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LANCASTER SUNDAY NEWS:

In **"Paying for college is a whole new ballgame"**, Gil Smart observes: *"According to U.S. News & World Report, the total cost of a four-year degree by the time my youngest goes to college, assuming he does, will top \$200,000. Where's that coming from? Well, maybe he'll be even better at baseball than his older brother."*

"Costs simply cannot keep rising to the extent they have; it is unsustainable. We are creating a generation of debt slaves; and we've created what many say is a bubble in higher education, not unlike what happened in the housing market."

WATCHDOG: A wag of the tail.

As we have written before, our higher education system is a holdover from the Middle Ages and Renaissance Period when students had to travel to a few major metropolitan areas to obtain a higher education.

Change is already in the air. Penn State, along with other universities, is offering Internet based programs that lead to a full degree.

We propose one year on campus with a month long stay during each of the remaining three years. Lab courses would be taken at a local college.

Such an approach would enable our existing universities to reduce the cost of an education by at least a half. The Pennsylvania university system

would be able to close down a number of its campuses while accepting more students.

Because of the high cost of raising a child given today's expectations, couples throughout economically advanced nations, including the USA, are deciding to have less children. The birth rate per woman across Europe averages about 1.5 children and in Canada 1.6. In order to maintain a stable population (all other things being equal), 2.1 is necessary. The USA is at 2.06, largely due to the burgeoning native born Latino population.

Given the modern computer driven world, there is no reason to cling to the past. If they don't mind having the kids at home while attending college classes, parents should be clamoring for educational reform.

New Rule at N.F.L.'s Camps: No Tackling. It's Just Practice.

NEW YORK TIMES: Pro football summer training camps were once filled with two practices a day, grueling sessions that featured helmeted players clashing gladiator-style under a merciless sun.

That was before the average N.F.L. salary soared to more than \$2 million, forcing coaches and owners to weigh the risk and cost of preseason injuries. At the same time, the athletic community has been responding to research outlining the cumulative,

debilitating effects of recurrent head trauma, even in practice. What's left is a training camp landscape that would have been unrecognizable 10 years ago.

As 32 N.F.L. teams opened their camps, the new practice model virtually prohibits tackling and tolerates only nominal full-scale contact between

the players, often no more than five minutes a week...

EDITOR: *There is a message for parents in this. Why expose children to injuries, especially from concussions, when they can play far less dangerous soccer or lacrosse?*

Is Harrisburg bail out deal in best interest of Lancaster taxpayers?

By Bill Keisling

As I've been writing, this ridiculously complicated Harrisburg Parking Deal is a state bailout.

A big part of the present problem in Harrisburg was created when Dauphin County commissioners got into the re-financing craze with Mayor Reed in the early 2000s, in exchange for \$2 million in walk-around money. The bond insurer AGM backed these bad loans.

Now the Dauphin County commissioners and the bond insurers look to be writing their own bailout.

They have written for themselves essentially the same sort of complicated bond deal that created this mess. The public is also intentionally left out of the loop, and is not asked to understand or participate. As such, it will probably fail. Why should the public care?

This is a state bailout — dishonest in intention and execution — made to not look like a state bailout.

The same applies to the hidden state subsidies

proffered to sell the long trouble plagued Harrisburg incinerator and adjoining 'mountains' containing toxic ash to the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority at many times its market value. In that case there has been no third party Financial Feasibility Study. No third party Environmental Impact Study. Just 'trust us.'

How many debacles have followed such reassurances? (To start, let's count Iraq and the Convention Center.)

Here's what one of the *Patriot-News*' readers commented:

"Somehow it appears we will be borrowing from Peter (the parking garages) to pay Paul (AGM). I would like to know if this 'deal' really is in the best interests of the TAXPAYERS of Harrisburg. Where does it end??"

Hopefully we'll be hearing this over and over, as more in the public come to understand what's going on.

U. S. Estimate for a New Hip: Over \$78,000. The Belgian Bill: \$13,660

NEW YORK TIMES: ... So why are implant list prices so high, and rising by more than 5 percent a year? In the United States, nearly all hip and knee implants — sterilized pieces of tooled metal, plastic or ceramics — are made by five companies, which some economists describe as a cartel. Manufacturers tweak old models and patent the changes as new products, with ever-bigger price tags. ...

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