

Haywood County “Gadfly-prints”

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What’s Happening?

This is a one-time **SPECIAL EDITION** of Gadfly-prints...

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform Haywood County Taxpayers of what transpires at the bi-monthly County Commission Meetings. This newsletter will be written from the perspective of a casual observer, myself. Any opinions expressed will be mine.

Vicki Hyatt - News Editor, The Mountaineer.

Vicki Hyatt wrote two (2) articles relating to my public comments at the June 6th County Commission Meeting in the June 10th issue of The Mountaineer.

- “County Defends reval process”,
- “County disputes Millers allegations about reval”.

The funny thing is that both of those titles are inaccurate. I contended that David Francis’s numbers are wrong. David Francis created a spread sheet of constantly increasing total property value in Haywood County from 2006 to 2011, and I contend they are wrong. I haven’t even gotten to what I think of the revaluation yet.

In any event, Vicki Hyatt described me in the two articles as:

- “It was charges from local government gadfly Monroe Miller that set off County Tax Collector David Francis ...

and,

- The caption under my photograph on page 11, “LOCAL GOVERNMENT GADFLY - Monroe Miller”

What’s a Gadfly? I had to look it up, just like Assistant Attorney General Mark Teague’s word, “diminution”.

The quick answer revealed the following:

Webster:

- A fly that bites livestock, esp. a horsefly, warble fly, or botfly.
- An annoying person, esp. one who provokes others into action by criticism.

American Heritage Dictionary:

- A persistent irritating critic; a nuisance.
- One that acts as a provocative stimulus; a goad.
- Any of various flies, especially of the family Tabanidae, that bite or annoy livestock and other animals.

None of those sound too good to me, except the last part of the second Webster definition.

Then one of my contacts over in Asheville, who read the articles said she is paying me a high compliment by calling me a “Gadfly”.

[?]

Look up “Socrates Gadfly” on Google.

[**Editors Note:** re: Department of Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, Analysis of Plato's Apology]

“The Apology is Plato's recollection and interpretation of the Trial of Socrates (399 BC). In this dialogue Socrates explains who he is and what kind of life he led. The Greek word "apologia" means "explanation" -- it is not to be confused with "apologizing" or "being sorry" for one's actions. The following is an outline of the 'argument' or logos that Socrates used in his defense. ...

IV. Socrates' Interpretation of his Art (28b - 32e)

Socrates, far from being an impious corruptor of the youth, is actually a blessing sent by the gods.

To show this, Socrates likens himself to a GADFLY (a horsefly). Just as a gadfly constantly agitates a horse, preventing it from becoming sluggish and going to sleep so too Socrates, by (moving through the City) stirring up conversations in the marketplace, prevents the City from becoming sluggish and careless and intolerant (thinking it knows something when it doesn't).

Ultimately, Socrates' whole life had been a service to the City begun out of a pious response to the saying of the gods. This is the deeper refutation of the charges. It is also another positive image of Socrates: He IS a gadfly.”

I spoke to Vicki Hyatt this morning on another matter, and I mentioned her use of the word “Gadfly” in describing me. She indicated that she did a lot of research before coming up with that word, and if I would have had the interview with her, I would have known about it.

This is one of those words that have a double edge meaning. Pick one of the definitions that works best for you.

So, thank you Vicki. I take it as a compliment.

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