



Cheyenne Herald

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Cheyenne Police Chief Bob Fecht's alma mater has been closed by the State of Mississippi!

Lacrosse University was never authorized to grant degrees!



When the Cheyenne Herald disclosed that Bob Fecht had bought a master's degree of criminal justice (with taxpayer funds) from unaccredited Lacrosse University of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, the chief defended the "university," saying he had worked harder for the degree from Lacrosse than he did for his real bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University.

Given frequent opportunities to repay the residents of the City of Cheyenne, he has steadfastly refused. When asked to produce the "thesis" he wrote for his master's degree, both he and the City of Cheyenne have consistently refused. A reward was offered by us for a copy of that thesis. It was unclaimed. When Bob ran for the Wyoming Senate, he was counseled to repay the money but he still refused. Even with that history hanging over his head, he won that election. He won with the lowest level of support in a contested primary in the state.

Undoubtedly, Fecht has been used by Lacrosse University in their trolling for other unknowing and uninformed "students." Selling a bogus degree to a police chief of any town or city is quite a coup for an unaccredited university. Selling one to the police chief from the state's capital city and its largest city is even more impressive for Lacrosse's advertising. Having that chief defend his acquisition when he found out the business was an unaccredited degree seller was still more helpful.

Finally, selling such a degree to a police chief and having the city's mayor publicly stand behind the purchase is a treasure trove of publicity for the illegitimate business calling Mississippi home - after having been exiled from the State of Louisiana before making a home in the "Great River" state.

For the past several years, Lacrosse University has preyed on those like Bob Fecht - on those who wanted something for nothing - on those who wanted a degree without effort. How many of these worthless and bogus degrees Lacrosse sold is unknown. But we have at least one in Cheyenne. Paid for by you, the taxpayers.

With the successful dismissal of Kennedy-Western University from Cheyenne, Wyoming and Preston University from Montgomery, Alabama, the sky has become the limit for this publication that first shed the light of shame on those unaccredited degree sellers that plied their undesirable trade from Wyoming addresses.

There are too many of these disreputable outfits still operating from within the United States - for that is the critical element, they need an address from the U.S. to attract foreign students - for the Cheyenne Herald to keep tabs on. But, Lacrosse University has been of special interest to us because of Fecht's degree which was paid for with public funds. If the chief wanted to buy a dozen of those worthless parchment rags, that is his prerogative. We might have made fun of him for spending over \$2,500 for a piece of paper with no value or credibility, but that would have been the end of it.

Jim Mathewson and I have been frequently checking the websites of some of the degree sellers that interest us - Lacrosse being near the top of our list.

A couple nights ago, Jim went to the Lacrosse University website and everything there looked as it has for the past couple years or more. Curious, Jim clicked on the **REQUEST INFORMATION HERE** prompt and what he read is in the box at the top of the right column.

Thank you for your interest in pursuing a degree with Lacrosse University. However, at this time, we have reached our limit on accepting new students. Our Admissions Department will be closed until we resume open enrollment. We apologize for any inconvenience, but in order to meet the needs of our registered students and continue to offer the assistance they need, we must maintain the proper student to staff ratio. If you have any questions, you may submit them to registrar@lacrosseuniversity.com.

Again, thank you for your interest in Lacrosse and we hope to be able to meet your needs in the future.

Jim and I may neither be Columbo but we can recognize a clue when we see it. And, obviously, we read this message as meaning there was trouble in Bay St. Louis. This outfit doesn't have a "student to staff" ratio. They had a "student deposit to degree issued" ratio.

Jim handed the story off to me and I called the State of Mississippi Department of Education. After a handful of calls and an e-mail to the Legal Counsel for the Department, asking who I should speak with, that conversation was held. I was told by a very cooperative woman that Lacrosse University was **NEVER** authorized by the State of Mississippi to grant degrees. That is: **NEVER, EVER, EVER, EVER, EVER!!** Did I say NEVER??

The State of Mississippi is pulling the welcome mat on outfits without accreditation like Lacrosse University. The woman asked me to direct her to the Wyoming legislation that rid our state of degree selling vermin.

Developing ... I requested that the State of Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation Office provide me any letters, e-mails, or other written communication between their office and Lacrosse University related to the issue of Lacrosse University operating a business of selling degrees and diplomas without authority by the State of Mississippi - as an unaccredited "institution" claiming Mississippi as its base of operations. If provided such documents, and unless prohibited by Mississippi law, I will post those documents on the Cheyenne Herald website for readers consideration.

Dave Featherly (February 20, 2009)