



The Cheyenne

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FREE TAKE ONE

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What's a wolf?

by Dave FEATHERLY

How many candidates, candidate committees, PACs, 527s or whoever else produces advertising for political candidates, have ever been imprisoned for deliberately airing or publishing false messages to the voters?

How many successful candidates have ever been removed from office for approving the use of knowingly false information in advertising?

How many officeholders have even been fined for doing the same?

"Campaign reform" are simply two words that those in Washington hope will mollify honest voters around the country but little or nothing ever comes of saying them.

Here in Cheyenne, the daily newspaper repeatedly treats opposite sides on tax proposition issues differently. Those on the same side they are receive discounted or free advertising, the other side gets squat. Fearing voter loathing of their newspaper might hamper the goal of passing the tax proposition, they simply do not disclose their actions. Nondisclosure is the biggest campaign mis-

A PAC can call itself "Integrity for Wyoming" or the like and be the biggest bunch of distortionists in the state, while remaining anonymous individually.

Barbara Cubin has run about 20 campaigns in Wyoming. Several for the Wyoming House, two for the Wyoming Senate and is on her fourteenth for the U.S. House. She can still say with a straight face, albeit with anger and through clenched teeth, that she never said she would serve only six terms, at the maximum. Many think she did. Repeatedly

She and her ilk represent to voters that Wyoming political candidates are a breed apart from the George Allens, Harry Reids and Hillary Clintons of the world. We run upright and honorable campaigns - never stooping to dirty politics the way they do in the rest of the U.S..

We deal only in truth. The truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Well, okay, not necessarily the whole truth. When Al Simpson stepped off the Greyhound four years ago to tape an ad that said his longtime ally and friend Ray Hunkins "wouldn't know the truth if it bit

him on the fanny," that wasn't even a little bit of the truth. And as soon as the chosen Republican, Eli Bebout, prevailed in the primary, Al was ever so sorry for trashing the good and honest Ray Hunkins.

The first three television ads used in behalf of the Cubin campaign for this her umpteenth tour in Washington says nary a word about her achievements in Congress, none about her leadership or influence in the hallowed Halls of Hastert, nor about what unfinished business she has in D.C. The biggest unfinished business for most House members seeking re-election is the nearly \$350,000.00 they will deposit into their personal bank accounts over the following two years. Not to mention the other perks of office.

One Cubin ad said that her opponent grew up in New York and has lived here only 16 years. This writer has only lived in Wyoming for 20 years and six months. But, Mrs. Cubin, I (and likely Trauner) chose to live in Wyoming. We weren't born here or brought here in swaddling clothes when we were too young to know where parents were taking us. I chose Wyoming. Natives could not. They are here by virtue of birth and parents choice.



The worst distortion in this particular ad is the accusation that her opponent doesn't know what a wolf is. In an interview published in the respected Planet Jackson Hole (January 11, 2006), her opponent was asked a series of rapid-fire questions about specific issues.

After offering his position on alternative energy, the Planet Jackson Hole reporter said, "Wolves?" to which Trauner responded, "What's a wolf?" then provided a lengthy answer to the question. Cubin's ad says, after claiming he didn't know what a wolf was, "Perhaps he was joking." Like being stuck in traffic?

They knew perfectly well he was joking. They quoted from the newspaper. They named the newspaper in the ad - even though they used the wrong date. They knew exactly what his answer was. And it was deceptive to suggest otherwise. But that's what candidates do anymore. (Trauner's full answer is on page 9)

Refusals to answer

CHEYENNE HERALD
Cheyenne's Best Political Publication

September 30, 2006

Mr. Jim McBride
P.O. Box 1881
Cheyenne WY 82003

Letter to:
Jim McBride



Thank you for your response to my letter of September 11, 2006.

There was one question unanswered and your answer to another provokes follow-up questions.

You did not identify from the list of contributors to Michelle Hoffman's campaign who the WDE employees or WDE contractors were who had "supported" her by making financial contributions. If you know of any, I'd appreciate your identifying them. The lack of an answer suggests you were wrong to make the assertion.

On your short-term employment with the Bennett, Colorado, school district, how long was your contract? Did you sign a contract for the duration you were employed, nine months? Why did you leave only one month into a school year? Do you have the name of anyone in the Bennett school system who could confirm whatever you have to say?

There are rumors in Bennett as to your reason for sudden departure but I thought I should give you an opportunity to provide your side of your brief tenure.

Again, I'd appreciate your response at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

David L. Featherly, Publisher and Editor of the Cheyenne Herald

No response from Jim McBride as of presstime, October 16, 2006

E-mail to: Drake Hill, Wyoming Republican State Chairman

In an e-mail to Drake Hill, the Cheyenne Herald requested a copy of the application submitted by Jim McBride when he applied to be the interim State Superintendent of Schools upon Trent Blankenship's resignation.

The e-mail acknowledged that the Republican Party is not technically covered by the Wyoming Public Records Act but, in view of Drake Hill's professed public position that voters should be provided all possible information about candidates for public office, we felt he would be willing to provide a copy of that application to us.

No response from Drake Hill as of presstime, October 16, 2006

Telephone request to: Lucie Osborn, Laramie County Librarian

Upon receipt of a request by one of the region's most influential citizens, the Cheyenne Herald sought to gain some answers about the state of the new library under construction. A call was placed to the librarian to schedule an

He was offered the option of making the documents available for our review if he did not want to make a copy of them.

Jim McBride has proffered conflicting information regarding his tenure as superintendent in Bennett, Colorado. It was hoped that his application to the Republican State Central Committee would clear up the conflicts.

It is obvious that Drake Hill's interest in providing voters all relevant information to enable good choices applies only to information possibly harmful to Democrats, not Republicans.

interview with her. A library employee responded by e-mail, informing us that she was out of town but he would try to answer questions. We chose to wait. When she returned, she e-mailed a refusal to be interviewed.

Lucie Osborn refused a face-to-face interview, demanding written questions

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