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Bethel AME Church feeds the hungry

By chance and on a different matter, a reporter for *NewsLanc* arrived at the AME Bethel Church offices at Strawberry and Chester Streets at the moment when approximately 60 persons were passing from the lobby area downstairs to the food bank the church operates.

According to Rev. Edward M. Bailey, the food bank helps feed 3,000 persons a month and some months as many as 5,000. Demand has been increasing over the year.

Bailey pointed out that some of the recipients are the "working poor," persons who do not earn

enough from their jobs to be able to fully support their families.

The predominantly African-American congregation conducts a number of programs serving the Lancaster community, one of which, a public health service, primarily benefits Latinos and Caucasians.

Bailey says the church does not publicize its charitable works but, since the reporter stumbled upon the food bank, he did not object to a *NewsLanc* report

Intell / New Era conceal TRRAAC's objections

The combined Dec. 6 edition headlined "\$10M for rail yard move; New site's opponents slam Rendell's grant"

It would appear that either reporter Dave Pidgeon or the editor purposefully deleted reference to the principle TRRAAC objection: There has yet to occur a study by the authorities of alternate locations that may better serve the public's interest.

According to Bill Cluck, attorney for TRRAAC, Dave Pidgeon called him the evening

before publication and Cluck "emphasized the need for independent study."

Instead, the article solely set forth Cluck's responses to questions from the reporter.

NewsLanc is very disappointed to see the Lancaster Newspapers reverting to the cronyism of recent years, whereby they spin the news to favor Franklin & Marshall, Fulton Bank, General Hospital, and Dale High. It seems that when the chips are down, they revert to form.

Dan Cohen reviews "Nixon / Frost"

NewsLanc's Santa Monica Reporter, movie director / writer Dan Cohen, reviews "*Nixon* /

Frost" at http://NewsLanc.com/entertainment.html. Cohen's commentaries are world class.

NEWSLANC Doesn't Just Report... It investigates!

Prohibition doesn't work, E-Town Prez tells Rotary

Prohibition doesn't work.

That's the message Elizabethtown College President Dr. Theodore "Ted" Long had for the Rotary Club of Lancaster on Wednesday afternoon with regard to drinking on college campuses.

Long called instead for what he considers a more realistic and comprehensive approach - one that relies heavily on education and carrots and sticks as opposed to a monolithic abstinence-only policy.

"The facts on the ground are that students look for ways to get engaged in alcohol behavior. They always find a way.... We have to define achievable outcomes. Is it an achievable outcome to keep everybody from drinking?" His answer is no. "They do it in secrecy to avoid detection. It goes underground or off-campus."

And often when they do obtain it, "they binge drink, they overdo it," he said. "We encounter students in life-threatening situations, not before then."

Long said that he was not necessarily advocating for any specific policy, but mainly trying to start a social conversation about the topic.

LETTER: Cover-up at the prison?

"I have learned that the mother of the prisoner who allegedly committed suicide in the Lancaster County Prison is quite alive. I have not confirmed this but hope to tomorrow. [Editor's note: Apparently the accusation is that the prisoner was told that his mother had died, thus contributing to his suicide.]

"NewsLanc said they were going to investigate but since [New Era reporter] Jack Brubaker was - they would sit on the sidelines and critique. What a joke! This alleged suicide happened during the four days Brubaker's "series" was running! AND LNP IGNORED IT."

WATCHDOG: Learning from Prohibition

INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL / NEW ERA:

In "County recalls the end of Prohibition," the Intelligencer Journal / New Era recalls "It was Prohibition, a 13-year experiment in regulating the nation's morals, which ended 75 years ago Friday, leaving a legacy of violence and bloodshed."

WATCHDOG: Today, a large portion of the population fails to make the connection between failed alcohol prohibition and our current prohibition against marijuana, a far less dangerous drug.

If, through the same approach of local option, we regulated and controlled marijuana as we do alcohol, we could raise much tax revenue, reduce incarceration rates by about half of a million, and free up ample funds for the prevention and treatment of drug dependency and addiction.

Incidentally, it was not illegal to consume alcoholic beverages during prohibition; only to sell them. So, unlike drug prohibition, alcohol prohibition was not a means for massive incarceration of minorities.

(Editor's note: Publisher Robert Edwin Field is co-founder and co-chair of Common Sense for Drug Policy. www.csdp.org.)