

Even churches use alcohol to raise money

If you thought it can't get weirder, it can!

The new head of the downtown chamber of commerce recently told the Cheyenne Herald that unless the chamber provides food, it can't draw a crowd.

In other words, if you don't feed 'em, they ain't comin'!

Okay, food. Not the end of the world. So you have to offer vittles that their employer will pay for to get them to come to even the most important function - like a candidate's forum. Without food or without the employer (often public employers - state, county or city) footing the lunch/dinner bill, their tuna sandwich will do just fine, thank you very much.

Frequently in Cheyenne, there are events to raise money for one cause or another - most of them worthy and legitimate. Signs can be placed everywhere for those events but campaign signs are policed and restricted as to location. Never, never can a candidate place a campaign sign on public land or rights of way. But, when it comes to advertising beer drinking events, they can be put everywhere stakes can be driven into the ground.

But, churches raising money by providing booze? It's a well known fact that clergy does not take a vow of sobriety but to use beer, hard liquor or wine to raise money for your church seems tacky.

Well, hang onto your saddle horn, Tex. St. Mary's Catholic School recently held a wine guzzling event at the Holiday Inn. Tickets were \$40.00 (\$50.00 at the door) and the press release said that in addition to wine drinking, imbibers could also "sample favorite dishes provided by local restaurants and dessert creations by ..." a local chef. Cheyenne has chefs?

What's the difference between a chef and a cook? The chef doesn't have to wear a hair net and wears something over his t-shirt or tank top.

The promise that "proceeds from the event will go to support St. Mary's School's student technology fund," probably attracted even more consumptive adults. Maybe that technology can be used to access information about what alcohol does to a person's judgment and reactions. Maybe the students can research how the damage done by drinking compares to the damage done by smoking.

The press release said something about "pour some exciting new wines and provide expert advice on holiday wine selections." You mean there are wines other than Thunderbird? And wine comes in bottles, not just in cardboard boxes?

This just seems to be wrong from many angles. But, raising money is more important than how the money is raised, it seems. Even to churches. Bottoms up!

936 cats killed by a group charged with saving them?

Obviously changes need to be made at the local Animal Shelter. It is wholly unacceptable to kill nearly a thousand cats in a five month period.

When the previous executive director had to have fewer than a hundred dogs euthanized because of illness, he was subjected to a verbal lynching. He took the fall for the failure of other events and people at the Shelter.

To hold out for adoption fees of \$65 for a kitten and \$45 for an adult cat is wrong. Until the Board out there accepts that their task is to place unwanted animals in caring homes, and profits be damned, news such as the above will come with alarming regularity.

From personal experience, I can attest that the Shelter is clean and, just one month ago, there was not an overabundance of cats and kittens. In fact, there were empty and uncrowded "cages" that hold the feline population.

There is no question that employees and Board members at the Shelter care about the animals. But there seems to be a lack of planning. Instead of waiting until there is overcrowding, the Shelter needs to forsake profits for placement. Be proactive.

My wife and I just paid \$110.00 to adopt two feline - a one year-old and a four-month old. It is not uncommon for animals to leave animal shelters ill and in need of either preventive or corrective medical care. Our two were no exception.

Even though we paid \$110.00 for two feline, we would not have been upset to read the next day or a week later that kittens could be adopted for \$10.00 and adult cats for \$5.00 if that would have saved some of those 936 lives.

I have written on these pages, and shared with Shelter personnel in the past, that any spay or neuter program should be offered without regard to income qualification. It should be a "no questions asked" offer. Wyoming people are proud and they don't collect other tax abatements they are otherwise entitled to when it is required that they share income information. Such data is personal and private and will not be provided for something like getting an animal spayed or neutered.

The local Shelter needs to adopt a plan wherein before the population reaches a certain number, they go to the local media and offer adoptions either free to a good home for a pittance. They must not kill 936 cats. That is unacceptable.

Girls suspended from school for baking laxatives in brownies. But the brownies were never delivered.

Was it a stunt that received too much attention or did the dance line girls really put more than laxatives in the brownies they baked to present to a rival school's dance team?

Almost as interesting as the story from an El Paso area high school is the way the story has been slanted, changed and misrepresented. Everything that's been said or written can't be true.

Basically, the story is that three girls from one school's dance team decided to have a little fun and planned one of the oldest pranks in the book - giving another school's dance team the laxative X-Lax as a chocolate substitute. Anyone who hasn't heard of the stunt being done, or attempted, has led a very sheltered life.

The girls baked brownies for the exchange between schools at the end of the football season. It was no great secret on their end - they told teammates what they had done. The girls were captains of the dance team.

One of their teammates, maybe more than one, told on them. The spiked brownies were never presented. They did not leave the home where they were baked.

The three girls were suspended from school for three days and will have to finish the semester in alternative education.

But the story was altered in transference. The brownies became cupcakes. The laxative became rat poison and bleach - Clorox by brand. Parents of the girls who would have been doing the quickstep had the brownies been consumed wanted the "perps" charged with a crime.

The brownies were sent to a lab for testing. It is inconceivable that three girls were responsible enough to partake in a dance team for their school but irresponsible enough to put rat poison, bleach or anything beyond harmless laxatives into brownies. Had they wanted to poison their rivals, they surely would not have shared their plan with teammates. And, they would have known that it would be easy to trace the brownies back to them.

The stunt provided a golden opportunity for the brain-dead anonymous posters on internet forums to weigh in with every kind of insult and slanderous comments. There were postings in El Paso to the effect that girls on a dance team always end up as strippers as though that were a fact instead of a lie from an imbecile.

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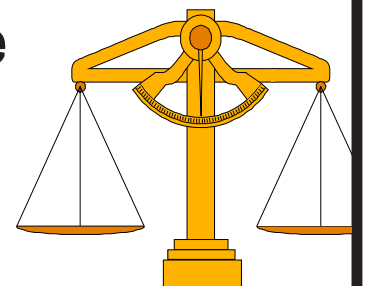
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