



TROPHY To Jim Tkach, coach of the Northern Lehigh High School football team, who slapped 15 of his Bulldogs with a two-game suspension after they admitted their involvement in an alcohol-related incident. When it came time to choose between building an unbeaten season or building strong character, Tkach made the right choice. His decision may be unpopular, but it was the right call and will do more to shape these young men's lives than any winning season ever could.

Saturday, October 09, 2004

TURKEY To Easton Mayor Phil Mitman who has admitted giving breaks to some people who call the mayor's office complaining about traffic and parking tickets. The problem became public after police Lt. David Hess said he noticed that the number of tickets being excused on orders from the Mitman administration have far exceeded those excused at the behest of the previous administration. In one case, a visiting bus driver's ticket for running a red light in Centre Square was excused. The mayor says he prefers to be responsive to complainants and is more likely to void tickets for first-time visitors to Downtown Easton. The informal policy is a slap in the face to police officers who are trying to do their jobs and command respect when issuing citations. It is an insult to motorists who obey the law and those who pay the price when they fail to follow the rules.**TROPHY To the Warren County Human Relations Commission and the School-Based Youth Services Program at Warren Hills Regional High School** for sponsoring a youth forum Thursday where middle school students could talk about race relations. About 100 seventh- and eighth-graders from across Warren County took part in the five-hour session. The goal was to give kids a better understanding of diversity and a stronger appreciation of and respect for each other.

TROPHY To volunteers who have pitched in to help families and businesses clean up from the mid-September flooding of the Delaware and Lehigh rivers and many of the streams and creeks flowing into those rivers. One of the many shining examples is Bushkill Park in Forks Township, where a cadre of volunteers has been turning up to help clean up a beloved family amusement park that was particularly hard hit.**TROPHY To Pen Argyl Councilman Jan Surotchak** for traveling to a distant land in the name of freedom and democracy. Surotchak is in Afghanistan monitoring the country's first democratic presidential election. He is serving as a poll watcher in Kabul, as part of the International Republican Institute, the international branch of the Republican Party.

TURKEY To Forks Township supervisors for even considering prearranged public comment and a limit on the amount folks can speak. The supervisors have even discussed moving public comment to the end of meetings -- all aimed at speeding up township meetings. Resident Gretchen Gerstel, who is opposed to the possible changes, hit the nail on the head. "If it's important enough," she said, "(a developer) can wait."**TROPHY To Northampton County Judge Stephen Baratta** for asking the question that the families of killer nurse Charles Cullen desperately want answered. Why was their loved one singled out? Cullen was in court Thursday to admit being responsible for the murder of Ottomar Schramm at Easton Hospital. Mr. Schramm's is the 17th life Cullen has admitted taking while working as a nurse at hospitals and health care facilities in the Lehigh Valley and northwestern New Jersey. Cullen dodged the question, but at least the judge tried to get the Schramm family an answer.

TURKEY To Vince Fumo, the Pennsylvania state senator who acts more like an immature brat than one of the Keystone State's most powerful legislators. Fumo denounced Republican leaders and called one of them a "faggot" after Republicans cut off debate on changes to the slots bill approved in July.

1/3/à="

Copyright 2004 PennLive.com. All Rights Reserved.

