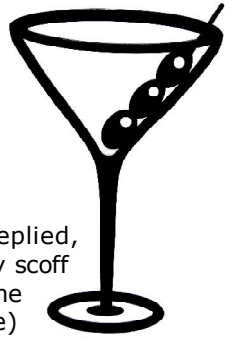


# The ugly and inappropriate martini glass is gone



*Ed and Caren Murray will offer a full wall mural*

Why a cherub?

18 year-old who guzzles gin? Eats green olives from a martini? Likes vermouth? Get real.

Why not?

If there is anybody left in town who believes a cherub will not be an improvement over the hideous green martini glass and words aimed at curbing underage drinking, they would only be satisfied with a saddle, spurs and latigo painted there.

Would I have chosen a cherub for the side of a downtown Cheyenne, Wyoming building? No, probably not, but it ain't my building. And I'm not putting a penny of my money into the effort. And no public money is being used so even the naysayers and government gadflies don't have anything to complain about.

Enough with the misguided attempt to portray Cheyenne as a redneck, hick cowboy or rodeo town. It isn't and never was. Only 10 days a year.

Let the painting commence!

And a martini glass aimed at drawing attention to underage drinking? Come on. It should have been a beer bottle or can. Do you know a 17 or

The Murrays deserve credit for at least trying to improve the appearance of one of downtown's buildings. About all we've been seeing applied to the sides of downtown properties

over the last several years has been graffiti. And, personally, I considered the green draw-the-line "messages" on this building at 17<sup>th</sup> and Warren, Wyoming Home and former Salvation Army store on E. Lincolnway to be nothing more than professional graffiti. Vandals would get arrested for painting that message on walls of buildings. The only difference between what they do and what was done on the walls of these buildings is permission. Building owners gave permission for the ill-conceived, poorly-presented messages about drawing some kind of line.

Murray quickly replied, "love." Some may scoff at that but give the guy (and his wife) credit for trying. In a country now polarized as never before; and in a community more suspicious, more cynical and more discouraged than ever before; they at least are trying, with a visual image, to instill a positive message to the thousands of motorists coming over the viaduct or traveling past their building at 17<sup>th</sup> and Warren every day. Not just during ten days in July of Frontier Days, but every day of the year. 365.

The muralist retained by the Murrays (Murals & More LLC of Franklin, Tennessee), has a very impressive portfolio. This ain't their first rodeo. Weather permitting, the cherub mural should be completed in less than a month. I will present a photo of the finished work (or wherever it's at by that date) in the September 20<sup>th</sup> issue of the Cheyenne Herald.

I asked Ed Murray how he had found and chosen the muralist for the work on his Cheyenne building. He repeated that the process was lengthy and, through business interests he has in Nashville, he had seen murals designed and painted by Michael Cooper and was impressed with them. He was struck by the three dimensional quality of murals placed on walls and other surfaces in that area. Before deciding on Cooper, other muralists were considered but it came down to that unique ability in Cooper's paintings that led to the decision to retain Murals & More LLC to design and paint the mural here.

What is the significance of a cherub and why did the Murrays settle on that depiction for the mural? Ed Murray told me that a year went into the consideration of what to present with a mural on this wall - consideration included western themes like cowboys or animals indigenous to the West such as buffalo, elk, antelope, etc. None of those conveyed the impression the Murrays sought.

I asked Ed if the mural would depict a single cherub or multiple characters and he told me one. Large. I for one eagerly await the final mural. Whether a cherub would have been my first choice or not - or yours - I respect the Murrays for doing something in an attempt to beautify at least one downtown building wall.

Ed's father, community leader "Ned" Murray, had a large personal collection of cherubs that Ed has been exposed to throughout his life. Asked what message he and his wife hoped to convey by the use of a cherub,

We can only hope others will follow.



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