

Briefs ...

Kirk Knox - In his March 19, 1989 column, longtime WTE reporter and columnist Kirk Knox reminisced about the old days of Cheyenne - circa 1950 or so. He wrote about Little Bear Inn and Remount Ranch and how the Plains Wigwam Lounge was a gathering place for United Airlines stewardesses (before they were called "flight attendants") and all the young men hoping to catch their eye. He wrote about three downtown movie houses - the Lincoln (where it is today), the Paramount "a block west," and the Princess, still another block west.

In his column, Kirk wrote: "There were cafes everywhere in the downtown."

And, "Now it all exists only as a recollection of another, more dynamic and exciting time."

Kirk Knox wrote those words two decades ago. He passed away November 21, 2005. He would not recognize the downtown he so longingly referred to in 1989. The downtown is now but a distant memory of those halcyon days. And the new kid reporters at the WTE just got off the bus from Colorado. Fortunately, nobody can miss what they never knew. And that's where we're at today, Kirk. That's why there are no memories of a bygone era - the transients weren't here and there is no reporter to remind them.

Mike Duvall - Almost a month had passed since the last conservative, family values Republican politician had embarrassed himself and his family. This time, it was a doofus California assemblyman who couldn't impress a gal at closing time with a stretch limo at the curb. Well, unless he could help her get legislation passed in California. Can you imagine what a favorable piece of legislation can mean to a company in that state - with 12% of the nation's population within their borders?

Anyway, this older, overweight, elected official was telling his neighboring assemblyman, while they were waiting for a break to end, about his conquests with the ladies. And he described the women adequately enough to know who they are. The details of his boasts are not important. Suffice it to say he was trashing their reputations while trying to enhance his own. A little harmless male bonding? Well, perhaps. Except his mic was hot. His words were being picked up, recorded and then shared with the country. He succeeded in embarrassing his wife, his adult children, two lobbyists who he claimed as conquests, his peers and his state. When he learned his words had been recorded, he changed his tune. Now he says he is a liar, not a philanderer.

DREAMS

We all have dreams in life. College for the children, retire comfortably, vacation homes. What are your dreams and how are you planning to get there?

Total life planning includes the financial effects of daily events that we don't pay attention to, or expect. If you could save more *would you?*

Financially, where do you want to be in 10, 20 or 30 years?


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Not important.
Not a story.
Who cares?
Next subject.



LCCC prez seems to be slipping into the abyss

Definitions of "Paranoia":

Paranoia is an unfounded or exaggerated distrust of others, sometimes reaching delusional proportions. **Paranoid** individuals constantly suspect the motives of those around them, and believe that certain individuals, or people in general, are "our to get them."

Paranoia can be mild and the affected person may function fairly well in society, or it can be so severe that the individual is incapacitated.

The reason these definitions are provided is that the head of our local community college is exhibiting signs of overly-suspicious behavior toward others close to him. He recently released a list of Ten Challenges he demands sycophants buy in to. His Manifesto sounds a lot like George Bush's "You're either with us or you're against us." Reality is not that simple. People like George Bush and Darrel Hammon cannot pigeon hole everyone that easily.

There are those at LCCC who are not "out to get" the president. They are just trying to make the school better and demand that he do a better job. Nothing more.

An article in a recent Wingspan - the LCCC award-winning publication - said: "Hammon used an analogy of a boat traveling downstream and approaching debris." Hammon said, according to the article, "Either you glide around the debris or you pluck it from the water and burn it so it never, never bother you again."

He recently provided his Challenges to LCCC employees and encouraged all to place his List "on a conspicuous place on your mirror each morning as you rise from your beds."

Seriously, folks, this guy is approaching the edge. Here are some examples of his "Challenges":

Challenge #1 - Overcome the past challenges and climb on board with us by participating vigorously and positively in all that we have to do. We need you.

Challenge #2 - Shun the propensity to see things in a negative way. Seeing things half full is so much more invigorating than seeing the glass half empty.

Delusional people cannot recognize that a glass half full is the same as a glass half empty. They try to separate themselves as being "positive" because they cannot face the truth - that a glass is just as half empty as it is half full. An imaginary difference in the two situations is neither accurate nor healthy.

Challenge #3 - Help us to become efficient as we wait for the next bend and hopefully open waters. It might take us awhile to get there, but we will get there with your help.

His juvenile way of putting things and the hallucinatory way of expressing himself - "open waters," etc. - suggest something very troubling.

Challenge #5 - . . . To say a horse is interesting doesn't ever enlighten us as to whether she is a she or a he or black or brown or dapple gray or 16 or 15 1/2 or 17 hands high or whether she is a quarter horse, a welsh pony or POA or the mother of Man of War.

This is what the president of Laramie County Community College wrote, based on reportage in Wingspan, a dependable chronicler. And, this list is widely circulation on campus. Hammon's paranoia is most apparent in Challenge #6:

Challenge #6 - Let us be honest with each other, whether it is in the public haunt of men or in the confines of your or my office. Being anonymous and clandestine is unbecoming of professionals that we are. If we have things to discuss, let's discuss them.

Challenge #7 - Remember that we are here for learners, our students and for each other. Lest we forget, we are not here necessarily for ourselves.

Challenge #9 - Review and re-review the Civility statement and values statements and then adhere religiously to them. ...

The LCCC board needs to take these rantings very seriously. Very, very seriously. These words would be more appropriate for a character in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* than from a community college president. The full list and Wingspan article can be read at: <http://www.lccc.wy.edu/wingspan/issues/Sept%2009/news/10reasons.html>

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