

All That and a Bag of Chips

posted – April 29, 2016

On Thursday, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference held a candidate forum. Bill Thomas – the moderator – gushed over the candidates and the questions submitted by the audience (He did this several times.). My favorite part had to be the questions candidates were permitted to ask a single opponent of their chosen. Hard questions...yes...no! Stephens-Cherry asked Woodhouse a question. Woodhouse, who seemed aware of the question, read his response. It was funny. He in turn asked Stephens-Cherry a question who likewise gave an “unrehearsed” response. Thomas seemed impressed with their off-the-cuff answers. However, the funniest inquires came from Henry and Mugler. Yes, they composed questions for each other. Henry asked of Mugler, (I may be paraphrasing.) “What’s it like to be all that and a bag of chips?” I’m pretty sure that was what I heard.

Mugler, during the pat-yourself-on-the-back minute, bragged about her ability to present the school’s budget to city council. Mugler seems pleased with her ability to read a PowerPoint – which I’m sure she prepared – to city council and answer hard questions. The definition of composite index was one such question asked by council at the last budget presentation. Mugler explained, the decrease in Hampton’s property value and reduced spending resulted in a lower composite index number -“**That’s actually a good thing,**” Mugler added. Mugler went on to say, “**Based on what the locality can afford to pay...our community has a greater need for state support.**” We are poor like the majority of our student body. So, it’s okay to take additional funds from the state, but the heck with the hungry children in our classroom that Hampton City Schools refuses to feed.

Mugler’s self-praise also included two intergalactic searches for superintendents. After the first lengthy and costly search, the new superintendent was found two office doors down from the board’s clerk. This superintendent led us to less than 42% of our schools being fully accredited at her departure. The second search netted a hire from 50 miles away. We should know soon how well his résumé was researched.