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INTELLIGENCER NEW ERA

Front page article headed “**Franklin & Marshall College hires new leader**” reports: “*Daniel R. Porterfield, a senior vice president at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., will begin his tenure as F&M’s 15th president March 1. His transition will begin next month...*

“Porterfield was awarded two of Georgetown University’s highest faculty honors, the 2010 SFS Faculty Excellence Award and the 2008 Georgetown College Edward Bunn, S.J. Award....

“As a faculty member at Georgetown, he founded two continuing justice projects that allow several hundred students a year to work with immigrant children and at-risk youth.

“He has lived with his family in a residence hall on Georgetown’s campus for more than seven years and is active in campus life.”...

WATCHDOG: Wow! Porterfield appears to be the antithesis of the barbarian John Fry. Three wags of the tail, and congratulations to the F & M Trustees on their selection.

LETTER: LGH won’t allow video of public meeting

“Just spoke to [Director of Corporate Communications] John Lines and was told there is no filming or recording allowed again this year.

“Mentioned commissioners and others webcast such ‘public meetings’ for people who for instance may not be able to physically attend due to medical conditions or because they have to go to their job.

“He said [it is] in the interest of privacy for those who would choose to speak up. I informed him that I and they give up privacy when we speak at ‘public’ meetings.

“ Anyway: –Round and Round and Round we go – ‘Public’ doesn’t mean the people need know.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: *We wonder if they would bar WGAL-TV and Fox 43?*

Some rich people face same quandary as Jack Benny

One of the funniest moments in all radio history was when a robber threatens Jack Benny by telling him: “*Your money or your life.*” What follows is silence, followed by more silence, followed by still more silence. Finally, after the audience is in absolute convulsion from laughing, Benny responds “*I’m thinking, I’m thinking.*”

Such is the quandary facing old rich people who realize the forgiveness of all estate taxes expires on December 31.

According to attorney and *Intell* columnist Patti Spencer, “*The year with no estate tax was the year to ‘throw mamma from the train.’*”

Editor's note: *NewsLanc*'s publisher attended Thursday's open meeting and was impressed with much that he heard. But representative of the sense of superiority and sheer arrogance of LGH was Chair Alex Henderson mentioning that Tom Beeman would only receive about half of the \$1,200,000 gift that was reported in the *Sunday News* and repeated by *NewsLanc*, yet never corrected by representatives of LGH despite several contacts. We will report at length on line by this weekend and summarize in next week's newsletters.

Five Questions for LGH's Board of Trustees at Thursday's public meeting

A stay by a Lancaster friend in a Philadelphia hospital verified the superior competence, commitment and compassion of the nurses, interns, and other workers at Lancaster General Hospital. The issues raised today are criticism and challenges to LGH's top executives and the board of trustees, not of hospital staff.

1) In large part because of LGH dominance of many aspects of health care delivery in Lancaster County, it is able to average a hundred million dollars a year in profits which it calls "surplus" of revenue over expenses. Over the past couple of years, apart from contributions to city and school system of payments in lieu of real estate taxes, it has donated only 4% of its surplus to other non-profit organizations in the essential realms of public health and education, a figure that would have been less than 2% were it not for a one time grant last year to South East Lancaster Health Services.

Would not the community benefit more if 20% of the surplus went to other non-profits for public health and education purposes?

2) Why do LGH executives and spokespersons constantly distort facts and propagandize? For example, they claim the losses resulting from care to Medicaid and the indigent are charitable contributions when they are not. They are services required of hospitals and are treated as expenses in calculating 'surplus', not as donations from 'surpluses.'

3) The Drug and Alcohol Commission estimates there are 5,000 to 10,000 heroin addicts in the

county, which is tragic for many of their families, adds to the cost of social services, and, through sharing of dirty needles, spreads the HIV virus, Hepatitis 'C' and other socially contracted diseases.

Why does LGH only operate a part time clinic for their treatment?

Why did LGH refuse a grant to The Urban League when it expressed a willingness to operate a first class syringe exchange? The legal argument that LGH might violate the paraphernalia laws is dubious. In any case, LGH could explicitly give a hundred thousand dollars in annual support for The Urban League's other programs, thus making it possible for the League to devote other contributions to dealing with addicts

4) If not indeed a violation of the law, is it not an act of cronyism and a violation of the public trust to gift \$1.2 million to LGH's President and CEO for the year he is taking off to serve in the Navy? LGH is a Public Charity. This is the public's money.

5) Why ban media and the public from other board meetings, considering LGH is a non-profit organization? The only information available is the federally required annual 990 Report. If it were a for-profit hospital, LGH would be paying around \$25 million annually in direct corporate taxes and indirect taxes of its dividends, and it would have to make copious information available to the Securities and Exchange Commission and its stock holders. Shouldn't the public have a say in how a Public Charity spends its huge surpluses?

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