

# Real Reporting.org / NewsLanc.com

9 / 9 / 2014 • Publisher: NewsLanc.com, LLC • Volume II, No. 227

---

## LANCASTER SUNDAY NEWS

Article “**Riding a White Horse into Hell**” reports:

*“Heroin is now the number one abused drug in Lancaster County,” said John Burkhart who heads the county-wide drug task force.*

*“It’s the most dangerous drug and it’s everywhere, in every single town and borough in Lancaster.”*

**WATCHDOG:** We compliment the editors of the *Sunday News* for spotlighting the proliferation of heroin in the county and, among other things, pointing out that drug abuse today is largely among white teenagers in suburban high schools, not disadvantaged inner city kids of color.

Our publisher through Common Sense for Drug Policy for decades has been a major supporter of syringe exchanges in three Central Pennsylvania cities. They reduce the spread of disease and assist addicts to find their way to recovery and back to productive lives and loved ones.

What is the force behind the criminal seduction of our young and others? Money! The manufacturing and sales of illegal drugs is the biggest and most profitable industry in our country and likely in the world.

The USA passed a Constitutional amendment banning the manufacturing and sale of alcoholic beverages, also powerful and addictive drugs. This created a huge criminal market and worsened the situation by indirectly encouraging consumption of hard liquor (easier to smuggle) in place of beer.

Thirteen years later a Constitutional amendment readily passed repealing national prohibition.

What did we learn from that in later dealing with other powerful drugs? Apparently nothing.

The truly dangerous drugs are alcohol, nicotine, heroin, cocaine and amphetamines. (Government sponsored studies indicate marijuana is hardly any more dangerous than coffee or Coca Cola.)

We sensibly tax, regulate and control both alcoholic beverages and tobacco products. Both are readily available to those twenty-one or older. There is no measurable black market in the sale of alcohol. What black market exists for tobacco is only to avoid state sales tax.

We treat consumption of alcoholic beverages and smoking as a health issue, not criminal justice.

So what would happen if the illegal hard drugs (in addition to marijuana) were also taxed, regulated and controlled?

The first thing would be the end of the illegal drug industry, generating hundreds of millions in taxes, saving the lives of thousands of drug war victims, protecting our children from ‘vultures’, reducing the cost of the criminal justice system, and relieving congestion in our prisons.

Moreover, those who became addicted and their loved ones would be more likely to seek medical assistance.

We believe that taxation, regulation and control of the currently illegal hard drugs would be an improvement for society, all things considered. The sooner this takes place, the better.

## ***NewsLanc* looks back at a decade of service**

At 77, we cannot be confident that there will be future paper editions of *NewsLanc* although the web site continues at [www.newslanc.com](http://www.newslanc.com) and is updated daily.

Here are some of *NewsLanc's* accomplishments over the course of the past decade:

- 1) Exposed the self-serving and mendacious dealings surrounding the ramming of the 'white elephant' Convention Center down the throats of the unwilling Lancaster public.
- 2) Gave the lie to Rick Gray administration's foolish street car claims and criticized its abject failure to redevelop Lancaster Square East.
- 3) Challenged the elitist all white board of Lancaster General Hospital, its squandering of the public's money on unwarranted payments to its absent president, its huge profits earned at the cost of local health insurance rates, and its stinginess in fulfilling its avowed mission as a public charity to support health efforts by other organizations.
- 4) Sparked the re-design of the proposed parking for the Amtrak station so as to provide more and convenient parking spaces for riders.
- 5) Shed light on the Franklin and Marshall College's bully tactics in community affairs and the brutal, unprovoked assault by campus police on innocent, not resisting bystander Ron Harper, all in view of its former president.
- 6) Warned against the current proliferation of shopping centers that is bound to undermine the viability of the Park City Mall, thus
- 7) Placed part of the blame for the failure of the Pennsylvania Academy of Music (PAM) on

the incompetent leadership of its chairman for whom the facility, when bailed out by Millersville University, ironically was named.

- 8) Immediately upon the event, condemned Gov. Tom Corbett's firing of Joe Paterno's on the coach's death bed as an effort to misdirect attention from former attorney general Corbett's "slow walk" prosecution of pedophile Jerry Sandusky.
- 9) Was among the first (along with Mike Bull of the *Intelligencer Journal New Era*) to condemn the NCAA's penalties of Penn State as a flagrant violation of NCAA's constitution and by-laws. The Sandusky issue is, at most, about the Penn State administration, not the football team or its past, current, or future players.
- 10) Questioned the sense of the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority acquiring the long troubled Harrisburg incinerator at twice its estimated value and without expert environmental and financial feasibility studies.
- 11) Praised the long time efforts of the Steinman family media in educating the public concerning the value of harm reduction health measure in dealing with drug addiction.
- 12) Privately counseled governmental, business and community leaders.

*NewsLanc's* website and newsletter at times exceeded five thousand viewers a week.

***We thank you for the honor of having been of service. We hope that others will follow.***

*Robert E. Field, Editor and Publisher*

**The above items have been excerpted from [www.NewsLanc.com](http://www.NewsLanc.com)  
Visit the website daily for news, commentary, letters, and other features.  
Suggestions and letters can be sent anonymously through the home page.**