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Subject: Research Skills

Ms. Klapper,

I'm sure the day will come when I read one of your (serious) articles and it will not be riddled with errors. I deduce that you must still be hard at work attempting to develop your research skills. I am referring, of course, to your most recent article in the mountaineer, "[#4, College practices patience.](#)" You indicated:

“ ... Replacing them are Bill Yarborough, appointed by Gov. Beverly Perdue, Susan Sorrells and Mary Ann Enloe, both appointed by the Haywood County Board of Commissioners and Bill Barker, appointed by Haywood County Board of Education.”

Susan Sorrells was not appointed by the Haywood County Board of Commissioners, she was appointed by the Haywood County Board of Education:

[re: Toeprints, Vol 3, Issue 5, <http://haywoodtp.net/pubTP/T120819.pdf>].

That Toeprints Issue was the Cronyism issue where the members of the Board of Education (the good old boys) voted for Susan Sorrells, wife of past school board member and current Haywood County Commissioner, Michael Sorrells. Each board member was clearly identified as to how they voted. How can we ever forget that:

[re: <http://haywoodtp.net/pubII/120817SorrellsVideo.mpg>]?

You neglected to mention that Susan Sorrells is currently up on ethics charges for conflict of interest with the North Carolina Ethics Commission:

[re: Toeprints, Vol 3, Issue 7, <http://haywoodtp.net/pubTP/T120917.pdf>].

If Susan Sorrells were appointed by the Haywood County Commissioners, of which Michael Sorrells is a member, how would he have voted? Wouldn't that be yet another conflict of interest of a family member if he voted for his wife to be on the HCC Board of Trustees?

You also neglected to mention in your article that Patsy Dowling was also a recent HCC Board appointee, again appointed by the Haywood County Board of County Commissioners, and is having considerable influence on this second round of the presidential selection process.

Speaking of this presidential selection process, you are in a perfect position to ask your boss, Vicki Hyatt, about how she got the information for her article in the mountaineer - "College president search had long-lasting implications, Jun 13, 2012", where she indicated:

“ ... While the process is officially confidential until it’s finished, word is out that no candidates with Haywood County ties will be among the finalists — or were even presented by the consultant for serious consideration out of the starting gate. While there was a search committee request to see all the qualified applications, the college governing board wouldn't allow it.

At least two top-notch, local candidates who are well-respected for their abilities were among the applicants.

It's a shame they won't have a chance to share their goals for the college with its leaders. When the college is facing the particular challenges it is today, someone who knows the community, the college and the political landscape could offer tremendous insights. ...”

The process was (and still is) confidential, so how did she get information that there were “At least two top-notch, local candidates who are well-respected for their abilities were among the applicants.”? Who supplied that to her and who are these two people? Please use your extensive research skills, find out, and get back to me on this.

You know, you could certainly save yourself and the mountaineer a lot of print space with all of your corrections if you simply start to read and use Toeprints and Interesting Stuff on www.haywoodtp.net as one of your research skills references.

You know, I do have to give credit where credit is due. I must say, one of your earlier articles was great, entitled: [Cake is great, By Caroline Klapper, Jul 09, 2012](#). The first sentence in any article is the most important and sets the tone for the rest of the article, and the first sentence in this article was: “[Cake is delicious.](#)” I think you should focus your attention on more articles like this (sometimes called “puff pieces”) where you really seem to zero right in on the topic.

Monroe Miller

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4 College practices patience

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Patience has been the virtue called upon most often at Haywood Community College in 2012.

The biggest issue facing the college during the past year has been finding a new college president to replace

Dr. Rose Johnson, who announced her resignation in the fall of 2011.

The search has extended for more than a year as the college's Board of Trustees selected candidates, went through an extensive interview process with the staff and community (narrowing the field to five finalists), and

then decided to re-advertise the position and continue the search.

"It's the most important thing that the board is entrusted to do," said Chairman Bob Morris. "We want to make sure we get the best choice of the president for the college."

law practice, he was unable to attend some of the board meetings and college events. He also explained that he felt the board met too often and tended toward micro-management on many issues.

Several board members also finished their four-year terms of service on the board. Replacing them are Bill Yarborough, appointed by Gov. Beverly Perdue, Susan Sorrells and Mary Ann Enloe, both appointed by the Haywood County Board of Commissioners and Bill Barker, appointed by Haywood County Board of Education.

By the start of fall semester at HCC, the board had renewed its search for the next HCC president. Johnson, who originally expected to leave the college in June, agreed to stay on until the

Board changes

In the meantime, two members of the Board of Trustees resigned.

Lynne Barrett resigned with three years left on her term, citing questions she had about some of the decisions being made by the board and her belief that some of those decisions were not in the best interest of the college.

Michael McConnell resigned with one year left in his term. In his resignation letter, McConnell said because of the workload involved in opening a new



Mountaineer file photo

LEADERSHIP CHANGE — Rose Johnson left her post as president in 2012. Above are Haywood County Chamber representatives Mike Clayton, Cece Hipps, Johnson, Ron Leatherwood, and Ken Howle.

College continues on 7A