

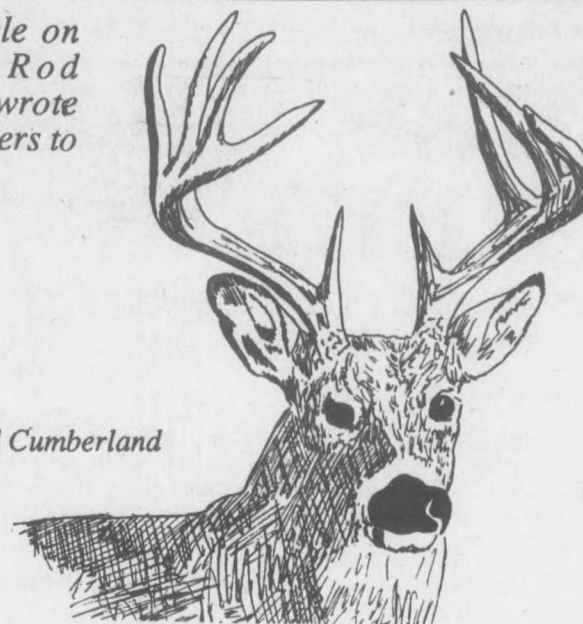
# Sport: Other Side

As a response of Steve Griffiths' controversial article on hunting published in last week's Brunswickan, Rod Cumberland, a fourth year Forestry Wildlife student wrote the following article to create a balance. We invite readers to feel free to let their views be made known

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(Features Editor)



Artwork by Rod Cumberland



pounds of meat in his freezer. Is this man any more guilty than people who raise chickens, pigs and cows and slaughter them for food?

Our native population have traditionally depended on hunting for their livelihood. Many of them would be befuddled by the accusation of brutality and vandalism which has come to be wrongly placed on hunters. They are virtually every inch of the animal. For them, hunting is a sacred ritual, it is no joking matter to take the life of an animal. Those who think that hunting is a party for all hunters are mistaken.

The linking of hunting to the brutal inhumanity of the Hitler regime and to the irrational bloodthirstiness of murderers is ridiculous. It makes a comparison of the harvesting of turnips and cabbages with a blood-thirsty onslaught on innocent vegetation seem like a valid one. That many criminals have hunted in the past should be regarded as a statistic with as much insinuating evidence as their having eaten ice cream or vegetables. Psychological links of this nature cannot be treated as fair generalizations.

Finally, I would like to indulge in some direct comments to the authors of the article "Blood Sport" in last week's Brunswickan. There are articles printed like this each year in the Brunswickan and Mr. Cummings relishes 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? Have they showed both sides of the story? Do they mention guys like me who know more about these animals than they do about the vegetables they eat?

At least the food of hunters has the opportunity to run free and enjoy its environment long before the harvest. And, when the harvest does occur it's on their turf, not in our barn or back yard. I find articles like the "Blood Sport" feature ironic comments on the question of violence since the emotional and verbal violence contained in that article would seem to any physical violence good hunters could be accused on inflicting of humanity and the animal world.

By Rod Cumberland

\*Cf. Steven Griffiths: "Blood Sport" - in *The Brunswickan* Vol. 123 #15 - 20/1/89.

Wildlife management and government control is the responsibility of the people of New Brunswick who form the government of the province. If hunters are not encouraged to harvest the deer who will do it? Should the government ministers be mandated to do the task or should we pay someone \$40,000 a year to shoot deer? And what will be done with all that meat?

For those who would wonder why the animals have to be harvested in the first place it may help for them to see a malnourished deer being brought down by a pack of dogs or the sight of a starving deer suffering to death because there is not enough browse to support the large numbers of deer. Starving the animal is not more humane than a quick certain death. Hunting helps to remove deer that may cause the population to exceed its environment's carrying capacity. There is a basic utilitarian purpose to hunting and it helps create a necessary ecological balance.

The humane claim of hunting is further supported by the economical strength of hunting over the purchasing of meat from retail outlets. A friend of my family doesn't have the money to buy 10 pounds of meat every week to feed his six children, but he can surely afford to spend \$40.00 on a couple of deer licenses to put two hundred

Layout by Kwame Dawes