

Maybe we don't want to be too much like Fort Collins after all

Fire requires fuel, oxygen and heat.

Bad behavior that can lead to rioting doesn't require, but certainly is enhanced, by alcohol, loud music and disparate groups of people.

In Fort Collins, Colorado - of all places - after a free concert performed by Earth, Wind & Fire (never could keep them straight from Blood, Sweat & Tears) - a quasi-riot broke out in the Old Town area.

Free music provides additional money for the accelerant, sometimes called alcohol. In Fort Collins, the disparate young men were "townies" and college students. Another element that adds fuel to the flame is a crowd. The more crowded the conditions, the more likely some drunks in a group are to take exception to having their "space" intruded upon.

Here's what was written on some goofy online "news source": **"Earth Wind & Fire riot breaks out. A riot breaks out at an Earth Wind & Fire concert in Colorado as fans began burning the place down. The Earth Wind & Fire concert erupted in a riot that ended with dust."**

What?

Being that far from the truth in a story is something we might expect from the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle but from anywhere else? "Burning the place down?" That didn't happen. "A riot that ended with dust?" Good Lord, who is this writer? Dust? There were something like five arrests and one fight involved a couple guys being "thrown" through a store window.

It's as likely as not that the "pugilists" stumbled through the window and were not "thrown" at all. Drunk people usually do not fight very well. They flail more than they connect. And they stumble and fall down when their flailing finds no target.

This incident was no laughing matter, of course. But what it did remind me is that, if it can happen in Old Town Fort Collins and Crossroads Mall in Boulder, it could happen in Cheyenne.

Because so much of the space at Cheyenne's Depot Patio is now used for beer tents and other canopy coverings, there isn't much room for those wanting to drink beer and listen to music to congregate. And the purpose of these Friday night music concerts - paid for by your money with publicity provided by the daily newspaper - is to sell as much beer as quickly as possible so money can be donated to the Depot Museum. City officials have made it known that they were going to "weed out" those events that didn't sell beer on the patio - that the objective is to raise money from alcohol sales.

The same elements that can lead to a "riot" or at least one helluva fight are present at events on the patio in front of our depot. The music runs much longer now that it did a few years ago and more Colorado bands are taking the place of local bands, a decision that doesn't sit well with all attendees. How well policed are the events at the UP Depot patio? Can't say, don't attend. And, in open areas like that, handing beer from an "of age" patron to a minor is a simple matter. Not a good idea but often a common practice.

I don't recognize myself

I occasionally like to glance at comments posted (always anonymously) on a diploma mill website forum. On this forum and others having to do with the subject, links have often been provided to those readers so they can access the Cheyenne Herald (not by me, by someone else). On another forum, national leaders in ridding the US of unaccredited diploma mills [degree sellers] do use their names. I used to also review those comments but it's been a long time since I have - seems like there are too many things to do to spend a lot of time on others' words.

This forum, though, is different. It represents all that is ignorant and dangerous about such anonymous posting. And even though it's been quite awhile since Warren National University chose to cease operations because it could not gain accreditation, the postings of a drooling, basement-bedroom-dwelling Nazi sympathizer from Illinois continue in defense of a "school" he never "attended" nor purchased a degree from.

A common theme with anonymous posters is that they post repetitively but use a variety of names. They will post venomous statements, then respond to themselves as though they have like-minded nuts in the ether who agree with them.

There are similar forums in Cheyenne and the same anonymous tripe is often what you would find on those.

On onlinedegreereviews.org, references to the Cheyenne Herald and me personally come and go. There has been an ongoing outpouring of sympathy for the demise of Warren National University (and by transference, Kennedy-Western), mostly from the Illinois Nazi lover.

All of the postings supportive of WNU appear to be the rantings of that Nazi sympathizer or maybe a couple others. They just make things up and post them as though they were truth or facts. That is the sadness of anonymous posters. How those creeps defend their anonymity is also amusing. They write that for their own protection and so they can "speak" the truth, they have to remain anonymous. No, they choose to remain anonymous because they are cowards. Some of the anonymous postings on that website forum since the first of this year follow:

"WNU/KWU were both licensed and authorized by the State of Wyoming Board of Regents to issue legal post secondary degrees upon successful completion of a set course of studies."

"Finally, the State of Wyoming, bowing to political pressure, forbade all unaccredited schools from operating in their state." (Jesus of Suburbia 4/10/10)

About the Cheyenne Herald: *"This paper is a joke. Nobody in Cheyenne reads it. This is NOT Cheyenne's 'hometown paper.' It is just some piece of trash written by some bigot with a king size chip on his shoulder. The entire operation is the works of one man. And if you read any of that trash you will quickly note that the malcontent has some kind of mental illness. Note that in no place in this paper does he allow opposite opinions. In fact, the only time he quotes anyone who disagree with him, he will use colorful terms like 'Basement Dweller.' ..." . Colorful terms? I mean them to be insulting. Not colorful. Funny, my high school English teacher said I had a chip on my shoulder. But, I'm not a bigot. And I'm told my mental illness is doing well with the meds.*

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