

## ITS NOT THEIR MONEY!

What do President Saunders' expenditure of taxpayer/student money to buy a [\\$1.89 million dollar airplane](#) for her personal convenience and Mayor DuPree's spending city taxpayer dollars to [buy an old church for \\$3 million](#) before deciding on its use have in common? We know both purchases were made during a severe recession marked by substantial revenue shortfalls. But is that all?

It's not because both decisions are stupid, although they may be. Or, they may make perfect sense. However, if the decisions made sense, it seems reasonable to believe that President Saunders and Mayor DuPree would expound on their decisions at great length and provide detailed cost/benefit analyses.

The problem for citizens and taxpayers is that we have so little information about these expenditures. Dr. Saunders has taken steps to prevent us from even knowing [when the plane is used and where it is flown](#). A closely related question is why newspapers, like the *Hattiesburg American*, seem to be dying a slow death? A longtime newsman who was recently interviewed on PBS lamented the loss of investigative reporting by newspapers. Newspapers have given up what makes them great and indispensable to an informed and free people. Increasingly, newspapers do little or no investigative reporting. A sad consequence is that they are becoming more and more irrelevant and will pass quietly out of existence unnoticed and unmourned.

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