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## Gale Norton meets Cheyenne mayor, council - resigns Cabinet post.

Remember about twenty-five years ago when welterweight champion Roberto Duran turned his back on Sugar Ray Leonard and simply said, "No mas, no mas," as he walked away?

Even the man nicknamed "Manos de Piedra" (Hands of Stone) finally ran into an event where he decided, "No more, no more."

Gale Norton was named Secretary of the Interior by President George W. Bush in 2001, upcoming his taking office. She had been Attorney General in Colorado and was eminently unqualified for the post. Her bio says she and her husband are "avid hikers and outdoor enthusiasts."

Nevertheless, she became the first woman to head the Department of the Interior. She was one of the few holdovers Cabinet members from the first George W. Bush term. Now she has retired.

A March 10th announcement to leave at the end of the month is sudden.

She caught hell every since there was a rumor she might be appointed to the office by the incoming President in 2001.

Called "James Watt in a skirt," environmentalists opposed her nomination. She has said that government should "recognize a homesteading right to pollute ..."

A group Ms. Norton co-founded received a \$225,000 donation from the now disgraced Jack Abramoff, lobbyist extraordinaire, through tribal casinos he controlled. Photographs have surfaced of her cozy relationship with Abramoff.

Five years of criticism didn't dent her resolve. Was it the revelation that Jack Abramoff might be giving her up to investigators? Probably not.

Gale Norton recently journeyed to Cheyenne to convey insignificant news to the mayor and city council about the depot. After exposure to them, she resigned.

Just a coincidence? You be the judge.

## Takin' 'em off the list, one name at a time

In a current phenomena, the "chamber-types," elected officials, thumbsuckers, headnodders and bedwetters who do not support the efforts of this local advocacy journal swear they don't read it but then can quote verbatim from its pages.

Sometimes evidence of readership comes from third parties who have seen the above described surreptitiously pick up copies of the Herald, hoping that no one witnessed their stealth.

The Cheyenne Herald is much like the earlier Playboy Magazine. Those who consider themselves "above it all" would never admit to reading (or looking at) the men's magazine. Only the postman knew for sure that these guys were subscribers. When caught, they said they only bought it for the interviews but couldn't tell you a single interviewee of the past year. Seven million subscribers at its peak - but none would admit buying it. Hmmm.

At least Mike McCracken, publisher of the Tribune-Eagle, was honest enough to admit in public that he read every issue - cover to cover. Good for him. There's no harm in being informed. There's no danger from reading other people's word.

In spite of denials from the aforementioned, thousands of copies of the Herald are jumping out of the redemption locations every issue. And thousands more people are reading articles on the website.

The more denials of reading the Herald, the more "important people" are reading it. That's good. It is our policy to not disclose who supports the Herald but a recent occurrence could not go unmentioned. The Herald was asked where a copy of the proposed recreation center report could be obtained. Another one to cross off the list. Thanks for reading ...

*Perry Dray Law Firm*

## Greybull, Cheyenne. Cheyenne, Greybull.

There are times stories of such similarity originate from two different places simultaneously (councilmen, that means at the same time) that it's eery.

Cheyenne's adventure with Renewable Utility Development Corporation has its parallels with a story out of Greybull.

Another Wyoming city that worships at the economic development shrine, Greybull thought they were on to something fantastic. A Minnesota vagabond got off a Powder River bus in Greybull and started to spin a tale more than a little like the one RUDC laid on the mayor in Cheyenne.

The local weekly paper in Greybull is called the "Standard." Like the Cheyenne daily paper, the little one up north fell for the yarn hook, line and stinker.

The young man in the polo shirt and ball cap, according to the Standard, was "ready to build, with only one detail stalling construction." The "detail" wasn't that he didn't have any money or experience though. It was the tardiness of DEQ on a

certification of the former BP Amoco site.

The plant in Greybull was to "use lasers to cut steel parts out of sheets of new steel," and would have a weekly payroll of \$180,000.00. Like the 700 tons of trash to be processed a day at the announced RUDC trash-to-ethanol plant in Cheyenne, this project would cost locals nothing and be an economic development boon.

Fortunately, neither city will be without that boon. More liquor licenses by way of a new category - bar and grill liquor licenses - will have the \$2.13 an hour restaurateurs lined up for Wyoming sites.

Then, just as the Cheyenne Herald poured a dose of truth and reality on this mayor's dreams, the Billings Gazette made a few telephone calls and found that the fellow wasn't in line for a huge inheritance and that he was, as his family in Minnesota related, kind of a storyteller. After the Gazette story, the fellow said he was "going to call it quits." He "lost his big account" but ... As Casey said, "Ain't any of these guys played the game before?"



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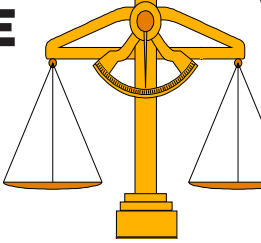


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