

Collins attacks the mayor

Et tu, Brute?

For my Nebraska readers, those are the fabricated words of William Shakespeare that Julius Caesar cried out when he saw among his assassins his friend Brutus.

Et tu, Patrick?

Marcus Junius Brutus was designated second heir by Caesar, behind his grand-nephew. Obviously impatient to become ruler of the Roman Empire, Brutus joined the assassins who struck down Caesar.

Patrick Collins also has come to view himself as second successor to the Emperor Jackus Spikus. And, based on the betrayal published in the local daily tribunal, the WTE, on February 21, he, too, is impatient of waiting. Probably not knowing when the Ides of March fell, Patrick let his impatience prevail and had his column of betrayal published by his allies in arms three weeks early.

The Ides of March are March 15th, Pat.

Times and circumstances have changed for the Boy Who Would Be Mayor. Soon after being elected to the City Council in 2000, he learned that he and a true bully, Tomus Segravus, could dominate the newly elected mayor. They could dictate, pardon the pun, what would happen in the Cheyenne Empire and when.

They made it known during their campaigns that, if elected, they would spend all the money in the Cheyenne treasury and borrow more to spend even more.

And they did. They spent it all.

The Boy had his magic carpet pulled out from under him when Rick Kaysen was elected mayor. He was not used to being on the outside looking in - was not used to being ignored when decisions were made - was not used to not having to grant approval for every deed done in city government. Not being consulted.

After barely a year, Patrick had but one ally remaining. The daily tribunal. The daily paper which also found that the new mayor would not be a pipeline of confidential information from City Hall and would not share his every thought with them and would not advise them in advance of any decision being announced.

Coming up on the Ides of March 2044 years after the death of Caesar, Patrick must have decided he had to make his move on the Mayor Who Would Not Share. In a conspiracy with the daily tribunal, Patrick wrote words targeting the ungrateful and strong-willed mayor.

How dare he think he could function, that he could manage, that he could lead, that the upstart mayor could make decisions without the blessing, without the knowledge, without the approval of the Boy Who Would be Mayor.

The Boy would show Utility Man that, with his unholy alliance including the daily (self-appointed) tribunal, he could undercut the new administration. That he could return Jackus Spikus to the throne. Or, better still, the Boy Who Would Be Mayor could force the man who's business he once tried to confiscate, to recognize just who was the power in Cheyenne.

So he wrote. Or used the former mayor's secretary to write, critical words.

Always polite. Always smiling. It is not easy to determine when the words will flow or, to use a metaphor to fit Caesar's untimely death, when the knife will be raised. Patrick, not waiting for the Ides of March to make his attack, was granted unlimited words by the usually controlling daily tribunal and was provided the headline: "Please lead, Mr. Mayor."

Please and Mr. in the same headline. Is that polite and respectful or what?

Not meaning a word of it, Patrick's own words (or someone else's) went on to criticize and ridicule the sitting mayor.

Had a similar column been offered by Pete Laybourn or Judy Case during the eight years of the Jackus Spikus tenure, the tribunal would have refused to print it. That is as certain as the Ides of March falling on March 15th.

But, the one person within the city's governing body who will deliver the tribunal inside information could not be denied.

Even though the Boy Who Would Be Mayor has no leadership position within this governing body - he is not president of the city council, he is not vice-president of the city council, he is not chairman

of the finance committee, he is not chairman of the public services committee. He is nothing. He is a member, less equal than four, no more equal than four others.

In his diatribe against the mayor he supported in the last election (unlike Jackus Spikus, whom he despised and opposed), the BWWM made allegations he does not support and cannot. Although a member of city council for nine years, he is likely unaware that projections used by municipalities are often provided by the Wyoming Association of Municipalities. Did Patrick question them on those projections?

And when he admitted in his betrayal column that he did not trust the revenue projections, he further admitted that he voted for the budget containing them.

Patrick also had the audacity to say that past spending had no effect on the current budgetary problems. He cannot be that uninformed, that ignorant, that naive, to really believe that, can he?

He parses words like "much of the cost" when he meant "some of the cost" for projects like the baseball field and the Community House had donations applied to the cost. The vast majority of the cost came from city coffers. Patrick has to know that, doesn't he? One of his pet projects had to do with unnecessarily moving the Ten Commandments monolith. He was to raise \$50,000 to accomplish that without cost to residents. He didn't come close to achieving that goal.

He was right about the projects he listed being paid in full. He conveniently left off his list the downtown parking garage that is draining several hundred thousand dollars a year from city funds. And, he apparently does not understand that, had he and Jackus not spent the reserves down a dangerously low level and had kept them at a 90 day supply as auditors had always recommended, this revenue drop and next year's could have been absorbed without crisis. Now, after being a major cause of the problem, this guy criticizes a mayor who had no role in creating the mess. Look in the mirror, Patrick. You will see who is responsible.

\$750 million data center may choose Cheyenne?

You may file this announcement with the one about Owens-Illinois considering Cheyenne for a glass plant. Or Help Desk Now. Or the Catholic University.

While it would be wonderful if a company that might raise average wages in Laramie County would choose to move here, to Cheyenne, it is a bit suspicious when an announcement is made while the Legislature is in session and considering a bill that would relieve such a newcomer from paying sales tax that other employers have had to pay.

Coupled with a caveat that the company cannot be identified and LEADS has no idea if Cheyenne will be chosen but is equally certain that it won't be if the sales tax exemption doesn't pass, this looks like another one of those empty promises LEADS is best at making.

Assuming this unnamed possible entrant intends to make a profit and assuming this unnamed possible entrant knows that locating in Wyoming will provide the cheapest labor force around and assuming this unnamed possible entrant knows that electricity is not only abundant here but cheap, they don't need the further inducement of not paying sales tax on the one-time purchase of equipment.

Not having to pay a state income tax on corporate profits and the location at an intersection of two of the major north/south, east/west interstates in the entire nation should cancel any property tax or sales tax relief another location can offer. Now, our history under LEADS has been to attract only low-paying or publicly-funded employers so the prospects of this unnamed, uncertain company is not that good. Why doesn't LEADS lobby as hard for "breaks" for existing or expanding Wyoming employers? Because they don't know what they're doing. They read about places like Owens-Illinois being interested in this area in the Denver Post.

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