

## Who's listening now?

Let me remind readers of something I've written countless times in the past.

When I started the Cheyenne Herald, I was asked if I were afraid that I'd run out of stories. Of course, the easy answer was "no." Stories present themselves faster than we can write 'em.

And while we deal mostly in local issues, some of the national stuff is just too precious to ignore.

The latest: Another southern conservative, Senator David Vitter of Louisiana, has run afoul of morality. Not to mention fidelity. And integrity, honesty, etc., etc.

His 2004 campaign website tells about his goals and aspirations as a U.S. Senator. And he became the first Republican ever elected in Louisiana and the first to win the seat outright (no runoff election necessary).

**"He even filed successful ethics actions against Edwin Edwards,"** touted his website. What a guy.

Everyone in public office needs ethics.

The Harvard graduate is married to a prosecutor and they have four children. They are both also "lectors at St. Francis Xavier Church," in Metairie, Louisiana.

He is close to perfect. Or so it seemed. Then it was revealed that his telephone number was on the Rolodex of the D.C. Madam, Deborah Jeane Palfrey, and that he had used her escort service dating back to 1999. Once again, a candidate campaigned as a family values man while engaging in an extramarital affair - with a prostitute no less.

A sideline to this story is that a WEEKLY newspaper in Louisiana wrote about his hooker dalliances in 2002 and 2004. The story was not picked up by the "mainstream" media. In 2002, Vitter dropped out of the governor's race and stayed in the U.S. House - but claimed innocence. In 2004, he was elected to the Senate.

This guy was elected to succeed Bob Livingston. Readers might recall that Livingston was on his way to becoming the Speaker of the House to replace Newt Gingrich when he was "outed" as an unfaithful husband.

According to one of Vitter's "dates," he liked to talk [with her] because he said his wife "didn't listen to him." So, it was all her fault. His wife's fault, that is.

Who do you think is listening now?

Vitter is on the Right side of conservative political positions. Not surprisingly, he supports Rudy Giuliani and forgives him his trespasses. Vitter has said he has asked for and received forgiveness from God and his wife.

Supporters claim that his vote on immigration is behind his latest problems. Can't quite get my arms around that connection. In the House, he pushed for the impeachment of Bill Clinton. We all knew what Bill's basic infraction was.

His betrayed wife said, in 2000: **"I'm a lot more like Lorena Bobbitt than Hillary. If he [Vitter] does something like that, I'm walking away with one thing, and it's not alimony, trust me."**

Sleep with one eye open, David. Sleep with one eye open.

## The Cheyenne Herald continues to be read around the world



Photo courtesy of Jim Ehernberger

Dobra, Poland (May 20, 2007)

## Lupe Rd. neighbors not satisfied

In a continuing quest to get some governmental agency, or the State of Wyoming itself, to accept clean-up responsibility for a parcel of land that was once used for an unpermitted landfill, neighbors to the parcel between Lupe Rd. and Four Mile Rd., have gotten little satisfaction thus far.

Some of the debris on and under the ground at that location is arguably friable asbestos material. The health risk is a bone of contention and neighbors are not satisfied with an air quality test planned by the WDEQ.

I have visited the area and have witnessed the obvious improper dumping over an extended period of time three to four decades back.

To allow the material to remain there makes no sense. The owner of the parcel is well-known to the WDEQ and that may be a reason for the reluctance to go to District Court for authority to clean up the mess and bill the unwilling owner for the cost of that clean-up. That owner is known to have fought the City of Cheyenne

all the way to the Wyoming Supreme Court before paying for costs incurred in another clean-up inside city limits.

It is inconceivable that unpermitted dump sites such as this one, which is in plain view and an obvious property value depresser, has to remain a blight because an owner is unwilling to clean it.

Government uses the right of eminent domain to take good property - they should have to use the power vested in them to clean up an abandoned and possibly contaminated parcel like this one.

A neighbor told the Herald that air quality tests are planned for a still day - with no wind. If the objective is to determine airborne particulates possibly from asbestos materials, the test has to be done on a windy day when the materials are being blown - not on a calm day with no disruption of the material above the ground.

DEQ usually does a terrific job on protecting neighbors from contamination. Whose job is it to protect neighbors from an unpermitted landfill? Who cleans up?

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