought in the same battles. We share memories. We share battle scars...

Miller responds to editorial about Harrisburg recovery plan

HARRISBURG PATRIOT-NEWS OP-ED: Contrary to the assertion of the Sept. 26 Patriot-News editorial that my objection to the receiver’s plan “yanks the city backwards,” it is actually intended to find the best way forward while at the same time protecting the interest of Harrisburg and its residents.

The plan merely kicks the can further down the road toward likely failure in the future, after having surrendered Harrisburg’s most valuable assets and prolonged the loss of decision making powers by its residents.

The real question: is delaying the inevitable in the best interest of the city or simply in the best interest of the creditors, lawyers and consultants, and their supporters at the State Capitol, who created a plan that places a

crushing expense on the taxpayers and residents of Harrisburg?...

I do not consider paying the major creditors in full, as envisioned if the plan succeeds in its latter decades, or extending payments for another 10 years at a higher interest rate that results in paying an added \$27.5 million to a creditor, as concessions. I believe the city should have, and could have, been granted real and substantive relief if the negotiators had been more aggressive... (more)

EDITOR: *This whole creditor bail out orchestrated by Gov. Tom Corbett stinks. The Lancaster County Commissioners and the LCSWMA should be ashamed for overpaying as much as a hundred million dollars of Lancaster money to acquire the trouble plagued and environmentally challenged Harrisburg incinerator.*

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