

## CFD attendance

There is no argument here that Frontier Days is not a great event with huge economic benefits to Cheyenne. It is. And there is also no question that attendance, whether more or fewer than the year earlier, is still quite impressive.

But when CFD decided during a down trend to withhold specific attendance figures and only spoon-feed the docile local media with figures CFD chose, those numbers became unreliable and, for the most part, have no credibility with me.

If they want to go back to releasing specific attendance figures, where measurable, the public should put stock in the numbers. Not until. Not now.

Obviously, CFD officials know how many tickets were sold for the rodeo each day and for the night shows. They also can provide an accurate count on the pancake breakfasts. They cannot, however count people attending parades or watching the Thunderbirds overhead. Even estimates for those events should be taken with a grain of salt. The truth could be more. It could be less. It doesn't matter.

Other reliable figures are paid admissions into the Park and paid parking.

But to count the same person over and over and over is flawed. You cannot assume that everyone who enters the Park with a rodeo or night show ticket also walks the carnival midway or visits the vendors, Indian Village or Bloody Gulch or whatever that downtown-decimating shopping area out there is called.

Now, if the CFD people want to keep attendance figures close to the vest and allow locals to "guess" about attendance, that is their prerogative. But to release a total parade attendance like 59,416 is ridiculous. That reminds me of the story of a couple traveling on a train past a large herd of cattle. One says to the other, "I wonder how many cows there are in that herd?" The other looks out the window of the 75 mph train and says, "there are 412." "You can't know that," the friend says, "How did you come up with that number?" "I have a system." "What kind of system allows you to come up with a number in a herd of moving cows when we're going past them in a train traveling more than 75 mph?" "Easy. I count the legs and divide by four."

That sounds like the system being used by CFD to determine parade and Thunderbirds "attendance." Pay them no heed.

## WT-E's lunatic fringe wannabe columnists

Where do the lamebrain extremists the WT-E generously calls "columnists" come from? Well, I sort of know. Some of them have approached me about writing for the Cheyenne Herald. When you read the Opinion pages of the WT-E, you can see why I wasn't interested.

The latest offering (8/8/10) by Richard Wall echoed a repeat fawning piece in favor of the candidate he personally supports for governor, Ron Micheli.

Basically, Wall's lament about the other three major candidates is that they're not pro-life enough. Who he is to apply this litmus test has gone unaddressed. He is a Johnny One Note that obsessively believes that all voters in Wyoming share his views on the subject. They don't and I've told him about the election a few years ago, before he lived here, when voters made their position known and it was a pro-choice one. We are a mixed group.

I have written here in the past about the need to be leary of anyone who is "too" anything. Too religious. Too faithful. Too honest. National news on a regular basis tears down those who profess to be too religious. No one could be more true to his religion than Colorado's Ted Haggard. Not! When I read foam-spewing columns like the one in today's WT-E, I ask myself what the writer is really about.

Some who write about the pitfalls of illegal drug use confide that they were there - that they know of what they speak or write because they had gone down that path themselves. Ted Haggard is trying to make a comeback and seems to be well on his way. No one knows about sinning like a sinner will be his mantra.

While all four of the Republican candidates for governor profess to be pro-life, that is not enough for some extremists. "What do you mean you're pro-life," Richard Wall would ask. "I am against abortion." "That's not enough. Can you swear on my Bible that you would always oppose abortion, that there could be no circumstance and no individual situation in which you might relent?"

What if the candidate's daughter or wife were raped? Michael Dukakis didn't do very well with Bernard Shaw's question

back in 1988. He said he would oppose the death penalty even if the victim were his wife. Wrong answer, Mike.

Rick Pitino is a famous and successful college basketball coach. A fervent Catholic and outstanding family man. A woman claimed she had a few second encounter with Pitino and sought help with a pregnancy. He claims he gave an aide \$3,000 for "health care" for the woman. Now, what kind of long-term health care can a pregnant woman buy for \$3,000? That amount of money could probably fund an abortion in Cincinnati, though.

No, those who profess to be "too" anything are suspect. Ron Micheli, the hero Richard Wall uses free space in the WT-E to support, would probably claim to be tough on crime. Yet he wrote a letter to try to help a confessed violent rapist get a lighter sentence. "Too" my ascot.

How many oaths has Wall taken? Rita Meyer has taken plenty. When she says she is pro-life, you should take her at her word. What can she do to prove her stand is solid? She has not been caught in the inconsistencies that Wall's candidate has. Micheli is the uber-conservative that satisfies Richard Wall on one issue, the only issue that matters in Wall's tortured mind. Pro-life. But Micheli has had to admit that he and his family take money from the same federal government he rails against. He has had to admit that he wrote the letter to Judge Sullins in Casper. Micheli didn't release either of those two pieces of truth to the media. He was found out.

Micheli is appearing to be "too" extreme. "Too" inconsistent. "Too" hypocritical. If he says he wants the federal government out of Wyoming when, in truth, he accepts subsidies from that same level of government, what is to say his public stand on being pro-life is any more honest?

Ignore what extremists write or say. If Ron Micheli is your choice in spite of his inconsistencies, vote for him. But not because a WT-E faux columnist thinks Rita Meyer is not pro-life enough.

*Note: I e-mailed Richard Wall on July 29th and asked him if he has donated to the Micheli campaign. He did not respond. He e-mails me often. And Micheli does not post donors on his campaign website. Hmmm!*

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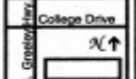


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I do believe in helping improve our quality of life, but not at the expense of our basic infrastructure. I will work to put our beautiful city back on an even keel.

Feel free to find the FACTS - I am easy to find, and easy to talk to.

Email me at seandallen@hotmail.com, visit my website at seanallenforcheyenne.com, call me at 307-421-1693, or stop by Scotty's Pizza Factory and visit with me in person. I would appreciate your vote.

Paid for by Sean Allen for Cheyenne