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An example of an oxymoron

Headline “*Lancaster Newspapers charting new direction*” and “*...the company named Ernest Schreiber as executive editor, overseeing its news-gathering operation seven days a week.*”

Forward to the past! We can expect more convention center type slant, attacks on critics of the establishment, titillating news articles, and photos of women accused of prostitution.

And perish the thought that he will be allowed to write *New Era* editorials.

Some progress! Some future!

Was this Rick Gray’s and Randy Patterson’s big secret?

An *Intelligencer Journal New Era* article “Smucker drafts redevelopment plan for Lancaster city” reports:

“The intent of the measure is to give cities a flexible program to spur private-sector development and bring private-sector jobs to locations with vacant, blighted or abandoned properties. Only commercial projects would be eligible for incentives...”

We note that the press conference took place “in Lancaster Square.”

Apparently officials, including those from the City, do appreciate the need to redevelop Lancaster Square East and the proposed legislation would facilitate the acquisition and sale to developers of the area occupied by the Brunswick Hotel, the Brunswick Annex, and the former Hess Department Store / Bulova Building.

This may also be an effort to obtain Commonwealth tax payer money to bail out the Convention Center, to which there is a guarded reference in the article...

Behind the suspension of the Urban League activities

We are heartened that Urban League services have only been suspended to provide adequate time for an audit, re-licensing by the State for soliciting funds, reflections, planning, and arrangements for its future.

Two years ago the Urban League had requested funding from Lancaster General Health to operate a full scale syringe exchange program as part of an expanded harm reduction program... a service available throughout Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and a nearby city.

According to reports, members of the medical staff of LGH supported the request and a serious discussion took place, but LGH’s board ultimately demurred... we believe in contradiction of its own espoused mission statement: “*To advance the health and well-being of the communities we serve.*”

Although a small syringe exchange operated out of a Lancaster inner-city church for over a decade, an effort that both then attorney and now mayor Rick Gray and *NewsLanc*’s publisher helped launch, its church based circumstances limited its scope.

(Today, due to deregulation, syringes are available without prescriptions and identification at almost all pharmacies.)

Representatives of LGH and health care NGOs sought to involve the isolated exchange into a harm reduction continuum that begins at the exchange level and continues through detoxification,

counseling, and often treatment via Methadone or Suboxone.

To fulfill an essential role in the community, the services to be provided by a reconstituted Urban League need to be comprehensive... harm reduction, job placement, assistance for pregnant teenagers in cooperation with the School District of Lancaster, after school educational programs. The Urban League should be the first contact with addicts and serve as the foundation for a superstructure of services for the poor, the sick, the needy...helping them to cope with and rise above their plight in a challenging and complex society.

A reconstituted and revitalized Urban League can complete and make much more effective harm reduction efforts throughout Lancaster County with its estimated 5,000 to 10,000 heroin addicts. For every dollar spent, the savings are likely to be ten to twenty times as much in tax dollars and in lower regional health care insurance costs.

Freeh Report critique released by PSU alumni group

By Bill Keisling

A Penn State alumni group, Penn Staters for Responsible Stewardship, this week became the latest in a growing list of those unhappy with Louis Freeh's report on the Penn State / Jerry Sandusky scandal.

Penn Staters for Responsible Stewardship (or PS4RS) released a detailed 57-page Critical Review & Analysis of Freeh's report on August 13.

As we wrote upon its release, the Freeh Report itself represents a cover-up and a non-investigation with

no due process, witnesses, or open hearings, and was clearly designed to hermetically seal Penn State from glaring problems with Pennsylvania's state and local government, including those involving Gov. Tom Corbett.

PS4RS rightly blames the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, the Centre County Children and Youth Services, the State College Borough Police Department, and the Centre County District Attorney for dropping the ball on the Sandusky case in 1998.

Even so, among the glaring failures of PS4RS's report is that it curiously fails to mention, even once, Gov. Tom Corbett.

This omission is all the more glaring since Gov. Corbett bragged at a July 2012 press conference that he had personally recommended that PSU hire Freeh. Freeh was paid \$6.5 million to produce his report.

All of this aside, what's most noteworthy about the report is what it represents: the school's alumni are finally coming together to question the hysteria, rush to judgment, and lack of thorough investigation and critical thought leading to, and following, the Sandusky scandal.

LETTER: I. D. requirement is 'poll tax':

"Strange country that would be able to require a young male to register for the draft with absolutely no proof of I. D. but could conceivably deny him the right to vote if he didn't have his photo I. D.

"Some European countries require all citizens to vote in elections or pay a tax if they don't but in the Commonwealth of Oz we've managed to reinstate poll taxes."

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