

Addition by subtraction?

In sports, it is considered "addition by subtraction" when a team either trades more players away than it receives or when it lessens its payroll by trading one high paid player of their own for multiple lower paid players they receive.

For example, when the Colorado Rockies traded the highly paid, but hugely talented Matt Holliday, to the Oakland A's for Huston Street, Carlos Gonzalez and Greg Smith, all lower paid and marginally talented, the Rockies considered that move "addition by subtraction." The rest of the world thought it just stupid.

In Cheyenne, those supposedly involved with economic development consider tearing down structures to be addition by subtraction. Take away a building, revert to vacant land. Sometimes plant grass on the vacant land, more often pour three inches of asphalt on it. Progress!

At 17th and Warren, a very nice, not to mention occupied office building will be demolished so that a parking lot for maybe 40 cars can park there. The fact that there are large underused parking lots to the south (Carl's Jr.) and to the southwest (Precision Graphics), must have missed their quick wits.

And the fact that an underground garage with 65 stalls a block away could have been leased instead of tearing down a presentable office building also went over their collective heads. No surprise.

Neighbors can prevent private property owners from demolishing six ramshackle houses a hundred years old but no one says a word when the State, in cahoots with the City, demolishes a reasonably attractive office building at one of downtown's busiest intersections.

Presumably, the downtown itself is not in one of our coveted - treasured - "historic districts" of Cheyenne. That would be interesting - neighborhoods are historic but the downtown is not?

For the past several years, someone has allowed the thought to fester in their brain that extending Carey Avenue one block to the south - one block toward the only thing in front of it, the railroad tracks - would somehow be an improvement over allowing the area to remain home to the Gunslingers, one of the few attractions in the downtown during the summertime.

What if the Gunslingers did what the other downtown attraction in the summer once threatened to do - move out north? Which Einstein at the City thought that would be a good trade-off? A good loss.

For years, crowds have gathered in the area being torn out to watch the shows. Because of the trees and buildings, they could find some shade during our hottest days and evenings of summer. Now they will stand in the open, smack dab next to a stable, which presumably will still be used for horses and the odors they

produce on one side and the railroad tracks on another.

When trains come through while the bands are playing in front of the old depot, they drown out the music. What will they do to the Gunslingers program? About 50' from the tracks, all conversation will cease while a train goes by.

And where will the Gunslingers now offer their program? On ground where asphalt was torn up from the parking lot that was paved back in 2001-2002. The admission that the parking lot did not attract any parkers is long overdue. That entire expanse had six cars parked there yesterday. It held, until the area for the Gunslingers was torn up, about 180 cars.

The huge hole resulting from the 2004 downtown fire remains. The City is talking about filling that hole and creating a "pocket park." The development theory of "If it's there, remove it," is contradicted by this solution of filling a hole with dirt to create something. It will require a fence to the north because that alley is a feeder that will make it uncomfortable for downtown employees to hike there to eat lunch or have a smoke. If it is City-owned, it could easily be designated "non-smoking" and all hell can break loose again.

Tear down the Prudential building, tear out the area for Carey, and dig up the asphalt. Much more "growth" like this and nothing will remain downtown.

Mark Gordon

Pro-Life? Or, Pro-Choice?

When I was writing the story about Cynthia Lummis' absolute negativism on another page, I remembered what I had discovered on a recent trip to the Federal Election Commission website on campaign receipts and spending.

That find reminded me of how shallow candidates can be on the campaign trail. The hypocrisy is rampant. The truth is in danger. Always say what the voters want.

In Wyoming, to run a statewide election as a Republican, you must tell voters you are pro-life. You don't have to *be* pro-life, but you have to tell voters you are.

Alan Simpson flew in the face of that but others have not done so well. Cale Case, when he challenged Barbara Cubin for her U.S. House seat in 2004, readily stated he was pro-choice. You know what happened to this capable candidate.

In the 2008 primary for the U.S. House seat, Cynthia Lummis was challenged about her position on the subject. She had said in the past that she was pro-choice. In this statewide race that would put her, if she were successful, in a position to perhaps cast a vote on the subject, she became pro-life. There is a very conservative journalist here in town who will swear she told him before this campaign that she was pro-choice. Maybe she just changed her position.

I was a part of the Bill Winney for Congress campaign. I also pursued the story of one of the candidate's - Mark Gordon - being a wolf in sheep's clothing. From years of political campaign contributions, it was obvious to me that Mark was a liberal Democrat. Many from his home area confirmed that. He had contributed to Gary Trauner's 2006 campaign against Barbara Cubin, and in the past had contributed several times to Cubin's Democratic opponent. And he was a Sierra Club board member.

An early endorsement by a group fronted by Christine Todd Whitman confirmed my belief that he was not a pro-life conservative as is required to be elected to a federal office from Wyoming. Gordon always answered questions about his position by saying or suggesting he was pro-life. Whether he is or not is not the focus of this story. It is what he told voters. Was he telling the truth or lying?

On the day before the primary election last year, his campaign disclosed receipt of \$5,000.00 from a group in New York called "Republican Majority for Choice." Three days earlier, Whitman's PAC donated \$500.00. Neither donation was disclosed in Gordon's pre-primary filing.

They found a way to create a traffic snarl

We used to joke about the "two minute traffic jam" going to and from work.

For people who have worked in places where a commute might take an hour to an hour and a half each way, that brief "pause" in traffic here was nice.

But, leave it to *these* guys. They could find a way to screw up a one car parade.

On the southside, they chose to block thru traffic on Fifth St. and Deming / Walterscheid **AT THE SAME TIME!**

Trying to go north or to I-25 from the center of town has become an adventure.

The need to go north to the mall has been diminished with their policy excluding many of our best residents but Dell Range has some of the best restaurants and retail stores (apart from the inferior mall) and people do want to get out there.

And, naturally, at the same time streets are closed for construction of some sort or another, that is the time Cheyenne Light chooses to do utility work on the remaining open streets.

Let's say you want to go from the southside to Target. No need to burden you with the impossibility of getting to the viaduct leading into downtown - that is a challenge in itself.

Coming off the Central Avenue viaduct, you will soon have to funnel into one lane of traffic to proceed north. Should you choose to take a right (east) on Lincolnway and look for a faster way to Dell Range, you will soon realize that was not a good idea. You can turn up Converse to "attempt" the trip further north but, at Spaghetti Junction by Cole Shopping Center, you spin into a circular route west or are forced east toward mayhem.

You have three options to get north from this point. The first (Windmill) puts you in competition with oncoming traffic on Pershing and fifteen thousand student drivers from East High. Not to mention vehicles headed to and from the compost area on Windmill. Coming ... the Par 3 golfers at Prairie View. After waiting ten to fifteen minutes to turn left onto Windmill, traffic flows briskly ... until reaching Dell Range where the waiting begins anew. To turn left from Windmill onto Dell Range, oncoming traffic prevents more than four or five cars per light change making the turn. It takes forever.

If you take Pershing to Ridge Road, traffic is even heavier because there is retail all around that intersection. Once at Dell Range, a left turn there ... Who planned this? Jose Feliciano? Now they're whining that Windmill cannot handle all the traffic. Where did they think those always using Converse would go? To College?

Wyoming Coalition for the Homeless

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