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PAM / Millersville: Worse than AIG and Chrysler bail outs?

On March 20th, the *Sunday News* observed
“...*The trustees voted to pay up to \$14.5 million, quite a bit of depreciation from the estimated \$32 million that [The Pennsylvania Academy of Music] spent to construct its palace on Prince... PAM founders Michael Jamanis and Frances Veri ...seem to be in denial about the damage they’ve done to some of the biggest charitable foundations in the county – including the foundations associated with Lancaster Newspapers – and, by extension, to other nonprofits that won’t get the money they need because the foundations lost so much in the PAM debacle.*”...

In fact, the \$14.5 million price is approximately the amount needed to relieve the debt guarantees on behalf of PAM of Paul Ware, the board chairman of PAM during the debacle, his Ferree Foundation, the Lancaster Newspapers, Inc. and the Steinman Foundation and to pay off the UNCB mortgage. Instead, generous other donors of around \$5 million and the tax payer who contributed the balance are the ones being harmed.

In addition Ferree has insisted on acquiring the valuable musical instruments that other members of the community and supporters from throughout the country have donated, in one case to take a donated violin out of the hands of an accomplished student who needs it for recitals. Seems like an act of vengeance by the person who led PAM to its ruin!

Did the State obtain any MAI appraisals of the value of PAM? *NewsLanc’s* publisher, a prominent real estate developer and sole Advisor to PAM’s recent Business Committee, had opined the value of the single purpose building to be around \$3 million, perhaps as much as \$5 million.

We are thrilled that Millersville is likely to acquire the PAM building. We are furious that they may be overpaying by \$11.5 million, the equivalent of in-state tuition scholarships for 1,480 students.

This ‘bail out’ of powerful members of the Lancaster elite would make Wall Street blush!

Syringe exchange still active in Lancaster

The Urban League had requested funding from Lancaster General Health to administer and enlarge the syringe exchange and public health efforts that have existed over the past decade on the lower floor of the Bethel AME church office building at 450-512 Strawberry Street.

It was thought that now that the sale of syringes has been deregulated, ‘public charity’ LGH would use some of its \$113 million ‘excess’

(profits) to pay the \$50,000 to \$100,000 in annual expenses, depending on the extent of services to be offered.

(Currently, LGH gifts only 1% of its profits, about the lowest percentage in the state.)

When LGH turned down the request, it appeared that the exchange would close as of the end of 2009 for lack of funding. **(Continued on rear)**

(Although predominantly an African-American congregation, the Bethel AME supports a program that largely serves Latinos and Caucasians!)

Nevertheless, led by Rev. Edward M. Bailey, Bethel AME decided that it would carry on the program even without financial support.

Following their lead, the earlier funder renewed his monthly donations, albeit at a lower level.

Syringe exchanges not only reduce the spread of HIV /AIDS and other social diseases, they act as a contact with addicts that enables testing, provide condoms, and, when the client seeks help, expeditiously refer them to social agencies and health care facilities that can be of assisted.

LNP suspends “TalkBack”, so *NewsLanc* will offer “LNP Talk”.

In an *Intelligencer Journal – New Era* article concerning the shutdown of “TalkBack”, Harold Miller, CEO of the Lancaster Newspapers, Inc., explains “*It’s been abused. It’s gone. Whether it ever comes back again, we’ll look and see.*”

(Those who read the Convention Center series will note LNP’s history of reporting one thing to arouse and influence public opinion, and then suddenly reversing course upon achieving its

ends.)

Within days, *NewsLanc* will introduce “LNP Talk” to allow readers of *LancasterOnLine.com* and the newspapers to discuss newspaper articles. The same rules will apply to “LNP Talk” as to “Letters to the Editor”: Staff will delete unsubstantiated personal attacks and edit out or hyphenate language deemed offensive by current social norms.

TIMES-TRIBUNE: Even with above-average salaries and benefits, the state’s 253 legislators actually account for only a small portion of the total cost of running the General Assembly.

The real expense comes from its support staff, which numbers nearly 3,000, the largest legislative staff in the nation. Its 2,918 employees outnumber the next two largest, New York at 2,751 and Texas with 2,388, even though the latter states have much larger population.

NEW ERA: Editorial “**Big tax break for Brethren Village**” concludes “Brethren Village could have softened the blow by offering a more generous in-lieu-of-taxes payment, but chose not to for whatever reason. (The 25 percent doesn’t

even measure up to what Lancaster Mayor Rick Gray asks of his non-profits, which is 33 percent.)”

WATCHDOG: Well said. A wag of the tail!

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