

## Republican Party public records request

My challenge to Republican Party operatives to "put up or shut up" (about the bounty they claimed to have accumulated from their public records request on Dave Freudenthal), may have been answered.

Or, at least in their minds, answered.

A few days ago, I received a 6"x8" white envelope, with no return address and the postmark off the upper left corner of the piece. The envelope was addressed with a computer-generated label and sent to my home address.

Inside was a quarter-folded 8 1/2"x11" sheet of white paper, computer-printed again, with some disparaging and accusatory things written about Dave Freudenthal and his administration and signed, "Sincerely, An Observer." The spelling of Reed Eckhardt was "Echardt."

With the brief note were two CDs.

Not knowing whether someone had sent me the latest Dixie Chicks CDs, which we already have, because there was no directions with the disks, I didn't try to download them. I had other priorities than sampling an unmarked CD.

Late last night, Friday the 27th, I had a chance to download one of the CDs.

I had finally, a few days ahead of my last issue before the election, been provided two disks with the public records in the Republican Party's possession. On more than one occasion in the past, Drake Hill has promised he was going to "prove to me" that there was meat among the potatoes - that they had gotten smoking guns from their lengthy request for public records. He never did.

Did this mailing come from him? From the Republican Party apparatus? I do not know. I would believe that there are few copies in circulation and most who might possess one and want me to have it, for whatever purpose, would identify themselves if they sent the CDs to me.

On this same Friday, I spent most of the day traveling to and from Bennett, Colorado and interviewing people there about Jim McBride's brief and terminated tenure as school district administrator. On the return trip, I spent a few hours in Fort Collins, visiting the District and County Court clerk's office, the police department, the sheriff's department, and the highway patrol office - chasing a tip.

So when I downloaded the CD about 10:30 that night, only to see titles which told me what the CD held, I was not particularly pleased. It had been a long and tiring day - I didn't need this data dumped on me at the last minute.

The CD title is "WY Rep Party" and there are eleven state departments and/or agencies referenced on that single CD - and 3,950 pages of documents.

Honestly, I was upset. If the Republicans had an explosive document(s), why didn't they provide it to me weeks earlier and why didn't they now provide me a road map? There are thousands of pages and/or documents on these CDs.

Did they provide these same CDs to the controlled media? To the Casper and Cheyenne's daily newspapers? To the state's broadcast media, especially the three television stations with news departments? To smaller, but better, newspapers in the state?

If they did, it serves them right that nothing has come of their efforts. Most people know by this time if you hope to shed any daylight on wrongdoing in Wyoming, only the Cheyenne Herald might (I emphasize, "might") be willing to tackle the formidable task of sorting the wheat from the chaff. The controlled, dues-paying media seldom takes on a daunting task.

I can't do much more here than report that I was provided these CDs too late to get anything done with them. A perfunctory glance at a copy of the files suggests to me that there are things there to embarrass people - like Dave Freudenthal having Bill Sniffin write speeches for him and Sniffin seeking the Governor's intervention when he faced the loss of a state contract - but perhaps no illegal acts.

The first CD I downloaded had the state department / agencies documents. The number of pages ranged from fourteen from the State Auditor's Office to 1,705 from the Attorney General. DEQ, DFS and PSC had roughly 500 pages each.

On the second disk, which I did not download until Saturday (the 28th) afternoon, there were copies of documents from individuals like Bill Sniffin, Steve Freudenthal and Nancy Freudenthal law firms and personal lobbying activity of each, sole source contracts (3), Echo Star ??, - eighteen titles total. All of this dumped on me without explanation.

## Politicians insure an environmental meeting was not polluted - by absence

by Skip Eshelman

I like "Dancing with the Stars" as much as the next guy, but attending the Environmental Meeting, called to attention by the WYANG (Wyoming Air National Guard) and WDEQ (Wyoming Dept. of Environmental Quality), seemed to be a little more important.

As a candidate for county commissioner, I had attended the open house held by these organizations to explain what they were up to at the Cheyenne Airport, earlier this year. Less than a handful of residents showed up, triggering an introspective of why the public and media ignored the effort.

The self-examination called for an interview of area folks, including this observer, to see how they could get out their message. I tried to assure the Guard members from Washington, D.C., that it wasn't a reflection on them because:

1. People in these parts can not be reached unless their pocket money is threatened, and
2. That advertising in the daily paper generates little response, citing the candidate forums as a recent example at the time. The Cheyenne Herald and Trader's were offered as alternatives, but they are not public legal record, and therefore slighted. Maybe that approach should change in the future.

This time, the oversized advertisements and targeted mailings produced nineteen concerned civilians at Hobbs Elementary on October 24<sup>th</sup> to hear what the chemical sleuths had to say about the nasty compounds flowing in the groundwater under homes from the north side of the airport to Dry Creek. Believe it or not, there are county pockets with homes still using wells in that area. Not only are the wells compromised, but fumes are being detected in basements along the route.

The same dilemma is being addressed simultaneously at the F.E. Warren Air Force Base and recognized as a problem on the city's Belvoir Ranch. Trichlorethylene, otherwise known as TCE, and Carbon Tetrachloride (no acronym cited in the FAQ sheet), were / are used to clean parts.

The WYANG is responsible for the contamination, known to exist at the airport for years, and finally started cleaning up the mess.

Buried storage tanks containing the high-powered stuff have been removed, but the chemical escaping the reservation and headed north poses a different problem. With residents living over the plumes, other methods besides just digging up the contaminated soil are required. Corrective measures could be as simple as running water lines to homes with a well, and pulling the fumes out of the basements, much the way radon is handled.

Of course, the affected residents are scared to death about annexation issues that come with the city water lines. Bottled water is being provided to those with contaminated wells now.

The meeting was very succinct and informative. Questions were solicited regularly, and offers of further information and guidance to the public reiterated just as often. The queries I had could never be answered by these dedicated people.

Where the heck are the concerned leaders of our community? Why isn't the daily press here and TV cameras rolling? Then it hit me. Without a golf game to entice the Ward II councilmen, Segrave and Collins, forget it. City councilmen wannabes, Rinne and Britain, couldn't make it either - giving me the impression they truly are not interested in residents they would serve.

As for the two city commissioner candidates (Atwell and Dowling) who want to work harder to communicate and cooperate, their absence speaks for them. Maybe this is a form of "Better Change." When contractors, real estate developers, material wholesalers and the rest of the special interest crowd aren't involved, neither are they.

Guess the assumption was the guy who actually had substance and took the problems of the county to heart would be there - would have it covered. Not only did I have the situation under control, I made it back home in time to watch "Dancing." I'm interested in technique, not the three-quarters naked lady partners of course.

*Editors note: In spite of a reference elsewhere in this issue to "Dancing with the Stars," to paraphrase Joe McCarthy, I do not watch, and I have never watched, that television program. But no one ever told me there were three-quarters naked female dancers either. I hope Skip wasn't referring to my gal, Sara Evans.*

**Write-in**  
**Jack Bomhoff**

School Board Trustee - At Large / Laramie County School District #2

Oval **MUST** be filled in **J-A-C-K B-O-M-H-O-F-F**  
Print (or type) the name

Supporters of Jack Bomhoff feel he would make a great school board trustee as he has experience in teaching, administration, and transportation. Jack has taught in Burns and Albin; his children graduated from Pine Bluffs; and Jack graduated from Burns. We feel he knows people well in all seven LCSD2 communities. He knows what the children, the teachers, and the support staff, need.

If elected, Jack has said he would be glad to serve. Paid for by Committee to elect Jack Bomhoff

**Need Health Insurance?**  
**We shop for you -**  
**Multiple Companies**

**Personal Financial Solutions, Inc.**  
1418 Logan Avenue / Cheyenne WY 82001

**778-2881**