February 8, 1980

Mr. Howard L. Davidson
General Manager
IBM
P. O. Box 1328
Boca Raton, Florida 33432

Dear Mr. Davidson:

We were so happy to have Jack Schuler and Al Reichert represent you at our meeting on Tuesday, February 5th. As you will see from the enclosed clippings we were able to get a good deal of visibility for the project.

Although not all of the business leaders were quoted in the articles, the mere fact of their presence was confirmation of our claim that the development of this area depends upon the support of our College of Engineering.

I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to be with you and Mrs. Davidson the other evening and trust that we will have an opportunity to meet socially again.when our own personal health problems are resolved.

All good wishes -

Sincerely,

Adelaide R. Snyder
Director
University Relations/Public Affairs

ARS/ct

Enclosures

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA 33431
(305) 395-5100

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

December 15, 1980

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ms. Adelaide R. Snyder

FROM: Dr. Voncile M. Smith VS

SUBJECT: "Violation of Procedure"

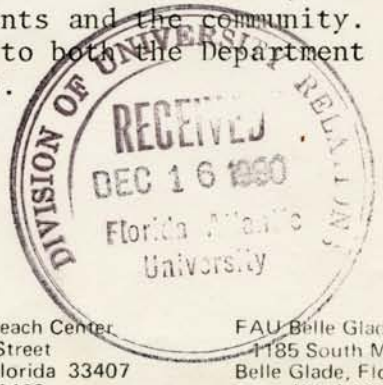
I have asked Mr. Messick to respond to your memorandum of December 11, 1980.

I think it is rather unfortunate that you did not attempt to discuss this with others who might help clarify the matter before implying that Mr. Messick's actions "violate every procedure" you can think of.

Mr. Messick is a dedicated professional with a national reputation. He is genuinely interested in better educational opportunities for aspiring journalists and other students interested in communication. He gives generously of his time and effort to students. He is concerned with quality reporting and with teaching students about the power and responsibilities of the media. He also is committed to awakening public recognition of the need for responsible journalism. But Hank Messick has a streak of impatience. He wants to see things accomplished. He feels he has an obligation to improve the quality of education as rapidly as possible. He does not attempt deliberately to bypass or abuse procedures, although, as do others, he becomes annoyed with bureaucratic hassles and delays that he feels interfere with implementing programs he feels will enhance the quality of the education available to his students.

I think the attached materials, including Mr. Messick's memorandum to me, will show that he acted in good faith. The requisition was completed with the approval of the staff of The Atlantic Sun, the University Publications Committee, and the SGA Controller. The approval process transpired over a period of some months, so it is apparent that Mr. Messick's actions were not hastily conceived.

Mr. Messick is a friend of the University. He is an excellent faculty member for the Department of Communication, and he is, most importantly, dedicated to the welfare of students and the community. He can continue to be and will continue to be an asset to both the Department and the Foundation. I hope that you can appreciate this.



Copies to: Jack Suberman
Leonard Klatt
Betty Helser
Marette Jackson
Clayton Steinman

Attachments

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA 33431
(305) 395-5100

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

TO: Dr. Voncille Smith, Chair
FROM: Hank Messick, Visiting Associate Professor
DATE: December 15, 1980

SUBJECT: Vice President Snyder's memorandum of December 11, 1980

On July 18, 1980, I advised the Student Publications Committee -- which consists of both faculty and students and is chaired by Dr. Clay Steinman -- that my salary as advisor to the SUN would no longer be paid by the SUN inasmuch as my advisory role had been made part of my official duties as a Visiting Associate Professor.

I proposed that inasmuch as $2,000 had been budgeted for payment to me, that the money instead be used to begin a journalistic awards program at FAU. I submitted a statement in writing of my proposal. The matter was discussed. I mentioned that there was a possibility I could find an "Angel" to take over the project, but that money would be needed to get it in operation in 1980. The board adopted a resolution recommending that the budgeted funds be used for this purpose.

#1. I'm no mind reader

Copies of the minutes of the meeting of July 18, 1980 are attached.

At the Publications Committee meeting of August 15, 1980, I again reported on the progress of the Awards project, and was named chairman of a sub-committee to continue preparations. The Secretary reported that Student Government had approved the use of the budget money and that it was available as needed.

Sometime during this period I told Vice President Snyder about the project. She suggested I permit the SUN to continue paying me as advisor so I could turn the money into the Foundation and get it back to be used for the awards program. I felt that would leave me open to question, but I assumed she was aware of what we were trying to do.

#2. She talked in general. I'm not sure of any recommendation or decision being reached

Later the Student Auditor or controller who signed the printing requisition advised the SUN secretary in my presence of the account number to be used in billing the budget funds. Earlier, on July 28, 1980, she had formally notified Ms. Malinda Borfill, Student Government Advisor on Finance Affairs, of the intended use of the money for the awards.

See attachment.

On October 28, 1980, Mr. William S. Miller wrote to me from Chicago

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BOCA RATON, FLORIDA 33431
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COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

and enclosed a check for $15,000 to be used to buy journalism equipment. He stated he would provide the prize money in April, 1981, and every year thereafter. By telephone, he expressed the wish the contest be started immediately so he could be alive to see how well it was received. He's 80 years old.

Early in November I began thinking of mailing out an announcement of the contests. I discovered that there were only three printers in Boca equipped to do the dignified job I thought Mr. Miller and FAU deserved. I went to Boca Raton Printing and was told that due to the holiday season it would be impossible to get the printing done until after Christmas. The gentleman informed me that the second print shop was also overloaded and had been trying to send the overload to him. He said that Mackey was the only one who might be able to do it. I went to Mackey and was promised the job could be done in a week. So I ordered it done. Actually, it was not until December 3, 1980, that I picked it up.

Deri Haralson, secretary of the SUN, took charge, and with student help managed to get the flyers folded, stapled, and in the mail. She got it in exactly one hour before the ban on bulk mailing for the Christmas season went into effect. Copies went to every daily newspaper in the country.

The U. & NB asked for documents and facts which were not supplied.

I keep do not announce grants for projects not funded

As a result of a press release I put out earlier -- the University News Bureau wasn't interested -- we are already receiving queries from all parts of the country. Indeed, entries are coming in. The contest was publicized in Editor & Publisher, the trade magazine for journalists, and will be included in its annual directory of journalism contests to be published this month.

of course there were queries the info supplied was incomplete. Eh

Not true

No one told me about letting bids for printing. In any case, there wasn't time to do it if the award program was to get underway. It was something of an emergency. Next year, we will have our timetable in better order.

At no time have I sought to evade University rules. I have attempted at every step to inform everyone of what I was doing and get the necessary (insofar as I knew) permissions. It would appear that some people haven't been paying attention. Well, we all have our duties. I'll be happy to get back to teaching my students. Hopefully, I'll be able to do so on a proper professional basis -- thanks to Mr. Miller and Student Government.

---- deleted

-hm-

Attachments

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS COMM.

7/18/80

CHAIRPERSON: Clay Steinman

ATTENDANCE: Hank Messick, Dr. Mary Faraci, Dr. Voncile Mallory, Johnni Stover, Susan Nuemann

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Veronica Duncanson, Tara Arden, Rosemary D'Agostino

Chairman Clay Steinman called the meeting to order at 10:20AM. He read the Student Publication rules and policies to familiarize new members to the scope of the committee. He informed them that he would circulate copies of the rules to the members. He announced a meeting he would be attending with President Creech to discuss matters of the Publications committee. He expressed the hope that before the next meeting all four student members would have been appionted by the President of the University.

OLD BUSINESS

Atlantic Sun Advisor, Hank Messick asked that the question of the next Editor-in-Chief elections be addressed. Discussion took place about advertisement dates, deadlines, and meeting time. It was unanamously decided that the application deadline would be August 5th, voting handled on August 8th, after the ad ran in the Sun for two consecutive weeks.

The question of length of term was presented by Chair Steinman. Discussion followed and the term of office would be left at two quarters with the reapplication by the incumbant. A point was made that a shift might help to the term begining at Winter quarter rather than the present Fall start to encourage more appications as there are many more students on campus in the fall. This discussion was tabled as the event of changing to the semester system will modify the term of editor in 1981.

NEW BUSINESS

Hank Messick explained to the committe that he was going to continue as advisor to the Atlantic Sun by contract through the Adminisrtation of the University, rather than as an employee of the Atlantic Sun. Discussion followed to clarify this policy change. Because of this Hank Messick submitted a written proposal to the committee:

> The Atlantic Sun has in the past paid its advisor a respectable amount. Now that the new paper has been

freed of this financial responsiblity, I propose that part of the money hitherto budgeted for the Advisor be allocated insted for an annual contest with awards for the Best Enterprising Reporting of the Year going to:

1. The best enterprising reporting done during the year by an Atlantic Sun reporter.

2. The best enterprising reporting done during the year by a professional reporter in South Florida.

I would solicit the cooperation of the news media of the area and perhaps ask them to take turns hosting an annual dinner at which time a speaker of reputation in the field would be heard and the awards made.

The faculty of an outside journalism school would be asked to judge the contests, perhaps after primary screening by FAU faculty members. Entries would include published stories, film clips, tapes, pictures, ect. An important factor in the decision would be the enterprise demonstrated by the reporter in presenting the the story.

Hank Messick

Discussion followed on the proposal. Vote was taken after discussion, 4-0, passed. Susan Nuemann, Chairperson of SG Programs and Agencies stated that this funding change might have to be put through the Student Government Senate. She would do the necessary checking. Additional funding was discussed and Mr. Messick announce the possibilty of the program being taken over by a donor "angel" who expressed interest. The proposal was restated as a resolution with limitation of this being a one year project for the Atlantic Sun. It was stated as follows:

Whereas, funding for the Atlantic Sun advisor will be assumed by the FAU Administration begining Fall quarter 1980, the Student Publications Committee recommends that the budgeted funds be used to support awards for the best enterprising reporting done during 1980 by a registered FAU student and a professional reporter, enterprise reporting being defined as reporting that looks beneath the surface to reveal information not normally known to the public. The Committee anticipates that after Fiscal year 1980-81 the program will be continued by outside funding. The Atlantic Sun Advisor and the Student Publications Committee will coordinate the programs and prodecures.

Motion was unaminously passed as restated.

Chair Steinman asked for other new business.

Veronica Duncanson, Editor-in-Chief of the Atlantic Sun, informed the Committee that she was working on a job description for the Advertising Manager position. The position was to be vacated at the end of the summer quarter and that the interviews for new manager were to be held on July 30, 1980.

Chair Steinman opened a discussion on the possibility of the committee electing an associate editor to secure the flow of experience through the staff. The idea would be that the Publications committee would elect this person on a tentative basis. Training would follow as this position would lead to the Editorship by vote of confidence. An informal discussion was held.

Discussion on the idea for academic credit given for work on the Atlantic Sun was motion to the floor. The resolution was made by Johnni Stover and seconded by Susan Nuemann that Student Publications Committee support and recommend to the Dept Head of Communications, Dr. Voncile Smith, that students could elect to work for the Atlantic Sun and gain academic credits for their work. Resolution was passed 3-1-0, and a memorandum would be sent to Dr. Mallory.

Veronica Duncanson requested that a memo be sent to the Student Government Controller and/or President to obtain copy of the fiscal year budget inclusive of all riders. Johnni Stover motion for that request and it was seconded by Dr. Faraci. Motion passed, 4-0-0. Chair requested memo be sent.

Motion to adjourn, passed 4-0-0. Chair adjourned meeting at 11:45 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeri Haralson
Secretary, Student Publications

The Atlantic Sun
Florida Atlantic University

July, 28, 1980

Ms. Malinda Bofill
Student Government Financial Advisor
Student Government Rm UC 210

Dear Ms. Bofill,

During the Student Publications Committee meeting held on July 17, 1980, that committee and the Editor of the Atlantic Sun unanimously approved a proposal to use funds for a project in the fiscal year 1980-81.

This project, further detailed in the enclosed proposal, will be funded for one year only with monies which have been appropriated to the salary of the Atlantic Sun advisor. To carry out this project, I would like be able to account for these charges seperately and would need to transfer the existing funds into a specific account, such as 715009602 (new account designation). I have spoken to Finance and Accounting and the procedure to create this account must generate in the SG office.

Please let me know if you need anything else for this or if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Jeri Haralson
Secretary, Student Publications Committee

enclosure

cc: Clay Steinman
Hank Messick
John Makris

University Center, Room 248, Boca Raton, Florida 33431
Phone: (305) 395-5100, extension 2622

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA 33431
(305) 395-5100

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

Proposal

The Atlantic Sun has in the past paid its Faculty Advisor a respectable amount. Now that the newspaper has been freed of this financial responsibility, I propose that part of the money hitherto budgeted for the Advisor be allocated instead for an annual contest with awards for the Best Enterprise Reporting of the Year going to:

1. The best enterprise reporting done during the year by an Atlantic Sun student reporter.

2. The best enterprise reporting done during the year by a professional reporter in South Florida.

I would solicit the cooperation of the news media of the area and perhaps ask them to take turns hosting an annual dinner at which time a speaker of reputation in the field would be heard and the awards made.

The faculty of an outside journalism school would be asked to judge the contests, perhaps after a preliminary screening by FAU faculty members. Entries would include published stories, film clips, tapes, pictures, etc. An important factor in the decision would be the enterprise demonstrated by the reporter in obtaining and presenting the story.

Hank Messick

National Award

$2,000

Gold Coast Award

$500

FAU Student Award

$250

The William S. Miller Awards For Enterprise Reporting

Conferred annually, the William S. Miller awards are intended to encourage reporters to probe deeply in quest of facts. While winning stories should be significant, emphasis in judging is placed on the skill, the dedication, the ingenuity of the reporter.

William S. Miller was born in Indiana and became a manufacturer and banker in Ottawa, Illinois. Appointed to the Illinois Racing Commission by Governor Adlai Stevenson, he served many years as chairman. In that capacity he learned to respect the occasional reporter who was not content with press releases and self-serving statements from public officials and corrupt business executives. The awards which bear his name are his continuing effort to encourage journalistic initiative.

The faculty of the Communication Department of Florida Atlantic University has been given responsibility for conducting the annual contest although the judging of entries is delegated to special panels of distinguished scholars and journalists. The university is located at Boca Raton, north of Fort Lauderdale and south of Palm Beach, on Florida's Gold Coast.

ENTERPRISE REPORTING

The timid, career-minded reporter is often reluctant to accept the challenge to follow the trail of truth to a point where it becomes apparent that things are not what they're said to be. For such reporters, it is easier to identify two sides and, by balancing one against the other, call stalemate objectivity. Truth becomes secondary, even immaterial, and is shunned less it demand the responsibility of decision.

Is truth served when such a writer balances "A" against "B" if additional investigation would show the correct answer to be "A" or "B" or even "C"? Obviously not, yet such balancing may persuade the reader/viewer that the reporter has been thorough and fair. In a communications world of diminishing competition, how is the public to know when it has been short-changed by superficial reporting?

Nor is so-called "interpretive reporting" born largely of such balancing acts a better solution. If the reader/viewer is given accurate and complete information, he or she will gladly think. While ultimate truth may not be within reach, given the limitations of time, money, and ability, the public needs as much as it can get. If the human race is to crawl out of the swamps of ignorance and illusion, it must have complete and accurate information.

Journalists, then, should begin to practice the principles to which they have long paid lip-service and seek the whole story regardless of how lopsided its shape. They should worry less about protecting their flanks and more about doing the type of job that justifies the protection of the First Amendment — enterprise reporting.

Enterprise Reporting: the skill, the courage, the desire to dig beneath the surface of things and report as fully as possible all affairs of public concern.

Hank Messick

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BOCA RATON, FLORIDA 33431
(305) 395-5100

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

THE WILLIAM S. MILLER AWARD FOR ENTERPRISE REPORTING

General Rules

1. Candidate shall submit a portfolio containing:
   a. One copy of story or stories if in print journalism.
   b. A 3/4 inch video tape or standard audio tape if in broadcast journalism.
   c. A detailed account in writing of the problems encountered and obstacles overcome in getting the story and making it public. Written by the candidate, the report should not exceed 1,000 words.
   d. Two letters of confirmation from editors or other responsible persons familiar with the reporter's story.
   e. A brief autobiography of the candidate and glossy print.
   f. A completed application form or reasonable facsimile.
2. Judges will be guided by the definition of "Enterprise Reporting" on the reverse of this form. Decisions are final.
3. All entries must be postmarked on or before January 31 for stories published or broadcast during the preceding calendar year. None will be returned. They should be addressed:

Awards Curator
Communications Department
Florida Atlantic University
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

APPLICATION

Name _____ Age _____

Home Address _____

_____

Employer (If free-lance, so indicate) _____

Telephone _____

Date story became public _____

Where published or broadcast _____

SIGNATURE _____

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA 33431

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WILLIAM S. MILLER TRUST
451 Center Island
GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA 33160

June 26, 1981

Dr. Kenneth M. Michels, Vice President
Florida Atlantic University
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Dear Dr. Michels:

Your letter of June 18, 1981 tells me I've been misinformed about the journalism program at Florida Atlantic University. Also, perhaps, albeit unintentionally, I have been misled.

Let's start with my first meeting with your F A U associates -- a pleasant luncheon on October 7, 1980, attended by:

Dr. Jack Suberman	Mr. Hank Messick
Dr. Voncile Smith	Mr. W. S. Miller
Dr. Steve Craig	Ms. Irene Peters (Sec. to Mr. Miller)

The purpose of the meeting was clear. A search was on for an "angel" for the Journalism Section of the School of Communications. The Journalism Program in the short space of two years had grown from a lecture course in Theory to a genuine study and practice of the subject. All because "the Section is managed now by a professional journalist of acknowledged experience and achievement". But the bouquet from the very nice wine carried the intimination that the Journalism Section would actually leap forward if it had a WORKSHOP -- to be utilized as teaching aids -- accessible only to qualified journalism students and researchers -- with typewriters, video display terminals and collateral equipment. The cost -- "only $15,000.00 and the State of Florida will not underwrite it at this vital point in time". And "what a boost to our momentum if our Department could offer awards for Enterprise Reporting on a national as well as a local level."

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
RECEIVED
JUL 1 1981
Florida Atlantic University

No one said JOURNALISM was a mere program, or, as you emphasize, "a sub specialty" in the Department. Here are some of the recorded comments:

> "That old boy Hank is from my State and my school. He's got the background, the experience, the following, to give us national recognition"
>
> "Hank seems perturbed at times in not having a Doctor's Degree but he doesn't need it. He provides the practical experience which a person armed only with Theory can't match"

My secretary's notes contain this summation of the meeting: "The Journalism Course at F A U must have been lacking in appeal, effectiveness and firmness of purpose until Messick came along. Today, everyone seemed united in the opinion that Messick will continue to do great work for Journalism and for F A U. Mr. Miller was impressed and will consult his Trust attorneys about the contributions he might make to F A U."

My check No. 4883, dated October 27, 1980, in the amount of $15,000.00, made payable to Florida Atlantic University, contained this statement of purpose:

> "GIFT TO FURNISH A JOURNALISM LABORATORY
>
> This gift is made with the understanding that the $15,000.00 is to be expended for the purchase of typewriters, video display terminals and collateral equipment as selected by the faculty in the Department of Communication and authorized by the Dean of the College of Humanities."

In his letter of thanks, President Creech said in part: "deep appreciation for your generous gift of $15,000.00 for the purchase of equipment to furnish a journalism laboratory -- this is a sorely needed facility, etc., etc."

On January 19, 1981, I addressed Dr. Voncile Smith as follows:

> "I respectfully enclose my personal check for $5,000.00 to cover the first annual award for the 'William S. Miller Award for Enterprising Reporting'."

Dr. Smith's letter of thanks, dated February 12, 1981, speaks of Hank's two-year record, etc. A copy is enclosed.

President Creech's letter of February 16, 1981 expresses thanks and mentions Mr. Hank Messick "in our Department of Communications" as the manager of the William S. Miller Award for Enterprise Reporting. A copy is enclosed.

A copy of the amendment to my Major Trust authorizing the annual payment of income from $50,000.00 of principal to the Department of Communications of the College of Humanities of Florida Atlantic University was sent to Dr. Smith on January 19, 1981. I personally delivered a copy of it to President Creech. The only reference to Hank Messick is the following: "I request, but expressly do not require, that Hank Messick be chairman of the panel as long as he is a member of the faculty of said Department of Communications."

Against this background I now return to your letter of June 18, 1981. Of course there is no evidence that my gifts were "conditional on the continued association with the University of any individual". I quickly apply an ancient Latin phrase res ipsa loquitur, -- the thing speaks for itself. Hank Messick had been at F A U two years before my first exposure to F A U and your associates. They called him "great", "a real pro", "very essential to our continued development, etc., etc." Why should the security of his employment have entered my mind? Why, please, why?

And why, please, after that build-up of Mr. Messick, was it not normal and logical for me to express concern to Dr. Smith when, without prior word from her or anyone at F A U, I encountered the news that Mr. Messick's association with the Department of Communications had been terminated? Why, please, with an investment of $70,000 ...not to speak of my personal time and attorney fees, and travel expense, and haulage, and secretarial expense...should I not attempt to assess the likely consequences of Mr. Messick's separation from the Department?

Amazement is added to disappointment with your bizarre comment in lecture tone about compromising the integrity of the University. That makes it rather easy to formally advise you here and now that the William S. Miller Prizes Trust is revoked.

Sincerely,

William S. Miller

WSM/fm

Copies of this and all
related data to all parties
mentioned herein, and to
McDermott, Will & Emery
and Continental Bank

305/
522-5149

HANK MESSICK

915 S.E. 10th Street
Fort Lauderdale
Florida 33316

Dr. Glenwood L. Creech
President,
Florida Atlantic University
Boca Raton, FL. 33432

June 25, 1981

Dear Dr. Creech:

Your letter of June 8, 1981, has just reached me. I am somewhat startled to discover that you have taken one reference out of context and devoted the large part of your letter to it.

In my letter of June 4, 1981, I gave some historical background relating to the rather famous episode in which The Atlantic SUN was suspended. I noted that this happened "before my time." It also happened before your time.

For your information, the affair began in 1972 with the publication of an issue of the SUN containing a picture of several male students wearing only pingpong bats.

The following issue of the paper notes that after a conference the suspension had been lifted. Attending the conference was the then editor, Ed Schiff, President Williams, and Adlaide Snyder, ""University Relations Advisor."

Later, the case of Schiff vs Williams went to the U.S. Supreme Court, and was decided in favor of the newspaper as represented by Schiff.

I cited this as background to the general neglect of the student newspaper thereafter, and I think a careful reading will show I meant nothing more. Certainly no criticism of you was implied or intended.

For the record, let me say that I have never suggested that you have attempted to suppress the publication of any article in the SUN. If you had been kind enough to ask me about the various accusations made to you about me, perhaps much misunderstanding could have been avoided. All I've done in my capacity as advisor to the SUN is to point out that University Relations is similar to a public relations firm and that the Administration is its principal client. There's nothing wrong with that per se. The problem comes when press releases are not identified as such and are treated as straight news.

Again, sir, I have never accused you of attempting to exercise censorship." My one reference in my letter of June

Author: THE SILENT SYNDICATE • SYNDICATE IN THE SUN • SYNDICATE WIFE • SYNDICATE ABROAD • SECRET FILE • LANSKY • JOHN EDGAR HOOVER • THE MOBS AND THE MAFIA • PRIVATE LIVES OF PUBLIC ENEMIES • BEAUTIES AND THE BEASTS • GANGS AND GANGSTERS • KIDNAPPING • BARBOZA • KING'S MOUNTAIN THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN • THE POLITICS OF PROSECUTION

305/
522-5149

HANK MESSICK

915 S.E. 10th Street
Fort Lauderdale
Florida 33316

4, 1981, to censorship was the historical event that was, I might add, reported on by almost every newspaper in Florida.

Despite what you seem to believe, I have not been conducting a campaign against you or against FAU. The reference at issue was in an internal memo, not a letter to the editor.

I enjoyed my teaching experience at FAU and feel I made a contribution. It would have been more enjoyable if instead of criticism and vague accusations, I had been given cooperation and a little encouragement.

Why Vice President Snyder felt it necessary to smear a person who was attempting with some success to upgrade the journalism program and gain FAU favorable publicity on the national level, I do not understand.

If you have any evidence to indicate that I did anything unworthy of a member of the FAU faculty, I would appreciate an opportunity to see or hear the said evidence and to make a defense. You spoke of professional responsibility. It is, sir, a two-way street.

Finally, may I add that Mr. William S. Miller showed me yesterday a letter he had received from Dr. Michaels. Why Dr. Michaels should go out of his way to affront a friend of the University, a man who had given $20,000 in cash and placed another $50,000 in trust, I do not comprehend.

The implication raised by Dr. Michaels that Mr. Miller was trying to "buy" me a job, is patently absurd. I would not have such a job nor would Mr. Miller want me to have a job under such circumstances. He will speak for himself, but I can tell you he was deeply offended by the tone and content of Dr. Michaels' letter.

If there are any questions remaining in your mind as to my conduct or attitude, please do not hesitate to ask them. I have nothing to hide and have done nothing but try to serve the students and the Department of Communication to the best of my ability.

Sincerely,

Hank Messick

Hank Messick

Author: THE SILENT SYNDICATE • SYNDICATE IN THE SUN • SYNDICATE WIFE • SYNDICATE ABROAD • SECRET FILE • LANSKY • JOHN EDGAR HOOVER • THE MOBS AND THE MAFIA • PRIVATE LIVES OF PUBLIC ENEMIES • BEAUTIES AND THE BEASTS • GANGS AND GANGSTERS • KIDNAPPING • BARBOZA • KING'S MOUNTAIN THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN • THE POLITICS OF PROSECUTION

bcc: Dr. Voncile M. Smith

June 8, 1981

Mr. Henry H. Messick
915 S. E. 10th Street
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316

Dear Mr. Messick:

Thank you for sharing with me your observations about the journalism program in the Department of Communication. You may be sure that they will be discussed and carefully considered.

In the eight years I have been at the University, no one, other than you, has ever suggested to me that a member of the administration has tried to suppress the publication of any article in the Atlantic Sun. If you have any evidence that University Relations, or any member of my staff, "has attempted to exercise censorship," I would appreciate your presenting it to me. If you do not produce such evidence, then I should think your sense of professional responsibility would compel you to refrain from making such comments.

Sincerely,

Glenwood L. Creech
President

GLC:ajc

cc: Dr. Michels
Dean Suberman

305/
522-5149

HANK MESSICK

915 S.E. 10th Street
Fort Lauderdale
Florida 33316

June 4, 1981

Dr: Creech:

The enclosed memo is proceeding to you, I trust, through the proper channels. On the off chance it might fall into a crack along the way, I'm taking the liberty of providing you directly with a copy. If my cynicism seems unjustified to you, it is perhaps because some things in the past either fell into a crack or became distorted by the time they reached you.

May I wish you personal health and professional success?

Hank Messick
Hank Messick

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
RECEIVED
JUN 4 1981
Florida Atlantic University

Author: THE SILENT SYNDICATE • SYNDICATE IN THE SUN • SYNDICATE WIFE • SYNDICATE ABROAD • SECRET FILE • LANSKY • JOHN EDGAR HOOVER • THE MOBS AND THE MAFIA • PRIVATE LIVES OF PUBLIC ENEMIES • BEAUTIES AND THE BEASTS • GANGS AND GANGSTERS • KIDNAPPING • BARBOZA • KING'S MOUNTAIN THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN • THE POLITICS OF PROSECUTION

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA 33431
(305) 395-5100

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

June 4, 1981

TO: President Glenwood Creech
via
Vice President K.M. Michels
Dean Jack Suberman
Dr. Voncille Smith

FROM: Hank Messick

A few words regarding journalism, its value to students and to the University, may be worth your time to read and mine to write.

I found the "journalism program" in a sorry state when I appeared on campus in 1979. It had been reorganized by a gentleman with no practical experience. There was no equipment: typewriters, video display terminals, tape recorders, etc. The courses offered were absurdities - exercises in futility.

Another problem resulted from the general attitude toward the student newspaper. Before my time, University Relations apparently attempted to exercise censorship. In a landmark decision the Supreme Court ruled that student newspapers have the same rights as other newspapers. This decision left the student newspaper in limbo. No member of the faculty wanted to help it, and there were few students with any proper journalism training. The newspaper was known as "The Atlantic Scum." It had become largely a plaything of a few leaders of Student Government and an outlet for University Relations to gain publicity for its client - the University Administration.

As a result of these two factors - neglect of the newspaper and neglect of the academic program - students desiring to enter journalism were being cheated. And the University was being hurt.

A strong journalism program combined with an aggressive student newspaper frightens only the insecure. And the two are essential to each other. Properly taught journalism students will improve the student newspaper and give the student additional experience in translating theories into practice.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

The University of North Carolina, my alma mater, has for decades produced hundreds of journalism graduates. Some have made their mark in Washington and New York, but many have remained in their native state. Today you will find Tar Heel graduates at every level of every newspaper in the state - from cub reporter to editor. This has been true for many years. As a result the University has automatic support from the press on almost every issue. It gets the money it needs because the press pressures politicians into voting it.

A conscious and continuing effort to keep warm the affection in which graduates hold their alma mater is made by UNC. Recently, for example, a "Journalism Hall of Fame" was set up at Chapel Hill. The School of Journalism publishes a newspaper for all its graduates.

In short, successive Journalism deans and University administrators have had no fear of the press in North Carolina. It is a friend, an ally, and it helps make the University great.

There is no reason why a journalism program at FAU could not, within limits, achieve similar results. Under the Practicum I've had students working on newspapers from Palm Beach to Miami, and on radio and television stations as well. They are even in demand as public relations people. As turn-overs occur, these students will move into regular jobs and move up the ladder. There is absolutely no reason why newspapers in this area have to import staff members from other states.

Dean Ralph Lowenstein of the School of Journalism and Communication, the University of Florida, tells me many students are turned away because there is not sufficient space for them. He agrees that a small but high quality program at FAU would be of value to the area and to the state.

Bluntly sir, you have been receiving poor advice from some of your staff. Efforts have been made to discredit me, the journalism program, and the student newspaper. I will not attempt here to probe the motives other than to repeat my earlier statement that only insecure, frightened, and perhaps incompetent people fear a strong journalism program.

Personally, I can find other things to do with my time than play politics on a campus where the chief preoccupation seems to be the avoidance of responsibility. But I have found

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some satisfaction in teaching, in the interchange of ideas with young minds, in creating something out of nothing. I would remind you that when I found equipment lacking, I went out and found the money to buy it. All I asked was an opportunity to do a decent job. Was that too much?

The situation at the end of the Spring Quarter, 1981, is thus:

> We have the equipment we need. We have the courses. We have the student interest. We have a student newspaper improving weekly because it is being largely staffed by journalism students. With additional space which was promised more than six months ago, we could expand somewhat and create a research center that would bring FAU national recognition. And, of course, for the moment anyway, we have the Miller Awards for Enterprise Reporting that have brought FAU national recognition.

All this, I might add, has been accomplished in spite of every obstacle Vice President Snyder could devise.

So, sir, you can let it go down the drain, or you can build on it and help the students, the community, and the University. The choice is yours.

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bcc: Dr. Voncile M. Smith

June 8, 1981

Mr. Henry H. Messick
915 S.E. 10th Street
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316

Dear Mr. Messick:

Thank you for sharing with me your observations about the journalism program in the Department of Communication. You may be sure that they will be discussed and carefully considered.

In the eight years I have been at the University, no one, other than you, has ever suggested to me that a member of the administration has tried to suppress the publication of any article in the Atlantic Sun. If you have any evidence that University Relations, or any member of my staff, "has attempted to exercise censorship," I would appreciate your presenting it to me. If you do not produce such evidence, then I should think your sense of professional responsibility would compel you to refrain from making such comments.

Sincerely,

Glenwood L. Creech
President

GLC:ajc

cc: Dr. Michels
Dean Suberman

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OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

June 18, 1981

Mr. William S. Miller
451 Center Island
Golden Beach, Florida 33160

Dear Mr. Miller:

Your letter of May 31, 1981, to Dr. Voncile Smith has been transmitted to me as the official responsible for academic matters.

I have reviewed the entire correspondence file regarding both your gift for equipment and the William S. Miller Prizes Trust. I have discussed this matter with President Creech. I am perplexed by several statements that you made in your letter. I am also distressed at the general tone of your letter since it implies that you are unhappy about your relationships with this Institution.

Your specific statements suggest to me that you have been misinformed about the journalism program at Florida Atlantic University. We have had and we will continue to have a journalism program. It is a sub-specialty in the Department of Communication. Your gift of $15,000 was used to purchase equipment which is now the property of the State of Florida and which has significantly enhanced our journalism laboratory. Regardless of who is or is not on the faculty, that laboratory will continue to serve students taking journalism courses. Therefore, you may be assured that your original intent, which was to make the equipment available for such a purpose, will continue to be satisfied.

I attended the awards luncheon and have since discussed your letter with both Dean Suberman and Dr. Smith. I also have a copy of President Creech's letter of February 16, 1981 to you. I do not find any evidence to indicate that the gift was conditional on the continued association with the University of any individual. Space for your personal files will be provided if you continue to wish to make them available to the University. They will be used as teaching aids to the extent that they are appropriate for use in journalism courses. It is not our intent to merely accept and store them. Therefore, should there be any change regarding their use you can be assured that we will consult with you about their further disposition. It would seem to me to be appropriate for Dean Suberman to review this matter in more detail with you personally.

With respect to the William S. Miller Prizes Trust, I would hope that you would reconsider any change in the existing arrangements which incidentally did not include any commitment regarding Mr. Messick. The University has and will continue to have individuals thoroughly competent to carry out the conditions associated with the Awards for Enterprise Reporting. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, President Creech and/or I will be available.

Let me assure you that we sincerely appreciate the support which your gifts have given to the Department of Communication. We hope that you will see fit to continue this relationship. However, we cannot be a party to any arrangement that is contingent upon a commitment to guarantee employment to any individual. To do so would be to compromise the integrity of the University with regard to both its mission in general and its academic programs specifically.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Michels
Vice President

KMM/lw

cc: President Creech
Dean Jack Suberman
Dr. Voncile Smith

February 16, 1981

Mr. William S. Miller
720 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Mr. Miller:

Thank you very much for your gift of $5,000 for use in support of the William S. Miller award for Enterprise Reporting, which is being managed by Mr. Hank Messick in our Department of Communication. We are looking forward to hearing the results of the contest and publicizing the recipients of your most generous awards.

It was a great pleasure to talk with you when you were on the campus. Please come back to see us anytime you can.

With kindest regards and all good wishes,

Sincerely,

Glenwood L. Creech
President

GLC:ajc

cc: Ms. Adelaide Snyder

WILLIAM S. MILLER TRUST
451 Center Island
GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA 33160

May 31, 1981

Dr. Voncille Smith
Chairperson
College of Humanities
Department of Communications
Florida Atlantic University
Boca Raton, Florida 33432

Dear Dr. Smith:

Your Department of Communications, et al. provides me a fundamental uncertainty which I do not deserve and I do not wish to prolong.

I have learned from the press and from Mr. Messick that there is no assurance that he will continue with your Department after the current term ends this June, 1981. This, of course, is contrary to the impression given me at our luncheon on October 7, 1980 attended by you and members of your Department and Dean Suberman. Also, it is contrary to the impression I got from your letter of February 12, 1981 and President Creech's letter of February 16, 1981.

I was told that Mr. Messick did "more in two years to develop your program than had been done in all of the preceeding years". It is clear, therefore, that I did not give $15,000 for typewriters, computers, etc. to provide a job for Mr. Messick. I gave the $15,000 to buy equipment for a journalism workshop which the University did not have and, implicitly in this gift was the assumption there would be a valid and professional journalism program under the direction of Mr. Messick.

May I also point out that space was to have been provided for my files. I told you at the Awards luncheon on April 17, 1981 that these files, with great transportation expense to me, are still parked in my Golden Beach, Florida library. Permit me to reemphasize that these files were to have been used as teaching aides, not merely accepted and stored.

It appears to me that the journalism program at FAU, as initially outlined to me, will not continue. Under the circumstances I think you should return the equipment you purchased so that I can find an institution to make use of it for the purposes intended. For the same reason it would appear that I should seek a journalism school that will properly utilize the William S. Miller Awards for Enterprise Reporting. Fortunately, I can easily change the trust agreement to achieve that result.

It pains me to write this letter because I developed sentiments of affection and high esteem for you and the individuals I met at FAU. I was truly exalted with the opportunity to make a useful contribution to journalism.

May I please have your response as quickly as possible.

Respectfully,

William S. Miller

cc: Dr. Glenwood L. Creech, President, FAU
Dean Jack Suberman, Dean of College of Humanities, FAU
Mr. Hank Messick
915 S.E. 10th St.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316