

# Letter(s) to the editor

Lancaster *Intelligencer Journal/New Era*, November 17, 2011

## Media pre-judges Joe Paterno

When I opened my morning newspaper last week, I expected to see a photograph of Jerry Sandusky, the man who allegedly abused boys at Penn State, plus an accompanying article related to the scandal.

Instead, the focus was on Joe Paterno who, upon hearing about an incident in the showers, reported it to Tim Curley and Gary Schultz, the athletic director and vice president, respectively.

From there, it should have been the responsibility of Curley and Schultz to follow up on the charges. I am sure Paterno had much to keep him busy with the football team.

The cartoons of Joe in the Opinion and Commentary pages are cruel. The same about the editorials on both pages.

Another thing: Staff writer Mike Gross' article, "Biding his time," is just one more example of Gross' prejudicial opinion of Penn State's football team and program. His articles constantly show his abject distaste of Penn State.

I am not a Penn State fan, but am a sports fan, so I do read what he churns out, week after week. I thought a newswriter should remain neutral and not show his bias.

You people have Joe Paterno, judged and ready for lynching. He's over 80 years old, so let's kick him while he is down. Nice job.

**Lucy Rankin**, Columbia

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## Hardship is Occupiers' cause

Over the past couple of months, my husband and I had the privilege of participating in the Occupy Wall Street protest in New York City, not once but four times.

While passing through the crowd gathered around Broad and Liberty, one could not help but notice the diversity. I was taken aback (albeit pleasantly) by how polite each person was. Young or old, "sorry" was spoken frequently, as we brushed against one another. Strangers introduced themselves and discussed their concerns.

It has been said that there is no clear cause among the thousands gathering. As I pondered that and

struggled (myself) to find a cause, it became quite clear that each person has an individual hardship that has brought them to this place. As the cost of living skyrockets, more and more of us are living paycheck to paycheck. It only takes one unexpected hardship to crash a family into financial despair.

As a child in the '60s, I cannot remember a time that there wasn't hope in this great country. Anything was possible in America. I have lost that secure feeling. The 99 percent are part of America the beautiful falling to Third World status and the 1 percent are watching it for entertainment.

**Sharon Lintner**, Columbia

## Unaware of city water rate hike

Just received my water bill from the City of Lancaster. Surprise -- no, shock -- it's almost double from my last bill.

Did anyone let me know about this increase or how much it would be? No. I called the Lancaster Water Authority and was told the increase was 66.5 percent, effective July 21. So, there goes the projected increase I am to get in

January from Social Security. Between the water hike and expected Medicare increase, there will be a piddling little left.

With all the increases in food, medicine, gas and, no doubt, an increase in taxes, don't expect me to help the economy.

Marge Burger, Millersville

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## Who watches those who watch?

A 24-year-old Lancaster man has died after allegedly stealing (finding?) a wallet that had been left on a counter. The alleged wallet apparently contained \$1,000 cash -- more than most wallets I have seen.

Said wallet was left under the watchful eye of the video surveillance camera at Fast Lane Grocery, 14 South Prince St., and was allegedly seen again being disposed of by surveillance camera at Lizzy's Laundry, 114 W. King St., half a block away.

There are 168 government-sanctioned surveillance cameras and untold private systems scrutinizing the lives of the citizens of Lancaster.

For the 90 minutes this young man was in the custody of the Lancaster city police at 39 W. Chestnut St. Where is the video to witness his processing, incarceration and alleged suicide?

As we mourn this needless loss of life, the community must ask the question, who is watching those who are watching us?

Christopher B. Maul, Lancaster