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**From:** ingleusafret69@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 30, 2016 7:01 PM  
**To:** Haley, Nikki  
**Subject:** Fwd: SC News Exchange

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From: phil@philnoble.com  
To: ingleusafret69@aol.com  
Sent: 9/20/2016 5:38:10 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
Subj: RE: SC News Exchange

This pic was taken a couple of months ago.

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**From:** ingleusafret69@aol.com [mailto:ingleusafret69@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2016 5:36 PM  
**To:** phil@philnoble.com  
**Subject:** Re: SC News Exchange

Hey buddy, I never ceased to be amazed at your "highschool" picture.

Keep it Up.

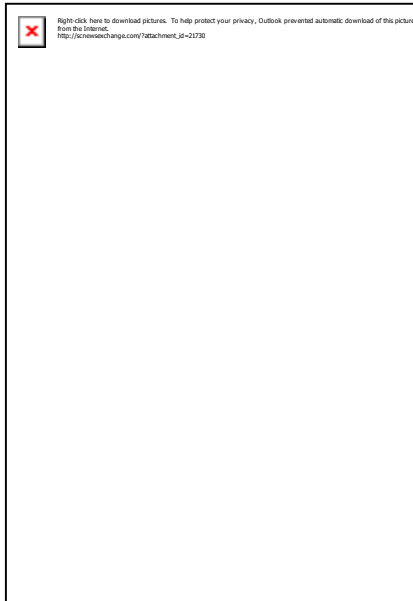
In a message dated 9/20/2016 5:26:24 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, [noreply+feedproxy@google.com](mailto:noreply+feedproxy@google.com) writes:

SC News Exchange

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[Noble Column: Solutions to the arrogance, incompetence and corruption of S.C. politics as usual](#)

Posted: 20 Sep 2016 11:53 AM PDT



Phil Noble

By Phil Noble

Nothing is more infuriating than seeing another news story about the arrogance, incompetence or corruption that characterizes politics as usual in South Carolina. There were three such stories in only the last few weeks.

We should all be ‘mad as hell.’

What’s most infuriating is that none of this needs to happen and there are a few very simple solutions to preventing many of these problems or fixing them once they occur.

Today, what passes for politics as usual in South Carolina prevents the needed reform.

Let’s begin with the arrogance. In the last few weeks, a *Post and Courier* investigation revealed that over the last five years, the Clemson and Medical University of South Carolina Board of Directors spend vast sums of money on themselves for fancy dinners, luxury hotel rooms, vintage wine and other personal indulgences.

Clemson’s Board spent the most, nearly \$750,000. The expenses listed include entertaining themselves to the tune of over \$100,000 at Clemson’s out-of-state football games and dinners in expensive restaurants ranging from \$3,000 to \$7,000 each.

Though the aggregate number for Clemson was big, the reports did not detail all the specific expenditures as they did for MUSC. While the Clemson expenses are embarrassing, the MUSC expenses are simply outrageous. The MUSC Board spent \$560,000 on themselves and another \$290,000 on the Board of Visitors for a total of \$850,000.

The specifics are as bad as the totals. To name just a few: a \$37,430 Christmas banquet with \$5,600 for cocktails at Charleston Place, a \$6,400 farewell dinner described as ‘unapologetically indulgent’ and multiple \$160 a bottle Barolo wines – Italy’s ‘king of wines’ – and on and on it goes.

There are 16 Board members so their expenses average out to \$35,000 per person. Usually, the state limits members of state boards to a \$35 daily allowance and \$25 a day for meals and standard mileage.

And how did the MUSC Board Chair respond when confronted with this scandal? He said there would be “a review of the board spending policies...” How about just refunding the money?

Next is incompetence. In 1988, the Feds mandated that within ten years every state must develop a computerized system to track wages of ‘dead beat dads’ who refuse to pay their alimony and child support. By 2008, SC was the only state that had not complied and now – 26 years after the original requirement – we still don’t have it done. As a result, we have been socked with \$135 million in fines (some have been paid by the vendors) on top of the \$145 million that has been spent on a system that does not work.

According to one recent published report, “the cost over the next six fiscal years to finally bring this system operational stands at roughly \$200 million.” That’s a total of \$400 million – if, and it’s a big if, they manage to get it finished on time and on budget. Don’t hold your breath.

There has been repeated speculation that the reasons some of the vendors were chosen to (not) perform these contracts had as much more to do with their connections to powerful legislators and special interest as with their technological competence. Remember, 49 others states got it right a long time ago.

Now let’s move on to corruption. One of the basic revenue sources that funds the expenses of state government is the sales tax. For the last year that data is available, we got \$2.4 billion from sales tax but we lost more than \$3 billion in sales tax exemption.... i.e. we gave away more than we got.

South Carolina has 213 sales and service tax exemptions and we exempt 62% of all items sold in our state from taxation, leaving only 38% of items bought and sold subject to tax. Put another way, we have a Swiss cheese sales tax system – there’s more holes than cheese.

Now most would argue that some of these exemptions like those on food and medicine are a good thing but the real problem are the many special interest tax exemptions. In 2010, for example, a commission appointed by the Republicans recommended repealing, amending or modifying more than 60 tax exemptions, which cut state revenues by \$3 billion a year. Legislators never acted on most of those recommendations.

And virtually every one of these exemptions were the result of a paid special interest lobbyist working their way on the legislature to get the special tax break for their client. Add in the related corruption of special interest campaign contributions, consulting contracts and legal retainers to legislators and... well you get the picture. It’s called politics as usual.

So, what are the solutions? No reforms will solve all the problems but let me begin with four simple, specific suggestions:

1. Require all members of state boards and commissions to pay their own travel, food and lodging expenses above \$2,000 a year. Remember, it's supposed to be about public service not public profit.
2. Eliminate special interest Political Action Committee contributions to all candidate and political parties and party organizations.
3. Require legislators to release the names of all their clients that do business with state and local government and how much they are paid by these clients.
4. Require legislators to abstain from doing business with state and local government. You can be a legislator or you can do business with state and local government – pick one, you shouldn't do both.

Will the legislature pass a tough ethics reform bill with these requirements? Does the expression 'when pigs fly' come to mind?

But, individually legislators could voluntarily make these disclosures and agree to these limitations. They could do it tomorrow – if they wanted to. Will any legislators do this...think pigs again.

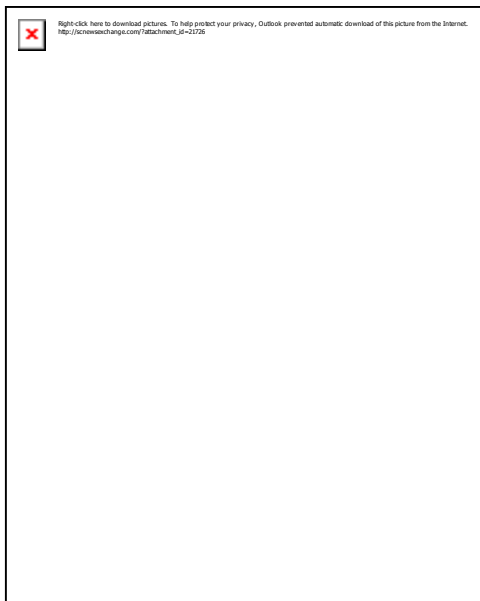
The types of usual arrogance, incompetence and corruption as detailed above are – well, the usual arrogance, incompetence and corruption that plagues Statehouse politics.

It does not have to be this way.

*Phil Noble runs a technology firm in Charleston and writes a weekly column for the S.C. Press Association. [www.PhilNoble.com](http://www.PhilNoble.com) [phil@philnoble.com](mailto:phil@philnoble.com)*

## [Living on Purpose: Destiny awaits those who will persevere](#)

Posted: 20 Sep 2016 06:55 AM PDT



Dr. William Holland

By Dr. William Holland

Have you ever made plans to do something but it did not work out? I'm sure that most of us have. Disappointment is not a stranger, especially to those who are ambitious. In fact, they say the more a person tries to accomplish something, the more failures they will encounter. This does not mean that all the doors are locked forever, but included within the process of advancement, it's necessary to learn self-control while experiencing frustration and distress. Sometimes our diligence brings success while on other occasions we discover that our imaginations are not going to be fulfilled. Even though this is deeply painful, it does not imply that we should go to bed and cover up our head. On the contrary! We do not have time to waste with feeling sorry for ourselves because there is much work to do.

This next intersection is where many people cannot seem to figure out which way to go. Instead of making a choice and proceeding, they end up building their house right in the middle of the road and living there. A crossroad is a place of decision that allows us to keep moving. Staying active even if we miss the mark is better than lying on the couch and hoping that opportunity will fall out of the ceiling. Being honest with ourselves and trusting God can adjust our view and this will go a long way toward aligning our attitude. Number 1: Sometimes our failures are trying to reveal the truth that our dreams are not a part of God's original plan for our life. So, if our vision is not God's will, we can simply change it into one that is. Number 2: If we are convinced we are on the right track but still waiting for our breakthrough, then let us patiently keep pressing forward in faith and keep our eye on the prize.

We have heard the story told many times about one of the most successful inventors of all time, Thomas Edison. It is said that he was responsible for over one thousand patents and became famous for his ideas but he is equally respected for his perseverance and his perspective on failure. It is true that humans have variations when it comes to mental "wiring" and in Edison's brain there was a bulldog determination that had the ability to view consistent failure as simply another stepping stone on the pathway to success. It is true that most people after several valiant attempts, are more than willing to throw in the towel but unlike the average person, it seemed that disappointment did not quench his burning passion to succeed. With several years of research and experimenting, it took 10,000 failures before Edison finally perfected the light-bulb. However, rather than accepting failure the other 9,999 times, he is quoted as saying, "I did not fail, I merely discovered 9,999 ways that do not work!"

Without going into a history lesson, actually there were several more people involved with inventing the light-bulb, but my point is that he made up his mind and was simply never going to give up. Today, there may be something you are sensing in your heart that God has called you to do and I want to encourage you that it can be done! Jesus said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." Is there anything that God cannot accomplish through you? One of the most common disappointments I hear is from people who are not happy with their life and the answer is always that we have a choice to change or remain the same. Whatever is keeping you from trying is the very obstacle that only you can deal with. To succeed one must come to the point where fear cannot prevent and discouragement cannot persuade. Michael Jordan, considered to be one of the best basketball players of all time missed over half the shots he attempted but the important fact to remember is that he was never afraid to shoot! Destiny awaits those who will persevere.

*Dr. Holland lives in Central Kentucky with his wife Cheryl, where he is a Christian author, outreach minister and community chaplain. To learn more visit: [billyhollandministries.com](http://billyhollandministries.com)*

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