

Blood and Thunder

Deadline Tuesdays at 5 pm. All letters must be signed.

Maturity Please

Dear Sir,

To all the thoroughly too modern people in attendance of the arts 1000 lecture of Tuesday Feb. 14 who found the topic too unbearably boring to listen to, yet alone allow anyone else to. I realize this letter will likely do little good, nor would it do much good to say you should be ashamed - for I'm sure that shame is something you regard as having even less value than education. However, if any of you should ever chance to find yourselves giving a lecture in front of a large crowd I hope you will then reflect on how disrespectful it is to talk during such a thing. And I'm sure if any of you to whom this letter applies were possessed of a Phd. from one of the leading universities and then found yourself in the position our lecturer was placed in today, you would be doubly enraged.

It maybe in this day and age that topics which do not readily apply seem frivolous and unimportant. Yet please remember that despite your opinion there are others who are interested in learning what you find pointless. So please if you are going to talk throughout a lecture then spare the lecturer the discourtesy and those of us who are interested the time and stay at home.

Anonymous.

Thanks

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Canadian Red Cross Society and the victims of Hurricane Gilbert, I would like to thank the students of U.N.B.; and in particular the Jammin Aid Committee. Your efforts in raising funds to assist our relief efforts are greatly appreciated.

U.N.B. has established another first, in being the only provincial university in which a group of students has carried out fundraising events to assist in an international disaster. Please be assured that 100% of your donation will get to the victims as the Red Cross deducts no administration fee. The need for immediate emergency supplies has been met, and your donation will now be used to assist in the long recovery process.

Again, thank you.

Yours Sincerely,
Hilary Howes
Regional Director

More Hunting

In an article on hunting, Steven Griffiths solicited my opinions on questions related to the propriety of killing wild animals for "fun" and "recreation": one of the so-called "blood sports" -- from which the pejorative term "The Great White Hunter" is derived.

In discussing our topic, neither Steven Griffiths or I pinpointed any specific individuals, and I thank Steven for his open-mindedness and fairness in conducting the interview. However, the response from some of your readers was in the nature of "let's discredit the messengers"; one letter writer went so far as to call us "liars".

Unfortunately, this reaction is fairly common when people do not wish to listen to reasoning that fails to accord with their own preconceived views of the way that things should be.

My own opinion is that members of a university community should have the ability to rise above such ploys and be more open-minded and fair. In particular they should avoid calling others "liars" without any substantive reasons. How should the "accused" respond knowing that the charge is unfounded?

My main response is to summarize a few facts and interpretations in reply to questions raised by your readers. I hope that the open-minded members of our community, while realizing the difficulties that exist in trying to protect animals from unnecessary injury or abuse, will themselves try to do something to improve the present very unsatisfactory situation. Readers' comments are in quotation marks at the head of each section.

(1). *"There is a basic utilitarian purpose for hunting and it helps create a necessary ecological balance."*

The moral stance against "killing for fun" is based on the conception that the "gain" to the human being in

killing is trivial: mainly the "pleasurable" satisfaction of questionable emotions and desires; whereas the deleterious effect on the animal is out of all proportion to any human benefits -- that is, the animal loses its right to exist. In such instances the moral wrongs are considered to far outweigh the moral rights.

When one brings in the concept of "need" (that is not frivolous) then different conceptions can arise. Some New Brunswickers, for example, continue the tradition of hunting in order to put adequate food on the family table. But the Nobel Laureate, Dr. Albert Schweitzer has written:

"Whenever I injure life of any sort, I must be quite clear whether it is necessary". Some aspects of this question were discussed with Steven Griffiths. I add, here, that hunting existed before the concepts of wildlife management were evolved. Certain aspects of "wildlife management" are merely retrospective rationalizations to justify or serve hunting interests. To argue that "animals are going to die anyway if we don't hunt them" (from disease, hunger, predation, etc.) is a statistical forecast, but the hunters' kills may not match those animals that will die from these other hazards -- so that hunting can become an additional hazard that is additive to the others. Thus, many wildlife species have declined in numbers throughout the world, due to hunting and trapping practices, as well as from human population expansion and other causes (pollution,

(2). *"A responsible reporter would have asked Mr. Cummings (sic) to elaborate on the so-called 'Criminal Studies' that have linked violent criminal offenders to animal abuses"*.

I cite two papers (from many others) dealing with correlations between cruelty to animals and people: A.R. Felthous, M.D., and S.R. Keller, Ph.D.: "Childhood Cruelty Toward animals among Criminals and Non-criminals". In: International Symposium on the Human/Pet Relationship, Vienna(1983). I quote from a second paper "Violence Against Animals and People: Is Aggression against Living Creatures Generalized?", published by the World Society For The Protection of animals: "The findings were reported (in 1983 paper) that cruelty towards animals 'occurred to a significantly greater degree' among aggressive criminals, as compared to nonaggressive criminals or noncriminals." It is stated in the second paper: "Substantial cruelty to animals appears to be one of several behaviors ... that can represent a pattern of impulsive, diffuse aggression in childhood or adolescence."

Other references are given in these papers, for example: Wax, D.E. and Hadox, V.G. "Enuresis, firesetting and animal cruelty in male adolescent delinquents: A triad predictive of violent behavior." The Journal of Psychiatry and Law 2:45-71 (1974).

It is unfortunate that when one discusses these issues, many hunters and trappers immediately interpret the dis-

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VARSAITY

MANIA

**"RETURN of the
RED 'N ROWDY"**

**FRIDAY NIGHT,
8:00 pm, MAIN
GYM**

**WHERE WILL
YOU BE??**

Attention Graduates

Applications for Student Activity Awards are now available in Rm. 118 of the SUB and from Luigi Rocca in Rm. 126.

All those who have participated in extra-curricular activities are encouraged to apply. Point schedules are also available with the applications.

Deadline for applications is March 10 / 89.