

Editor's Notebook



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Editor & Publisher

Great Way To Pay For College

Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri has come up with a new plan to help farm families pay for tuition. University president Dennis Spellman set up a program to trade tuition credits for any farm commodity that can be used at the campus dining hall.

A year's tuition at the small liberal arts college costs \$11,200 a year. The college uses the retail price of whatever commodity the cafeteria takes in.

For example, the first farm family to take part in the program swapped 50 hogs for two years of tuition for their daughter. The cash market value of the hogs at the time was just \$4,500. So far, six families have taken Spellman up on his offer and traded hogs for education. The parents deliver the animals to a local slaughterhouse and arrange to have the meat delivered to campus later.

Lindenwood isn't the only college that's tried bartering to lower out-of-pocket tuition costs. Defiance College in Defiance, Ohio lowers tuition of top students who pledge volunteer service. Other colleges have joined trading networks, also known as barter banks, where parents can trade all kinds of products and even labor to pay tuition.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dennis Spellman, Lindenwood University, 209 South Kings Highway Street, St. Charles, Mo. 63301 (ph 636 949-4949; www.lindenwood.edu).

Phony Rebate Program

We recently checked out an article on what sounded like an interesting new water purifying system and instead came across something that looks like a scam. Here's how it works:

The retail price of the purifier is inflated but buyers become eligible for a rebate from something called the National Energy Rebate Fund (NERF). As far as we can tell, NERF is just a gimmick to get you to buy the product. Ads for the water purifier, and other such products, claim you will receive a rebate of 50 percent or more. But funds for the NERF rebate simply come from the company selling the product. And they make it very hard to collect.

Incredibly, you have to wait an 47 months to apply for the rebate. Don't wait 48 months or it will be too late. In addition, NERF has the nerve to reserve the right (in small print, of course) to pay out less than the advertised rebate amount if insufficient funds are available.

Obviously, what NERF is counting on is that most people will never apply for the rebate or become otherwise disqualified. They call it slippage, and it looks like they make sure there are plenty of ways to "slip".

Quips By Steven Wright

- I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- Borrow money from pessimists. They don't expect it back.
- 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel good.
- If you want a rainbow, you've got to put up with the rain.

- The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- I almost had a psychic girlfriend but she left me before we met.
- OK, what's the speed of dark?
- Hard work pays off in the future, laziness pays off now.
- What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?
- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.
- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

Lightning Fast Internet Comes To The Country

Surfing the internet over a standard phone line can be more than frustrating. It's often a big waste of time.

On the other hand, surfing the net on a high-speed connection that's always "on" can change your life in many ways. Most people who've had a high-speed connection say they'd never go back.

The problem is that even if you are willing to pay the higher cost, in most areas there has been no practical way to get a high-speed connection in the country. But that's been changing fast.

Agri-Star is a satellite-based system that only does internet - no TV. What's more, it's geared to farmers and ranchers, with channels of information tailored to farm businesses. The company started signing up customers on a trial basis last August and quickly found customers in 23 states and counting. Starting in January, 2003, they rolled out the service nationwide. It's generally 20 times faster than a phone line.

The system requires a small satellite TV-type dish. Basic service costs \$69 a month if you commit to one year. Equipment and installation costs range from \$299 to \$699, depending on various promotions in different areas.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, AgriStar, 541 North Fairbanks Court, Suite 1850, Chicago, Ill. 60611 (ph 312 595-1200; Website: www.agristar.com; E-mail: info@agristar.com).

Other satellite-based internet services include DirecWay, offered by DirectTV (www.direcway.com or 866 487-4444) and Starband, which was once part of the Dish Network but is now on its own (www.starband.com or 800 478-2722).

Liberty Quotes

"The shepherd always tries to persuade the sheep that their interests and his own are the same." *Stendhal*

"Make yourselves sheep and the wolves will eat you." *Benjamin Franklin*

"The Democrats seem to be basically nicer people, but they have demonstrated time and time again that they have the management skills of celery. They're the kind of people who'd stop to help you change a flat, but would somehow manage to set your car on fire. The Republicans, on the other hand, would know how to fix your tire but they wouldn't bother to stop because they'd want to be on time for Ugly Pants Night at the country club." *Dave Barry*

"A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul." *George Bernard Shaw*

"Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys." *P.J. O'Rourke*

"So far this year, more than 6 million acres have burned in western federal forests. That means more than 450,000 tons of particle pollution have been released into the atmosphere - equal to more than 10 years' worth of driving by every car in California." *Jeffery Young, California Forests Products Commission in the Capital Press, Sept. 13th, 2002.*

Tape Measure Trick

Here's a trick you can do with any tape measure. Pull the tape out and double it over, placing the end of the tape on 103 (for the year 2003). Now look back down the tape to the year you were born. For example, if you were born in 1960, go to the 60-in. mark. On the other side of the tape, you will find your age, which in this example would be 43. (*Ed Merritt, Skyline, Ala., in Popular Woodworking Magazine*)

Every day the number one billion - 1,000,000,000 - is used more often. How large is it? A billion seconds ago it was 1952. A billion minutes ago Jesus was alive. A billion hours ago our ancestors were living in the Stone Age. A billion dollars ago was only 10 hours and 20 min. at the rate the U.S. Government spends it.

Things It Took Me 50 Years To Learn

- Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.
- There is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness".
- People who want to share their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours with them.
- No matter what happens, somebody will find a way to take it too seriously.
- Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- Never lick a steak knife.
- The most destructive force in the universe is gossip.
- You will never find anyone who can give you a clear and compelling reason why we observe daylight savings time.
- You should never say anything to a woman that even remotely suggests that you think she's pregnant unless you can see an actual baby emerging from her at that moment.
- The main accomplishment of almost all organized protests is to annoy people who are not in them.
- A person who is nice to you but rude to the waiter, is not a nice person. This never fails.
- Thought for the day: Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic. *Dave Barry*

Secrets Of Bin-Busting Yields

Yield barriers have become more common in recent years as farms and equipment have gotten larger. Still, some farmers are finding ways to produce more than 400 bushels of corn per acre, 120 bushels of soybeans per acre, and 100 bushels of wheat.



Strategies used by farmers who produce big yields are documented in a new book and video entitled *Breaking Barriers - 7 Secrets That Unlock Higher Yields*. The book and video were co-authored by world champion soybean producer Ray Rawson of Farwell, Michigan and Dr. Jim Ladlie, well-known agronomic educator.

Rawson and Dr. Ladlie outline "secrets" that include ways to discover and correct major yield-limiting factors while learning and understanding how the chemical, biological and physical factors of soil dramatically affect yields.

The book and video are chock full of interviews and case histories of top producers in several states. They're priced at \$24.95 each, or \$44.95 if both are ordered together. For more information, call toll-free 888 875-2425 or the web site at www.profitproag.com.

A barber gave a haircut to a priest one day. The priest tried to pay for the haircut but the barber refused, saying, "I cannot accept money from you for you are a good man - you do God's work." The next morning the barber found a dozen Bibles at the door to his shop.

A policeman came to the barber for a haircut and again the barber refused payment, saying, "I cannot accept money from you for you are a good man - you protect the public." The next morning the barber found a dozen doughnuts at the door to his shop.

A lawyer came to the barber for a haircut and again the barber refused payment, saying, "I cannot accept money from you for you are a good man - you serve the justice system." The next morning the barber found a dozen more lawyers waiting for a haircut.

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house and, after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two elderly gentlemen were talking and one said, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant, and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly."

The other man said, "What's the name of the restaurant?" The first man knits his brow in obvious concentration and finally says to his companion, "Aahh, what is the name of that red flower you give to someone you love?"

His friend replies, "Carnation?" "No. No. The other one," the man says. "His friend offers another suggestion. "The poppy?" "Nahhh," growls the man. "You know. The one that is red and has thorns."

His friend said, "Do you mean a rose?" "Yes. Yes that's it. Thank you!" the first man says.

He then turns toward the kitchen and yells, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"