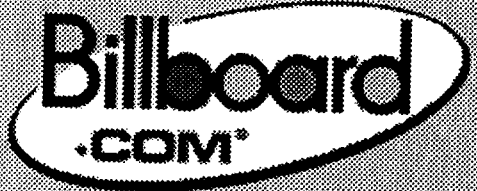


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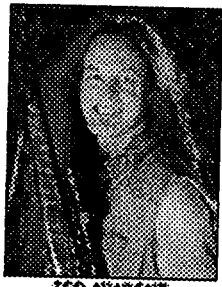
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DAILY MUSIC NEWS

Edited By Barry A. Jeckell. May 19, 2003, 4:30 PM ET

Nugent Gig Nixed Over Alleged Racial Slurs

Derogatory racial remarks made by veteran rocker Ted Nugent have cost him a gig at the Muskegon (Mich.) Summer Celebration. Festival officials canceled his concert following an interview last week with two Denver disc jockeys in which the DJs say he used slurs for Asians and blacks.



TED NUGENT

Rick Lewis and Michael Floorwax, morning talk-show hosts on radio station KRFX-FM Denver, said they stopped the May 5 live interview with Nugent after he made the remarks.

Following discussions with community leaders, Summer Celebration's board decided "it was in the best interest of the community" to drop Nugent from the festival lineup, Summer Celebration President Joe Austin told The Muskegon Chronicle. The festival runs June 26-July 6.

The festival scrambled to replace Nugent on the June 30 bill, and has booked classic rock veteran Pat Benatar and Blues Traveler in his place.

A Nugent spokesperson would not comment on the festival's decision. Described on its Web site as "Michigan's most complete festival" and "#1 for family fun," the Muskegon Summer Celebration will also host shows by LL Cool J, the Allman Brothers, Michelle Branch, Aaron Tippin, Pinmonkey, 3 Doors Down, Our Lady Peace, Huey Lewis & the News, the Commodores, Joe Cocker, and others.

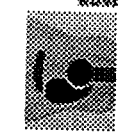
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Racial slurs boot Nugent from concert in Muskegon

The Grand Rapids Press; Grand Rapids, Mich.; May 16, 2003; Jennifer Meese / Grand Rapids Press News Service;

Abstract:

Reached by phone Thursday evening, [Ted Nugent]'s assistant, Linda Peterson, said Nugent was out of town, and said she "didn't have details on the situation" and couldn't comment.

Last week, an interview with Nugent on a Denver radio station's "Lewis & Floorwax" morning show was cut short because the show's hosts, Rick Lewis and Michael Floorwax, said Nugent went too far when he used several racial slurs, the Associated Press has reported.

Full Text:

Copyright Grand Rapids Press May 16, 2003

MUSKEGON -- Racial remarks have cost controversial rocker Ted Nugent his gig on Muskegon Summer Celebration's "family venue" stage.

Summer Celebration president Joe Austin announced today that festival officials canceled Nugent's concert due to an interview last week on a Denver radio station in which the rocker reportedly used racial slurs to describe African-Americans and Asians.

Summer Celebration organizers are scrambling to find a replacement, Austin said. The festival's ticket-sales kickoff event is tonight at L.C. Walker Arena.

"If we can (replace Nugent) with something in the classic-rock genre, that'd be great, but right now we want to get the best possible acts we can find," he said.

After discussions with a "wide range" of community leaders, Summer Celebration's board of trustees decided "it was in the best interest of the community" to drop Nugent from this year's festival lineup, Austin said. He wouldn't name the community leaders.

Festival Chairman Tim Achterhoff said: "Any use of potentially offensive racial terms, such as those attributed recently to Ted Nugent, do not reflect the spirit of Muskegon or the Summer Celebration." Summer Celebration bills itself a "family venue festival."

Reached by phone Thursday evening, Nugent's assistant, Linda Peterson, said Nugent was out of town, and said she "didn't have details on the situation" and couldn't comment.

Nugent, also called Motor City Madman, is known for controversial, profanity-laced political statements on- and off- stage.

Last week, an interview with Nugent on a Denver radio station's "Lewis & Floorwax" morning show was cut short because the show's hosts, Rick Lewis and Michael Floorwax, said Nugent went too far when he used several racial slurs, the Associated Press has reported.

In a written statement, Nugent blamed much of the controversy surrounding the radio station interview on reports by "liberal hippies in the media."

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Residents angry over nixing Ted concert

Saturday, May 17, 2003

By Jennifer Meese Chronicle staff writer

Muskegon Summer Celebration's cancellation of a concert by controversial rocker Ted Nugent caused some controversy itself Friday.

Within minutes of a Friday morning announcement that Summer Celebration had canceled its June 30 Ted Nugent concert, people started calling and e-mailing the festival and at least one local radio station, and posting messages on a community message board on The Chronicle's Web site.

Most of the calls and e-mails to classic rock station WMRR, 101.7-FM, and the postings on the Chronicle Web site condemned the decision; the calls and e-mails to Summer Celebration were evenly split, officials said.

Summer Celebration officials said they dropped Nugent's concert -- the first concert the festival has canceled in its 11-year history -- due to an interview on a Denver radio station last week in which Nugent used racial slurs to refer to Asians and African-Americans. Festival officials said "potentially offensive racial terms" do not reflect the spirit or diversity of Muskegon or Summer Celebration, which bills

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itself a "family venue festival."

Nugent is known as the "Motor City Madman," and known for his controversial, profanity-laced political statements on and off stage. Nugent's assistant said Friday that Nugent was out of town, and that she didn't have enough information to comment on the concert cancellation.

While several people backed the festival's decision -- including Lois Williams, president of the Muskegon Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Muskegon Mayor Steve Warmington -- many others objected to it.

"I'm really not into his music, but I'm surprised and disappointed (Summer Celebration) canceled the Ted Nugent concert," Debbie Oklad of Muskegon said while in line to buy an 11-day pass at Summer Celebration's Pass Party on Friday night. "What he stands for should have meant more than a slip of the tongue -- he is anti-drugs, and he's into spirituality, and that sticks out more. We've all made slips of the tongue."

Some people said they would not buy festival passes because of the Nugent concert cancellation. The number of people at this year's pass sale party, however, was approximately 6,600 -- up about 500 from last year.

The almost-all-white crowd at the pass party seemed to be pretty evenly split on their feelings on the concert cancellation. Some said they were surprised Nugent was in the lineup in the first place.

"I knew it was going to be canceled from the start," said Sandy Pawlowski of Twin Lake. "It was OK when I heard he was coming, but when I heard about the radio interview the language, and the intimidation with the controversial things he says, calling people names and stuff Summer Celebration definitely made the right decision. This is a family festival."

Her daughter, however, disagreed.

"Where I work, everyone was pretty upset he got canceled for the reason he did," said Amy Sobolewski of Muskegon. "He would have attracted a whole new crowd -- the hunters and people that don't usually come down here."

Tom Eagle of Grand Haven said he wouldn't have brought his daughter to the Ted Nugent concert, but he will bring her

to see Pat Benatar and Blues Traveler. However, he said, he was looking forward to the Nugent concert.

"People should be able to decide for themselves" whether to go, he said.

Some people, Eagle included, said LL Cool J uses profanity and racial slurs in his music.

"LL Cool J isn't a family venue act at all," Ryan Scott of Muskegon said in a telephone interview. Scott said the rapper has songs that are "quite sexual," "put down epileptics and homosexuals," and use profanity and the "n-word." "How can they shove this down our throats and say this is family values, and then cancel Ted Nugent's concert for what he said?"

But some people disagreed.

"LL Cool J is a family man," said Francena DePung of Muskegon, adding that the rapper is known for having clean, positive lyrics.

Muskegon resident Anthony James said using profanity or racial slurs in lyrics is different than using them to make a statement.

"In music, LL Cool J and other artists are doing what sells — it's different than getting on the radio and" saying offensive words in an interview, James said. "The whole Summer Celebration is diverse: You're going to get a mixed audience, and we don't need someone coming in and making these kinds of statements."

But Paula Dunmire of Muskegon said Nugent is "no different from any performer today who's controversial."

"I'm a minority, and it doesn't offend me at all," said Dunmire, who is Mexican-American. She said many current artists are controversial, and she would consider bringing her kids to see Nugent. "If you want to see him, great; if you don't, don't go."

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Benatar replaces Nugent

Saturday, May 17, 2003

By Jennifer Meese
Chronicle staff writer

Summer Celebration on Friday hit Muskegon with its best shot at replacing a June 30 Ted Nugent concert: Concerts by female rocker Pat Benatar and blues rock group Blues Traveler instead.

Festival officials are confident the double bill will keep many people from singing the blues over the absence of Nugent.

"These are two great Summer Celebration favorites," festival president Joe Austin said. Benatar performed at Summer Celebration in 1998, Blues Traveler in 2001. "We've been looking at bringing both of them back," Austin said, "so we're very happy."

Summer Celebration announced earlier Friday that it had canceled the Nugent concert due to an interview on a Denver radio station last week in which Nugent used racial slurs to describe Asians and African-Americans.

The decision to cancel the concert drew both criticism and praise from longtime concertgoers and people in the community.

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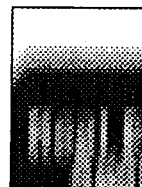
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Friday night, several people said Benatar and Blues Traveler were good replacements for Nugent.

"The reason Ted got canceled is ridiculous," Muskegon resident Amy Sobolewski said, "but the replacement is excellent."

Pat Benatar, 50, is a four-time Grammy winner with six platinum and four gold albums. Her hits include "I Need A Lover" "Heartbreaker," "Fire and Ice," "Treat me Right," "Hit Me With Your Best Shot," "Hell Is For Children," "Shadows of The Night" and "Love Is A Battlefield."

Blues Traveler, formed in 1998 in New York, has had one platinum and two gold CDs. The band's Top 10 hit, "Run-Around," in 1996 became the longest-charting single on a Billboard music chart, with 49 weeks on the Hot 100 Singles chart. The song also won Blues Traveler a Grammy for "Best Rock Performance for a Duo or Group" in 1996.

Blues Traveler consists of singer/harmonica player John Popper, keyboardist Ben Wilson, bassist Tad Kinchla, drummer Brendan Hill and guitarist Chan Kinchla. The band's hits include "Hook," "Girl in My Head" and "But Anyway."

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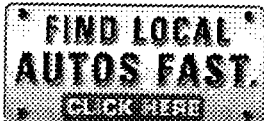
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Beautiful, wide, clean and healthy and it's OURS!

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Talk about priceless publicity. Muskegon's Pere Marquette Beach gets listed in USA Today last Friday as being one of only 49 certifiably clean and healthy beaches in the whole country.

Not only that, but the newspaper chose to illustrate its "Life" section cover story with local photographer Joe Jackson's beautiful color photo combining sand, sunbathers, blue water, boats and the familiar (to us) red inner harbor lighthouse.

It's like winning an Academy Award for beaches, and having 2.3 million people watch.

Underlying all that giddy publicity, of course, is a lot of real

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effort. The city, the county and the local organization FUN, Inc. can all take a bow for what they have achieved: the Clean Beaches Council's "Blue Wave" award for the second year running.

As Joann Hatch of the county's Convention and Visitors Bureau notes, Pere Marquette Beach is a tremendous tourist draw in its own right ... not that being seen by readers in 60 countries wouldn't help that. And as many visitors have discovered while running across the hot sand toward the water's edge, it's one of the widest beaches anywhere. Being in the city, it's so accessible as to be overlooked. Being a city park, it's free to all.

And now, the word is out: Muskegon's city beach is clean and healthy, too.

Nugent shot off his mouth once too often

There are a lot of teed-off Ted Nugent fans who will badmouth Muskegon and the Summer Celebration for its decision to cancel his concert, but they have no one to blame but the self-proclaimed "Motor City Madman" himself.

Nugent has enhanced his career by speaking his mind without reserve about his dislikes, which include liberals, nonhunters and especially poachers who raid his own private game reserve. He is a National Rifle Association favorite, and his pro-gun persona, combined with his status as a heavy metal legend, has earned him a wide following.

But when Ted shoots his mouth off, he's fair game for the critics, too. And when he pointedly insults minorities to provoke the inevitable response, as he did when he described Asians with racially charged language, and then went on to use another particularly offensive hate word in a broadcast radio interview, a price has to be paid.

The Muskegon Summer Celebration is a success, in large part, because it crosses racial and cultural lines, reaching out to everyone. Nugent's comments were divisive, no matter the context. No surprise that he got the boot.

Grand Haven gets a winner in Irish Tabor

The newest president of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is Muskegon's Ann Irish Tabor. The Grand Haven area is getting a real winner in Irish Tabor, who has served ably as a vice president of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County.

During Irish Tabor's years on the Muskegon foundation, it has grown to be one of Michigan's largest and most influential, not simply by growing the fund balance during the unprecedented bull market of the 1990s, but because the foundation greatly expanded its donor base by reaching out to enlist the community's support for many worthy causes.

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is also a considerable force for good in its own community. It has helped generate scholarship dollars for students, and has instituted many laudable programs under its outgoing director, Nancy Riekse Hanenburg.

Riekse Hanenburg is retiring, but her contributions will endure. In helping to choose her successor, she has also made certain the future success of a great Grand Haven institution. We wish her only the best.

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