

Barbara Cubin ...

# The votes, the voice, and the void

When Barbara Cubin took no initiative toward accessing more federal funding for the University of Wyoming, the state's only four-year university, she defended her inaction by retorting that UW had not asked for the money.

Perhaps Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Rice and other institutions of higher learning don't have to "ask" for more money, what with their wealthy alumni, but Wyoming's only Representative in the U.S. House should show the initiative to see that UW gets more than its fair share of funding. All she can get. Other states have many Representatives in Congress fighting for the same funds. We have but one.

People who read the Casper Star-Tribune are aware of the nastiness coming out of Mrs. Cubin's office whenever a constituent questions anything about her performance. It is very unbecoming. She never says or writes the words. That leaves her plausible denialability. She has others mouth the ugliness and obfuscations.

A spokesperson said she is very frugal with our money. That she didn't help UW get the money because she guards those dollars carefully. You can "count on her (Barbara) to continuously fight to hold the line on unnecessary federal spending," her spokesgal wrote.

Perhaps, then, she could explain to voters how the federal debt went from about \$5.0 trillion when she was sworn in to the estimated \$8.4 trillion it is today. She not only took a pledge to honor term limits (without a caveat of if a constitutional amendment were passed to enforce them - no one would have to pledge to obey the voter's will if such an

amendment were passed, they would have no option), she and other members of the Class of '94, in their Contract with America, pledged to balance the budget.

Adding \$3.4 trillion to the national debt doesn't sound like many balanced budgets were involved. Her only defense would be to admit: "Well, we did balance the budget. In fact, we had a surplus. When Bill Clinton was president." I don't think President Bush the Younger would much appreciate that confession from one of his loyal subjects.

Mrs. Cubin has built a reputation of fealty. Her loyalty to Tom DeLay and the president is legendary. Is that expected? Is that common? Is that good? That will be up to Wyoming voters to decide. If that's what they want from their single Representative, they will continue to send her to Washington, D.C., election after election.

The website Congress.org lists her PAC contributions. Again, the level of generosity from these special interests may be customary and nonobjectionable.

According to a listing on that website, Barbara Cubin received \$227,350 from Political Action Committees during 2005-2006. And 2006 is barely half over!

Is it any wonder that she remains in D.C. while other candidates travel this mammoth state with few votes? She sends surrogates to read the same letter to various communities. They just have to try to remember to say "Sheridan" in place of "Pine Bluffs." I was at a concert once where the lead singer got the city wrong and said how delighted he was to be in ... insert wrong city.

The listing of PAC contributions started with a negative. For some reason, she either gave back, or they requested returned, a \$500.00 donation from E-Bay. Maybe her autographed pictures weren't bringing what she expected from the on-line auction house. Her contributions from energy, telecommunications, beer, medical, and similar organizations are impressive. Her top donor was the "National Cable and Telecommunications Association PAC - 10,000 big ones.

With all that money and more from fundraising activities, she still spends hardly a dime with Wyoming businesses during her campaigns. Upon learning that with opposition research, Bill Winney decried that any and all money possible would be spent with Wyoming vendors.

Her generosity with the public's money does know its limits. For example, she voted AGAINST S2320, "A bill to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes." Let 'em eat cake. Bill passed 287-128.

She also voted AGAINST HR4939, "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defending the Global War on Terror and Hurricane Recovery." The bill also included "Reservists Pay Security Act of 2006". It passed 351-67. "NO" to HR1544, the "Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2005," including "Homeland Security Grant Bill." It passed 409-10. HR1249 was the "Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act of 2005." She voted "NO." It passed - 91% of House Republicans supported. HR3895 was the "Rural Housing Hurricane Relief Act of 2005, to amend Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 to provide rural housing assistance to families affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita." NOPE. Passed 385-81. Her support for lobbyists came in a House Resolution to "eliminate floor privileges and access to member exercise facilities for registered lobbyists who are former members or officers of the House." 379-50 to eliminate. She voted NOT TO. To revise the boundary for Wind Cave National Park - she voted "NO." It passed 295-106. She did vote for a U.S. Boxing Commission. It FAILED.

## The Winney campaign and the Herald

I have been asked how I dare write what I do about Republicans, when I am serving as campaign manager for the Winney for Congress campaign. The simple answer is that I must. I've worked for four and a half years to develop this advocacy journal into a vehicle whereof readers expect disclosures, not platitudes. They expect stories to be direct and hard-hitting, not soft and fawning. I remember what the Republican Party tried to do (they may blame it on the Eli Bebout campaign, but I'm not buying) four years ago and I think it cost us Republicans the election. And unlike the daily paper in this market, I am what I say I am. I am not a closet Democrat. I am a staunch supporter of term limits, just as Thomas Jefferson and his ilk were at the beginning. I have watched Barbara Cubin breach voter's trust and think it must end. If there were no viable Republican running, her violation of an oath to serve not more than six terms might be viewed differently. But there is and she should have left office proudly, not awaiting a final defeat. Bill Winney and I have discussed my actions with the Cheyenne Herald. I dare not turn it into mush for the three months or six months of a political campaign. I might not have anything to return to after those elections. He has not asked me to pull punches, favor Republicans exclusively, or change the tenor or tone of the Herald. And I couldn't, and wouldn't, if he asked. I don't dare. If I were just interested in making friends and generating more advertising money, I'd go soft for a few months. But that ain't gonna happen. I am counting on Wyoming voters valuing honesty and candor more than deference and obsequiousness. I hope I'm right.

Dave



### Quick Draw Optical

1619 LOGAN AVENUE • 638-2298  
Since 1981 ... Same Location

**\$19.95 Frames**  
Now, 4 Certified Opticians on Staff!

**ONE HOUR SERVICE**



### American Storage & Postal Service

Mail Box • US Mail • UPS • DHL • Fed Ex • Copies • Fax • Notary • Packing

5' x 10' — \$35 per month	
10' x 10' — \$55 per month	
10' x 15' — \$65 per month	

**Outside Storage for Boats & Campers Available!**

12' x 20' has electric — \$95 per month	<b>FREE Truck Use</b> with Move-In!
12' x 30' has electric — \$140 per month	
12' x 42' has electric — \$180 per month	

**1903 S. Greeley Hwy. • 635-9335 • Fax 635-9129**  
Office Hours: Monday – Saturday 8:30 am – 6 pm

Military Discount Available





**Cheyenne's most popular gatherin' spot during Frontier Days**




**BBQ Pork & Beef Ribs = \$9.95** 634-8750

**Fresh Hand-Cut Ribeye Steaks**  
Lunch: Mon-Sat 11 am - 2 pm / Dinner: 4 pm - 10 pm Everyday

**Pete's Pickle Parlor**  
WHILE AT T-JOE'S, VISIT PETE'S - NEARBY FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

12700 E. I-80 Service Rd.  
5 miles east of Cheyenne - Hwy 30 / Pershing / I-80 at Archer (Exit 370)

## Need Dental Insurance?

### Local Agency

**www.wyodental.com**

Personal Financial Solutions  
1418 Logan Avenue / Cheyenne WY 82001

## 778-2881

**THE CHEYENNE HERALD IS INDEPENDENT - CHEYENNE'S BEST-READ NEWSPAPER**