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Beware Lancaster new car dealer's gouging ploy

The Watchdog has been purchasing cars over for half a century. He knows how important it is to negotiate the sale price and arrive at an arrangement fair to the customer and the dealer alike.

He also knows that talk about selling at "*invoice price*" is misleading since dealers receive a refund that bring their costs to say 3% less, in itself allowing a good profit on each transaction.

Having done business there before, he was not prepared for the ploy that recently occurred at what he had come to consider to be a reputable major local dealer.

After arriving at a price, the agreement was printed out along with what appeared to be an official looking document from the state. It referred to "*state processing fees*." It came to about \$250.

Apart from some legitimate state licensing items, three quarters was an attempt to get the customer to pay towards the dealer overhead charge for being in business.

Yes, a small portion of the \$250 had to deal with state costs that had traditionally been charged to the customer. But the rest was sheer hokum. An attempt to increase profits.

When vehemently challenged, all but the legitimate state charges were eliminated

But what about customers who don't have the same amount of business experience or don't read documents critically?

Whatever good will and loyalty the Watchdog had for the dealer went up in smoke.

INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL NEW ERA

About a third of the front page is devoted to photographs of happy consumers of vapor from electronic cigarettes accompanying the lead article "**Enjoying the Vapors**".

WATCHDOG: There were two photos. Pictures are said to be worth a thousand words. The article, if read in full, only comes to 1263.

The recent popularity of electronic cigarettes and their health implications merit coverage and the article takes a responsible approach. For that a wag of the tail.

But the photos of people blissfully inhaling

tobacco smoke send a very different message...a virtual advertisement on behalf of the tobacco industry to the young and impressionable .

Are the editors not aware that nicotine is one of the most addictive and dangerous drugs?

We'll make a deal with the *Intell* editors:

We won't post photos of people enjoying steam containing relatively benign marijuana if they

don't publish photos that promote the use of highly addictive and cancer causing tobacco.

Why don't whites have black friends?

CNN Opinion: ... White people are products of their own whitewashed, sanitized environment.

Black people have been systematically excluded from white neighborhoods.

Black stories rarely surface in popular culture. The history of race in high school textbooks has been boiled down to a handful of bedtime

stories about Jackie Robinson and Rosa Parks. Try to tap into the average white person's feelings on race and you won't necessarily find feelings of hate and antipathy.

You just won't find much of anything, no fully formed or well-considered thoughts about race of any kind. There's nothing really there. Even white people who want black friends don't know where to start...

Hotel Room Rental Tax up 3% over first half of 2012

According to a report from the Lancaster County Treasurer Office, total Hotel Room Rental receipts for the first half of 2013 came

to \$2,874,742, an increase of \$87,620 or 3% over the first half of the previous year.

LETTER: Online studies need to be economical and from respected schools

Re: "Virtual U: Master's Degree Is New Frontier of Study Online"

The idea of online learning being the new, and cheaper, future is great. If we can in fact get there, particularly on the cheaper front. The problem with online learning is many that are less expensive are not through schools that are considered accredited and therefore FAFSA financial aid can not be used. Financial aid available in those cases relies on checking on someone's credit score.

If online learning is done through a state

university or an accredited college, the tuition is often higher in many cases, bordering on paying the same as an out of state student even if you live down the street from the physical location.

The idea behind online learning and the ease on those who would benefit from is good- if only there were not financial pitfalls to it at present. If the two could eventually balance out, it would be a wonderful thing.

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