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LETTER: INPUD – International Network of People who Use Drugs

I would like to call your attention to Hungarian Civil Liberties Union's (HCLU) two new movies.

The first features the International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPD), the first global network that represents people who use drugs in international agencies and aims to defend their human rights: <http://drogriporter.hu/en/inpud>

We made the other movie to support activists from all over the world in the campaign to fully fund the Global Fund: <http://tasz.hu/en/hclu-film/broken-promises-kill-fully-fund-global-fund>.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *To many, the idea of an*

organization of people who use drugs will seem inconceivable. It is exactly for their edification that the movie shorts were made and NewsLanc is publishing this letter. Actually, we in the United States have come to embrace some of the approaches advocated in the shorts: syringe exchange, Methadone clinics, detoxification clinics, drug courts, mutual support groups of those in recovery. Yet even we have far to go in understanding that hard drug use should be dealt with more as a public health rather than a criminal justice issue.

Just as with alcoholics, some who use drugs function relatively well in life. Some have even had outstanding careers. But drug addiction is a terrible thing. We help addicts and society best when we provide care and treatment, not when we persecute and prosecute.

Bizarre response accompanies LGH annual meeting date

After four inquires over a six week period, all sent to John Lines, Director of Public Relations and Communications, Lines has responded with the day and date of the Lancaster General Health "open" meeting. It is Nov. 18th at 3:00 p. m.

Contrary to all evidence, Lines maintains he had not received the messages but, having learned of our request via the NewsLanc web site, had responded on September 9th.

Here is Lines communication of September 19th:

"Mr. Field, I am following up on my email sent to you on Sept. 9, which said: I noticed on your website that you would like to know the date and time of the annual Open Meeting of the Lancaster

General Hospital Board of Trustees. It will be held Nov. 18, beginning at 3 p.m., at Lancaster General Hospital. As we do every year, we will advertise the Open Meeting in Lancaster Newspapers, at least a month before the meeting.

"Sorry for the delay in a reply, but we did not receive your emails. To avoid any future delay, feel free to call me anytime at the office: 717-544-5054 or my cell phone: 717-468-8303.

"Thank you. John Lines"

All four e-mails from Field to Lines were addressed to jplines@LancasterGeneral.org, the same return address on Line's message above.

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Lines' above message was sent at 5:56 PM on Sunday, September 19, just forty-three minutes after he was sent a fourth request.

Neither *NewsLanc* or Field have recollection of a September 9th message from Lines, not does one appear under "New" or "Old" messages.

Tom Beeman, President of LGH, was copied by *NewsLanc* on three of the messages to Lines.

The whole episode appears representative of ongoing spin and dissembling by an organization that, despite being a public charity, acts with impunity and without transparency.

LETTER: The key question concerning LGH

"It is wonderful to have an alternative newspaper ... Many people both enjoy reading NewsLanc as well as depend on it for public information that would not, otherwise, be available.

"I love LGH and we are lucky to have it here but that is beside the point when considering their potential contribution to the city and school district, which are institutions as vital to Lancaster as LGH. High Industries and Lancaster newspapers are also a great local institutions, but that is also beside the

point when considering the roles each played in the greatly flawed Convention Center history.

*"The question posed by NewsLanc (or so it seems to me) is: **Given the extraordinary profits, is a sufficient share coming back to the schools and other community services of Lancaster? That is a legitimate question and is not being explored, in nearly the detail it deserves, by other local newspapers.** A "wag of the tail" from here for NewsLanc."*

SUNDAY NEWS:

Under the heading "**Blinded by the bubble**", Columnist Gil Smart writes: *"From the Obama administration, we've seen expensive attempts at stimulus...[The stimulus plans] have not made much of a difference..."*

"It is no stretch to say that without the housing bubble, there would have been no Bush economy. Now the bubble is gone; now the emperor stands, revealed in his nakedness. And now the nation must address the core issues, which were there all along: The rich are getting ever-richer, while the majority are (sic) treading water, if that."

WATCHDOG: Without the Recovery Act and TARP, the latter enacted during the waning days of the Bush administration with mostly Democrat support, we might well have plummeted into a 1930s type depression rather than struggling along, despite about 16% of the population unemployed or underemployed.

Smart makes an excellent point concerning how the housing bubble momentarily masked the failure of real wages to rise and instead gave the middle class the illusion that everyone was growing rich.

**The above have been excerpted from NewsLanc.com.
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