

Real Reporting.org / NewsLanc.com

9/14/12 • Publisher: NewsLanc.com, LLC • Volume II, No. 172

In Portland, Ore., bikes rule the road

USA TODAY...At the street level, many Portlanders go about their daily lives in ways that would be unfamiliar to most Americans. Downtown and near-city neighborhoods are awash in bikes and bike lanes, delivery bikes dot the urban landscape and bars aren't encased in massive parking lots — they have bike corrals out front.

Portland boasts that 6% of all trips to work are by bike, the highest percentage of bike commuters in any large U.S. city, says Dan Anderson of the Portland Bureau of Transportation.

Even kids get around differently. Nationally, only 13% of children walk or bike to school, according to the National Household Travel Survey. Here, 31% do, in part because of a program that gives every public school student between fourth and 10th grade a 12-week course on how to ride a bicycle safely...

EDITOR: *Mayor Rick Gray, township and county officials: Take note. Instead of street cars, Lancaster needs bike lanes. Our terrain is relatively level and the main streets wide enough. Most people in Lancaster sure could use the exercise...and the money saved.*

LETTER: What's Penn Square Partners next excuse?

"On 8/22, County Commission Chair Scott Martin unveiled his 5-year convention center fiscal plan.

"The following day, 8/23, Penn Square Partner's president Nevin Cooley pooh-poohed it saying the Pennsylvania Dutch Convention and Visitors Bureau (PDCVB) would be hurt. The Lancaster Newspapers followed with a self-serving editorial on 8/26 saying the exact same thing.

"An article on 9/6, (what took so long?) says PDCVB supports the Martin Plan. Not only do they support it, but they have done so since 8/20, 2 days BEFORE the Scott Martin press conference...

"If the PDCVB says yes, I think it's time for PSP to come up with their next excuse.

"Nevin? Are you out there Nevin?"

LETTER: Mayor Gray's plan for boosting CC finances

"Not to be outdone by a Republican, Mayor Gray has issued his counter-proposal to the Martin Plan. The article currently on Lancaster Online is rather lacking in detail.

"The Gray plan allegedly calls for concessions from all of the same stakeholders but includes an immediate increase in the hotel (bed) tax to 5.0% (1.1% in additional tax from the current 3.9%).

"Obviously, everyone else must get off a little easier if the hotels are forced to kick in even more money

for a project that does nothing for them and has them underwriting their competition.

"Sounds like a plan Mr. Mayor. Why should the City pay more for a project that only they might be benefiting from?"

EDITOR: *We wonder if Mayor Gray has ever heard about killing the goose that lays the golden egg.*

Major Media did not unveil the PSU scandal

WE CONNECT DOTS: ... Sara Ganim, a 24-year-old crime reporter for the Harrisburg Patriot News, only graduated PSU's journalism school two years before. Her revelations of the attorney general's probe and detailed reporting of secret grand jury proceedings won her the coveted Pulitzer Prize. Ms. Ganim was originally handed the assignment because she works the crime beat. The grand jury heard testimony in Harrisburg...

According to ESPN reporter Don Van Natta, Corbett argued for Coach Joe Paterno to be sacked even after he announced he would voluntarily quit at the end of the season. Corbett told fellow trustees *"We have to think of the children."*

Governors seldom, if ever, attend PSU Trustee meetings despite their automatic appointment. Corbett landed in State College the night before the meeting, joined some trustees at a local bar, according to ESPN, and lobbied his position...

Gov. Corbett continues to deny that, as Attorney General, he *"slow walked"* the Sandusky investigation to reduce interference with his gubernatorial campaign. None of the big urban media have seriously questioned him on this issue, as of this writing.

We got flimflammed and the 'Watchdog' got schooled

Son Benjamin, on leave from college until after the November 6 election, had put the Watchdog to work registering voters on a prime corner location at the campus of the University of Philadelphia.

Conversation with a fellow volunteer led him to 'explain' to her how the appeal of the Pennsylvania Voter ID law to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court was likely unnecessary because the law would soon be reversed by the Federal Courts, as had recently occurred in Texas.

It took the pleasant middle aged woman a few exchanges before she was able to penetrate his thick skull that the Texas ruling was not necessarily relevant to Pennsylvania because voter rights in Texas, unlike here in the Commonwealth, are subject to review by the Justice Department, a

holdover from the civil rights reform time.

She then told him something that does not seem to be commonly reported, that the U. S. Supreme Court has declined to rule on Photo ID laws until after the November election, because it maintains that no one has yet to suffer and thus has standing to file an appeal.

Then, even the Watchdog caught on to how the public had been flimflammed by the PA Primary because showing a photo ID was voluntary.

Had it been obligatory, a case could have been filed in federal court and the Supreme Court may have overturned the law by now.

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