

Wyoming Legislators still embrace unaccredited diploma mills

After four years work ridding this state of unaccredited degree sellers, it was shocking to see a bill introduced at this session of the Wyoming Legislature that would start us down that slippery slope once more.

Some Legislators, of course, availed themselves of junkets to foreign lands provided by the scammers they welcomed to Wyoming for years. They evidently miss those free trips and hope that by coloring the degree granting operation with religion, they can once again visit Guatemala, Pakistan, UAE, London or other places they can't afford to travel to on their own dime.

House Bill No. HB16 is sponsored by Representatives Edward Buchanan (R-Goshen), Rodney "Pete" Anderson (R-Laramie), Pete Illoway (R-Laramie), Mike Madden (R-Johnson/Sheridan), Robert McKim (R-Lincoln), Frank Peasley (R-Platte/Converse), and Senators Jim Anderson (R-Converse/Platte), Curt Meier (R-Goshen/Platte), and Tony Ross (R-Laramie).

Shame on them. Shame on each of them.

At least one of the co-sponsors took the junkets of the past, perhaps several did.

Thinking we were rid of unaccredited degree granting "institutions," their effort to reintroduce any into Wyoming is shameful. All Republicans, too. You'd think they knew better. Apparently not.

Should this ill-advised and unwise bill pass, it would add this further exemption to W.S. 21-2-406(a)(i)(A):

"(C) Operates as a degree granting post secondary education institution and the institution annually files with the department evidence of nonprofit religious organization status for purposes of federal taxation and organization under the laws of this state."

In other words, a religious "degree granting institution" could be just as bogus as Kennedy-Western, Warren National, Preston, Newport International, American Global, American City, American Capital, etc., etc., but so long as they are a nonprofit organization, Wyoming does not care if they issue worthless degrees somehow connected to religion. Shame.

Wyoming Coalition for the Homeless

Volunteers are needed at the WCH Richards Center (4700 Ocean Loop) to help people with job and life skills, art, music, computers and other programs.

Those interested in helping with these programs should contact Virginia at 634-8499 or visit 907 Logan Avenue to learn more about what is needed.

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Sometimes readerboards are used well. Sometimes not so much so.

One of the great embarrassments retailers self-inflict is using their readerboard to congratulate high school or college graduates and misspell the word. While the thought is a good one, a supportive one, not knowing how to spell draws attention to oneself, not the graduates.

CONGRADULATIONS

That doesn't cut it but be assured that the word will appear spelled like that again in May and June here in Cheyenne.

The message in the upper box below has appeared at the downtown Arby's for weeks.

The Denver Nuggets "Birdman" is very popular. With the kids because of his eccentricity in hair style and tats all over his upper body and with adults for his shot-blocking ability and his (so far) successful battle with drug addiction.

Chris would probably appreciate the attention brought him in Cheyenne, Wyoming. But, his name is Chris Andersen - "en", not "on". Like the Danes spell it.

The bottom message was at the north Walgreen's store for a couple weeks before and after the Super Bowl. A clever play on supporting your favorite team. Best of all for them, the Saints did "GO."

Downtown Arby's

**Get your
Chris Anderson
glass cups
here**

Dell Range Walgreen's

**GEAUX
SAINTS**

United Way transparency is not the issue. Judgment is. Donors can find out enough about the causes they consider supporting to determine the wisdom in doing so. No longer is it necessary for third party agencies with paid employees to make those decisions for employees and/or other donors. Use the internet or the telephone. The Cheyenne Herald continues to recommend you make your own decisions about what charitable (or non-charitable) organizations you support financially. If you want or need someone else to decide for you, make your donations through United Way.

Make direct donations

If you make charitable donations, whether you benefit for tax purposes or not (and, chances are you do not), maybe you should reconsider your gift giving.

The closing of a free clinic that was staffed by volunteer doctors, nurses and others, reminds Cheyenne residents of the risk of letting someone else make your decisions for you. United Way once had a place. It allowed employees to use payroll deductions for donations. But, in this day of the internet, virtually every worthy and legitimate cause provides a means to make monthly direct donations to a cause or cause(s) you support.

the Children, adoption, domestic abuse, veterans, Food for the Poor, heart disease, illiteracy, charter schools, the elderly, AIDS, Alzheimer's, Lou Gehrig disease, ASPCA, hemophilia, Parkinson's, Shriners' Hospital, St. Jude's - there are hundreds of legitimate and needy charities. Hundreds and hundreds.

You should decide where your money goes. Some causes are not 501(c)(3) organizations but unless you itemize deductions, you can't deduct donations on your federal income tax return anyway. And if you make donations because they will be tax deductible, you're making them for the wrong reason. Charity is not supposed to be about what's in it for you. It is about what's in it for someone else.

Whether that cause be autism, cancer, diabetes, blindness, homelessness, Feed

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