



David Lias
Between The Lines

Is this a sign of things to come?

If PETA has problems with something as innocent as an esteemed dog show, does that mean the day-to-day goings on at the University of South Dakota could one day be suddenly interrupted?

The Associated Press reports that two intruders turned the center ring at the Westminster Dog Show held in New York earlier this week into their own platform.

It meant that Sadie the Scottish terrier had to patiently wait before receiving her best of show honors at Westminster Tuesday night, because of a startling protest inspired by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

Shortly before judge Elliott Weiss picked Sadie, a pair of well-dressed women walked into the big ring at Madison Square Garden and held signs over their heads that said "Mutts Rule" and "Breeders Kill Shelter Dogs' Chances," the latter a slogan popularized by PETA.

The crowd of 15,000 gasped at the sudden protest, booed the women and then cheered as a half-dozen security guards ushered them away without incident.

PETA members Dana Sylvester and Hope Round were charged with criminal trespass, police said. They acted on their own, the organization said, but it supported them.

The interruption lasted about a minute and came between judging of a Doberman pinscher and brittany. Moments later, 4-year-old Sadie climbed the best in show podium where one of the women had stood.

"I thought it was well-controlled by our people," Westminster spokesman David Frei said, without elaborating. Frei, the host of USA Network's coverage, is a veteran of the show world and a long-time advocate of therapy and rescue dogs.

There have been previous PETA protests at Westminster, but none nearly so dramatic. During every day of the show, the public-address announcer at the Garden reads an announcement urging people to visit shelters and adopt their dogs.

PETA contends the focus on purebreds leaves many mutts homeless. In a statement, vice president Daphna Nachminovitch said "euthanasia becomes a sad necessity."

If PETA will knowingly break the law to get the same message across that Westminster officials repeatedly share with their audience, what could happen on the USD campus?

This is an open-ended question on our part, because frankly, we don't know. We doubt that local law enforcement or university officials can answer this question, either.

PETA filed a complaint in First Circuit Court in Vermillion Wednesday, Feb. 3, seeking information from the University of South Dakota and the South Dakota Board of Regents about experiments conducted on animals by researchers on campus.

PETA is claiming that the Regents and USD are violating South Dakota's open-records law. In a press release issued shortly after the legal complaint was filed, PETA states that USD administrators have failed to provide PETA with documents related to the university's taxpayer-funded experiments on monkeys.

"It has to basically do with keeping people informed," said Caitlin Collier, a Vermillion attorney representing PETA in this court action. "That's part of their mandate as an organization. I see this really as one of the first tests of the new open records law (in South Dakota). The Legislature has finally changed the law to more of a presumption of openness. That's really at the heart of the lawsuit — to try to clarify what that new law means."

We must admit, as a business whose goal is to gather information, that we are interested to see how the state's open records law will be interpreted as this court action proceeds.

We hope the focus remains in the courts. PETA, however, has demonstrated that it isn't interested solely in filing lawsuits to get its point across.

And, frankly, that concerns us. PETA claims that a researcher at USD conducts what it describes as "terribly painful" experiments on monkeys.

"USD has squandered millions of taxpayer dollars to conduct these terribly painful experiments, and now the university wants to waste more money to hide what happened," said PETA Vice President of Laboratory Investigations Kathy Guillermo in a press release issued earlier this month. "Citizens have a right to know how public institutions are spending taxpayer money and how these facilities are treating animals — especially when their actions may constitute violations of the law."

PETA claims that a USD researcher has "for years has drilled holes into the skulls of monkeys and caused them to suffer strokes by clamping shut a blood vessel in their brains. The injured animals are then observed as they struggle to grasp food. ... (the) experiments also include attaching electrodes to the brains of restrained monkeys in order to provoke uncontrollable facial and body movements in the animals. The monkeys are killed at the end of these experiments, and their brains and spinal cords are removed and dissected."

"Everything that we've stated is based on information we've gleaned from... grant applications to the National Institute of Health," Justin Goodman, research supervisor in PETA's laboratory investigation department, based in Washington, DC, told the *Vermillion Plain Talk*.

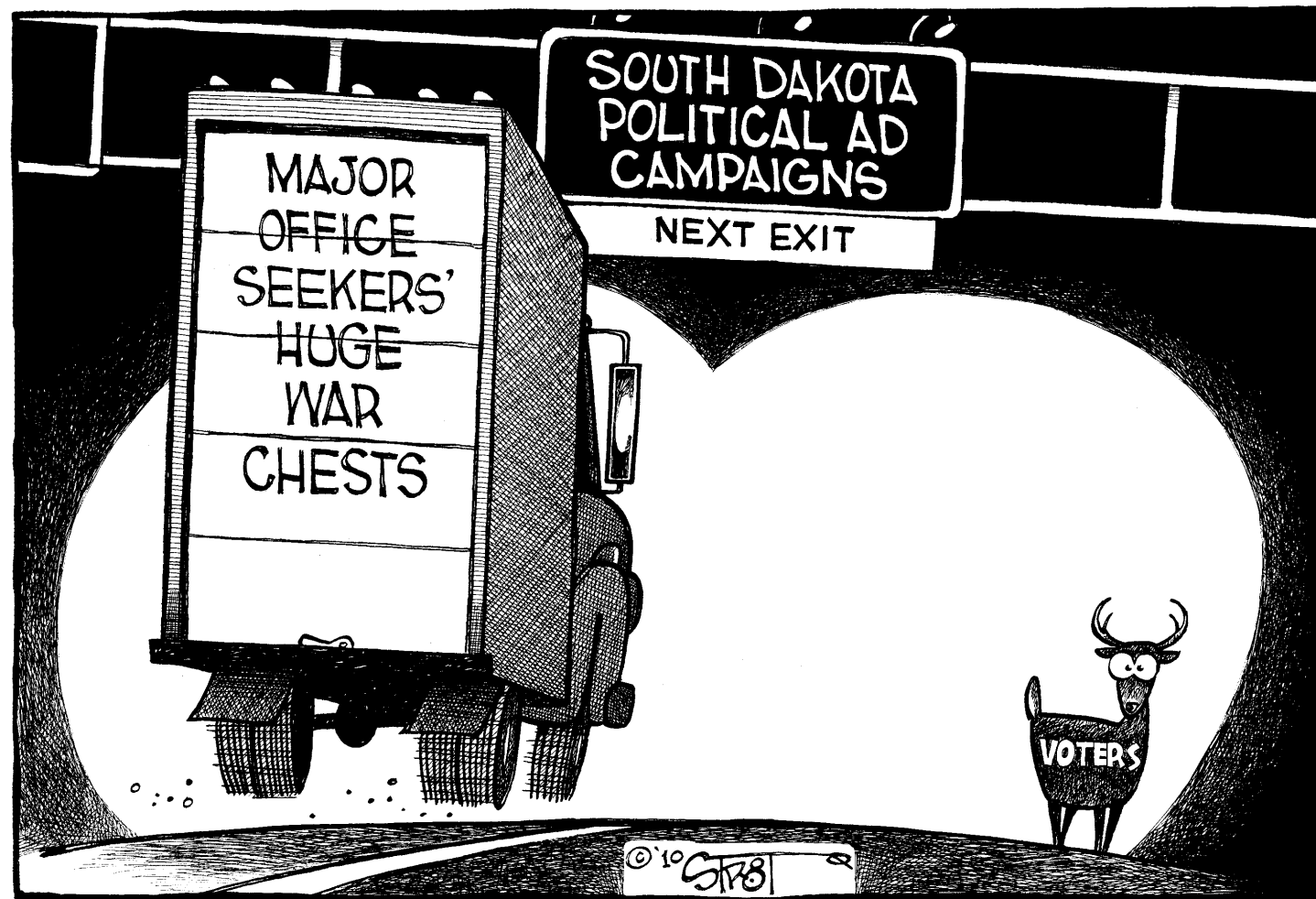
"The focus of this lawsuit is that the university itself is refusing to turn over documents that would include more details not only about the experiments but also what happened to these individual animals that were used in this project," he said. "This is a project that is being funded by taxpayers."

Our court system serves as a way for organization's like PETA to peacefully seek information. They have every right to avail themselves of the legal remedies the system offers.

In the meantime, we urge PETA, despite its rather well-known penchant for seeking extreme measures to gain attention, ranging from urging some people to do rather violent things, like burning buildings, to the simple, but disruptive act of protesting at a peaceful dog show, to cool it.

It's a ridiculous request, we know. But Vermillion is a nice, peaceful, quiet town. It would be nice to simply be left alone.

We hope the recent dog show incident isn't a sign of things to come for our community.



Ideas of an early retirement grow old

Now that I'm within two years of making it to 90, I've given up all thoughts about early retirement.

Phyllis said, "You can't quit yet because you've got to have something to retire from."

I resented the insinuation, of course. After many years slaving over a hot typewriter, I figured I deserved the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of my labors as much as the next guy. But I don't want to raise chinchillas, rabbits, exotic game birds, fishing worms, orchids or ginseng roots.

I don't want to bronze baby booties or war souvenirs, wedding memorabilia or other family heirlooms.

I don't want to invest in a mom-and-pop grocery store, a



Bob Karolevitz
Writer At Large

laundromat or one of 80 assorted national franchises bearing the name of some television star or sports personality.

I have learned to stuff birds, paint like Grandma Moses, decorate cakes, and address envelopes at home — but I don't want to!

I have answered dozens of classified ads which promised me fun and fortune. I got

everything from smudgy mimeographed come-ons to fancy four-color brochures, all urging me to find happiness and a new source of income with each prospective gimmick. There haven't been such promises since Cleopatra told Mark Antony that the snake really wouldn't bite.

I conjured up so many potential ulcer producers in my various retirement ven-

tures that Phyllis made me forget the whole thing.

It was a wise decision. I immediately felt relieved and unburdened like I always thought retirement should make you feel.

This column took on a new look, and I whispered a little prayer.

"Please, God," I said, "if you ever let me get that far just let me keep doing what I do now, and leave the mushrooms, the dull scissors and the taxidermy to somebody else who really needs a change."

And I'll keep doing it until they put me away.

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The making of St. Joseph's Day Bread — a liturgy

MyStory YourStory



Paula Damon
Columnist

Growing up, there was only one day every year my mother allowed me to indulge in eating bread and that was Fat Tuesday. This wasn't any old bread; it was Saint Joseph's Day Bread — fried, not baked.

Looking back, my mother may have had her holidays mixed up, since Saint Joseph's Day is celebrated annually on March 19, and she made her bread on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

My mother usually prepared Saint Joseph's Day Bread in the late afternoon hours, after my three brothers, two sisters and I arrived home from school.

When Mother baked, I detected sunshine in the way she moved about the kitchen. Her eyes were no longer overcast and she wore an unrecognizable cheer that I wanted to wrap my arms around and bury my face in forever.

If only this mother would have stayed with that sparkle in her eyes. The one who playfully patted and prodded the dough until it was smooth and round. The mother who hummed Moon River while patiently waiting for the dough to rise.

This mother, her chin held high, pinched small clumps of dough to form a roll between soft palms; she then dropped it into hot grease and turned the roll bronze.

I would stand beside her as she lifted the fried bread and plopped it into a mountain of confectionery sugar, turning it until it was completely white, forming a mouthwatering new skin.

Saint Joseph's Day Bread called us together in that kitchen of long ago as a sweet incense filled our childhood

home. The making and eating of Saint Joseph's Day Bread was a liturgy — a holy practice of collaboration, companionship and a mother's high spirits.

When Fat Tuesday rolled around this past week, I cheerfully went to that place in the kitchen of my childhood, near my mother and once again took in the aroma of Saint Joseph's Day Bread.

A resident of Southeast South Dakota, Paula Damon is a national award-winning columnist. Her columns have won first-place in National Federation of Press Women, South Dakota Press Women and Iowa Press Women Communications Contests. In the 2009 South Dakota Press Women Communications Contest, Paula's columns took three first-place awards. To contact Paula, email pauladamon@iu.net, follow her blog at www.my-story-your-story.blogspot.com and find her on Facebook.

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Scouting helps build young men and women of character

GUEST COMMENTARY

By Senator John Thune

Our nation has seen many changes over the last 100 years. The Internet has replaced telegraph wires; air travel has supplanted the railroads. Some things have remained constant, however, including the Boy Scouts of America, which recently marked its 100th anniversary. Scouting, both for boys and girls, is a tradition that is alive and well in many South Dakota communities. Through emphasis on service to others and high moral character, scouting helps reinforce values in young people that can enable them to be leaders in their communities. Scouting can also nurture an appreciation for outdoor exploration and conservation of natural resources, both of which are important to the livelihood of many South Dakotans.

I recently had the opportunity to speak at the Eagle Scout Recognition Banquet for the Sioux Council, which is comprised of Boy Scout troops throughout much of eastern South Dakota as well as portions of Iowa and Minnesota. I am impressed by the stories of these young men who have shown great dedication to scouting for many years, as well as the support they

receive from their family, friends, and their scouting organizations.

Scouts aim to uphold an oath of service to God and country, to serve others in their communities, and to practice self-discipline. We see these values in action in our communities and families every day, but we also see the struggles that can result when they are not upheld. The Scout Oath reinforces how important it is for young people to commit to the values of service and self-discipline, not only in their own lives but in their communities as well.

I applaud all of the South Dakota boys and girls currently involved in scouting, as well as those adults who participated in their youth. I am deeply appreciative of the importance that building young people of strong character for the future of our state and our nation, and I recognize the role that scouting plays in the lives of many young people in building such character. Scouting is an important tradition in South Dakota and our nation, and I believe the contributions made by scouts in the next 100 years will be just as important to our country as those made in the first 100 years.

LETTERS

Hyperion will cut farm incomes

To the editor: Hyperion supporters dwell on the project's job benefits, but they don't talk about lost farm land and lost economic productivity related to that land. Consider that Hyperion has options to purchase 6,000 acres, and those acres could be taken out of agricultural production. Let's split those 6,000 acres based on existing Union County land use, figuring 4,000 for corn and 2,000 for soybeans.

Economists' modeling calculates income activity related

to 4,000 corn acres is \$621,540. The model also reveals that income from 2,000 bean acres equals \$207,184. Total annual income coming from crop production on 6000 acres is \$828,724.

These are annual income approximations spread among a variety of people such as farmers, seed sellers, loan officers, hardware clerks, implement mechanics, fertilizer technicians, and more, and these are incomes that stay in the local community and circulate in the local community. Hyperion will eliminate sizeable and traditional forms of income — over \$828,000 each

year — in our area.

Additionally, consider this: Up to 800,000 bushels of corn and 90,000 bushels of beans won't be grown yearly because Hyperion will take farm land out of production. Did you know that Union County topped South Dakota in per-acre yields for both corn and soybeans?

Hyperion will destroy up to 6,000 acres of the most fertile and productive farmland in South Dakota and the United States. Forever.

Sincerely,
Dale Harkness
Elk Point

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