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OPINION | OUR VIEW

What's The Beef With Macy's Float?

In a bold stand that settled nothing in particular, a South Dakota cattle group has forced rock musician Joan Jett from the state's float in next week's venerable Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade because she is a vegetarian and a member of the highest of high-profile animal rights group.

Should we care? To be honest, we really didn't — about the parade or about the celebrities who are featured on the floats — until this matter popped up. Now, we feel a little bit embarrassed by it.

The South Dakota Cattlemen's Association protested the fact that Jett, who's best known for her hit song "I Love Rock and Roll" back in the 1980s, was scheduled to be on the state's float as it rolled through New York City on Thanksgiving Day. Jett's vegetarian lifestyle did not make her the "appropriate" choice for a float representing a state with a major beef industry, according to Cattlemen's Association President Cory Eich of Canova. Also, Jett's membership in People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), which has long been critical of livestock production practices, didn't help matters.

"Coming from such a rural state where livestock is such a part of our life, we didn't think it was appropriate," he said.

So, Jett (who, in a completely unrelated aside, is also an active supporter of the Armed Forces and plays a lot of USO shows — not that we would want our state associated with anyone like *that*) is jetting to another float, while South Dakota's new celebrity pick is to be announced.

The state has had a float in the Macy's Parade since 2010, paying \$175,000 to have the entry in the extravaganza, which is a prime holiday marketing opportunity since the parade is broadcast on seemingly several dozen television channels.

So perhaps, there is some faint logic in the cattlemen's protest. Then again, it may have done more harm than good.

Heretofore, a vast majority of people probably didn't know or care about Jett's dietary preferences or what social groups she's involved in. They just knew her as a rock-and-roller who had one major hit (and a few middling ones) back during the Reagan administration.

Now, she is being conveniently cast as a political victim, an image she is more than happy to embrace. "I've decided to switch from South Dakota to another float because people's political agendas were getting in the way of what should be a purely entertainment-driven event," she stated last Friday.

And of course, PETA is also making hay with this, which is both an appropriate and ironic choice of words.

Meanwhile, South Dakota can hope to land a more suitable, rancher-friendly performer, perhaps like last year when the state's float featured "American Pie" icon Don McLean — who is also a vegetarian.

The Macy's Parade is intended to be a splashy holiday show that we watch before football and feasting. There are giant balloons, celebrities of various magnitudes and lavish performances. It's a fun family tradition that also kicks off the festive holiday season.

It's also the least likeliest place for a political platform that you're bound to find on Thanksgiving Day, or most any other day.

But apparently, the Cattlemen's Association didn't get that memo. On the plus side, this event will likely bring more attention to and comments about South Dakota's float next week.

But on the down side ... ditto.

This episode looks petty and defensive, and that rubs off on the entire state. This was not a battle worth fighting, or a matter worth drawing any attention to whatsoever, during one of the biggest holidays of the year. Period.

kml

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 20, the 324th day of 2013. There are 41 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 20, 1947, Britain's future queen, Princess Elizabeth, married Philip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, at Westminster Abbey.

On this date: In 1620, Peregrine White was born aboard the *Mayflower* in Massachusetts Bay; he was the first child born of English parents in present-day New England.

In 1789, New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

In 1910, revolution broke out in Mexico, led by Francisco I. Madero.

In 1925, Robert F. Kennedy was born in Brookline, Mass.

In 1929, the radio program "The Rise of the Goldbergs" debuted on the NBC Blue Network.

In 1945, 22 out of 24 indicted Nazi officials went on trial (one in absentia) before an international war crimes tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany.

In 1959, the United Nations issued its Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy held a news conference in which he announced the end of the naval quarantine of Cuba imposed during the missile crisis, and the signing of an executive order prohibiting discrimination in federal housing facilities.

In 1967, the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Clock at the Commerce Department ticked past 200 million.

In 1969, the Nixon administration announced a halt to residential use of the pesticide DDT as part of a total phaseout. A group of American Indian activists began a 19-month occupation of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay.

In 1975, after nearly four decades of absolute rule, Spain's General Francisco Franco died, two weeks before his 83rd birthday.

In 1982, in one of college football's oddest finales, the University of California used five laterals to score a disputed winning touchdown on the last play of a game against Stanford, 25-20.

In 1992, fire seriously damaged Windsor Castle, the favorite weekend home of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.

In 2000, Lawyers for Al Gore and George W. Bush battled before the Florida Supreme Court over whether the presidential election recount should be allowed to continue.

Ten years ago: Michael Jackson was booked on suspicion of child molestation in Santa Barbara, Calif. (Jackson was later acquitted at trial.) Record producer Phil Spector was charged with murder in the shooting death of an actress, Lana Clarkson, at his home in Alhambra, Calif., in February 2003. (Spector's first trial ended with a hung jury in 2007; he was convicted of second-degree murder in 2009 and sentenced to 19 years to life in prison.) Suicide bombers blew up

trucks in Istanbul, Turkey, at the British consulate and at a London-based bank, killing 32 people. Tens of thousands of demonstrators in London burned an effigy of President Bush to show their anger over the Iraq war. In Miami, trade ministers from across the Americas gave final approval to a framework for the world's largest free trade bloc as police clashed with hundreds of demonstrators.

Five years ago: Sen. Ted Stevens, the chamber's longest-serving Republican, delivered his swan song address following his failed reelection bid; he was saluted by his colleagues as a staunch friend and teacher. The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to impose new sanctions aimed at reducing the arms flowing into Somalia and the lawlessness and piracy that were flourishing there. Betty James, co-founder of the company that made the Slinky, died in Philadelphia at age 90.

One year ago: Former boxing champion Hector "Macho" Camacho was shot while sitting in a car in his hometown of Bayamon, Puerto Rico. (Camacho died three days later after doctors removed him from life support.) Elmo puppeteer Kevin Clash resigned from "Sesame Street" amid allegations he sexually abused underage boys. Jack Taylor, a guard for the Grinnell College basketball team, shattered the NCAA scoring record with a 138-point performance as the Division III school beat Faith Baptist Bible, 179-104.

Today's Birthdays: Nobel Prize-winning author Nadine Gordimer is 90. Actress-comedian Kaye Ballard is 88. Actress Estelle Parsons is 86. Comedian Dick Smothers is 75. Singer Norman Greenbaum is 71. Vice President Joe Biden is 71. Actress Veronica Hamel is 70. Broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff is 67. Actor Samuel E. Wright is 67. Singer Joe Walsh is 66. Actor Richard Masur is 65. Opera singer Barbara Hendricks is 65. Actress Bo Derek is 57. Former NFL player Mark Gastineau is 57. Reggae musician Jim Brown (UB40) is 56. Actress Sean Young is 54. Pianist Jim Brickman is 52. Rock musician Todd Nance (Widespread Panic) is 51. Actress Ming-Na is 50. Actor Ned Vaughn is 49. Rapper Mike D (The Beastie Boys) is 48. Rapper Sen Dog (Cypress Hill) is 48. Actress Callie Thorne is 44. Actress Sabrina Lloyd is 43. Actor Joel McHale is 42. Actress Marisa Ryan is 39. Country singer Dierks Bentley is 38. Actor Joshua Gomez is 38. Actress Laura Harris is 37. Olympic gold medal gymnast Dominique Dawes is 37. Country singer Josh Turner is 36. Actress Nadine Velazquez is 35. Actress Andrea Riseborough is 32. Actor Dan Byrd is 28. Actress Ashley Fink (TV: "Glee") is 27. Rock musician Jared Followill (Kings of Leon) is 27. Actor Cody Linley is 24.

Thought for Today: "Make haste slowly." — Caesar Augustus, Roman emperor (63 B.C.-A.D. 14).

FROM THE BIBLE

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork. Psalm 19:1. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



The Rez Of The Story

A Look Into The Future

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Last week I shared a small sample of an admittedly limited retrospective on decade one of the new millennia as it pertains to Indian country. It would definitely be a good subject for what I call a "doksha project" (something to do later). Whether you look at the past, present or the future, it is all about perspective and perception.

Dick Gregory, the civil rights activist, once said, "We used to root for the Indians against the cavalry, because we didn't think it was fair in the history books that when the cavalry won it was a great victory, and when the Indians won it was a massacre." Perspective.

What Dick Gregory captured was one of the key contention points between Native and non-Native people. It not only serves to form a backdrop to yesterday's issues but also serves to help set the stage for tomorrow's agenda for the continued conversation about unresolved conflict between our cultures.

The future challenges us to be able to look at problem solving as an opportunity to create those processes that allow us to mutually seek solutions that benefit everyone. I believe that there already exists enough people on each side of the equation who are willing and committed to this very idea. We are quickly learning that changes which are brokered by both sides and mutually beneficial are the real solutions for tomorrow's challenges.

So what are tomorrow's challenges here in Indian country?

I predict that there will be more than substantial attention paid to the issue of sovereignty because it is key to the survival of our language, culture, religious practices and national identity. If we are sovereign, we need to act like a sovereign. We will be challenged to be responsible in the application of our perspective and we will rise to the challenge as a people.

I predict our next generation will be more educated and therefore more empowered. The relatively recent trend for our people to provide higher education opportunities for our young people by instituting tribal colleges will provide us the tools we need to be more self-sufficient and inde-



Vince TWO EAGLES

pendent in the way we think and develop.

Because we have dealt with it so long, we will make giant strides toward eliminating alcoholism and drug abuse in our reservation communities. These initiatives will have the strength to actually substantially reduce the statistics. All anyone needs to do is look around at the quiet but nevertheless, increasing numbers of our people who are attaining and keeping sobriety as their chosen lifestyle.

The next decade will bring innovative efforts at addressing the overwhelming issue of poverty in our communities. Already the support of emerging interest in developing small business opportunity is being totally understood. Our leadership is getting it slowly but surely that small business is the wave of the future and I predict there will be an explosion of such in this next 10 years.

I predict that we will as a people turn more and more toward the UN under the auspices of or pursuant to the Declaration of Indigenous Rights. Trying to pursue redress of grievance in the US federal court system regarding our treaties is a dead end and a losing battle. The federal court system can no more grant us a fair hearing than the hungry fox in the chicken coup can. Perception.

The future is definitely not pre-ordained nor written in stone by any means, but it is instead destined to be a product of our imaginations and hard work or lack thereof. Cesar Chavez, the famous labor rights activist once said, "Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore. We have seen the future and the future is ours."

The future is indeed ours. It is not written in some book or ancient hieroglyph. It is in our hands and our hands alone. I predict we will come to understand this and become empowered to shape our own destiny.

At any rate, the future looks bright and the opportunities ever growing for us to pursue our dreams and achieve much happiness in our lives because it is up to us, isn't it?

And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...

Point Of View

Common Core's 'Great Promise'

BY LOUISE ANN (LUANN) LINDSKOV, DONNA DEKRAAI, MINDY FOLTZ, SONYA FOSSUM AND TAMMY JO SCHLECHTER

2014 South Dakota Regional Teachers of the Year

As South Dakota's 2014 Regional Teachers of the Year, we have dedicated our lives to providing students with learning experiences that prepare them for further education, careers, and life as productive citizens of this great nation. In today's global economy, we are preparing students to compete not only with the person down the street but also the person on the other side of the world! It seems not only appropriate, but necessary to update what students need to know and be able to do in an ever changing society. We welcome and embrace this challenge.

This school year, South Dakota has made the transition to new academic standards in English language arts and math. These standards are known as the Common Core and are called "common" because we share them with about 45 other states. Educators were instrumental in the development of these standards. Focus is still on fundamental skills and understanding but with opportunities for innovative and creative thinking.

Our experience as educators tells us that these standards will raise the bar for South Dakota students, which we believe to be a good thing. Students must be able to think critically, to problem solve, and to apply the knowledge and skills they learn in the classroom to the world around them. This is what the Common Core standards challenge our students to do. This is a shift for both students and teachers — one that we are excited about. It requires our students to learn connections between concepts, to support views with evidence, and to apply skills and practices for purpose.

The Common Core standards are remarkable in their simplicity. A standard tells us what students should know and be able to do at the end of each

grade level. The following is an example from the second grade math standards: solve word problems involving dollar bills, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies, using \$ and ¢ symbols appropriately. The other standards are equally as straightforward, and we find them to be clear, concise and appropriate expectations for South Dakota students.

The standards do not tell us what textbook or instructional materials to use. Those are curriculum decisions made by local school boards and administrators. It remains the responsibility and privilege of individual South Dakota teachers to deliver that curriculum by designing learning experiences that engage, excite and motivate our students. These Common Core standards have already had a positive impact in our classrooms.

We believe in setting high expectations for our students, and we have confidence that South Dakota students will rise to the challenge. As professional educators, we have witnessed these phenomena time and again. Granted, the transition to new standards is always a challenging process and it will take some time to develop our students' understanding and application of curriculum. We fully anticipate some bumps along the road. In the long run, however, we believe these standards provide the necessary foundation for an ever changing and developing world of learning in the 21st century and hold great promise for the future of all.

Louise Ann (LuAnn) Lindskov of label is a secondary math and science teacher in the Timber Lake School District; Donna DeKraai is a third-grade teacher in the Brookings School District; Mindy Foltz is a secondary math teacher for the Rosholt School District; Sonya Fossom is a first grade teacher for the Mitchell School District; and Tammy Jo Schlechter of Hermosa is a grades 6-8 math, social studies, and reading teacher in the Custer School District (Hermosa School).

YOUR LETTERS

Daugaard: Congrats, Yankton!

Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Pierre
It's hard to believe that two weeks have passed since I was in Yankton celebrating the beginning of South Dakota's 125th year of statehood. Because Yankton served as the first capitol of the Dakota Territory, it seemed fitting that Yankton planned and hosted the kick-off event.

Although I was not able to be there for the daytime events, I know they were well attended and a lot of fun. It was an honor to be included as part of the evening's program. The Lt. Governor, our wives, and I all had a great time donning 1880s gear, dancing, and catching up with friends in Yankton.

When South Dakota celebrated our 100th anniversary, communities held all-school reunions,

built new parks, and renovated libraries, museums, and community centers. Yankton was at the forefront of that celebration.

Both then and now as we begin to celebrate our 125th year, it has been apparent the people of Yankton are proud to live in South Dakota and dedicated to reminding South Dakotans of our history and heritage. In preparing for our 125th Anniversary, we were not sure how active communities might be in promoting and hosting events to commemorate this significant milestone. But once again, the people of Yankton have led the way to make this anniversary special.

I thank and commend the community of Yankton and all who volunteered time and expertise to make the kickoff event possible. You set the bar high for other communities and started our 125th year on the right note. What a great event!