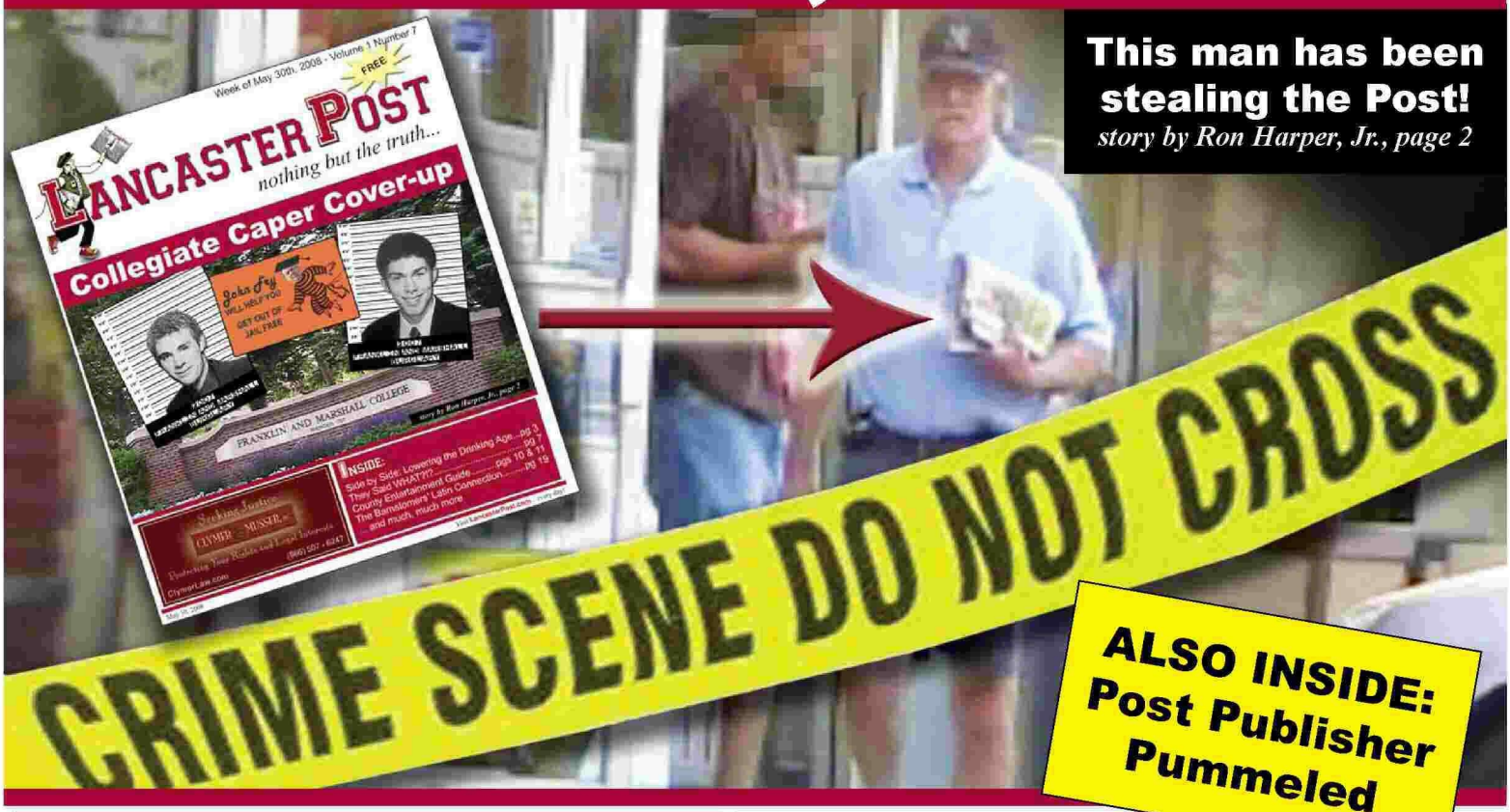
Week of June 6th, 2008 - Volume 1 Number 8

LANCASTER POST

nothing but the truth...

Like Father, Like Son



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Pilfered Papers

Someone's been stealing my Post!

by Ron Harper, Jr.
Lancaster Post

Last Friday, I received notification that our bright red newspaper boxes finally arrived. I was very excited about seeing them filled with Lancaster Posts, and planned on getting them set up in various places throughout the county. Around 10 AM, I started getting phone calls and emails from people who couldn't find the Post in their favorite Turkey Hill, where we regularly distribute the paper. Many of those who contacted the Post went to multiple Turkey Hill locations only to find our spot on the FREE PUBLICATIONS rack completely empty.

I contacted our delivery person and confirmed that the Post had been distributed, as usual, at all Turkey Hill locations. I immediately abandoned plans to set our newspaper boxes and checked on various stores. Without exception, they were all empty.

At first, I'd entertained the idea that the story was very popular and that people were telling their friends and families to pick up the newspaper. When I received phone calls and emails that the same Turkey Hills that had been restocked were completely out again – I knew someone was taking them.

Since this had never happened before, the lists of suspects was relatively short. The front page cover story was about a couple of a F&M kids that were getting special treatment considering their felonious behavior. Other than the players involved – who would have an interest in destroying the Post?

On Sunday evening, I went out to try and discover – or at least capture on film – the culprit. I stocked the Race Ave Turkey Hill which is right by the college, and then went to the Turkey Hill on Columbia Ave, across from the Watch Tower Apartments. I put a stack of 50 papers and went across the parking lot to the Dominion Pizza shop. From my table in the corner, I had a full view of the parking lot and the door.

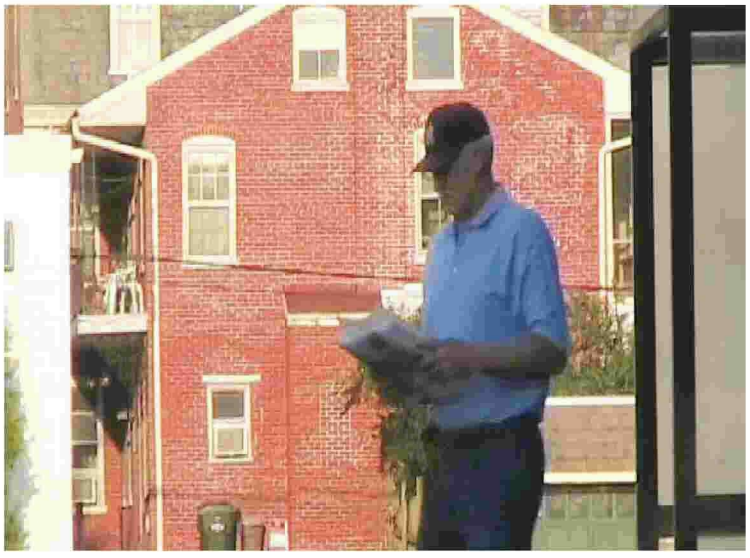
(By the way, I have done surveillance in the past, but never as comfortably and well fed as I was this time.)

I was there for about 1 ¾ hours when I saw a gray-haired, tall, lanky man get out of a mini-van and saunter across the Turkey Hill parking lot. Because of his exceptional height, I thought immediately that this man could be connected to F&M basketball and began filming him from my seat at Dominion Pizza! Just 10 seconds later the same man exited with a large bundle of the Post, my paper!

I jumped up (abandoning my delicious seasoned fries and root beer) and quickly went to my car to follow him. The man was driving very fast and I wasn't going to be reckless. He was headed in the direction of the Race Avenue Turkey Hill, so that's where I went. Sure enough, as I pulled into the very busy parking lot, I spotted this 6 foot-plus man going into the door of the Turkey Hill.



Mr. Hines emerges from the store with a large stack of Lancaster Posts.



At each stop, Mr. Hines repeats his theft of the store's supply of Posts.

Because of the small parking lot and the number of cars, there was no place to park and be discreet. I waited near a car as though waiting for the gas pump. But where was my newspaper thief? After a time, a different man came out of the door carrying something in his hand – a Lancaster Post! Apparently, the thief had to wait until one of our readers left the newspaper rack. Shortly thereafter, the thief again, with great deliberation, yet with the ease of someone who had done this many times before, walked across the parking lot and got into his car.

I don't know if he saw me and the camera pointing at him, but he sped away so quickly that I was unable to follow him.

The following day, through the process of elimination and a little detective work, I determined that the vehicle that I had captured very clearly on my film was parked in Edward J. Hines' driveway on 1520 Mission Road, Lancaster. This is exactly

Cover story continues on page 5...

Pilfered Papers

continued from page 2...



For his 'students'? Despite being told to take just one, Mr. Hines steals a bundle.

the same address that appeared on court document related to the felonious bar break-in – none other than Derek Edward Hines!

When I contacted the "Senior Product Engineer" at his New Holland North America office about trying to ruin the Post's business by stealing our papers, Hines said that I should talk to his lawyer and then hung up without providing the lawyer's name!

When two alert Turkey Hill clerks confronted Hines, he told one of them that he was "getting them for his students"! Another clerk challenged Hines and he responded, "It says 'Free'." She told him that he was only allowed to take one. Hines ignored her and walked out with a large pile of papers.

We had our man. Like father, like son. And, yes, it does appear we will be speaking with his lawyer.