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INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL NEW ERA:

“Court upholds dismissal of lawsuit filed against Lancaster Newspapers”:

“Lancaster Newspapers is gratified that the three-judge Superior Court panel that heard the appeal determined, like the Common Pleas Court judge below, that the litigation brought by Molly Henderson against LNP lacked merit,” said Robert M. Krasne, vice chairman of the board and interim CEO of Lancaster Newspapers.

“Although we knew that we would ultimately prevail — and we do not yet know whether Mrs. Henderson will pursue some other appellate review

— it is heartening that now four jurists have vindicated the newspapers and nine individuals, including former Mayor Art Morris and former LNP Chairman John Buckwalter,” Krasne said.

WATCHDOG: As Krasne well knows, the Constitution provides the media with special immunities from libel. The decision doesn't reflect upon the truthfulness of Henderson's accusations.

Krasne's statement is consistent with the mediocre management practices of the Lancaster Newspapers, Inc. He overlooks an opportunity to make a conciliating statement and instead pours salt into an open wound.

An Unfettered Press: Libel Law in the United States

U. S. GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF STATE ... The 18th-century framers of the U.S. Constitution guaranteed freedom of the press by writing that protection into the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights. Even so, the Supreme Court of the United States — the highest court in America — for years refused to protect the media from libel lawsuits by relying on the First Amendment. Instead, libel laws varied from state to state without a single coherent rule in the nation.

That all changed in 1964 when the Supreme Court issued a ruling that revolutionized libel law in the United States. The famous decision in *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan* once and for all created a national rule that squared more fully with the free press guarantees of the First Amendment. In its ruling, the Court decided that public officials no longer could sue successfully for libel unless reporters or editors were guilty of “actual malice” when publishing false statements about them...

LETTER: Why do media overlook sexual abuse at Milton Hershey School?

“What is truly disturbing is that while Penn State is under a microscope due to Sandusky, Milton Hershey School and its administration is given a free pass due to its considerable financial influence in Pennsylvania politics.

“Reports confirm a disturbing history of sexual abuse at Milton Hershey School as far back as the 1950's. In recent years the serial pedophile ——— and Milton Hershey School Houseparent and Homelife Official ——— added to this long list of child abuse at Milton Hershey School, not included are the many houseparents, teachers and other staff

members who were placed on “administrative leave” due to “inappropriate sexual conduct.”

“Where is the outcry to protect the children of Milton Hershey School? Where is the National Media?”

A Flagrant Conflict of Interest

NEW YORK TIMES Opinion: Last Friday, a state trial judge stayed Pennsylvania’s execution of Terrance Williams—scheduled for this Wednesday—and ordered a new sentencing hearing. In response to a motion from Philadelphia’s district attorney, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court could overturn the stay and order, putting the execution back on schedule. Yet the court’s chief justice has no business judging this case.

Chief Justice Ronald Castille has a classic and flagrant conflict of interest: he is passing judgment

on a prosecution that he approved and oversaw, and on a trial judge’s ruling that strongly censured that prosecution. He was the Philadelphia district attorney in 1986 and accountable for the serious misconduct that led to Mr. Williams’ death sentence.

The current Williams defense team filed motions on Monday for the chief justice to either recuse himself, or refer the matter to his fellow justices, so he was not deciding his own case. But, within hours, Mr. Castille turned down both motions...

***Harrisburg Patriot-News* to publish only three days each week**

HARRISBURG PATRIOT-NEWS: Company leaders were meeting face to face with Patriot-News and PennLive employees about whether they will be offered positions with one of the new companies that will be launching at the first of the year, the Pennsylvania Media Group and Advance Central Services Pennsylvania. The goal was to talk to every employee by the end of Monday...

More than 70 percent of employees were expected to be offered jobs within the new organization. In addition, the new companies are planning on hiring for 51 positions.

In the new company, The Patriot-News will change its print schedule to three days a week — Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday — beginning Jan. 1. At the same time, the organization will intensify its PennLive and other digital news-gathering efforts 24 hours a day, seven days a week...

EDITOR: *We suspect the retention rate will be down to 50% within a few years if publishing the newspaper three days a week, and to only 15% if only the web site is retained.*

LETTER: Penn Square Partners and City rejected Martin Plan

“According to [a source], both PSP and the City have rejected the Martin Plan.

“No real surprise here, the Martin Plan asks both parties to actually pay money towards the CC. Why would they support that?”

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