



The problem isn't the kids. It's McCaskey's coaches!

In a recent *Sunday News* sports article, "What's next for Tornado?", newly appointed School District of Lancaster (SDL) Athletic Director Jon Mitchell is quoted as saying: *"It's hard to argue with the numbers. We aren't doing much winning, and I think part of it is systemic... Part of it is a defeatist attitude among the kids and even some adults. But the upside is tremendous here. I wouldn't have taken the job if I didn't think it could be turned around."*

Mitchell does not mention that the problem is the result of years of School District neglect of the sports program which has resulted in coaches who lack rudimentary training and leadership skills.

A *NewsLanc* reporter spent an hour walking back and forth between track practice and a game between McCaskey's varsity girls' soccer team and Warwick on Thursday. (The girls have scored only a few goals so far this season.)

By the way each team was warming up, it was obvious that McCaskey would lose the game with

Warwick by a lop-sided score. (0-6).

A Warwick coach was putting their keeper through a series of drills. The Warwick squad was running snappy drills followed by a scrimmaged across the field.

McCaskey's team was sitting around in a circle, chatting with the coach. Then they did some feeble kicking and heading back and forth. Then they took turns kicking a ball at the keeper, usually one ball at a time.

A hundred yards away, Coach Ernst ably kept thirty or forty girls and boys active and having fun over the course of the entire practice. Drill after drills had them hopping, skipping, loping; then easy runs, harder runs, finally timed runs. By the end, each player felt proud and exhausted.

No surprise: The track team maintains a competitive record. Nothing the matter with those McCaskey kids!

LETTER: *NewsLanc* is not doing enough

"I have no personal problem with the rail yard – whether it goes or stays in its present location – and I don't think most people care. I do have a problem, though, with how this whole relocation process was carried out: no public input, decisions made behind closed doors, false information given on state and federal grant applications. I think that should bother NewsLanc, too.

"So far as the facts being unearthed, TRRAAC and its attorney have already done it. They have all the documentation that is needed by anyone. All it needs is the press actually commenting on it and saying, *'This does not represent the democratic process'* and this has not happened. All we hear are some backtalk complaints about the *"NIMBY's in Barrcrest."*

Eastern Europe has nothing on Lancaster!

A *NewsLanc* reporter traveled this week to Hungary and Croatia on his daytime job and found many similarities:

- Laws are made, altered or circumvented to meet the requirements of the power elite.
- Projects take place because funding is made available by the State or the European Union, not for priority of need. Honest competitors are threatened and thwarted.
- Private investments of merit that fail to line the pockets of the rich and powerful are obstructed.
- Government agencies are co-opted by those they are meant to control.
- Stooges are appointed to positions of importance while real control is exercised by special interests and their political allies.
- Board members hear, see, speak against no evil.
- Government expenditures far exceed revenue.
- The rich circumvent taxes.
- Newspapers slant their coverage to serve their owners' and advertisers' business interests.

In short, the *NewsLanc's* reporter felt right at home!

NEW ERA: The editorial on April 3rd "Flirting with 'sexting' remedy" describes the controversy over teenage girls sending "racy photos of themselves" to classmates. It concludes "A legal remedy may be required in some sexting cases. For that, prosecutors should look to the juvenile-court system, with punishment emphasizing counseling, not jail time. Any legal action, though, should be a last resort to address a trend among teens that is irresponsible and careless, but not necessarily criminal."

WATCHDOG: Getting upset about kids sending picture with themselves "in a bra" or "emerging from a shower, towel wrapped around her waist" reflects more on the mind set of the accuser than any bad intent by the kids. How does this differ from being at the beach?

The *Watchdog* awards the *New Era* a wag of the tail for addressing the matter and, if ever so timidly, suggesting that we should let kids be kids.

LETTER: Were the Lancaster Newspapers' intentions good?

"I suspect that Lancaster Newspapers' involvement in the hotel and convention center project might have started out with good intentions. After all, LNP has made significant investments in downtown Lancaster in the past. But once they were legally bound to High, they found themselves being dragged along with S. Dale High's personal ambitions.

"When opposition to the project started to build, I believe LNP reflexively went on the defensive. And the best defense is a good offense.

"Question: is it possible that LNP saw the hotel as a way to generate revenue in the face of the inevitable decline of the newspaper business?"

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