

Ridding the state of diploma mills

With the departure of Trent Blankenship from the education department, it now becomes questionable who will be willing to lead the fight to eliminate the infection in this state known as licensed, but non-unaccredited institutions which call themselves universities.

These diploma mill scammers have very little to do with advancing education.

The August 22nd Casper Star-Tribune editorial agrees with the long-held stand of this local advocacy journal. Finally, the state's largest circulation daily newspaper has taken a strong stand against these diploma selling frauds.

One notable omission from their editorial was a reference to Cheyenne's police chief having bought one of the bogus degrees, for which Cheyenne taxpayers paid over \$2,500.00. They could have put a face on their position. They chose to skirt the fact and curry favor with the City of Cheyenne, even though the circulation of the Casper Star-Tribune in Cheyenne is insignificant.

It is interesting to note that a Cheyenne violator, Preston University, continues to claim that they are offering a legitimate education for a reduced price.

How is an education legitimate if the credits earned from that institution cannot be transferred to the state's only four-year university, the University of Wyoming?

How is an education legitimate if the degrees earned from that institution cannot be used to gain employment in states which have laws concerning nonaccredited institutions, such as Oregon?

Even the host country for Preston University has delivered ultimatums to them. Not that Pakistan is in league with Vietnam or Guatemala, other host nations for these bogus operations, but when the nation is of the opinion that the campuses in Pakistan are lousy, how does that make Preston a legitimate learning center in the United States?

The Casper Star-Tribune editorial reminded readers about the junket taken to three countries by two legislators and two education department staffers. The Cheyenne Herald was told firsthand just how worthless those trips were.

Cheyenne has several of the illegitimate facilities in its downtown. Upstairs, downstairs - spartan or presentable offices - but all disreputable by most applicable

measurements.

Climb the stairs to visit American Global or American City "universities." Descend downstairs to Paramount Technical University, Kennedy-Western or American Capital. Add McKinley University to those - a facility that the department allowed to prospect using a Wyoming address even though it was not licensed to operate in the state.

As Trent Blankenship told the Herald, the only solution to this disease on the state is to require all degree-granting institutions to be accredited by a firm recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Compounding the problem of bogus degree-granting operations has been added the bogus accrediting firms. The illegitimate institution in Louisiana from which Bob Fecht bought his master's degree can show accreditation on its website and in its material. But the accreditation firm is just as bogus as Lacrosse itself is.

Requiring a "license" to do business in Wyoming is meaningless. Kids need a license to sell pop at parades. Legitimate degree-granting institutions (those accredited by recognized accrediting firms) do not even need a license here.

If ever there was proof of the importance attached by the former Wyoming DOE to the accreditation process, it is that legitimate institutions do not have to pay us exorbitant fees to operate in Wyoming.

Requiring a physical presence is laughable. A walk around Cheyenne's downtown confirms just how seriously these scammers take that requirement.

And in their sales material, they show expansive campuses, with high-rise buildings. All the while operating out of a basement office on one of Cheyenne's downtown streets.

Trent Blankenship told the Cheyenne Herald that the elimination of these degree selling schools would be pursued by legislators like Hank Coe and Jeff Wasserburger.

On the other side of the equation will be Jayne Mockler and Jim Anderson, the two legislators who availed themselves of the all-expense paid trips to Dubai (UAE), Pakistan and London. Add Becket Hinckley who spoke at an unaccredited degree seller's "graduation" ceremony.

How would he know?

Rockies broadcaster George Frazier was mediocre

Some former players are used as broadcasters (either radio or television) even though they weren't very talented, because of their sense of humor or general "Q" quotient. In other words, viewers and listeners like them.

Joe Garagiola made a great living by downplaying his playing prowess. Same for Bob Uecker but Uecker was a really bad baseball catcher. His duty usually was to warm up pitchers in the bullpen. Garagiola was a starting catcher on some very good teams.

The Colorado Rockies brief history has not produced any outstanding broadcasters. They started with the veteran Charley Jones but parted ways with him early on. Dave Campbell went on to do well with ESPN.

Scott Hastings was a slow, tall white basketball player who stayed around the NBA much longer than he was entitled. He probably didn't wear out a single pair of Nikes in the years he was on a roster.

His speech pattern drives listeners to distraction and the station he worked for even had him doing "color" on the Broncos games. He has fewer skills broadcasting football games than he did playing basketball games. He, like Uecker and Garagiola, has hung around because of his supposed sense of humor. But he has become foul-mouthed and has had to fill far too many hours on a radio program.

Which brings up the subject of this story - George Frazier. If "Q" ratings were applied, his must be a negative. He's not pleasant, acts like he hates working with the reliable Drew Goodman, and generally comes across like a know-it-all who doesn't. Know it all.

When Joe Morgan, Rick Sutcliffe or another very accomplished former player criticizes a current player, there may be a legitimate right. When George Frazier criticizes any player - at any level, Little League or above, he just has no credibility. That might be unfair. Lasting ten years in the majors is impressive.

This character endlessly criticizes the young Rockies players like he was Sandy Koufax in his career.

Not quite.

He did pitch for ten years in the major leagues - from 1979 to 1988.

And he **DOES** share a World Series pitching record which will almost certainly never be broken - or even tied. The specifics on that record are near the bottom of this column.

His won-loss record over those ten regular seasons was 35-43. A losing mark!

His role was almost always as a set-up man - a middle reliever who seldom is in a position to win or lose a game. And in his ten seasons, he had a winning record only once. His career ERA was 4.20. He pitched for the St. Louis Cardinals, New York Yankees, Cleveland Indians, Chicago Cubs and Minnesota Twins. His strength was longevity.

He couldn't pitch all that well. He also couldn't field. From the pitching position, few errors should occur. The throw to first can be made almost underhanded. However, his career fielding average was .900 - for every ten chances he had, he dropped the ball or threw poorly once. Not much there either.

He couldn't hit, but what pitcher can? He did have three hits in his ten year career. Granted, he didn't get to bat very often - only 21 times in his career.

His World Series record which almost certainly will never be broken and unlikely will ever be tied?

He was the losing pitcher in three games in the 1981 World Series, while with the New York Yankees. That was the Series in which Dave Winfield had one hit. In 21 AB. "Mr. May", Steinbrenner called him. Winfield, that is. For a middle reliever to lose three games in one Series defies mathematical probability. He does not hold that record by himself, however.

Frazier shares it with a pitcher from the 1919 Chicago White Sox. Sound familiar? That is the team that "threw" the World Series. The infamous "Black Sox." That pitcher was **TRYING** to lose the games. Presumably, Frazier was not. He was just a lousy pitcher. But he talks like an All-Star.



Authentic Mexican Food For A Little "Spice of Life"

Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 11 am - 8:30 pm • Friday & Saturday 11 am to 9 pm
620 Central Avenue • 638-8591

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Kids Frames \$49⁰⁰

Quick Draw Optical

1619 Logan Avenue
638-2298

ONE HOUR SERVICE

Advertise
in Cheyenne's best read paper,
Cheyenne Herald

Ads (1/2 column x 2 inches) start at
\$36.00
contract required

Annual subscription is \$75.00
Phone numbers and addresses are throughout the Herald.