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LETTER: Crossings' road plan will create grid lock at RR bridge

"The new 'village' plan for the Crossings (hotel, apartments, stores/restaurants), this will not only cause back-up traffic at the Rt. 30/Harrisburg Pike interchange but will also cause gridlock on Harrisburg Pike. High Real Estate plans to widen Harrisburg Pike from the interchange to the entrance to the Crossings (with the help of federal

and state money) but has said that the railroad bridge on Harrisburg Pike is NOT BEING REBUILT.

"There will be a bottleneck at this bridge resulting in congestion and no doubt accidents. Narrow the nozzle of a hose and you increase the pressure."

SUNDAY NEWS: Editorial titled "**Stamp of Reality**" laments: *"If the U.S. Postal Service closes up shop on West Chestnut Street in downtown Lancaster, as it has suggested it will do as part of the continued scaling back of its retail operations, some regular customers are bound to grouse about the inconvenience."*

WATCHDOG: We doubt that center city residents will be put to any inconvenience. Rather, it is likely that they will receive not only the usual services of a post office plus other services through the establishment of one or more private UPS Stores

INTELLIGENCER NEW ERA: Article "**Crash kills E. Donegal motorcyclist**" opens: *"A Mount Joy man died when he wrecked his motorcycle in East Donegal Township early Thursday morning, police said."*

WATCHDOG: Two criticisms, one small and the other very serious. The former: Why is it that cars go "out of control" but "he wrecked his motorcycle?" Once again the *Intell* has failed to report on whether the cyclist was wearing a helmets. Growl!

NEW ERA: Editorial "**Big pay raises in White House**" states: *"the economic slump is hard on American workers (and their families) ... unless they work in the White House. The average White House staff salary is nearly \$82,000 – 65 percent above the median U. S. Household income."*

WATCHDOG: Perhaps the editors would like the White House to be staffed by average Americans?

LETTER: False charges against men endanger women

"Ben Vonderheide was physically assaulted in a Federal Building. If the situation were reversed and a woman was behind the camera, the public would demand justice..."

"False reports of abuse take away much needed resources from those who are truly in danger. For example, last year in Pennsylvania a sheriff's department was so inundated with serving PFA's that they could not reach a legitimate source in time and a woman lost her life.

"It's important that we keep the public informed on a wide-range of issues including the accepted abuse of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

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“I understand that Mr. Vonderheide’s asks questions that make others feel uncomfortable. His tactics don’t always conform to polite society and his videos make the guilty cringe with embarrassment. I am grateful he is out there ~ ringing the bell and sounding an alarm.”

Editor: *“Physically assaulted”* perhaps technically, but being shoved isn’t that big of a deal.

Nevertheless, the points that fathers also have rights and require protection from false accusations are well taken.

LETTER: Commissioners should research syringe exchanges

“...We are becoming better at identifying and treating addiction in Lancaster County for those who are willing to accept help.

“This program could reduce hospital and medical costs for the uninsured or under-insured (picked up by the taxpayer).

“Syringe exchange programs have reduced the spread of HIV / AIDS and other social diseases in many US cities and countries throughout the world.

“Hopefully, our Commissioners will agree to encourage private sponsorship of the program.”

NEW ERA: Editorial **“A broken promise on health reform”** states *“President Obama’s promise to rein in health care costs as part of his health reform plan apparently has fallen by the way side. A 10-year forecast by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services shows total health spending growing annually by 5.8 percent under the president’s Affordable Care Act. Without the legislation, spending would grow slightly less – 5.7percent annually. Officials at the agency attribute the growth, in part, to expansion of the insured population.”*

Permanente type insurance / provider programs that emphasize preventive medicine, unlike what is practiced by most hospitals, including Lancaster General Hospital. (Their unwillingness of this ‘public charity to help fund a syringe exchange is an example of their self serving myopia.)

WATCHDOG: If costs are only going up *“slightly”* and we are insuring a much larger population, that is a success in itself...

It would be a good idea for the editors to study what other nations are doing. For example, France is acknowledged to provide the best health care in the world. It has per capita 2/3rd of the cost of the 17% of Gross National Product that the USA spends. The USA is ranked around 16th in the world for health care by most accounts. A 5% savings in GNP can provide funds to rebuilt our nation!

What emerged, in large part to gain the filibuster ending 60th vote of Joe Lieberman, the senator from the insurance capital of the nation - Hartford Connecticut, was a version that enriched the health insurance companies and enabled about 30 million Americans to have health insurance coverage. Savings, if there are to be any, will have to come from Geisinger / Kaiser

The root problem came from wage freezes during the Second World War which nevertheless permitted employers to offer new fringe benefits, of which contribution towards health care insurance became a popular one. This in turn lead to triangular struggles among health care providers, insurance companies and the public, misdirection of incentives, and a huge waste of resources due to all that is required to administer the system.

**The above have been excerpted from NewsLanc.com.
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