



Downtown “Trolley” Bus Carries Only 96 Passengers Daily

According to a spokesperson for the Red Rose Transit Authority, the trolley bus carries 2,900 passengers a month. That comes to 96 daily and, based on the 12 hour daily schedule, an average of about 8 an hour.

Businesses normally expand and upgrade when there is strong demand for their product and services. So does it make sense to spend \$14 million of taxpayer money to bring back trolley cars and to subsidize the service for upwards of

\$300,000 a year when there is so little indication of demand?

At the present rate of 34,800 riders per year, \$300,000 annually would subsidize each ride by over \$8!!!

Wouldn't it make business sense to first publicize the trolley bus loop and provide it free or for fifty cents instead of the current \$1.35 to determine how much demand actually exists?

New Era Again Puts Headlines Ahead of Democracy

By late morning of election day (11:38am to be precise), the *New Era* was reporting what its exit polls had determined concerning the likely winners.

Such reporting is extremely prejudicial to candidates running behind in a tight race. It discourages their supporters from going to the polls.

The sampling was only of 131 voters. Certainly the time of day and the location of the polling would tend to skew the results. Also this is a statistically insufficient sampling. Since the voting patterns of evening voters often differ from those who vote early in the morning, this can alter the results of an election.

The *New Era* knows that. It calls this an “informal poll.”

So what is the purpose? Is it to sell newspapers at the expense of democracy?

“People in Glass Houses....”

A sound editorial in the Nov. 10 *Intelligencer Journal* turns ironic when it concludes as follows: “It also shows that there's been no fundamental change in Washington in that those with the most money usually can buy the legislation they want.”

Legislation benefiting Penn Square Partners certainly has established that the same holds true for Harrisburg! The Partners are the sponsor of the Convention Center Project.

LETTER: Commercialization of Downtown

I believe the city is going to promote conversion of industrial buildings to residential use because of the first floor potential commercial space. Housing otherwise will be torn down to make way for commerce and parking garages. Their concept is that this is the only way center city will survive, something like Atlantic City with the casinos. .. After yesterday's County sponsored Housing Summit, I foresee Lancaster City being revitalized but not in the best interest of the community.

LETTER: Working folk "don't blend well"

Concerning the discussion of Traditional Neighborhood Development at the recent Housing Summit, I asked why not build apartments above new commercial areas for those store and office employees that will be needed, who have no car, and are being displaced from the city?

The builders did not like to hear that at all.

A person at one of my classes last week said, "With no disrespect, people of that level would not blend well if they lived in a Traditional Neighborhood Development!"

LETTER: *NewsLanc*'s Impact on Newspapers

I do believe *NewsLanc.com* is having an effect on the local newspapers. This week's City Council meeting has generated the most complete newspaper reporting of any public meeting in a long time. Of course, since the newspaper reporters generally have at best a shallow understanding of the issues, *NewsLanc.com* continues to be the standard by which other news outlets are judged.

What History Teaches Us

In "*American Creation*," Pulitzer Prize winning author Joseph J. Ellis describes how, during the final four years of the War of Independence, George Washington had to deploy most of his troops to create a line separating the English forces from the bulk of the population in order to prevent the colonists from going over to the Tory cause. Support had ebbed and flowed for the American cause depending upon whose troops were nearby.

Ellis points out that by 1778, the majority of the people simply wanted the war to end so they could get on with business and a normal way of life. So much for the myth of a great revolutionary movement!

With this in mind, one can better understand the lack of attention to the outrages concerning the convention center / hotel project most of the population of Lancaster showed in selecting commissioners.

If people are not willing to support efforts to free them from foreign oppression, how likely are they to get riled up over the misconduct of the local monopoly newspapers and the power elite?

Break free from the monopoly press! Visit www.NewsLanc.com daily.