



## **Amtrak Parking Plans Revised to Serve Many More Cars**

Chris Neumann of the Lancaster County Planning Commission has revealed to *NewsLanc* that newly revised proposed plans for renovations to the Lancaster Amtrak Station now call for 255 parking spaces, 70 more than had been shown on plans last year and approximately 130 spaces more than are currently present.

As *NewsLanc* pointed out in a December editorial, most of the then proposed additional spaces were for employees of the Amtrak Britcher Communication and Signal Training Building, while the number of commuter spaces remained about the same. Furthermore, due to plans to eliminate the current short term parking,

people were going to have to walk almost a city block to and from the station!

Neumann also advised that officials from the City, County Planning Department, Manheim Township Planning Department, Amtrak, Red Rose Transit Authority, and James Street Improvement District recently met to discuss means for providing temporary parking during construction.

*NewsLanc* had also criticized officials for not being aware of the impending closings, and thus failing to devise plans to provide alternate parking for travelers.

## **EDITORIAL: Free Streetcar Fares. Hurray!**

Jack Howell, president of the Lancaster Alliance and board secretary of the Streetcar Company, says that fares on the proposed trolley system will be voluntary. Although we believe street cars are a bad idea, a voluntary fare is a good one, and echoes *NewsLanc's* suggestion for free trolley buses.

But there will be nothing free about the street

cars for tax payers. The public will have to pony up over \$14 million to build and equip the system and then there is the predicted \$300,000 a year of operating loss. Also street cars will back up traffic along the route.

Are free fares a bait and switch device to curry public support so that taxpayers' pockets can be picked?

## **Inequity May Doom Home Rule**

In a nation where gerrymandering is a tradition, it is highly unlikely that Democrats will vote in favor of a Charter that reduces their representation in county government from their usual 1/3 to a mere 20%.

Democrats are significantly outnumbered by Republicans in the county. But it is unlikely that Republicans will be nearly as monolithic in their support as single issue Democrats will be in opposition. That likely will tip the scale towards defeat.

## An Apology: WATCHDOG Was Asleep!

We were so enthusiastic about the introduction of the weekly *Lancaster Post* that the **Watchdog** failed to criticize the tabloid's April 25th front page political cartoon entitled "Double Crossings" which portrays all five Manheim Township commissioners as puppets for "Boss" Dale High.

A recent Letter refers to the cartoon as "...not accurate and did a disservice to the two

commissioners that voted to NOT move this project forward."

*NewsLanc* apologizes for ignoring the injustice and promises to henceforth review the *Post* with the same critical eye as it does the *Post's* three local competitors.

## School Teacher Rebuts Professor

Kudos to retired teacher Dorothy Saunders for her *Sunday News* "In My Opinion" rebuttal to the earlier column by Francis J. Bremer, Chair of the Millersville University History Department, who objected to the teaching of college courses in history to top performing high school students in their senior year.

*NewsLanc* predicts that any standardized test given to both MU freshman history students and to International Baccalaureate (IB) program seniors at J. P McCaskey would find McCaskey students on a par

or ahead. Why? Successful IB candidates qualify to attend the best schools in the country. MU has to draw its students from a much broader population.

Many youngsters lose interest in school and drop out or avoid college because they have been under challenged. The sooner gifted students move ahead, the more time they will have later for advanced classes, to independently pursue academic interests, and for part time employment.

## "Bad Compromise" vs. 'The Tyranny of the Majority'

The May 12 *Intelligencer Journal* editorial "In our view: Bad compromise" argues against any exception for public tobacco smoking. It is a classic example of a self-righteous majority endeavoring to force its views on others who do not or, due to addiction, cannot share conform to their values.

According to the editorial: "The *Patriot-News* of Harrisburg reported that as early as today legislative leaders may vote on a deal that ...would allow smoking in sections of casinos, bars where food sales are less than 20 percent of total sales and private clubs. Smoking would be banned in work places not otherwise exempt including offices, school class rooms, health care facilities and restaurants."

The proposal seems very reasonable. It protects non-smokers in areas that they normally

frequent but allows smokers isolated locations where they may congregate.

If we are to adopt tobacco prohibition on the rationale of protecting people from themselves, why not outlaw how much food can be sold to the obese, the eating of meat (it's bad for people and the environment), and fight overpopulation by limiting children (as do the Chinese) to one to a family?

We can't all be perfect. And hopefully we won't all walk arm-in-arm in response to every fad or health notion, correct or otherwise. When people are not harming anyone but themselves, let's provide them with factual information but then demonstrate understanding, respect and human kindness by cutting them some slack.

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