

# Do the stories matter? Does the truth make a difference?

Yes. And, yes.

Probably the two most common questions I get about the Cheyenne Herald are, why do you do it and do you think anything matters?

The first question begs a profound answer and I don't have one so I usually just pass on answering that one.

And experience has proven over and over that what appears on these pages does matter. Without sounding too self-important (I'll leave that to Reed Eckhardt), I do think what is offered here can and does matter. Some is not offered in the vein of really mattering, it is done just because I can. It is my vehicle and I can steer it in any direction I choose. And I do.

I have written before that my goal here is to provoke thought. Not agreement necessarily, but thought. Of course, if no one ever agreed, the Herald would have ended years ago. There are probably a handful of people who read the Herald religiously and then claim they don't agree with a thing written.

Then they call to ask for help.

I can't really describe why I write about what I do. I know I miss things more important than things I offer and sometimes I don't get to things I promised. But, it's not I'm taking money under false pretenses. The Cheyenne Herald is free. If you want one and will go to a place that has them, it's yours. No commitment. No cost. So complain if you want to but you're not out any money so don't complain too loud or too long.

I could cite chapter and verse stories that have mattered. Some matter to the masses, some to a more limited group. To those without a voice, this one can help. To those losing hope, maybe telling their story is enough to restore that hope. The "chamber types" may say they don't read the Herald - that it's filled with "lies" and they wouldn't be caught dead reading the pages. They do read the Herald and they do call when they need help.

Those honest enough admit it. The publisher of the daily paper has said in public that he reads the Cheyenne Herald - every issue, cover to cover.

There are those who seek help or intervention but first want to be assured that their request won't be made public. Their friends, you know. The Country Club crowd. The chamber types. Can't let them know I asked the Cheyenne Herald for help. But, they do ask the Cheyenne Herald for help. And, that's a good thing. And I don't betray confidences. Won't.

Problems are much more important when it's your ox being gored. So, keep calling. Keep those e-mails coming.

Sometimes I write about an issue to put a public group on notice. My recent disclosures about what is happening at the former Nob Hill subdivision had several objectives. One was to continue to embarrass the hospital for taking land from a group unable to fight the hospital's confiscation. For taking land they did not need and now cannot use. And, the story advised the county commissioners and county employees that the hospital has violated the variance approval.

Did I expect the county to take action against the powerful hospital? Not necessarily. What I set out to do is establish liability. To set responsibility. After the public airing, if someone gets hurt in the Nob Hill area, either by a truck improperly using the county streets or from equipment off the area allowed in the variance, the hospital and county will be liable along with the highway construction company from Colorado.

Most importantly, the story places liability on the county and hospital if the trucks parked along Happy Jack cause accidents because they are improperly and illegally parked along that stretch of roadway and cause vehicles to swerve into oncoming traffic. The construction company may not insure their equipment or employees in Wyoming. But the hospital and county will be here. Deniability was removed. Yes, stories matter.

# Beef. It's what's for dinner. Even if you're eating Kentucky Grilled Chicken.

How embarrassing to have it disclosed that your much-ballyhooed new method of preparing chicken has beef flavor added. Chicken au jus beef.

The Colonel's secret herbs and spices now includes beef bouillon, it seems. The advertising icon must be spinning in his crypt. Because, according to reliable published reports, "the marinade on the chain's new grilled chicken contains beef powder and rendered beef fat."

Say what?

Have you ever heard of chicken flavoring on beef products? Well, of course, you have. A few years back, someone had the bright idea to start making hot dogs and lunch meats with poultry products. Now, that's just plain wrong.

"Meat" hot dogs means they're not beef hot dogs. And they can be sold for about twelve cents a case. Yuck!

Frozen pizza boxes now carry a disclosure that the pepperoni has chicken and other pieces parts in it.

This writer really likes beef. Steak, roasts, hamburger - anything lean if it's beef. This writer also really likes chicken - preferably the white meat but the dark meat is fine. No necks. He likes turkey a lot, too. Some seafood is great. Lobster if affordable, which it isn't. Shrimp is tasty in so many different ways. Fresh water fish like walleye pike is relished. Even the farm-raised salmon is tolerable. Just don't try to pass it off as "fresh caught" and always admit it has "color added."

Pork is not only "the other white meat,"

it can also be quite tasty.

In fact, except for exotic meats, this writer likes about every kind of meat there is. Not lamb or veal. Some wild game but not much. Venison, a little. Had enough of that growing up in Wisconsin and Montana. Elk, moose, bear, no. Antelope, no thanks. Not catfish, eel, carp, oysters, squid or other awful looking little critters. Crab legs are great. Most meat, but not all. It kind of boils down to - if it is raised by farmers, it's okay. Not counting seafood, of course. Not much of it is raised on farms - only salmon.

But, can't we just have them onto themselves? Beef items should be beef. Pork items should be pork. And, chicken items should be chicken. If KFC thought they needed additional flavor on their product when they "grill" it (without flame, El Pollo Loco claims), where are their secret herbs and spices? Why use any beef flavoring? That's admitting that beef flavor is preferable to chicken. Beef is "different" than chicken, not necessarily "better."

KFC defends itself by saying the beef flavoring is but .2% of the total flavoring used in the marinade. Then, why in the name of God use beef on chicken, you mutton heads? That reminds me, I won't eat mutton either.

Maybe that explains why KFC tried to give the stuff away - their grilled chicken. Between the fact that they're using beef flavoring and their explanation of "grilling" the chicken (they use "a grill" inside a closed oven), the product isn't quite as advertised. And if customers are worrying about their weight, they likely don't think "KFC" in the first place.

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