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## U. S. Ranks last again in Health Care Study

**Reuters** – Americans spend twice as much as residents of other developed countries on healthcare, but get lower quality, less efficiency and have the least equitable system, according to a report released on Wednesday...

In 2007, health spending was \$7,290 per person in the United States, more than double that of any other country in the survey. Australians spent \$3,357, Canadians \$3,895, Germans \$3,588, the

Netherlands \$3,837 and Britons spent \$2,992 per capita on health in 2007. New Zealand spent the least at \$2,454....

**Editor's Note:** *The extra 5% of Gross National Product unnecessarily squandered on health care in the USA prevents us from investing adequately in education and modernizing to compete with China and other nations.*

## Honoring Jack Buckwalter

It was fitting that one of the most important editorials in some time to appear in the *Intelligencer Journal* was published on the evening of the day of Chairman John 'Jack' Buckwalter's sudden death.

In "**Democracy's doorways**", the *Intelligencer Journal* is critical of state cut backs in financial aid to the library systems and threw its considerable influence behind greater local support. To wit:

*"The Lancaster County Planning Commission is drafting an economic development sustainability component as part of the county's comprehensive plan. Among the items being discussed are ways to improve the quality of life in Lancaster County and to develop a climate where creativity can flourish and fuel growth.*

*"For that to occur, local libraries must have a place at the table. Libraries need stable, sustainable*

*funding sources a state, county and local levels to provide the services and information businesses and an informed public requires."*

Perhaps we may yet see an editorial extolling the work of the Bethel AME syringe exchange and encouraging local support.

Still more courageous would be an editorial suggesting that Lancaster General Hospital become more transparent in its governance and, as a designated 'Public Charity', share more of its profits with organizations pursuing public health and education.

After a lamentable rough patch, Jack Buckwalter left behind newspapers that were continuing the Steinman Family's proud journalistic traditions. The best way to honor his and his predecessors' memories is to inform the public and stand up to powerful interests.

## Lancaster trails in economic recovery

Lancaster did not make Forbes Magazine list of "America's one-hundred fastest recovering urban economies."

Here are listings of regional interest: **[Continued on back]**

- 4 Pittsburgh, PA Metro Area
- 5 Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA Metro Area
- 26 Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ Metro Area
- 30 Scranton-Wilkes-Barre, PA Metro Area
- 35 Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-

- DE-MD Metro Area
- 64 New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area
- 72 Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA Metro Area

### LETTER: Why call LGH a “Public Charity”?

*“I think it’s shameful for you to invoke Buckwalter’s death to make a stupid trite pitch for minor annual budget adjustments and ‘syringe exchanges.’” What stubborn arrogant myopia. You’re the only one calling LGH a “public charity.”*

**EDITOR’S RESPONSE:** “Public Charity” is the federal category under which LGH obtains its tax exempt status. It is a not-for-profit institution. As such, it is obliged to serve the public.

If it were a for-profit corporation, about \$35 million of its \$100 million average profits would be returned to the public in the form of corporate and personal income taxes. It also would be subject to share holder scrutiny.

Given the Public Charity status, the public should have some say in how the astounding profits, largely derived through market dominance and at health care policy holders’ expense, are to be utilized.

### ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION / INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL

Columnist Cynthia Tucker in “**The US needs those babies born to illegal moms**” observes *“With sinking birthrates and longer life spans, much of the industrialized world grows grayer every day. Throughout Western Europe, demographers worry about a population too old to work and pay the bills...But, as several economists have noted, the United States has an advantage: We’re still having babies. Some of them, it turns out, are born to*

*women without papers. Rather than changing the law and kicking them out, we ought to be celebrating them with birthday parties...”*

**WATCHDOG:** A wag of the tail. For a more in depth explanation of the demographic trend, visit *NewsLanc’s “Careful for what you wish when it comes to controlling immigration.”*

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