

Eye witness to F & M police violation and brutality

By Christiaan Hart-Nibbrig re Ron Harper Jr. suing John Fry and F & M College this week.

It was June 3rd, 2008, and the two of us had been publishing the Lancaster Post weekly newspaper for a few months, and I was damned tired. “*C’mon, I need someone as a witness while I chain our box to a pole,*” he said. “*All right,*” I said. “*Give me 15 minutes.*”

As I arrived, Harper was standing next to his parked car across the street from the bus stop where he wanted to chain the newspaper box. He already had his video camera set up.

We walked across the street, and Harper chained the box to the bus stop post. As we were doing this, the gardener for Nevonia (the Franklin & Marshall College-owned president’s residence) approached us and said we couldn’t put the box there. “*The Constitution says we can,*” Harper replied correctly.

“*We’ll see about that,*” huffed the gardener, who returned to Nevonia where he was seen speaking to a woman on the lawn in front of the house.

When I walked across the street, several Franklin & Marshall police vehicles screeched up and surrounded us. When the last official SUV arrived, three men jumped out, blew right past me, and headed straight for Harper.

As they rushed Harper, Harper kept filming. “*Don’t touch me!*,” he yells as the cops grab him and his camera.

The officers brought Harper around the car where he was rushed by several officers. Within ten feet and right in front of me, at least three of these men threw Ron Harper, Jr. — citizen – violently, face first, to the ground. When they pulled him up, Harper had a large, bleeding wound on his forehead.

The F&M officer with his hand on my back, asked the sergeant what he should do with me, stunned in shorts and sandals. “*Cuff him,*” shot back Sgt. Ed Carroll, one of the men who body-slammed Harper, and the one who grabbed his camera.

It was disgusting what happened to me, and, especially Harper. And that it happened in the name of Benjamin Franklin, one of the nation’s first publishers and a leading architect of the First Amendment, is twisted irony, and it makes me sick.

Reader Comment: “*I watched the tape of the alleged assault and saw nothing to indicate that an assault occurred. What it does seem like is that Mr. Harper, while he may be a ‘good man’ as his wife characterizes him, doesn’t have a grasp of reality or a real respect of the law as it applies to EVERYONE; not just his distorted self-serving view.*”

Reader Comment: “*Why does Lancaster County think they are different from the rest of this FREE country called United States of America? Have they never seen the paparazzi on TMZ or the like? Just because Lancaster Newspapers treats people like John Fry as though they are gods, doesn’t mean that a REAL journalist can’t otherwise.*”

SUNDAY NEWS In his weekly column, Editor Marv Adams refers to John DeLorean “*of Pontiac GTO and Delorean car fame and drug-deal-gone-bad infamy.*”

WATCHDOG: In respect to the deceased (who cannot sue for libel), we point out that, according

to Wikipedia, DeLorean was “*found not guilty due to entrapment on August 16, 1984.*” Contrary to his daughter Abigail’s perception, Marv is so young he probably wasn’t paying attention at the time of the trial!

PA Bills would stop construction firms from hiring undocumented workers

POST-GAZETTE: Powerful opponents remain to two bills that would stop Pennsylvania construction firms from hiring undocumented, illegal immigrants, but the measures easily sailed through the state House Tuesday.

House Bill 1502, which bars contractors and subcontractors who hire illegal immigrants from bidding on state construction contracts, was

approved 188 to 6. A few minutes later, House Bill 1503, which would take away state licenses and certifications from private contractors using such hiring practices, passed 188 to 7.

“These bills target contractors who cheat, who use a cheap, illegal work force for profit and push hard-working Pennsylvanians onto the unemployment rolls,” said Rep. John Galloway.

More than 1 in 5 kids live in poverty

USA TODAY: The rate of children living in poverty this year will climb to nearly 22%, the highest rate in two decades, according to an analysis by the non-profit Foundation for Child Development. Nearly 17% of children were living in poverty in 2006, before the recession began....

The report projects that the percentage of children living in families with an “insecure” source of food has risen from about 17% in 2007 to nearly 18% in 2010, an increase of 750,000 children. Up to 500,000 children may be homeless this year, living either in shelters or places not meant for habitation....

Children could suffer long after the recession ends, Palfrey says. A pregnant woman with poor nutrition is more likely to deliver prematurely, for example, increasing the risks that her child will have medical problems. *“The consequences of poverty build on themselves,”* Palfrey says, *“so that the outcomes can be felt for years to come.”*

Reader Comment: *“What? Poor kids? Impossible. I was there when we started the ‘war on poverty’. Do you mean to tell me despite spending ourselves into deep debt we still have poor kids? Let’s stop trying to fix it and let their parents solve the problem. After all, it’s their children.”*

**The above have been excerpted from NewsLanc.com.
Visit the website daily for news, commentary, letters, and other features.
Suggestions and letters welcome at info@NewsLanc.com.**