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## Execrable, sciolistic & maggoty

By Colin McNickle, PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW  
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### About the writer

 Colin McNickle is the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's director of editorial pages and can be reached at 412-320-7836 or via e-mail.

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Why is it, again, that the Pittsburgh Steelers deserve millions of dollars more in corporate wealthfare?

Steelers brass were quite eager to trot out news that the franchise has begun construction on a North Shore amphitheater. Total cost is \$12 million. Taxpayers are being hey-diddle-diddled for \$2.5 million.

If the Steelers can pay athletes millions of dollars to play in a stadium for which taxpayers are being tapped nearly half-a-billion dollars, the franchise certainly should be able to scrape up the full freight for its little side business. That it hasn't is execrable. ...

**Darkest of dark** horse Pennsylvania gubernatorial wannabes Joe Hoeffel, a Democrat, labels state Attorney General Tom Corbett, a GOP governor hopeful, a "states' righter" over his joining a class-action lawsuit against ObamaCare's constitutional perversions.

Mr. Hoeffel plays the "racist" card. Such a smear exposes a shocking constitutional ignorance.

And absolutely sciolistic is that Hoeffel views "sovereignty" as a four-letter word. Back to school, Joe. Google "Article I" and "10th Amendment." ...

**The Corporation for Public Broadcasting** says it's creating "local" journalism centers in five regions across the United States. National Public Radio and Public Broadcasting Service TV stations will "collaborate on covering key issues, including immigration, agribusiness, the economy and health care," reports The Associated Press.

Look for this new government-funded "journalism" to advocate amnesty for illegal aliens, "report" how "efficient" ethanol is, tutor us on how important it is for government to command the economy and laud the "progressiveness" of ObamaCare.

The public should treat this effort for what it will be — government pap. ...

**A new Cato Institute** study says the educratic establishment has misled the public about real spending per pupil. The nation's government schools "are spending 93 percent more than the estimated median private school."

Cato scholar Adam Schaeffer says "real per-pupil spending (is) on average 44 percent higher than the figure obtained from district publications or personnel."

"This disconnect between official accounting and reality raises troubling questions regarding democratic control of public institutions and the ability of citizens to determine whether or not they are getting what they are paying for," he writes.

Mr. Schaeffer is kind in calling it a "lack of transparency." The better phrase would be "racket protection." ...

**One of the wags** with whom I regularly converse finds it disconcerting that Pittsburgh officials are buoyed by news that its pension fund liabilities are \$50 million less than expected, now just below \$1 billion.

"Wonderful," quips Mr. Wag. "They only have \$660 million in unfunded liabilities instead of \$710 million. And that does not count the \$300 million-plus in unfunded retiree health care benefits."

Worse still is that we're hearing less about phasing out defined-benefit pensions for union workers and phasing in defined-contribution plans but hearing more about how taxpayers should be expected to, yet again, prop up organized labor and its Democrat enablers.

It doesn't get any more maggoty than this.

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