

## Tough audiences

The first two Republican presidential candidate debates provoked glimpses of voters' reactions that should concern all of us.

In the first debate, when newly-entered candidate Rick Perry, governor of Texas, answered a question about using the death penalty and made no apologies for the fact that some of those executed may have been innocent, the audience cheered.

And Henny Youngman thought he appeared before some tough crowds?

In the second, a candidate was asked if he would allow a theretofore healthy male of 30 years of age to die because he hadn't bought health insurance. Tea Party crowd members yelled "Yeah!" in support.

We really haven't regressed to the point that death means nothing to us anymore, have we? Change the 30 year old healthy guy to a four year-old illegal immigrant and that crowd would have come to its feet if a candidate said, "let her die, she didn't belong here in the first place."

Do some of these American extremists have compassion for anyone or anything? You can just see them tearing wings off butterflies, stomping baby chicks, scalding kittens, etc.

I don't want to believe that's where a majority of Americans come down. I don't want to believe that there are many among us who would allow those among us to die because they

didn't - not *couldn't* in the case of the question, just *didn't* - buy health insurance. For whatever reason.

Remember, most on the stage during these debates have fed at the public trough most or all of their adult lives or are very wealthy. They probably have no idea what the premium for health insurance or prescription drug coverage is. Especially not during the recent past when those costs have skyrocketed.

And, Ron Paul, the candidate who did not immediately answer "hell, no, we won't let him die," is a medical doctor, sworn to do better. Save lives.

I wrote earlier that I didn't want to believe we would behave like that - that we would never knowingly let someone die when we could help - but I know that here in Wyoming legislators and bureaucrats did just that. In the case of Kathy Blevins, the State allowed her to die rather than pay for an organ transplant she so desperately needed. So, we don't have to imagine this scenario. It played out in Cheyenne, Wyoming just a few years ago.

Politicians being selfish, lacking compassion and standing on party rather than principle doesn't surprise us. But an audience of regular American citizens? That is frightening. That behavior suggests a bigotry, bias, prejudice and hate against all who are not exactly like we are. As a nation, we can do better. It shouldn't take another 9/11 to get us to pull together. But it just might.

## Warren National University lawsuit

Only Amanda Knox is seeing a legal system churn so slowly. Fortunately, in the case of former Warren National University (and K-WU before them) students, they are not in a foreign prison awaiting freedom.

There were no laughing matters about the degree sellers that darkened our landscape here in Wyoming, particularly in Cheyenne, for so long but, if there were, this litigation filed in June of 2009, is it.

I periodically pull the case files, several volumes now, to see if there has been any movement on this matter.

As reliable as sunrise in the east, there isn't.

Today's (September 13, 2011) new document was only another delay. A delay agreed to by all sides' attorneys. There are three "sides" in this litigation. The almost 200 former

students, the defendants including principals of K-WU and WNU, and the insurance company (Travelers) that issued the required bond that allowed those rascallions to operate from within our state.

Delays are usually easy to get with unanimity from all attorneys. Action is a different matter. Forward movement is still a different matter.

As I wrote here awhile back, there was a "STATUS HEARING" scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup>. That doesn't mean anything would have been accomplished, just that a "hearing" was to be held to tell the judge that nothing had been accomplished.

This matter is before our best District Court judge. His patience must be razor thin by now. On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, a STIPULATED MOTION TO VACATE STATUS HEARING was filed by the Plaintiff's attorneys. Granted.

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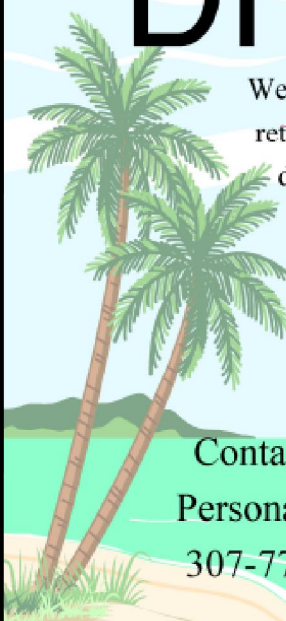
## Library coffee counter to close on Sundays

The most common response I've gotten to that news is, "why is it open the other six days?"

I don't personally drink coffee from places that charge more for a cup than Folger's does for a can. That just doesn't work for me. Everytime I see a mother in rollers go into the Starbucks by King Sooper's while her school age children wait in the Explorer, I cringe. For the price of that cup of awful Joe, she could buy a new pair of Nike's for her 8 year-old boy in the back seat.

It has always amazed me that places like Starbucks have not only stayed open but grown like wildfire. When I see that woman in her housecoat with the kids in the van, I am reminded of P.T. Barnum's most famous line ...

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