

THE CHEYENNE  
**HERALD**  
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*An open letter to readers of the Cheyenne Herald*

I have always been reluctant to "suggest" to voters for whom they should mark their ballots or to "endorse" candidates. I am frequently asked to do both but seldom have done so. The lesser paper shows no such reluctance and voters are usually ill-served by their endorsements. This is an election where I think both publications will agree on the best choice of candidates in an election usually ignored - for Laramie County Community College (LCCC) Board of Trustees. Because the education boards do not have a primary election, candidates have less time and few opportunities to convince voters to select them as the best candidate.

I sincerely believe this election of LCCC Trustees is critical. I won't wear out "the most critical in history." But it is important. Public education is the ongoing target of criticism and there is usually little voters can do to affect the outcome. But, on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and in the early voting, we all can. We can let both the current LCCC Board and the current LCCC President know that we're mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore. By our votes, we can impress on all of them, and the candidates chosen to serve for the next two or four years, that we do care. That we do notice. And that we are going to demand better by providing a different group of Trustees to bring LCCC back its extinguished glory. Personally, I did not appreciate a compliant LCCC Board authorizing attorneys to seek a temporary restraining order on material that I put up on my website after having gotten it legally and published electronically within my rights. While the Cheyenne Herald received national and international attention for that Board (and Judge Peter Arnold's) blunder, I was forced to remove the Care Team Report that I had published on my website days ahead of the local daily newspaper's coverage of the same story. The Board and judge's action took away my advantage of having published the Report first.

LCCC is being investigated by a credible, well-known national freedom of speech group at this time. This President and this Board of Trustees continue to bring shame, ridicule and disgrace upon our community college. *Ours*, not theirs. How have they been able to do this over an extended period of time? Because we have allowed it. We have, by our silence and indifference at elections, allowed the perpetuation of the same mentality, that being one wherein Trustee(s) believe their job is to support the President, not represent the voters and taxpayers of Laramie County. Nor support students in their quest for the best possible education they can attain at LCCC. It has become a private club where three elderly men have come to believe, because of voter apathy and indifference to what is going on at LCCC, that we do not care.

We can prove that we do care, that we do care very much, by casting votes for three challengers and only one incumbent. Our best chance to salvage education at LCCC is to vote for Kevin Kilty, Bruce Curl and Carol Merrell for the four year terms and for Ed Mosher for the two year term. This will be your test, not the students. I implore you to answer correctly. "Yes" to the challengers, "no" to the two elderly male incumbents on the ballot, no to Brenda Lyttle.

I also believe very strongly that the County Commission should be increased from three to five members. Any additional cost, and there doesn't have to be any, is insignificant compared to the budget as a whole and the importance of having adequate strength in representation. I also suggest that commissioners continue to be elected at-large, not by district. Districts determined by population would allow city residents to elect all members and rural residents would have no chance to be elected. At-large election of commissioners is not the problem. Electing each by area should be rejected. That's a bad idea. Thank you for your consideration.

/s/ *Dave Featherly* -- Publisher and Editor

e-mail: [dave@cheyenneherald.com](mailto:dave@cheyenneherald.com) website: [www.cheyenneherald.com](http://www.cheyenneherald.com)  
 (307) 637-2879

**The Cheyenne Herald -- P.O. Box 2208 -- Cheyenne WY 82003**