

Dancing with the Stars

By Reg P. Wydeven
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A few weeks ago, I wrote about ‘nanny governing,’ or politically correct laws passed to protect us from ourselves, some feel at the cost of our liberty. These laws either forbid something, like smoking or the use of trans fat, or require something, like seatbelts or motorcycle helmets.

One such controversial law was passed by the Chicago City Council, which banned the use of foie gras within the Windy City. French for “fat liver”, foie gras is a delicacy made from duck or goose liver. Each year, 25 million ducks and geese are raised to make the 936,000 pounds of foie gras consumed by Americans, and they are routinely overfed in the weeks before slaughter so that their livers become huge, tender and buttery.

Many celebrities are crying fowl, claiming this process is cruel and inhumane, and they are supporting the ban. Similarly, PETA spokeswoman Pamela Anderson opposes mass-produced chicken. She must be very persuasive, as both McDonald’s and Burger King have switched to free-range chickens for their sandwiches and salads.

Following Pam’s lead, Mary Tyler Moore has begun a campaign to save lobsters from boiling water. Heather Mills and several other vegetarian activists recently broke into a farm to protest and expose allegedly “cruel conditions” for pigs.

Breaking and entering isn’t the only legal trouble Heather Mills is involved with. She has sued several British media outlets for defamation stemming from her highly publicized divorce from Paul McCartney. And if being accused of gold-digging from one of the most beloved Brits of all time isn’t enough, the amputee Mills has even alienated the U.K.’s Federation of Disabled People.

The FDP is demanding that Mills’ disabled parking badge be revoked as the organization feels that she’s not acting disabled enough. See, Mills is currently starring on ABC’s hit show “Dancing with the Stars,” where she can be seen boogieing each week on her prosthetic leg. FDP’s spokesperson Kathy Gordon claims, “Clearly she has mobility so she should refrain from using the badge. It’s not fair on other disabled people.”

Mills isn’t the only dancing star with legal woes. Vivica A. Fox, a contestant last season, was arrested earlier this year for investigation of driving under the influence. She was pulled over after her vehicle passed a patrol car on the Hollywood Freeway at 80 mph. Fox then failed a field sobriety test, and a later breathalyzer test indicated her blood-alcohol level was greater than the legal limit of .08 percent.

Despite these legal black eyes, “Dancing with the Stars” is still wildly popular. It’s my niece’s favorite show. Each week my sister TiVos it for her, and she even took her to the live tour when it stopped in Milwaukee.

The show is so popular it should probably put a “Do Not Attempt This At Home” warning on screen before each episode. That may have prevented the lawsuit filed by Lacey Hindman against David Prange in Cook County Circuit Court for “negligent dancing.” Hindman is seeking damages for medical bills and lost wages for time missed from work.

During an office party at a Chicago bar last year, Prange grabbed Hindman by the forearms and tossed her in the air. She then crashed to the wood floor, suffering a fractured skull and brain injuries. Apparently Chicago’s City Council is now looking at banning dancing.

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