

Eckhardt and his latest strawman

In general, a strawman is an object, document, person, or argument that temporarily stands in for and is intended to be "knocked down" by something more substantial.

Reed Eckhardt, every since he got off the bus from Louisiana, has fabricated issues, arguments or people that he can then knock down with his, in his mind, more persuasive argument.

His column on Saturday, April 26th is the latest example in a long line of rants about imaginary positions taken by imaginary foes.

"Use of smear tactics aimed at slowing down progress" was his headline.

What smear tactics? Where have they appeared? Just because a single person, or even a handful, post anonymously to his paper's website forum or call a radio show, they are not the majority. They do not necessarily speak for "the people." They have opinions and they express them on venues that solicit and accept them.

And just what is a "smear tactic?"

To Reed and his worshippers, it's voicing any argument that does not conform to his way of thinking or the agenda crafted with the mayor.

He simply makes up stories and hopes readers of his weekly column will accept his rant without questioning his facts.

In the past, his paper has referred to any who disagree as Taliban, "hiding in caves." Now that that reference is not timely, he reaches all the way back to the early 50's and dusts off one of his heroes, Joseph McCarthy. He expanded on that and accused those who do not agree with him as trying to invoke a "red scare" into this election. Reed isn't old enough or learned enough to know much about either Tail Gunner Joe or the "red scare." He must be appealing to those few seniors who still read his rantings and bow at his shrine.

Voters who vote "Yes" on any or all of the propositions put before them on May 6 are not lunatics. Nor are those who vote against any or all of them.

This nation was built on disagreement and the Constitution was drafted to allow people to differ. Those who choose to vote against any of the propositions are not communists, for crying out loud.

Reed: "Heck, the naysayers here even opposed the fifth-penny sales tax at one time, ...". You forgot one little fact, Reed.

To my knowledge, there has never been organized opposition to the fifth penny. Certainly, there have been individuals who question the need to raise taxes - sales, lodging, property, motor vehicle, etc. - when the state is wallowing in money, but no PAC has ever been formed to oppose the general purpose sales tax (5th penny) - not to my recollection.

What McCracken's boy left out of his rant about some opposing even the fifth penny of sales tax is that his newspaper's ownership has opposed ALL pennies of sales tax - when it applies to their business. Reed may be ignorant of the fact that the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle ponied up \$6,000 to retain counsel to fight losing their exemption from all sales tax.

Eckhardt believes Wyoming is "behind the eight ball" about something. At least 45 states in the Union would love to be behind the same eight ball as Wyoming. This state is among the most envied in terms of revenue surpluses, stream of revenue, and costs to operate state government. We're not behind anything. Except, of course, quality of daily paper.

He wrote that Wyoming was "more than \$1 billion behind in the building of schools," unaware that most states are having to replace schools built in the 1930's and face tremendous challenges to accomplish that. Had the Supreme Court left construction of new school facilities in the hands of local school districts, Reed would have opposed raising property taxes to do so - because he owns a home and could not avoid paying that tax increase. Also, he wrote the state faces "\$1 billion in roadwork."

He just makes up the figures. Any figure could be accurate - depending on whether the objective is to widen every rural road in the state, build new 4-lane roads between towns or rebuilding every road, all at the same time, in the state. What he does not understand is that much of the roadwork costs fall on the shoulders of the federal government.

Wyoming does rank high in interstate highway miles. Three major interstate highway systems dissect Wyoming.

Eckhardt now realizes that the more populous Cheyenne should help take care of our friends and neighbors in the rural towns of Laramie County. Too bad he didn't have that deathbed conversion before it came time to close the Albin schools. The best schools in the county were closed and Reed Eckhardt cheered loudest. He also cheers for almost all taxes. But not sales tax that would apply to the McCracken business - WT-E.

Grizzlies seek host families

The Cheyenne Grizzlies of the Mountain Collegiate Baseball League are in need of Host Families for the 2008 Season. All host families will receive free season tickets to all Grizzlies home games held at Pioneer Park. If you are interested or want additional information please contact either Ron Kailey at 631-7337 or Karl Holden at 778-2067.



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To Benefit Wyoming Coalition for the Homeless

The 10th Annual Walk in My Shoes Fundraiser will be held on June 7, 2008. Registration begins at 8:00 am and the Walk takes off at 9:00 from 907 Logan Avenue. Registration for both walkers and ghost walkers is \$12.00 prior to the day of the walk and \$15.00 on the day of the walk. If you have a conflict on that day, sign up as a ghost walker and you may win a door prize!!! Please call 634-8499 for further information, or come by 907 Logan and pick up a registration form.

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