

Hunters a threat to wildlife

By MAUREEN BANKS

Each year hunting season raises serious ethical considerations. Bruce Cumming, a biology professor at UNB, believes that people have a responsibility not to use animals in any way that causes pain or death.

Cummings has had his life threatened three times by hunters on his own 280 acre property. He also was almost charged for removing traps from his farm. He feels, "It takes a lot of courage to face up to some of these people".

One suggestion he has is strengthening the rights of the land owners. As it stands now, if a sign is not posted stating that there is no hunting, trespassing or fishing - the property is open game to the hunter. The hunter can simply tear the sign down and insist that he did not see it.

In Ontario, they have adapted a colour coding system which eliminates this problem. The trees are systematically painted so the hunter is forced to acknowledge the regulations. This system was discussed in a 1983 meeting with New Brunswick's Department of Natural Resources. But there has been no move to make the change.

Cummings also feels that a revision is needed in the Criminal Code, to ensure the protection of all wildlife, not just domestic animals.

In response to the hunters' position as a balancing tool for

the ecological system, Cummings insists there are other alternatives. He points to the situation in Ethiopia. In response to their starvation, we provided food. Why not provide for the wildlife as an alternative to killing them?

Another suggestion is that we introduce coyotes as a means of setting up a natural system of prey/predator. He feels society has been strongly influenced by

the fallacy of 'The Little Red Riding Hood Syndrome'. This unjustified paranoia resulted in a massive slaughtering in Michigan, where the wolf population was reduced to near extinction.

Cummings also stressed the fact that the hunter does not ensure survival of the fittest. "Bullets don't seek out the weakest deer." He stressed that points are awarded to hunters

who kill the largest animal. "This means we are not helping the fit survive, but we are killing the best samples."

Cummings suggested there is a strong need for the education of ethical issues. As a biologist, he is in full support of environmental ethics. However, he feels the scientific method views values and ethics as being outside the realm of science because they can't be quantified.

Cummings strongly feels that the basis of realizing our humane obligations to wildlife can only be achieved through a change in morality and attitude. "The sport is completely unjustified", he says. If the hunter desires the thrill of tracking and trophies, why not take a camera instead of a gun? This would still require hunting skills and the photograph could replace the trophy.

Compassion towards victims

By ALICE J. PITRE

A recent telephone survey would indicate that most UNB students would be compassionate and supportive toward AIDS victims.

When asked what they would do if one of their professors had AIDS, only two of the thirty students surveyed said they would not attend the class. One of these would start a petition to remove the professor from this post. Of the other twenty-eight, only six would act differently toward the professor. It seems that a professor with AIDS could expect fewer students in the front row, and fewer requests for individual help.

The response was somewhat different when students were asked how they would react to a close friend who had contacted AIDS. Four people said they

would feel uncomfortable around friends with AIDS, and would avoid them. Four others did not know how they would react. The other twenty-two would in general be supportive toward friends with AIDS. These students would treat their friends with some reservations, avoiding physical contact, but still maintaining the relationship. Most felt that the AIDS victim would need the friendship more than ever.

As could be expected, few of the students had even thought of the possibility that one of their

friends might contact AIDS. The fact that AIDS is not solely a homosexual disease is still not fully understood on campus. Two of those who said they would definitely drop the friendship had not taken into consideration the possibility that a friend with AIDS might not be gay.

Twenty-six of the thirty students are definitely in favor of giving AIDS victims fair treatment. This "fair treatment," however, can be interpreted in various ways. The following

comments were made: "They should be treated like anyone else with a terminal illness." "They should be treated fairly, but some people aren't very responsible." "Yes, they deserve fair treatment, but shouldn't be allowed to get out and spread it around." "They should not be in certain positions." "Yes, but stay away from me." "It depends on the circumstances."

One student commented that "people are more concerned about the rights of AIDS victims than about the rights of the others."

Tribute to Levesque

By RICHARD RENAUD

- COMMENTARY -

A headline like that might not mean much to the ordinary UNB student, but it should. If Canada and New Brunswick are bilingual today, it is due in part to the dedication of René Levesque in preserving the French identity. Although he had been out of the political scene for two years, the twenty-five years that he put in changed the course of Canadian history forever.

I was only twelve when he was elected and unaware of the significance in electing the Parti Quebecoise. I soon learnt that it meant, at least at the time, that English were the enemy and the familiar "Je me souviens" (I remember) on license plates meant, I remember how great it was before the English conquest of 1759. Being a half breed (English mother, French father) I was now the enemy of my twelve year old peers. Levesque to me was evil.

As I grew up, I began to understand what it meant to

be a French Canadian and I took great pride in my French heritage. I understood what René meant. I did not agree with him on separation, but nationalism, through a renewed federalism made a lot of sense. The greatest gift he gave was pride and today the Quebec people owe their renewed sense of pride to him, René "ti-poll" Levesque. His death affects all of us, he certainly made his mark and reserved a special spot in history books and in the hearts of all Quebecers.

Engineers of the year

Five engineering students at the University of New Brunswick have been singled out by their peers for their contributions to the professional, cultural and social life on campus and in the community.

The three New Brunswickers on the 1987 Student Achievement List are Wayne Carson, a civil engineering student from Moncton; James Pickard, a mechanical engineering student

from Bathurst; and Paul White, a geological engineering student from Fredericton. In the 1986-87 academic year, these students were in their fifth year of study.

The two engineering student achievers from Prince Edward Island are Heather MacLennan, a fourth-year civil engineering student from Charlottetown; and Natalie MacKenzie, a fifth-

year civil engineering student from Summerside.

A maximum of 10 engineering students are selected for the Student Achievement List each year. To qualify, the students must have a grade-point average of at least 2.7 and have made significant and outstanding contributions to the university and beyond. The award is sponsored by the faculty of engineering.

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