

Diploma mills gone

by Dave FEATHERLY

I guess my thank you card was lost in the mail - at a minimum, an acknowledgment that the Cheyenne Herald was instrumental in ridding the State of that blight known as diploma mills. It'll come.

The bozo who now heads up the Department of Education - the most unqualified individual to ever hold a public-paid job since Elizabeth Ray - Jim McBride, sent out a press release about the status of the multiple diploma mills that operated with a Wyoming address until I went after them. One of them, operating from the basement of the Mossholder's Building, even featured a photo of a top DOE employee in their sales catalog.

At the time I set upon my quest to get these slimeball degree sellers (similar to Lacrosse University in Mississippi, from where Bob Fecht bought a master's degree with public funds, and International University of Missouri, from where WYDOT head John Cox bought his bachelor's degree) out of Wyoming, there were several operating in Cheyenne. Most in the downtown.

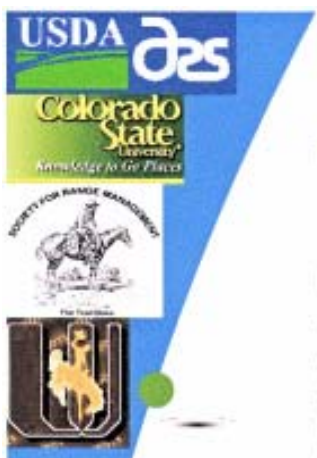
One of them, the most disingenuous of all, Preston University, testified against the legislation that required the bums to become accredited or move to a southern state where there are no rules against their schemes, and said to legislators that this despicable business could mean as much to Wyoming as the coal industry if allowed to operate without accreditation.

Preston University now calls Birmingham, Alabama home. Good riddance. Hope the door DID hit 'em on the keister on the way out.

None of the unaccredited diploma mills have become accredited since the legislation went into effect. But they were given far too long to milk the world's vulnerable from a Wyoming address before achieving accreditation. All they had to do was "apply" and Kennedy-Western University (which insulted the state by changing its name to Warren National University, in honor of our own Francis E. Warren) made an application - as did Newport Int'l and Wyoming Catholic College.

American Global is gone. American City is gone. American Capital is gone. American Central is gone. Paramount University of Technology is gone. Preston University is gone. Others that operated from another Wyoming city are gone. Twenty bailed, three are attempting accreditation. Wyoming Catholic is an automatic. Warren National will more than likely pack up and move on as they have in the past. Newport has already failed at the Supreme Court. They'll be gone.


20 of 23 gone. Two to go. You're welcome.



Climate Change in Western Rangelands

How will climate change affect drought, forage production and quality, plant species composition, and other aspects of rangeland ecosystems? Join us for a workshop exploring these questions, including presentations from experts in climate change and rangeland ecology, and a field tour of one of world's few experiments to measure effects of both warming and carbon dioxide enrichment.

September 4th, 2008; 8:00 am — 4:00 pm, Cheyenne, WY
 Little America Hotel (2800 W. Lincolnway, Junction of I-25 & I-80).
 Field tour at the USDA-ARS High Plains Grasslands Research Station, which is celebrating its 80th year of agricultural research.



8:00 am — 8:30 am: Check in
8:30 am — 9:00 am: Welcome and opening remarks
9:00 am — 12:00 pm: Presentations by David Williams and Steve Gray (Univ. of WY), Alan Knapp (CO State Univ.), Jack Morgan (USDA-ARS), and Linda Joyce (USDA-FS), followed by a panel discussion.
12:00 pm — 1:30 pm: Lunch (provided)
1:30 pm — 4:00 pm: Experiment tour (transportation provided). The field site can be very windy. Please dress accordingly.

Advance Registration Required: <http://www.rangelands.org/zencart>
Participation will be limited to the first 200 registrants.
For more information, please contact Ann Heckart,
Phone: 307-772-2433x100, E-mail: Ann.Heckart@ars.usda.gov



Yard signs in Cheyenne

After the last issue of the Cheyenne Herald showed two Cynthia Lummis yard signs in the public right-of-way, compliance has been terrific. Cynthia's campaign moved those signs quickly also. Few signs are now placed in violation of City Code.

But there are a number of potential City Code violations as pertains to signs being placed on fences. While the City Code section on "signs" is vague and incomplete on this subject, Chapter 8.52 on Handbills says: "... no placard or advertisement of any kind shall be tacked or in any way fastened to a building, fence, pole, tree or structure of any kind in the city."

Obviously, a yard sign is an advertisement.

In Casper, political signs can be placed in the public right-of-way with permission from the adjacent property owner. That's the way it should be in Laramie County. Change City Code.