

Miss California USA

Boy, what a little candor will do in a beauty pageant. You'd think Carrie Prejean had admitted she had breast implants.

Oh, wait, officials said that later.

Just when you thought beauty pageants had run their course, the Miss USA brought the latest one back into the spotlight. Of course, nothing co-owned by Donald Trump is going to stay away from the news for very long. And this wasn't even news about another bankruptcy filing by The Donald.

For years, the dwindling viewership had become accustomed to hearing answers from the contestants that would do nothing more than generate yawns and eye-rolling from those watching.

"So, Miss South Carolina, what will you do if you are chosen Miss USA?"

"Well, I think the first thing I will do is bring Israelis and Palestinians together so they can settle their differences and live happily together. Then, in the afternoon, I will announce a cure for cancer."

"That's wonderful, Miss South Carolina. We need beauty pageant winners like you to bring peace to the world." And, "now, we will have a question from Perez Hilton for Miss California, Carrie Prejean."

"Before that question, I have to comment, Carrie, you look much 'bustier' tonight than you did back at the California finals a couple months back. Just an observation. Your question, Perez."

The barely thirty-something who uses the stage name of Perez Hilton was born Mario Armando Lavandeia in Miami and is an openly gay celebrity gossip blogger. He pushes hard publicly for gay celebrities to admit to being homosexual and often names them before they decide to make say that publicly. Gay comic Bruce Vilanch has said: "These [people like Perez] are professional homosexuals. They are gay people for a living."

And Perez Hilton was a "judge" on the Miss USA beauty pageant. He deliberately waited until he could ask a self-serving question of the contestant considered the front-runner at the time he asked her the question. He is a low-life, no talent, self-promoting nobody.

He postured, then asked the 20 year girl from California: "Vermont recently became the fourth state to legalize same-sex marriage. Do you think every state should follow suit? Why or why not?"

He asked Carrie Prejean for her opinion. He knew of her conservative views and intended to try to embarrass her. She could have easily answered that it was up to the residents of each state to make that decision and that California voters just last year overturned same-sex marriage. She could have ducked the query.

But, she didn't. She answered the question honestly. Remember, she was asked what she thought, not what Perez Hilton thought would be an appropriate answer.

"Well," she responded, "I think it's great that Americans are able to choose one way or the other. We live in a land where you can choose same-sex marriage or opposite marriage. You know what, in my country, in my family, I do believe that marriage should be between a man and a woman, no offense to anybody out there. But that's how I was raised and I believe that it should be between a man and a woman. Thank you."

She was not asked a follow-up question about where she stood on "civil unions" or other ways a state like California could accommodate at least some of the concerns of same-sex couples.

Carrie Prejean's mentor, a former Miss USA, Shanna Moakler, turned on her, too. She said, "She lost the crown [Miss USA] because she wasn't able to convey compassion for ALL the people that as Miss USA she would be representing. And if you like it or not, gays and lesbians make up this country as well."

Ms. Prejean didn't say she was anti-gay or some of the absurd things said by politicians during political campaigns or by other far-right conservative talking heads. She said she thought that marriage should be between a man and a woman. A majority of the voters in California said the same thing. Isn't she supposed to represent the majority, or just a minority like this fake "Perez Hilton?"

Many in the clergy have said much worse. No help came from those extreme views from the pulpit. Groups break away from a denomination because of views over homosexuals or even because the church allows women to be priests.

What this young woman did, whether I agree with her position or not, is finally answer a question put to a beauty pageant contestant intelligently, honestly and candidly. For that, there's a big stink?

The California director of the Miss USA pageant said: "Religious beliefs have no place in politics [sic] in the Miss California family." In other words, no positions about honesty, fidelity, marriage before children - no conservative views - have a place in the "Miss California family."

News came out after that pageant that Shanna Moakler was one of a group that paid for breast implants for Ms. Prejean five weeks before the Miss USA pageant. Moakler had no problem with Carrie Prejean being dishonest about her own body, if she'd also be dishonest with her answer to a question from an agenda-pushing, gay-"outing" internet creep trading on the infamous Paris Hilton name.

Ms. Moakler has a child with Oscar de la Hoya and two children with Blink 182 drummer, Travis Barker. She has posed nude for Playboy and was also "involved" with Billy Idol and actor Dennis Quaid (without marriage). No wonder she didn't support Carrie Prejean's views on same-sex marriage.

Shanna Moakler doesn't support views on marriage, period.

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Memorial Day, May 25th

FREE LUNCH

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED

Various military and veteran's groups sponsor and host this lunch. Lunch will begin after the Memorial Day ceremonies at Bethel Cemetery conclude. That formal observance will begin at 11:00 am. Bethel Cemetery is north of Pershing.

Lunch will be served at **VFW Post 1881**
Off Nationway (Lower level, rear of building)

DDA days numbered?

Millions of dollars spent. On what?

The former city administration had no concept of what it would take to reverse the downward slide in Cheyenne's core area. As business after business failed or relocated, the mayor continued to say the failings/departures were "opportunities." No, they were tragedies.

Announcements were made but no real private development was seen. The city has spent millions to remodel the depot to hold a tavern, picture gallery and upstairs offices and a patio in front of the depot that may have a function 5% of the days of the year. And \$9.75 million on an unwise, unneeded and unused parking garage. Much was promised if the city would pony up all of the money for that garage. Every promise was broken. Even the Plains Hotel, which promised to use parking in the garage, created their own surface parking area.

Years ago, a Downtown Development Authority was created by voters. The DDA receives incremental increases in sales tax collections in the district - including hundreds of thousands of unintended dollars gifted by the previous administration.

Downtown building owners have repeatedly approved an additional ten mill property tax on those properties. For what? The more money the DDA has been given, the worse the condition of Cheyenne's downtown. The mayor and city council stood silently by as the destruction, instead of the development, of

Cheyenne's once presentable and proud downtown has occurred. Only two of the larger retail / lodging businesses still exist - the Plains Hotel and the Wrangler.

The DDA did nothing to prevent the devastation and with millions of dollars to try to find replacement retailers, they have found none. Small restaurants have opened and smaller retail stores have come and gone. But the downtown is a shadow of what it was less than a decade ago. Some business failures can be laid on a new generation of incompetent managers but the fact that nothing has been found to take those empty store spaces and vacant land is fully the responsibility of the DDA. They simply have no idea how to recruit or how to promote the downtown. Who among them has a track record as owner, manager or operator of a successful store?

This mayor may have been shaken awake from the group slumber we've seen in city government for eight years. He seems to understand that the DDA has operated illegally over the past few years and he may intend to right that violation. How can they miss it? Don't they drive around the downtown? Don't they notice that there are few stores in which to shop? Some of Cheyenne's best eating establishments are downtown and are attractions - the new Mayflower, Albany, Twin Dragon, Sanford's, Los Amigos, etc. Unless you want to look like a ranchhand, you can't buy clothes downtown. The DDA must be dissolved. Reformed? Sooner, not later. We near the end.

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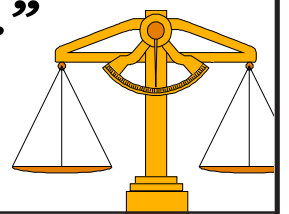
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