

Excuse me! John McCain "doesn't understand how enhanced interrogation works?"

Rick Santorum is a dunce. It looks like the Republicans have found a presidential "contender" who will take headlines away from diminutive Ohio Democrat Dennis Kucinich.

A few years ago, it seemed that Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania had a bright political future. Over a bit of time, he crashed and burned.

He blamed Boston for the Catholic Church sex abuse scandal. And he blamed the people of New Orleans for living there when Katrina hit. Santorum had sponsored legislation that would have prevented the National Weather Service from issuing early warnings, in favor of private weather services, then claimed that the lack of early enough warnings by the NWS were to blame for the loss of life from Katrina. Huh?

His past includes deceiving a school district about his residency to reduce his personal costs to educate five of his children in a charter school; continuing to assert that WMD were found in Iraq after virtually everyone in the world knew they weren't; having non-supporters removed from a book store in which he was to autograph his book; and being a champion on the Senate's attempt to prevent family from making medical decisions in the Terry Schiavo matter. Santorum has repeatedly stated that "he does not believe a right to privacy exists under the Constitution, even within marriage."

He was also believed to have warned a fellow Senator that "his affair was to become publicly known." That other Senator has since resigned his seat in the Senate and publicly apologized to his colleagues.

To say that Rick Santorum is a nut would offend nuts. He is certifiable.

Once again, it appears that the Republican Party will be reduced to candidates who couldn't defeat Harold Stassen in the 2012 election. (No offense to Mr. Stassen, I met him and he was a fine man who just wouldn't stop trying to become president.)

In his 2006 quest for a third term, Santorum was dubbed the "most vulnerable Republican" and he was defeated by Bob Casey, Jr. Santorum supporters donated heavily to the Tea Party candidate in hopes of siphoning votes from Casey but that failed. The Tea Party candidate was not allowed on the ballot for lack of sufficient petition signatures. At the November 2006 election, Santorum polled 41% of the vote - the lowest ever for an incumbent Pennsylvania Republican Senator.

Now the bozo has said that John McCain "doesn't understand how enhanced interrogation works." If McCain doesn't, who does?

I survived the Rapture. You must have, too.

With over 300 million of us in the United States, there is bound to be a bunch who aren't wound tight.

But, why do the religious freaks like Harold Camping get so much attention?

Didn't Y2K teach us anything?

What does the old, albeit weathy, fool who said the world would end on May 21, 2011 (would begin to end) do now? Does he know that he echoed Charles Manson with that creep's "Helter Skelter" plan? Is he really comfortable in that company?

My guess is he will resurface (Camping, not Manson) in a couple weeks and tell the world that he made a mistake. That, would you believe it, he misread his calculations and that what he meant to predict was damnation on May 21, 2021 - a few years after he's gone so he won't hear the laughter.

Self-proclaimed religious goofs like Camping - not to mention the Phelps clan from Topeka, Jimmy Swaggart, Jim Bakker, Jim Jones, Pat Robertson, Ted Haggard and too many conservative Republicans to name - get so much more attention than they deserve and the real,

honest, genuine, sincere and legitimate men/women of the cloth have a hard time getting a line in local media for their efforts to feed the needy and shelter the homeless.

Remember when "rapture" was a pleasant thing - not some fire and brimstone proclaimed by a nutty multi-millionaire who might just be enjoying his joke with this latest hoax?

Here are two definitions of "rapture" -

overwhelming happiness: a euphoric transcendent state in which somebody is overwhelmed by happiness or delight and unaware of anything else;

mystical transportation: a mystical experience in which somebody believes he or she is transported into the spiritual realm, sometimes applied to the second coming of Jesus Christ, when true believers are expected to rise up to join him in heaven.

This was written about Camping after his latest miss by a millenium: "Camping, who also made a failed doomsday prediction in 1994, had claimed that his mathematical interpretation of the Bible pointed to May

21 as the day of the rapture. Earthquakes were supposed to shake the globe, throwing the dead from their graves as believers' souls ascended to heaven. Five months later, on October 21, 2011, the universe was supposed to end."

Would this be the right time to call the guy a "kook?"

Stuff was also supposed to hit the oscillating device on January 1, 2000 (Y2K). Educated people were predicting all kind of complicated consequences with the advent of a new millenium. A Deputy Secretary of Defense said, "The Y2K problem is the electronic equivalent of the El Nino and there will be nasty surprises around the globe." Right. Dope.

Makes it easier to understand why our government believed Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and couldn't find Osama bin Laden for nearly ten years.

I was tempted not to begin this issue of the Cheyenne Herald until after 6:00 pm on May 21, 2011 in case the fruitcake's prediction came true. Not! I also waited for family members who were believers to call and give me their '60 Dodge Darts. Not.

Can they do better at LCCC?

While much of the criticism leveled toward LCCC on these pages last year was directed at the former president, the board of trustees before the November election was not exempted. They shared the blame.

With the election - an election that made both newly elected and still serving trustees aware of the public distaste for what had been transpiring on campus - I thought voters message would be better received than it appears to have been.

Wasting valuable resources to hire an "interim" president was their first major blunder. And then when the guy they hired proved to be an elitist, that only made the trustees decision look even worse. The school suffered through several years with an egghead at the top of the depth chart - they didn't need another one.

Should a community college like Laramie County Community College be able to find a competent president? Yes, they should but the challenge will be for those hiring the next titular head of the school to know the difference between a good interviewee and a good hire. Elected officials seldom have a background in areas most critical to their doing a good job in the office they were elected to hold. And the public suffers the consequences.

It is not my plan to pay much attention to what transpires out at the home of the blue arches. The community college is just uninteresting to locals and good decisions and bad are pretty much ignored. Except for a few months last year, nobody in town paid much attention to the school in the prairie. Even students have never wanted to get drug into the quagmire that had become LCCC.

We had several more good, revealing and informative stories to publish about the former president but it just seemed it would be "piling on" once the guy was terminated. Unless he lies on his Facebook account (or similar) again, he can rest in peace in this little town. Or wherever he next resides. Who cares?

In spite of the Laramie County taxpayers having to cough up a large sum of money for LCCC getting involved in the personal life of a former vice president, the new group of trustees is presumably jumping right back into the muck and mire.

Generally, it is none of an employer's business whether an employee holds a second or third job - UNLESS THAT OTHER JOB(S) AFFECTS THE EMPLOYEES ATTENDANCE AND/OR PERFORMANCE. And, because education is reputed to offer low wages and salaries, it might be imperative for

employees in that field to supplement their income. Even if it is not a financial decision, employees must be able to work as hard as they want, as many hours as they can, and not have to explain their decision to - or ask permission from - their employer.

If, as has been done with some critical jobs in law enforcement, the employer (often the federal government) wants to offer a financial incentive and enter into a contractual arrangement with an employee to NOT hold a second job, that is the only way an employer should have the right to insist that an employee be exclusive to them.

Not only would a LCCC employee not want to have to seek permission to hold a second job, they could sometimes be reluctant to share with their supervisor what they're doing to earn a little more money. Some may land jobs with unaccredited diploma mills (one has) but others may find telling their boss they deliver pizzas on their own time doesn't square with being a professor at a community college.

It is none of LCCC's business what anyone - assuming they are a consenting adult - does when they are away from the campus. An instructor working for their student may not show the best judgment but it is the employees call. Not LCCC's.