

Is It Just Me?

by Norm French

There were times when I was a youngster, oh so long ago, that my mother would chastise me for doing something stupid and tell me, "you don't have a lick of sense." I probably didn't at the time and some folks would tell me that's still the case! However, if I don't have much sense, there are a few folks who are in the same boat, and maybe the boat ahead of me. My dad was the exception, and I guess that's why my mom could tell the difference between his actions and mine. My dad only finished the eighth grade but still had more common sense in his little finger than some people have in their entire body.

I suspect that every person has more than one story to tell of someone in our population that has not exercised the ability to think reasonably, to put it in the nicest form I can. If I get into a conversation about the matter I hear some incredible stories of things people say and/or do that just makes me shake my head, wondering how anyone in their right mind could think such things.

Now this next subject is one item that doesn't make sense to me and maybe someone could explain it to me in 25 words or less. I like to buy a lottery ticket now and then. When I do, I of course either have to go to the state line or, as I prefer, go down to Wellington so my friends and I can visit over dinner and get our tickets while we're there. With the five or six dinners, and the lottery tickets, we drop a considerable amount of green stuff in Colorado. Now I'd prefer that the money we expended would go to Wyoming folks, but I don't have that option if I want lottery tickets. Yes, I know that my chances of winning are just like everyone else's, very slim. But me, like others, like to do what I call "if'n." Let me explain in a poem I used in a college speech class. It goes like this: **"If'n I had some small change, I'd buy me a mule, get on that mule and ride like a fool. If'n I had some greenbacks, I'd buy me a Packard, fill it up with gas and drive that baby backwards! And if'n I had a million, I'd buy me a plane, and everybody in America would think I'm insane. But, I ain't got a million, fact is I don't have a dime. But, just by 'if'n,' I have a good time."** Well folks, I think that's why we buy lottery tickets; we all like to pretend what it might be like to win. (Oh, some of you fellow senior citizens might have to explain to the younger generation what a Packard is, or was.) The thing about all this that I understand the least is why we don't give the folks in Wyoming a chance to spend their money in Wyoming while we're "if'n?"

The last time I went to the state line to get tickets, and the pot was up to \$7 million, in the middle of the afternoon on a Tuesday, there were about 15 people in front of me. By the time I had my new numbers and turned around, there were about 15 people behind me, waiting to help Colorado get richer. And I noticed that all of the license plates in the parking lot were from Wyoming, not Colorado. Why would Colorado people want to drive north to do that? And yet time after time we hear that the State Line lottery house sells the most tickets of any establishment in their state.

Could it be that the legislature hasn't saved us at all from one of our sinful indulgences?

There's an argument that this form of gambling would probably lead to bringing in the "criminal element." No common sense used here - ask the folks in our southern neighboring locale and they would laugh all the way to the bank. No, we need a lottery in Wyoming, with the profit going to Wyoming schools and maybe other charitable purposes. And yes, we wouldn't have as big a jackpot as Colorado, but I have a hunch that we might get some buyers from neighboring states, and the chances for a Wyo winner would be much greater.

Let's use some common sense. The people who want to gamble, who want to do some "if'n," if you will, will do it somewhere in spite of our more "practical and pure" lawmakers. Let's get on the bandwagon next session, and tell the good ol' boys and girls who make the laws that it's time to get a lottery. I'd bet that if we all got together in this, they'd do so. Whoops, that's probably illegal gambling, and I'll have to do my next article from the hoosegow, one with one room, where it's just me "if'n" about something else!

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Internet - re Fecht, Lacrosse, Preston, etc.

"Oh, yes, it is my OPINION. Given you're a student there, and I've done a Ph.D in this field, it is likely my OPINION is more informed and balanced than yours.

Your response seems to imply you think I was actually attempting to affect a change of attitude in him. No way. Degree mill customers are often comparable to religious zealots—no changing their minds with some straight-forward—if mildly annoying—facts. No way.

Rather, I chose to point out the absurdity of "displaying with pride" such a "credential." I fully expect it to fall on deaf ears. How could he live with himself if he actually came to grips with what he's purchased?"

Rich Douglas, AAS Community College of the Air Force - AA, BA, BS The University of the State of New York (Regents) - MBA National University - Ph.D. Union Institute and University

"As one of those people, I disagree. If anything, we (police) should be held to a higher standard, since we're entrusted with powers to deprive people of their freedom and carry firearms."

"For the life of me, I've never been able to figure out the attraction of LaCrosse (sic) University to the degree mill clientele. I mean, they actually make you do SOME work (see the "challenge exams"), yet their degree is just as worthless as one from SRU.

Why their clients don't just go to Almeda and get the same level of bogus "accredited degree" for about \$150 is beyond me ..."

San Antonio firefighters and Lacrosse University, etc.

"A college degree is not required for entry as a firefighter as most folks are well aware. I think it's more a matter of deceit & firefighters are among the people we put the most trust in. I think it all deals with trust issues and nothing more."

"As one of those people, I disagree. If anything, we (police) should be held to a higher standard, since we're entrusted with powers to deprive people of their freedom and carry firearms."

"I earned my degrees through a lot of hard work and time away from my family. ... but no way should a co-worker of mine get that same incentive through a bogus degree just because he/she wears the uniform that I do."

Preston University

"The vast majority of university registrars do not accept Preston degrees, but most of them, I believe, would not call it a diploma mill." (Dr. John Bear, expert on mills)

"We heard that the government of Pakistan was tossing Preston out owing to poor standards. Does anyone know more about that? One of the Wyoming papers ran a story about Preston taking some state legislators on a junket to south Asia. Pretty humorous." (Alan L. Contreras, Administrator, Oregon Office of Degree Authorization)

"Preston has til 2007 to get their butts out of Pakistan. Really coming down hard on them eh?"

Cheyenne Police Chief Got Degree from Diploma Mill

"For instance, if my Chief got a Lacrosse Ph.D., I don't think anyone would care, because we don't get tuition assistance, and the education incentive ends with a Master's degree. If he wanted to waste his own money on a degree mill, he might be embarrassed in the end, but I highly doubt that it would be a very newsworthy story."

"... This is plain incorrect. Most diploma mills that have been proven fraudulent in a court of law had a state license."

"The Cheyenne police chief got caught and is trying to talk his way out of trouble. ... sees the Cheyenne police chief as a "victim" and wants to let him off the hook."

"... innocent third party ...? Based on what? Doing a degree without actually taking courses? Paying a lump sum for the degree? Taking a degree from an unaccredited school, then asking for reimbursement, despite the fact that an accredited degree was required to receive it? Or the fact that this very public official didn't do a lick of due diligence in all of this?"

When Cheyenne Police Chief Robert D. Fecht reimburses the residents of the City of Cheyenne the \$2,504.00 which was wrongly paid to him for a bogus master's degree from an illegitimate on-line "institution" called Lacrosse University, not another word will be published in the Cheyenne Herald on his bad judgment. It is important to educate local residents about the subject of Wyoming-coddled diploma mills (unaccredited institutions) and long-distance mail order diploma mills like Lacrosse, however, and we will continue to provide stories about Lacrosse University and Wyoming's laissez faire/caveat emptor attitude on these rip-off artists.

By *Dave Featherly*
 Published/Editor of the Cheyenne Herald