



Did F & M Engage in Gestapo-Like Tactics?

(At 1:00 AM on Wednesday, *NewsLanc* broke the following story.)

Tuesday afternoon, Christiaan Hart Nibbrig, Editor and Co-Publisher of the *Lancaster Post*, contacted *NewsLanc* to report what appeared to be a series of civil and criminal offenses conducted by security personnel of Franklin & Marshall College against members of the media who were acting within their legal rights. Among the possible offenses are: False arrest, assault and battery, holding someone in custody illegally, and violation of civil rights.

What seemed to trigger such an overreaction was the legal placement of a box for the distribution of *Lancaster Post* tabloids in the State Right-Of-Way at the corner of the residence owned by Franklin & Marshall College for the use of its president, John Fry. What preceded Tuesday's incident was a front page article by the *Post* describing the alleged burglary of bottles of liquor from the Iron Hill Brewery by two students of F & M.

At a hurriedly called news conference later in the day, *Post* News Editor Ron Harper, Jr. announced that twenty-six minutes of video recording proved the placement of the box was entirely within the right-of-way. It can be viewed at www.LancasterPost.com/media. The right-of-way is used as a Red Rose Transit Authority bus stop.

The story was carried by the three Lancaster Newspapers, some more responsibly than others, in print and /or online. The *Intelligencer*

Journal buried its truncated and distorted account on page B-7. WGAL-TV did not attend and virtually ignored the story.

Harper had a highly visible contusion on his forehead from being thrown to the ground.

At the conference, Hart Nibbrig said that six security persons surrounded them and seemed to be after Harper. "Ron said don't touch me. We didn't do anything wrong."

According to Hart Nibbrig: "To watch a personal friend, a partner, a good guy, being thrown down, just because he published a story that the man across the street didn't agree with, is despicable. We intend to pursue all of our legal rights."

Harper said he heard the security guards saying "The president is here. The president is here." According to Harper, "I could see that John Fry was across the street and was supervising this."

Harper said he had a message for F & M's president: "John Fry. We will not accept your Philadelphia bully tactics here in Lancaster County."

He added "John Fry is the most unqualified academic president that Franklin & Marshall has ever had. He lacks the moral integrity to be at the helm of a police force which he chooses to use as a bunch of bullies and jack booted thugs. We must demand accountability when they have abused their power."

F&M Denies Incident Has Anything to Do With Article

“We want to emphasize this incident was not about a newspaper box,” said Dulcey Antonucci, Director of Media Relations of Franklin & Marshall. “We recognize the right to distribute newspapers to the public.” Antonucci confirmed this is why the newspaper box has not been removed from the intersection.

“The incident had to do with Harper defiantly ignoring the previously issued no trespass letter. That letter was issued solely to protect the safety and sanctity of President Fry’s family.”

Antonucci said she “did not know why [Hart] Nibbrig was arrested.”

No more: “How Much is That Doggie in the Window?”

Is “puppy love” unrequited due to the scarcity and high cost of acquiring a pet?

A telephone survey by *NewsLanc* of six major pet stores in the area found no puppies for sale, although many other forms of pet are available. Clerks on the phone could not explain why they don’t offer puppies.

A check of the classifieds shows Boxer pups offered at \$500, Bulldogs at \$1500, Great Danes for \$750, and Yorkshire Terriers at \$700. Labrador Retrievers vary from \$200 to \$400.

At the Humane League of Lancaster County, 2195 Lincoln Highway East, puppies are available for \$175. Joan Brown, President and CEO, said that the cost includes spay or neutering, microchipping, and initial veterinary care. Older dogs cost less, but include all the same services.

While many of the county’s puppy farms are professionally operated and licensed, there are others that are described as “puppy mills” based upon operating standards that their critics consider low. Thus “puppy mill” has come to have a pejorative connotation.

LETTER: John Fry and His Bully Tactics

The [F & M Security officers] footage is so reminiscent of a Communist state where the media is controlled by the government...

Quite frankly, the Teflon-surfaced favorite son status of F&M and this abuse deserves

national TV coverage culminating in John Fry and his bully tactics being pressured into leaving F&M. I would be appalled if this abuse of the *Lancaster Post* personnel blows over in a day or two.

LETTER: No Lancaster Resident Is Safe from F & M Security

...I am convinced that this incident proves F&M Security believes it has more authority over local citizens than any private security group ever could possibly have under the law.

It’s no wonder that Race Avenue residents are fearful and resentful of their not-so-nice neighbor across the street...

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