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In an editorial “**Battle Over Books**”, the editors opine:

“Let’s stipulate that the library system provides essential services to the 14 independent libraries that make up the system. Member libraries depend on the system for information technology, research databases, the bookmobile and new books, for instance.”

WATCHDOG: If we did so “*stipulate*,” we would miss the crux of the dispute.

A proposal is being bandied about that the ‘System’ offer its services for sale and the each library be allowed to either purchase such services as it needs, acquire the services from others (as was done in the past), or provide the services in house.

The larger libraries such as Manheim and the center

city facility do not need a bloated ‘big brother’ that currently consumes much of the state and county funding. Moreover, it is outrageous that the ‘System’ is seeking to compete in fund raising.

As *NewsLanc* has researched and pointed out in the past on what is done in other regions:

- 1) Either there should be a countywide library association running all of the libraries with the individual library boards becoming advisory;
- 2) or the ‘System’ should simply provide limited services to the libraries, in which case let it live on fees from willing buyers. Capitalism anyone?

As it is, Lancaster has the worst of both approaches. This may come to an end when one (or more) of the larger libraries says “*enough is enough*” and withdraws its voluntary membership.

LHG BEWARE: Proposed state constitutional amendment on defining nonprofits gets support of advocates

PITTSBURG TRIBUNE: ... The city claims [hospital system] UPMC’s profits should force it to pay property taxes on hundreds of parcels and payroll taxes on 40,000 people who work for UPMC affiliates.

The proposal to amend the state constitution passed last week but must win legislative approval again in 2015 and win a voter referendum to become law...

EDITOR: Lancaster’s largest and likely most

profitable company, Lancaster General Hospital, is exempt from real estate taxes, although it does make in lieu some voluntary contributions. Meanwhile it is gobbling up health practices and forging virtual control over the regional health market place, driving up costs to the citizenry.

Their oligopoly, on the way to becoming a monopoly, prospers; the citizenry suffer because of higher insurance rates. The LHG top executives earn millions each year, in one case while absent.

Pennsylvania NAACP Says Legalize Marijuana

CANNIBUS CULTURE: Last week, the Pennsylvania NAACP endorsed a pending marijuana legalization bill. And on the 4th of July, the civil rights group stepped up that support, holding a press conference to gain traction for the legislation...

The state NAACP came on board in the wake of the release of a report recently conducted by the ACLU that showed that black Americans are more than three times more likely to be arrested on marijuana charges than white Americans. In the Keystone State, the report found, blacks are 5.2 times more likely to be busted for pot than whites.

An inadequate measure for patriotism

While passing through a small town in rural New York State on the Fourth of July, we encountered a war memorial with three words: ***“Duty. Honor. Country.”*** Is that an adequate message to guide us and to pass along to our vulnerable youths? We pondered how might the statement be modified?

Later, over dinner, the answer came in a three words, be it here in the USA or for any other country:

“Duty. Honor. Country. But also question.”

LETTER: *NewsLanc’s* coverage should stick to ***“the facts”***

“... Most newspaper readers want facts and truthful analysis from a vibrant and free press; without it our republic is in jeopardy. What readers get are two cheer leading factions either side eager to ignore their faults in their desire to attain their political agenda...”

WATCHDOG: ...Half a century or so ago, there were seven or eight newspapers, each with its point of view and constituency, operating in the New York City market.

In Philadelphia, there were three: *The Inquirer*, *The Bulletin*, and *The Daily News*. The local

“As a representative of the NAACP and a retired Deputy Chief of Police with more than 31 years of service with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) Police Department, it is time Pennsylvania respond to this injustice in a rational and sensible way,” said Harvey Crudup, president of the NAACP’s Cheltenham Area Branch.

“Millions of dollars per year in additional revenues can be generated to build more schools instead of prisons. These tax dollars can also subsidize drug treatment, job training and diversion programs to reduce racial disparities in Pennsylvania’s criminal justice system as well as transportation projects throughout the Commonwealth.”... (more)

Lancaster Newspapers, Inc. recognizes the journalistic tradition of expressing divergent points of view through opposing editorial pages...we think a very good thing.

NewsLanc does make it a point to review and excerpt articles from the conservative NewsMax.com and often the *Wall Street Journal*. But we seldom agree with its editorial voice.

We would be proud to be considered as *“Progressive Activists”*. That would put us squarely in the company of Theodore Roosevelt.

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