

Full disclosure

This publication is not a newspaper, per se. It is a publication in which I, and occasionally others, express opinions on a myriad of local issues - some important, some not. Other than opinions, there are stories which could be considered essays. I am not a reporter. A reporter presents both sides of an issue - sometimes interviewing a dozen people, ten on one side, two on the other, then presenting an article with balance as though views were evenly split on the subject. I can be compared to editorialists or editorial columnists like David Broder. I do not interview the target of most stories. For one thing, I am not required to as I am not trying to pass myself off as a reporter. In fact, I could not stand being a reporter. Reporters have to cover despicable acts and try to be objective about them - unbiased. For another, most of the stories on these pages involve government at some level. Those public officials use every duck and dodge to avoid sharing information or documents, won't tell the truth, or be candid and it would be a colossal waste of time to pursue their side on many of these stories.

Because this publication is mine, I can do with and on the pages as I choose. That is not always financially productive. In fact, it is often not. Some advertisers fear the truth and whom that truth might offend. So, they prefer to advertise their print material in the safer daily newspaper or on the pages of the local shopper - a very good one at that.

Which brings me to my open and public support, and active involvement, for the candidacy of Bill Winney. I will remind readers frequently about that involvement but it may not be in every issue. I intend to make it known with every issue but, if I slip and it is missed once or twice before the primary election, I apologize in advance.

The arrangement I have with Bill to serve as his campaign manager for the Winney for Congress '08 campaign is that I will continue to produce the Cheyenne Herald as though I were not involved in his campaign. I'm not going to write critically of him, of course. I'm not stupid. I support the guy and it will be obvious on these pages. But, I will offer space to Gary Trauner and other Republican candidates to make some of their positions known to voters. I will not print press releases from others because I almost never run press releases for anything now. So that won't be a change.

I have a long history of being active in political campaigns. As I often tell people, I love the campaigns and hate the governing. I have always worked on behalf of candidates challenging incumbents. That was to be the case in this race but Barbara Cubin pulled out of the race for U.S. House so this will be the first campaign I've directed without an incumbent seeking re-election. Counting a referendum for a new school in my hometown in Wisconsin in 1993, my record on campaigns I've managed or played a key role in is 13-2. I do not count my role in the John Anderson campaign for president in 1980 as a loss because I did not have a controlling or influential role in that campaign.

I derived some satisfaction in Bill Winney's win in Laramie County in 2006, where the Herald has the most influence, but it was still a loss and I will not claim it as a win. One of the reasons I again agreed to participate in Bill's 2008 campaign is that I do not want to end on a loss. My commitment to Bill Winney extends only through the primary.

I expect to once again discuss politics and campaigns with a number of candidates for various offices. But I will be active in only one campaign - Bill Winney's. Last year, the Cheyenne Herald rivaled the local daily newspaper in campaign advertising. Candidates can be assured that whatever they tell me or whatever advertising campaign they schedule or plan with me goes no further than to me. Do you think they can trust the daily to maintain such confidences? Hardly. Evidence proves differently.

Bottom line: I will ask readers of the Cheyenne Herald to vote for Bill Winney and words (and paid ads) in support of his candidacy will appear on these pages. I will minimize words written critically about other candidates for the same office and would prefer to publish their words (within reason because I do sell advertising and they can buy space if they want more of their own words to appear in this publication), on occasion during the next nine months. I will be the sole arbiter about what I will publish (unless it's an ad and then different rules will apply) from other candidates for the U.S. House. They can contact me with any questions, comments or beefs.

I will not use this much space in each issue to inform readers of my involvement in the Winney campaign but I will try to provide something to satisfy honest disclosure.

/s/ Dave Featherly

Voices for Peace
December 8, 2007 -- 10:15 am - noon
 Laramie County Library -- Cottonwood Room

This is an opportunity for those in our community concerned over violence and war on the international stage, including Iraq, as well as the recent spate of violence in our own community, to come together to address ways to end that violence. Contact Tim Kingston for more information.

638-8885 -- kingston@rockymtnlaw.com

Women's basketball polls

In the latest polls, the University of Wyoming Cowgirls are ranked No. 25 in Associated Press (AP) Poll and No. 26 in the Coaches Poll. They are 4-0 in games that count toward a won/loss record and have defeated Chadron State and CSU-Pueblo in games considered "exhibitions" that do not count in the records.

The cowgirls have defeated Wisconsin, a team picked to finish second in the powerful Big 10 and Kansas State, a very good women's program. Both of those teams are recent WNIT winners. UW has also defeated Idaho State and Saint Louis.

These polls demonstrate the lack of knowledge of many voters. For example, while Wyoming was kept out of the Top 25, Oklahoma was ranked No. 8 with an 0-2 record. That's right, they had not won any games this season but enough voters were ignorant of their record to still make them a Top Ten team.

Then, after Oklahoma won two games and stood at 2-2, they dropped to No. 11.

Huh?

Purdue is No. 20 in the Coaches Poll with their 2-3 record. Their wins have come against Valparaiso and Butler, hardly worthy victims of a Big 10 school. Purdue had been No. 23 in that poll. Then they lost three straight and climbed to No. 20.

Huh?

Wyoming has the distinct disadvantage

of not having been an elite women's program for years. Even last year, their WNIT championship will not be considered the equal of appearing in the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament. Familiar names like Connecticut, Rutgers, Duke, North Carolina, Stanford, Maryland and LSU get votes just on reputation. Wyoming still has a problem getting votes on merit.

Many sportswriters or coaches who vote in these polls know little about teams other than the those of the tradition-bound programs. They vote reputation, not results.

While Purdue is No. 20 in the Coaches Poll, in the AP poll they come in No. 33 - a more reasonable ranking for a team which has lost three straight.

Wyoming is not the only team slighted in this process, of course.

Consider Marist College of Poughkeepsie, NY. They are 6-1 and their first six games were on the road. They have lost only to Ohio State. Their 30th ranking in the AP Poll is their highest in history, as is UW's No. 25. In the Coaches Poll, Marist received only 5 votes toward a Top 25 ranking. Ignorance of what is going on in the sport being polled should be a disqualifier. But it isn't. Marist has defeated Utah and Nebraska along the way this year. But they are only ranked No 43 in the Coaches Poll.

Wyoming is undefeated and ranked No. 25 in the AP Poll. There are four teams with two losses ranked ahead of them.

The Downtown Diner
 at the Central Plaza

Under New Ownership!

OPEN
6 am -
9 pm
7 Days a Week



Owned and Operated by the former owner of IHOP on Dell Range

Downtown Diner
 DA Place Shipping Center
 Ice Cream & Pastries
 Dry Cleaners
 Supernette Mini-Mart

1719 Central Avenue
637-5524

BUY ONE, GET ONE 50% OFF!
Breakfast, lunch or dinner!

Entrees, salads, sandwiches
 Discount applies to lower priced item.
 With coupon.
 Cannot be used with any other offer.
 Expires 12/15/07

20% OFF YOUR ENTIRE BILL!

With coupon. Cannot be used with any other offer.
 Expires 12/15/07