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Insight

Got
a
Thought?

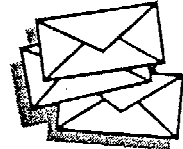
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LETTERS



to
the

EDITOR

Money demanded for data

Editor, The News:

As a parent of two Laurel High School female students, and president of the Laurel Soccer Club, I have been part of the effort that's aggressively pursuing the inclusion of soccer as a varsity program at Laurel.

To date, we've made presentations to the school board, with evidence, charts and surveys, a promise to establish a new high school soccer field and to pay all program costs for the first two years.

The board and administrators have simple answers: "Our current enrollment just cannot support the addition of another major athletic team," and "Adding an additional sport would negatively impact our existing athletic programs and other co-curricular activities."

According to Dr. Sandra Hennon, superintendent, these answers were arrived at after much consideration and discussion. In search of the facts which led to the decision, I asked for the specific number of students attending Laurel in the ninth through 12th grades, as well as a list of fall sports and their costs, and a list of the co-curricular activities, with separate lists for males and females.

The answer: I need to pay \$454.30 to the district up front in order to gather the data, analyze, segregate and report the information I require — in addition to 25 cents per page to copy any reports furnished.

Many answers have already been posted in The News and I have used these in my presentations. I want to verify these facts to prove my point — that the district is not serving our students.

I am a homeowner in the district and pay taxes. Why should I pay this kind of money for information regarding the school?

How is Hennon making sure our school is in compliance with Title IX, unless she is regularly reviewing the above requested information?

Vincent Bejgrowicz
president
Laurel Soccer Club

ATTENTION ALL SOCCER PARENTS

Just in case you missed it, this letter to the editor was published in the September 23, 2006 edition of the New Castle News.

I'm sure we're all aware that anyone is entitled to their opinion, no matter how hurtful or ignorant it may be. That having been said, however, let's let our opinions be known as well.

Please send any response to this letter to:
Letters To The Editor
New Castle News
Box 60
New Castle, PA 16103

Soccer stand earns applause

Editor, The News:

There might just be hope for this country yet.

I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Laurel School Board for standing up for America and American values.

Its willingness to resist the infiltration of soccer into its sports program, that currently consists of real sports, is an admirable and a difficult stance to take.

Soccer's slow strangulation of real sports, such as football, needed to be stopped. High school football programs around the country have nearly succumbed to the foreign-sports terrorism known as soccer.

On a Friday night (a high school football night) in the suburbs of Pittsburgh, I witnessed parents allowing their children to play this anti-American sport instead of exposing them to the ritual that is high school football in western Pennsylvania.

Many high school football programs are barely able to exist because young people today want to take the easy road and play the no-skill, no-work game of soccer instead of being dedicated to lifting weights and working hard in the off-season to gain the rewards of football.

Young minds and bodies are being wasted by continuing the slide into the soccer abyss. Just look at the recent and past U.S. failings in the World Cup as evidence that soccer is time and effort wasted.

All real Americans need to seize this opportunity to squash this game and save real sports while there is still time.

Paul J. Harlan