

Kinky Friedman

I may be the only person in Cheyenne - maybe even Wyoming - who has seen Kinky Friedman perform. Lo so many years ago, when I worked in Manhattan, Kinky Friedman and the Texas Jew Boys (that's the name of his band, folks - send the cards and letters of protest to Kinky@smoke'emifyougot'em.com, not to me) I saw him play in a little club called Lone Star Cafe or the like.

The place served One-Star, Two-Star and Three-Star chile, libations, and live entertainment. The barefoot boy from Wisconsin was advised to stick with the single Star. Good advice. Kinky is a singer of marginal talent who has survived by being controversial. And funny.

He is now running for governor of Texas as an Independent. You might want to muffle those snickers. Remember Arnold Schwarzenegger in California and Jesse Ventura in Minnesota. Maybe Clint Eastwood in Carmel, Sonny Bono and Fred Gandy in the US House. Stranger things have happened.

One of his proposals is to legalize marijuana. I wonder why? He believes that releasing nonviolent pot users from prison would free up space for violent offenders.

His take on the death penalty is "I would be careful killing a guy. I think there are people who need to die, but the question I've asked mostly is: When was the last time we've executed a rich man in Texas?"

To take that a step further, when is the last time California convicted a celebrity of murder? Can't be executed is you can't be convicted. Robert Blake? O.J.?

Those who weren't paying attention to Minnesota when "The Body" was elected governor over "The Heirs" (Hubert H. Humphrey III, Ted Mondale, and Mike Freeman) and current Minnesota Senator Norm Coleman may not be aware of the election day registration by the young. Jesse and his Boa captured that election with the votes of those first-time (probably only-time) voters.

Kinky Friedman may duplicate that feat.

The Texas governor has very limited power. Appointing members of boards is one of their authorities. As a springboard to the presidency, it hardly prepares one for executive power.

He says he would dump "public school assessment tests." He could do like Wyoming - keep changing the test so it becomes meaningless and comparisons are without value.

Kinky Friedman says he doesn't trust politicians, nor does he trust the media.

"Right now the lobbyists are leading us. We have a lack of leadership. A vacuum," he said. On his position of changing members of state boards the governor appoints: "You clean house. You get the old farts out of there. You put a bunch of young people who care about Texas in."

Look at the US House and Senate. The only way the marginal members will leave is on a gurney. Why do you think members like Barbara Cubin stay forever? The money, Bubba. The money.

At least there'll be one race worth watching on November 7th. Smoke 'em if you got 'em, Kinky.

Truisms about political campaigns. Always.

Every election cycle, predictable actions are taken by candidates who have little chance of winning.

If they aren't getting any campaign contributions - and don't expect that situation to change - they will announce that they will not accept contributions and call on their opponent to do likewise.

While there needs to be controls on the amount of money special interests can contribute, a candidate should not have to spend only their own money to mount a campaign. There is an ingrained unfairness which favors incumbency but challengers with less money can win elections - no matter how difficult the effort. If a candidate like Rita Meyer is a "working girl," as she said, financial

contributions can level the playing field.

Real advantages come from incumbents being able to use taxpayer money for mailings and make announcements of grants that they had nothing to do with during campaigns. End those.

Candidates who are behind, or feel they have no chance, will challenge their opponent to multiple debates. "I challenge my opponent to a hundred debates over the next six weeks. Voters need to know what he stands for." Right. Just take the debates arranged. No one is going to attend, view or read about them anyway. Keep your keister out there appearing at events, meeting with groups, do your campaign advertising and leave debates to Lincoln / Douglas.

You can have your



and water it too!

To learn more about it, visit the Learning Center website where you will find expert information concerning:

- Proper watering to ensure water conservation
- A grass selection guide for different situations and needs
- Lawn maintenance information
- A list of experts to contact for additional information for all of your sod and turf needs.



www.rockymountainsodgrowers.com

WyomingNETWORK.com

What's your opinion? Read and participate in the forums at www.CheyenneNetwork.com



Oroweat Bakery Outlet

308 Southwest Dr. • 635-8400
Open Monday - Saturday 11-4

South across from Tyrrell-Doyle Chevrolet - west at PTA Self-Storage

Need Dental Insurance? Local Agency

www.wyodental.com

Personal Financial Solutions, Inc.
1418 Logan Avenue / Cheyenne WY 82001
778-2881