



## Prematurely Publishing Election Polls Subverts Democracy

The *New Era* should discontinue its disreputable practice of publishing regional morning exit polls in its early afternoon edition.

Reporters from the Associated Press and National Public Radio explained on C-SPAN how exit polls conducted by their consortium are embargoed for each state until the polls are closed.

**According to the AP reporter, releasing poll information prior to the close of the polls can**

**discourage some from voting and induce others to change their votes.** The purpose of exit polls is solely to help analyze how people voted after the close of voting.

*NewsLanc* urges the *New Era* to discontinue its unethical practice and, if it doesn't, encourages voters to scorn inquiries from the paper's representatives during Election Day.

## Letter and Reply re LGH proper role

**LETTER:** *"In your editorial on Lancaster oligarchy, you suggest that the amount of profit Lancaster General Hospital, a not-for-profit entity, routinely posts is more than needed for health care purposes and you suggest that they become philanthropists.*

*"Why doesn't Lancaster General Hospital reduce its charges to its patients, across the board? Wouldn't that be the most constructive way to rein in the cost of healthcare to this community?"*

**REPLY:** Some of LGH's profitability stems from efficiency. But much is due to the special circumstances of this local market and their dominant position in it.

Most of their revenue comes from third party sources - insurance companies and government. Lower rates would only partially trickle down to

those paying directly and through insurance programs since the programs' costs would be reduced. Therefore, there can be a good argument for LGH charging market rates similar to hospitals throughout the state.

**LGH clearly does not need to spend \$160 million a year, year after year, on expansion and upgrading. So what it can do is provide a larger ratio of its earning to subsidize worthwhile local causes.**

In its relatively meager giving (one of the lowest percentages in the state for hospitals), LGH prioritizes public health efforts. Were it to re-think its philanthropic responsibilities, it could do much more for current recipients and expand the scope of its philanthropy to include educational activities such as schools and libraries.

## Gray: Streetcar on display at Prince/Chestnut is "public art"

The streetcar on prominent display on the city-owned parcel of land next to the police station at the corner of Prince St. and Chestnut St. was placed there at the request of the Lancaster Streetcar Company and approved by Mayor Rick Gray himself, *NewsLanc* learned after Tuesday's City Council meeting.

When asked whether adversaries of the streetcar project could also post signs or materials in that area, Gray replied, "They could try" but went on to admit that such requests probably wouldn't be

approved, repeatedly calling the trolley "public art."

"But by putting a trolley there, doesn't it give the perception that the city is endorsing this concept?" the reporter asked.

"The Mayor is endorsing it," Gray said. "Keep on fighting it. You don't want people to see it... You're afraid of people seeing it and thinking it's a good idea."

## John Fry: The fraying of town and gown relationships

The controversy between The Rail Road Action And Advisory Committee (TRRAAC), a citizen organization, and Franklin & Marshall College over the relocation of the Norfolk Southern railroad yard, is further evidence of the increasing estrangement between the college and the community.

The *Intelligencer Journal* reported on Oct. 10 "Fry said he called a representative from Donnelley and asked if, hypothetically, some of the land could be sold and used as a rail yard. He said a representative of the company told him no."

One has to question whether Donnelley would react differently if the request came from government officials and sufficient funds were offered. And there is also the right of eminent domain whereby the government takes the site and pays market value for it.

The railroad yard relocation to the site of an asbestos dump is a very serious issue and requires a full review by PennDOT and the state and federal environmental authorities. That is all that TRRAAC is requesting.

## WATCHDOG: *Intelligencer Journal*

An Oct. 11 article about Warwick High School football team's 21 -19 victory over McCaskey opens "You guys," Bob Locker began, his voice a mix of pleasure and exasperation as he addressed the post-game huddle, "have a funny way."

*NewsLanc*: The *Intell* also has a "funny way" of reporting sports because the entire article, 2/3rd of a column, is devoted to Warwick and says nothing about the McCaskey team. The game wasn't decided until the last minute and McCaskey players must have had something to do with that!

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