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cussion as attacking them personally - although one is trying to understand the elements of a phenomenon rather than meaning to attack individuals.

(3). "The linking of hunting to the brutal inhumanity of the Hitler regime and to the irrational bloodthirstiness of murderers is ridiculous."

I have written elsewhere (In "Skinned", to be published by the International Wildlife Coalition, 1989) in regard to R.J. Lifton's book "The Nazi Doctors" (1986): "Lifton's treatise sheds light on 'the banality of evil' and on how people can rationalize death and destruction: 'psychic numbing' and 'numbed violence'. The Nazis, after all, evaded concern about their human subjects of experimentation and death because they considered them to be 'sub-humans', 'creatures', 'animals', 'vermin', 'corrupting diseases' and so forth."

I think that the analogy has some applications, albeit unfortunate ones.

(4). "There are articles printed like this each year in the Brunswickan and Mr. Cummings (sic) relished the opportunity to shovel his biased opinions at people. I would like to suggest to the readers of these articles to look at these peoples' backgrounds. What contact have they had with wildlife? Have they ever hunted? What do they eat?"

I readily admit to a bias on behalf of the wild animals, to protect them against unnecessary killing -- just as hunters should admit to a bias in favour of hunting, as compared to other methods, for controlling or maintaining populations at certain levels.

I have lived in the countryside (U.K. and three Canadian provinces), for about 35 of my 63 years, and have done extensive studying (including

courses) and reading on the subject of wildlife (including both fauna and flora). Yes! I have hunted, and came to regret the suffering and unnecessary death that I caused, despite being an army-trained marksman. My wife and I became vegetarians because of our growing awareness of the abuses to animals that exist in agriculture, and because of our growing realization that it is not generally necessary for us to eat or use products that are derived from the killing of animals. It is estimated that there are well over 100 million vegetarians in the world today, and some studies suggest that vegetarians are, in general, healthier than non-vegetarians.

(5). "Dr. Cumming's case would be strengthened if he made a distinction between what the Judeo-Christian faith itself advocates and what many in its name (falsely) argue."

I agree with this comment (made by Rev. John Valk) and continue to be enlightened and encouraged by writers such as Rev. Andrew Linzey, Anglican Chaplain and Professor (University of Exeter, U.K.), and author of

"Christianity and the Rights of Animals" (University Press, Cambridge, 1987), and Dr. Richard Schwantz who wrote "Judaism and Vegetarianism" (Exposition Press, 1982).

(6). "Hunters pay for conservation through licence sales and donations to the many wildlife funds."

Many public costs of hunting are probably not borne by hunters' licence fees, let alone the time costs of conservation (where it exists). One should consider all the ancillary costs that are related to hunting, including the employment of biologists, game wardens, forest rangers, administrative staff, police and legal involvement, other staff, court costs for hunting infractions, civil and military searches

for lost hunters; buildings, field equipment, vehicles, supplies, their construction and maintenance; brochures and publicity, education, advertisements on radio, T.V., newspapers; damage to the environment, costs of signposting to control hunting, overheads in the sale of licenses, costs of registration stations; loss of animals killed illegally (estimated to at least equal the number hunted legally). Added to these costs is the "value" of animals to the hunters -- for which there is no direct fee, excluding the licence.

The costs of hunting not borne by hunters are obviously borne by other citizens (the majority), by landowners who, like me, may not hunt but who pay many thousands of dollars in municipal and property taxes, etc, and who provide and maintain areas (at further expense and labour) where hunting can take place.

Where hunters' contributions to "wildlife funds" are concerned, many of these organizations support conservation for hunting interests.

(7). "The seal's increase in population has meant that more ringworm (sic) has been ingested by the cod stocks through the seal's feces. This has caused the ringworm to be present in such amounts in the cod flesh that the quality of the cod has decreased noticeably ..... we killed a million dollar industry of seal harvesting ....."

A headline in The Daily Gleaner, Dec. 31, 1987, stated: "Ottawa Officially Ends Seal Hunt." Yet, figures from the Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans (not released to the general public) indicate that approximately eighty-three thousand seals, mainly harp (excluding whitecoats) but some hooded seals, and at least five thousand grey seals, were killed ("harvested") in seal hunts in Atlantic

Canada in 1988, and the figures are likely to be higher in 1989.

This, despite comments from Fisheries Minister Tom Siddon (Gleaner, Dec. 31, 1987): "there isn't enough scientific evidence to justify a cull of grey seals on the East Coast." The codworm (PSEUDOTERRANOVA DECIPIENS) -- not "ringworm" as indicated in a student's letter ("ringworm" is a fungal disease on humans) -- is being blamed for problems with cod which humans eat. This is a controversial area which I deliberately refrained from mentioning because biologists have differing views on the name-playing and "seal-bashing" that is going on. Government officials and others who want to blame the seals for infestations of cod by the codworm are re-naming the codworm "Sealworm", primarily it seems for pejorative purposes, and more by government edict than for scientific reasons (see Daily Gleaner, Feb. 19, 1988: "Scientists Continue War Against Sealworms").

At a 1987 meeting of the scientific advisors to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), scientists (including Canadians) noted "that direct competition between harp seals and fishermen was rare, and that there was no evidence of damage to gear or catches caused by harp seals in the Northwest Atlantic. They also pointed out that harp seals are regarded as relatively unimportant hosts of the codworm" (quoted from David Lavigne, Canadian Society of Zoologists Bulletin). Meanwhile, "cod stocks" are being depleted due to overfishing by humans in the Atlantic Ocean.

Apart from exporting the pelts of the slaughtered seals (to Norway and the Orient), "seal meat" is now being processed from OFFAL by three companies in Atlantic Canada, and one in Ontario, to provide food for fur-bearing

animals whose pelts are destined for the fur trade. This is a further questionable economic extrapolation if one considers the moral and ethical questions involved.

I end with a further quotation from Albert Schweitzer ("Philosophy of Civilization"): "Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace."

By Bruce Gordon Cumming  
(Professor of Biology)

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