

Stachy at EWC

The last issue of the Cheyenne Herald contained an article about two Laramie County School District No. 1 maintenance men's removal of the black mold, stachybotris (stachy) from a wall in Gilchrist Elementary School.

This was no revelation to Cheyenne residents or to the parents of children who attend Gilchrist. In fact, subsequent to the removal of the wall, studs and insulation, another story was reported in other local media having to do with two bags containing what was likely refuse from that job being delivered to the daily newspaper doorstep and to the City/County Health office in Cheyenne.

As indicated in our coverage, stachy is a mold which is not to be trifled with. In spite of a fairly common knowledge of the presence of this mold, two untrained maintenance men were dispatched to deal with its removal armed only with a dust mask.

Contrast that seemingly cavalier attitude about this mold to the story coming out of Torrington at about the time the Cheyenne Herald hit here in Cheyenne.

A dormitory, only 30 years old, was found to have the same black mold within its walls. Instead of circling the wagons as did LCSD1, trustees of that community college shut down the dormitory and relocated the students.

This mold has not been studied enough to be absolutely certain about its health effects but LCSD1 seems to believe that they are not serious. Why else send two untrained people to remove the offending material and not provide them with proper masks, clothing, gloves, etc.?

According to a Torrington Telegram story, "The building [EWC] has been evacuated to prevent inhalation of the toxic substance, and other preventative safety precautions have been taken."

Breathing the air in the closed environment of a classroom at Gilchrist was not a good thing to do - for your health. It is particularly bad for someone with allergies, asthma, or chronic diseases.

It appeared that the trustees of Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington understand the risks. Did LCSD1 trustees?

Another Torrington Telegram article reported: "After an inspection of the apartment building, the EWC board of trustees was informed the building would cost more to repair than it would to construct new student housing. The board voted to have the current apartment building demolished and to construct a new dorm."

Is LCSD1 doing enough to insure there is no more mold at Gilchrist or other district schools? What about LCSD2?

Jump on. There's still room on the Joe Glenn bandwagon!



When Joe Glenn was hired as UW football coach

"Oh, he won in Greeley and Missoula, but he won't win in Division 1. Those three national championships? Big deal, he wasn't in the big leagues. Let's see what he can do in Laramie. Wyoming is the **BIG TIME!** The ... what do they call our new conference ... yea, the Mountain West. The Bigs. Let's see how much grinnin' he does when he has to play Ole Miss. They put \$60 million in their stadium. They know football down here. Does old Joe even know whether the ball is stuffed or inflated?"

On Sunday morning, after beating Ole Miss again. At Oxford!

"Boy, didn't I tell ya? This guy is a winner. He's won everywhere he's coached. If he could take the group left by that previous coach ... what was his name? Oh, yea, Vic Koenning. If he could take the same group of players left by Koenning to a bowl game in his second season, **WOW!** And beat UCLA. Didn't Mark Harmon play for UCLA? Or was that his dad? Those characters that thought his success at Northern Colorado and Montana didn't prove he was a great coach sure have eggs on their face now. Did you know he takes his assistants with him everywhere he goes? Now if he'll only stay. Another pasting like Colorado took yesterday from Miama and Joe will be getting his mail in Boulder in a year or two. I bet he could solve that Jon Benet case."

Shoddy journalism WT-E again proves to be toadies for City Platte jail sex case expands

Prosecutors charge former Platte County deputy

Casper Star-Tribune, September 20, 2005

On a day when their Tuesday issue split front page space with stories about the Peacekeeper missiles being terminated in Cheyenne; the New Orleans mayor halting the return to the city by residents; and counties and cities wanting \$100 million in state money for one reason or another, the Casper Star-Tribune chose to lead (on their feature page) with a story about Platte County jailers being charged with a variety of crimes involving female inmates. The WT-E wrote nothing.

Granted, the Star-Tribune is the state's only "state" newspaper. It is the only Wyoming daily paper which can be bought throughout the state, not just in the county in which it is published. But, Casper is not farming out its city prisoners to Wheatland (Platte County). Nor is Natrona County farming out its county prisoners to Wheatland.

But, the City of Cheyenne is.

The offenses for which the jailers have been charged took place at about the same time Cheyenne was deciding to transfer much needed revenue from Laramie County's new jail to the jail in Platte County. The timing couldn't have been worse and the fact that longer term city prisoners (over 6 months) are still being held up there is unimaginable.

Knowing that jailers have been credibly accused of mistreating female prisoners, Cheyenne's police chief and mayor merrily whistle down the street - uncaring and unconcerned about the type of facility they've contracted out locals to.

The Casper Star-Tribune ran the headline across its front page and used 3/4" inch (54 point) type to blare the news.

At the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle, you could hear a pin drop. This was not a story they wanted to touch. Surely they knew about it. They and the Star-Tribune have become buddies under the blanket and share each other's stories all the time. That makes it easier. Only one has to do the work, then the other can trail in the coverage. But neither's pride is hurt by being second. They are used to it since the Cheyenne Herald began.

On the day after an announcement by Platte County authorities, the WT-E was mute. Casper got it in **THEIR** Tuesday edition. The WT-E did not.

It wasn't that their coverage that day - even on their Quick Read page - was more timely, topical or important. They just chose to ignore this news.

Then, on Wednesday, they buried the story on page A5. A brief story, based on the Star-Tribune coverage, was buried in the gutter of that page.

Why did the nearest daily newspaper downplay the story? Why did they pick up a story developed by a competitor?

To do otherwise should have required the WT-E to acknowledge the arrangement Cheyenne has made to transport prisoners up to Wheatland to be incarcerated 75 miles from their homes all because of a disagreement with the Laramie County sheriff's department on daily rates. To acknowledge that arrangement would be embarrassing to the mayor and police chief. The WT-E has already surrendered their journalistic ethics. They don't want to lose their access. So they ignored the coverage.

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