

Talk of “Insane delusion”, Steven Blair files appeal

Barely two weeks after a challenge to an estate valued at over a million dollar bequeathed to the Lancaster County Public Library (Duke Street) was dismissed by Orphan’s Court, attorney Stephen Blair filed an appeal on behalf of his father-in-law former Judge Wilson Bucher and himself.

Thomas Bucher, the judge’s son and Blair’s brother-in-law, had bequeathed his entire estate to the library in a Will he wrote five years before his death. Despite the passage of time and Bucher’s successful work history, the elderly Judge Bucher and Blair challenged the Will on the basis that

Thomas was subject to an “*insane delusion*” at the time it was written.

Senior judge Joseph H. Kleinfelteris decision left little doubt concerning the validity of the Will based on both the facts and the meaning of “*insane delusion*” under state law and the rarity of its application. Meanwhile, the cost of litigation to the library is well over a hundred thousand dollars, money meant to improve its services and facilities.

Now the estate will be further depleted by the cost of appeals which some believe reflect an intention to drag the process out as long as possible. “*Insane delusion*”? By whom

INTELLIGENCER NEW ERA

An article “**Pennsylvania Academy of Music gets OK to use restricted endowment money to pay operating expenses; Former benefactors try to block move**” reports:

“A bankruptcy court judge’s ruling Tuesday was music to the ears of Pennsylvania Academy of Music officials. The judge allowed PAM to use money in a restricted endowment to pay operating expenses, a move that lets the academy keep operating...”

“PAM’s bid to tap the endowment was opposed by Ware, a former PAM chairman, and his wife, Judy. They have donated an undisclosed amount to the endowment and untold millions to PAM. Ware left the academy board last summer...”

WATCHDOG: It amazes us how Ware, who had served as chairman when the mistakes were made that put PAM into such financial difficulties, seems so determined to prevent PAM from recovering. Instead of chastising himself for his folly, he seems to be taking out his wrath on the institution he formerly sought to help.

Moreover, what is meant by “*They have donated...untold millions.*” ? Ware guaranteed millions in loans but the near miraculous decision by Millersville University to acquire the facility for around \$14 million relieved Ware of most, if not all, of his obligations.

Perhaps it would have been better said “*On behalf of Ware, the state taxpayers donated untold millions.*”

Does Tony Judts' observations apply to Lancaster?

In his recently published "Ill Fares The Land", famed British historian Tony Judt observes:

"The United States is a country founded upon small communities. As anyone who has lived for any length of time in such places can attest, the natural instinct is always to impose a regulative uniformity upon members' public behavior. In the US, this disposition is partly countered by the individualistic propensities of the early settlers

and the constitutional protections they prescribed for minority and individual dissent.

But the balance, note by Alexis de Tocqueville among many others, has long since swung towards conformity. Individuals remain free to say what they wish; but if their opinions cut athwart those of the majority they will find themselves outcast. At the very least the impact of their words will be muted."

State publishes "crude rates" for hospital incurred infections

A *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* article entitled "Report finds drop in hospital infections" states "A state Department of Health report released Thursday shows that Pennsylvania's hospitals reported their patients contracted 25,914 infections in 2009, an estimated 12.5 percent fewer than a year earlier.

"Though the report seems to show we're making progress, 25,914 is still a very large number and shows we still have our work cut out for us in bringing that number down," Stephen Ostroff, the state's acting physician general, said Thursday.

The report "2009 Technical Report; Health Care Associated Infections (HCA) in Pennsylvania Hospitals" warns:

"Crude rates for each facility are included for reference only. These crude rates are not risk adjusted and therefore are NOT valid for facility-to-facility comparisons. These numbers and rates

will be used in future reports to illustrate infection trends within each facility."

That being said, the following are extracted from the report because of local interest and also to provide comparisons with hospitals from nearby counties and with those in Philadelphia. (Apparently, not all hospitals are listed.)

"Crude Infection Rate" per thousand:

Lancaster General Hospital	2.89
Lancaster Regional	0.89
Heart of Lancaster Regional	1.04
York Hospital	2.85
Reading Hospital	2.16
Crozer Chester Medical Center	1.45
Geisinger Medical Center	4.04
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital	4.12
Temple University	3.01
Hahnemann University Hospital	2.27

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