



## **Internet Rivals Newspapers, Journalism Prof Tells Rotarians**

At the Jan. 9 weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Lancaster, Penn State journalism professor Russ Eshelman cited statistics from the Pew Research Center, indicating that 7 out of 10 adult Americans are now surfing the internet.

"The internet is immediate, unfettered, and unpredictable" Eshelman remarked.

He also pointed to statistics indicating that the percentage of politically aware Americans using the internet as their "primary source of

information about politics" more than doubled from 7% in 2002 to 15% in 2006.

Eshelman's speech focused on concerns: "More and more newspapers are encouraging their reporters to do blogs. I don't think that's such a good thing," he said, arguing again that it "blurs the line between opinion and news."

He added that the pressure to publish as quickly as possible negatively impacts the quality of the stories produced.

## **25% of City School Children Live in Poverty**

According to a report from the U. S. Census Bureau, the prosperity enjoyed by most in Lancaster County has not percolated down to our school children.

In Lancaster City alone, approximately 4,000 youngsters – 25% - suffer from poverty. And suburban and exurbia districts also have significant pockets of poverty with rates of 1 out of 6 in Columbia and 1 out of 7 in Pequea, Solanco and Eastern Lancaster County.

In contrast, poverty rates for school children

from Warwick and Hempfield are 1 in 20.

Hungry children find it hard to concentrate and usually do not have nutritious diets. School breakfast and lunch programs help to ameliorate the situation, but food quality in City schools reportedly is not as good as elsewhere.

*NewsLanc* plans to report on the comparative funds available, cost and quality of food provided by the School District of Lancaster and others.

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## What Should Be Done for Amtrak Parking

Visitors to Amtrak's 30th Street Station in Philadelphia witness good design for handling various parking needs: Short term meter parking a few strides from the station and a parking garage that enables passengers to transit from car to station platform expeditiously, safely and without venturing outside.

So let's retain short term meter parking in front of Lancaster's Amtrak station and substitute short term for the long term parking to the east of the station.

And let's build a parking garage on the west side of the station and connect it by elevators to a bridge from the garage to the station's ticket level. Parking should be as convenient for commuters as it is for visitors to Lancaster General Hospital.

The concept is sensible, the cost is reasonable, and it saves fossil fuels. By doing so, we will have accomplished something for commuters, the environment, and posterity.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR: 'Rick Gray no FDR'

"After reading [in the *New Era*] Bernie Harris's hard-hitting critical analysis of Mayor Gray's first two years, I started to believe we had the second coming of FDR in our midst.

"But then I remembered the gun crime, acid vandals, crappy schools, tax increases, congestion, last winter's slush piles, cheap shots by hizzoner, and the \$200 million blob of pork in the center of the city he championed, and I realized he's just Rick Gray, sellout."

"(Bernie must need some chap stick after that "article." That was some serious butt-kissing.)"

## EDITORIAL: *New Era* Springs to Defense of General Hospital

In a January 8th editorial "LGH contributes its fair share & more" apparently in response to *NewsLanc*, the sycophantic *New Era* states "generosity certainly is not obligatory." (Judeo-Christian ethical mandates aside.)

It then makes the following obsequious assertion: "The [financial] success of LGH comes from the skills of its nurses, doctors and physician assistants. It comes from the expertise of its lab workers and efficiency of its clerks. It comes from the vision of its leaders."

*NewsLanc* too is proud of LGH, but its

profitability also stems from such causes as LGH enjoying a partial monopoly, having an ownership interest in many of the medical practices, and operating in a region with relatively low levels of charity cases and unpaid hospital bills.

To retain its tax exempt status, LGH is required to spend the money. LGH can well afford to devote a meager 5% of its earning to payments for county, school and city services. That leaves them over \$95 million to plow back into health care. Enough is enough already!

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