

# Now, that was just downright mean

*WT-E believes legislators support drunk driving?*

What is wrong with those who write the editorials in the declining daily newspaper? Do they have such short memories that they don't know the facts of the events they opine about? Of do they just believe that their few remaining readers don't care about accuracy - that they don't care about the truth. That they can lie?

On the first page of the Sports Section on February 27, 2009, the WT-E had the teaser: **"Lawmakers take a stand favoring drunken driving."** The headline of the "IN OUR OPINION" column on an inside page was no better. It read: **"Cowardly lawmakers tolerate DUIs."**

At the beginning of this dastardly, ignorant and uninformed opinion piece, the editorialist (Reed Eckhardt) laid waste to Tony Ross, a Republican State Senator from Cheyenne. Without verifying this, I would bet Reed has endorsed Tony every time Tony has stood for election - both in the Senate and the House.

**"But the real issue here is Mr. Ross himself."** Then, **"... If Mr. Ross ... had wanted tougher drunken-driving laws, they would have gotten them."**

It is unwarranted to question Tony Ross' commitment to make it tougher on drunk drivers. He has been the champion.

Knowing Tony's past efforts, I will accept that he had a reason for what he did on this challenged legislation. There may be others who don't share his passion for getting these people off the highways but Tony has an extensive history of doing his best to remove them.

In 2007, he filed SF25 (DUI-Child Endangerment), SF 33 (Open Containers), and SF 70 (Dispensing room-minors). In 2006, Tony Ross filed SF36 (Open Containers) and in 2005, he filed SF8 (Open Containers.) His political partner in the House, Becket Hinckley, filed even more bills that tried to reduce drunken driving and toughen penalties on those who persist in that behavior. In 2003, Becket filed HB232 (DUI-Amendments), in 2004, he filed HB56 (Felony driving under the influence) and HB183 (Driving under the influence-enhanced penalties). In 2005, Becket filed three bills on the subject, as he did again in 2006.

The reason to mention Becket along with Tony Ross is that they had agreed to shepherd each other's bills through the other body so one filing is a bill was the same as the other doing so. Between them, they filed 14 bills on this subject in five sessions. The WT-E column was libelous. It was a shameful and untrue portrayal of Tony Ross. Yellow journalism.

# Jerry Seinfeld

The daily newspaper and Dru Rohla want locals to believe Jerry Seinfeld is returning to Cheyenne because he just loves this city and couldn't wait to return.

The truth may be somewhat different.

Jerry Seinfeld is a capable standup comedian. He would rank in anyone's Top 25. But he is not the hottest draw in the business. In fact, until he plays Caesar's Atlantic City and MGM Grand Theater at Foxwoods in May, Seinfeld will be playing mostly minor venues this Spring.

Jerry owes his popularity to the ensemble cast of his self-named television sitcom. Its entertainment value came from being safe, not from eliciting great laughs.

Interestingly, Seinfeld does not play Vegas or casinos much, if at all. That's where the hot comedy acts go, like Jay Leno. Maybe Seinfeld feels more comfortable in tiny theaters like ours. Seinfeld will be in Albuquerque the Friday night before appearing in Cheyenne on Saturday, March 21. Before Albuquerque, he is off for two weeks and after Cheyenne, he'll be inactive for eight days.

On the Saturday night Jerry Seinfeld is in Cheyenne, Leno will be playing the Mirage in Las Vegas.

Denis Leary, a very good standup act before hitting it big with TV's *Rescue Me*, will be playing the Borgata Hotel Casino in Atlantic City with tickets up to \$126.00.

Larry the Cable Guy, arguably the country's top stand-up comedian at this time, will play two shows at the Will Rogers Auditorium in Fort Worth the night Seinfeld plays Cheyenne. In fact, Larry the Cable Guy is booked for 22 shows from March 5-29. Robin Williams will be in Birmingham, Alabama that night. Ron White will be in Lakeland, Florida.

Also touring this early Spring, names that comedy fans are familiar with, include Bill Cosby, Don Rickles, Ray Romano, Kevin James, Margaret Cho, Bill Engvall, Carlos Mencia, Cheech & Chong, Jeff Dunham, George Lopez, Kathy Griffin, Lewis Black, Chelsea Handler, Sinbad, DL Hughley and Will Ferrell.

There weren't a lot of gigs open for Jerry Seinfeld. None for Michael Richards.

What he likes about Cheyenne is that if a 1350 seat civic center theater sells out at \$78.50, there is \$105,975 in revenue. He will skim \$100,000 off the top. Even though booked for only five nights in March, that ain't a bad livin'.

Jerry Seinfeld seems like a nice guy. He may have acquired his wife a bit inappropriately but no one's perfect. And, yes, Dru Rohla is a groupie. Spend five minutes talking to Dru and you will notice he almost drools when he drops names of those who have appeared in Cheyenne. Entertainers are good at making the last booker feel like he's the best booker. And a friend. They are users.

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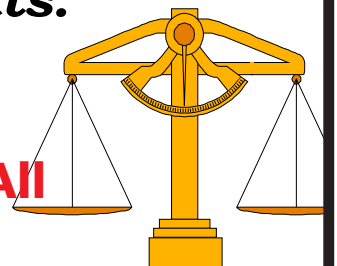
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