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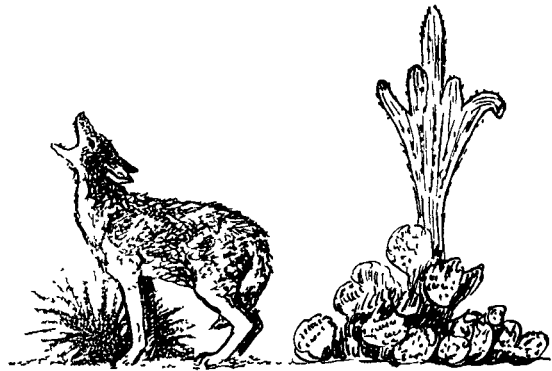


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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 20.

March, 1982

YOU ALL WRITE NOW RIGHT NOW !!!

The WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA (WLFA) has sent out an urgent request to which I'd like to add my two bits. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is in the process of being amended. Hearings on the amendments are being held this month and April so it is essential you write your Congressmen now to make them aware of your feelings regarding the ESA.

The ESA was passed in 1973 when the protectionists from their control tower on Cloud "9" attempted to convince Americans wildlife was on the verge of extinction due to hunting, fishing, and trapping. It is an unworkable piece of legislation that "orders" Nature to clean up her act. The protectionists shudder at the thought of all those species disappearing from earth before the taxonomists can identify them. They forget the millions and millions of other species that have come and gone since life started on this planet. The Act operates on the belief that human legislation can stop the forces of Nature that decree death to a species that can no longer cope with changes in its environment. About the only habitat that won't contain one of these valuable orange-footed pimplebacks is the asphalt jungle in which most of these fuzzy-headed idealists thrive.

Another gripe of mine is most of these rare species are aberrant forms. Some taxonomist worked hard to get his name in print by picking out some obscure differences from the common herd. Take for example the endangered San Francisco garter snake. What is so important about a gene pool that contains the gene for more red on the scales than on the common garter snake ?

The amendment package, known as the *Common Sense Amendments* (yea verily !) is before the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation, and the Environment chaired by Rep. John Breau (D-LA) and the Senate Subcommittee on Environmental Pollution chaired by Senator John Chafee (R-RI). They should be contacted also. The amendments being considered would be part of the ESA reauthorization package which must be voted on by Congress by October 1, 1982.

The most important amendment to trappers would overturn the 1981 U.S. Court of Appeals decision on bobcats. This decision called for posting "reliable population estimates" (the judge didn't know the difference between bobcats and dandelions) prior

to permitting export of bobcat pelts. The scientific data submitted by professional Wildlife managers was overruled. Wildlife law experts fear this decision would be cited as precedent in subsequent lawsuits to stop the taking of any species - - waterfowl, bass, rabbits, or coyotes. The proposed amendment would overturn this decision by stating in law that population estimates will not be a factor in the permission or denial of export. Setting of a season for a species by a State wildlife management agency will be all the Federal government needs to permit export.

Another amendment would eradicate language in the ESA which suggests sport hunting, fishing, and trapping are causes of endangerment of wildlife species. License fees, taxes on sporting goods, and personal contributions through private groups like DUCKS UNLIMITED pay for most conservation programs in the U.S.A. Hunting has had more positive than negative effects on wildlife over the years.

Still another amendment would bring the States into the decision making on endangered species listings. This might ensure future listings would be based on the most complete biological data available and would improve the cooperation between State and Federal management agencies.

Before May 15th write to your Senators (Senator - - -, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) and your Representative (Representative - - -, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515) now. You can also send a 20-word "public opinion" telegram at a special rate by calling Western Union and having it charged to your telephone number. Or it will only cost you 39¢ to send 3 postcards. It is in your interest if you have any connection with sport hunting, commercial trapping or professional wildlife management. You can be sure the antis are rallying their forces with letters, telegrams, telephone (you can call too - 1-202-224-3121, and ask for your Congressman), and lobbying. So let your Congressmen know there is sizable opposition to the "bunny-lovers" and their emotional outbursts. The message should be brief and preferably in your own words, but an example is:

I am asking you to vote for the Common Sense Amendments to the Endangered Species Act. It is common sense to recognize the real concerns of wildlife management professionals. The ESA should be corrected because it is an important piece of wildlife legislation that is seriously flawed. The "bobcat decision" should be overturned because it sets a dangerous precedent that could seriously affect professional management of our wildlife resources. I will look forward to learning how you plan to vote.

It is not enough you do it. Get your wife, kids, and friends to write also. You can be certain Defenders of Wildlife and similar organizations are pulling out all stops in a publicity campaign to have school children writing tearful letters to these same Congressmen. Do it now !!!

Never play leapfrog with a unicorn !!!

As Clare Conley says it so much better
column: WHAT'S IN A NAME ?

I am reprinting his February OUTDOOR LIFE

"It always irks me when a name given to an organization or a piece of legislation hides the real intent of the group or law. Take Friends of Animals or Fund for Animals for example. The Friends do spay cats and dogs, and I guess that is friendly

if you're not a cat or dog. But aside from that, both the Friends and the Fund have one goal--to stop hunting. They don't give a dang about conservation. If they ever used *any* of their money in conservation work, I never heard of it. They raise money to pay their executives, who in turn make public outcries, appear on television and buy advertisements in newspapers--to raise more money. The hunter is just the convenient whipping boy in the whole system. Where would they be without him? All the 20 million or so hunters are just being used by people who have no more substance than carnival barkers. And pity the people who donate to them.

In any case, the Friends of and Fund for Animals are not what their names would have you believe. They don't provide money for research in animal problems or improvement of habitat. They aren't conservationists: they're propagandists. So much for what's in a name.

In the legislative field, selecting names for their public relations value goes on, too. There are a lot of examples, but one that comes readily to mind is the Endangered Species Act...it was this act that permitted alligators to increase in numbers in the South to the point where they now are a threat to swimming dogs, children and even adults...Once a species makes the "list", the protection that surrounds it is only slightly less than that afforded a head of state. So when alligators started eating people and other unwilling species, someone said, "Hey, wait a minute; there's more of these monsters than we thought." It was typical case of underkill.

I think the next level they got alligators to was "threatened". The Endangered Species Act supporters hate losing one. It blows their credibility. But the only thing threatened about alligators was any living thing swimming nearby.

The trouble with the Endangered Species Act...is that it is too easy to list a species and the protection given the species is too broad. For example, elk might be endangered in Pennsylvania, but not in Montana.

But worse than that, the Act became what I suspect it always was meant to be--a convenient legal club to knock out many uses of our wildlife resource. For example, the Defenders of Wildlife, who by the way are not defenders of hunting, filed suit to prevent the export of bobcat pelts. They found either a sympathetic or a naive court, which, ignoring established wildlife management practices, ruled that "reliable population estimates" must be obtained before seasons could be established. That sounds good until you start to define what is reliable, and that argument can go on forever--which is just what the Defenders want...

So what's in a name--a lot more than you think. The word "endangered" was carefully chosen to inflame the hearts of devout preservationists and to crumble, as insensitive clods, the opposition...the name should be changed to the Wildlife Conservation Act. Let's put the good old-fashioned word "conservation" back in use, and get rid of all these biological buzzwords that say so little and hide so much."

Clare Conley, Editor

In a battle of tongues few politicians hold their own.

MEETINGS

We did have an Executive Committee meeting with all members present as well as an open general NADCA meeting in Monterey, California, last month. Here's what happened:

Membership: In the future, there will be four classes of memberships with the following fees: Student (\$5), Active (\$10), Supporting (\$25), and Sustaining (\$100+). While these categories are in effect right now, they will not appear on the registration cards until the 1983 cards are printed. It was suggested more publicity be given activities of NADCA to help recruiting. A complete accounting will be made in THE PROBE at a future date.

The Probe: This publication came in for some hard words from the membership present. It was felt THE PROBE is not the "voice" of NADCA as it needs more professionalism-- fewer jokes, more objective statements, and attention to ADC principles. It was suggested two publications could be issued-- one on the current PROBE format and the other a more factual, technical publication. [YE ED has submitted a suggested format on the latter to some members and this will appear in a future issue.]

Fiscal Year: It was suggested that this should be changed as the first of the year is a poor time to ask for dues. No action was taken on this, however, as no good compromise was suggested for how to handle those already paid up. Thus we will continue on as before -- informally making anyone a member for the year 1982-3 who signs up after September 1st. All members before that will receive copies of the PROBE for the entire year, the later signers only for the remainder of the 1982 year. Bills will be sent out starting with the September issue of the PROBE.

Elections: The Executive Committee can fill any vacancy as it occurs, but the bylaws make it necessary for those appointments to be confirmed at the next general meeting. The following appointments were confirmed: Norton R. Miner as RD III; Milton Caroline as RD IV; John C. Jones as RD VI; and Donald A. Spencer as Regional Director-at-large.

Committees: Homer Ford was appointed Chairman of the Nominating Committee again; Milton Caroline to head up the Education Committee; and Pink Madsen to chair a committee that would prepare a position statement on ADC policy.

Next general meeting: San Angelo, Texas was chosen as the 1983 site for a general meeting. Milt Caroline volunteered to make arrangements. Time was left open.

There's a new Oriental cookbook -- 101 ways to wok your dog.

ELEPHANT STEW

- 1 Medium-sized elephant
- 2 Rabbits, optional
- Salt and pepper to taste

Cut the elephant into small, bite-sized pieces. Add enough brown gravy to cover. Cook over kerosene fire about four weeks at 465 degrees. This will serve 3,800 people. If more are expected, two rabbits may be added. But do this only in an emergency, most people do not like hare in their stew.

Robin Hood was the first Wall Street broker. He bought old ewes from the farmers, butchered them and sold them in town as venison -- the first to buy sheep and sell deer.

CATS GET RABBIT FEVER ?

CDC reports two recent cases of humans contracting tularemia from their cats. A man in Georgia had 3 sick Siamese cats which he treated at home without any injury he could recall. When the cats died, an autopsy showed characteristic white spots on the liver. The man came down shortly after with tularemia but streptomycin therapy was successful. In New Mexico, a man found his cat eating a dead rabbit under his bed (No comment on New Mexico customs). In throwing the cat and rabbit out, he got bitten (presumably by the cat). Four days later he developed tularemia and again the therapy was successful. The cat had a high antibody titer for *Francisella tularensis*. Though not given any treatment, it recovered and appeared normal. - Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, GA - MMWR 31 (4):39-41 (1982).

Frogs have it easy. They can eat what bugs them.

TULAREMIA !. WHERE ARE YA WHEN WE NEED YA ?

Remember the Idaho Mud Lake big rabbit hunt mentioned in PROBE #19 ? Michael Bailey, Fund for Animals, who was accused of strafing rabbit hunters from a rented helicopter now claims to have infiltrated the farmer's ranks during a January hunt. He reportedly witnessed numerous farmers tossing live rabbits in the air and hitting them with baseball bats. This claim was disputed by Bob Ziel, reporter from KID-TV in Idaho Falls. Bailey also claims to have rescued 9 rabbits and kept them in his hotel room overnight (hope he forgot to put his slippers on when he went to the john). He plans to "treat" them and release them. *Environmental News Service*: 1(1):5 (1982).

Nowadays, birds are the only creatures who have nest eggs.

DOG OWNERS - REMEMBER IT'S TRAPPING SEASON

Winter visitors--and also residents--especially when accompanied by a dog, should be alert to the fact that winter time is also trapping time in the desert. Many people drive over desert roads and hike the cattle and game trails for pleasure and for curiosity. Sometimes traps, or trapped animals are found. And regrettably, sometimes dogs get caught in traps that were not visible to the human prior to the accident.

But don't panic! The traps are not lost. Trapped wild animals are not unduly suffering unless molested and harassed by people, and there are ways to extricate your dog with a minimum of injury. Since accidentally trapped dogs cause so much anguish to their owners, let's first deal with how to get them out of a trap with the least amount of pain and injury.

Most dogs will even bite their owners when they are hurt or excited, so the first step is to tie a jacket sleeve, a small cord, a shoelace, or some other material securely around the dog's nose. Then carefully manipulate the dog into a standing position, on firm ground, so that the human can place both of his feet on the springs of the trap simultaneously. This may hurt the dog slightly, but it is important to keep the dog from thrashing around, so it is best to stand straddle of the dog and hold it between your legs while you push down on the trap springs. The two springs of the trap must be pushed down together in order for the jaws to release the dog's

foot. This method will be effective unless the dog is very large and strong and the person small and weak. In any case, it is much better if there are two or more people available to help keep the dog from thrashing about too much. There is seldom any permanent injury to the dog when it is taken from the trap within a reasonable time after being caught. *Pink Madsen, RD II Southwest.*

The above is the start of an article Pink wrote for publication in Arizona newspapers as part of MADCA policy to educate the public about ADC.

Sure I want to go to Heaven - I just don't want to be in any group they're forming now.

DISNEYWORLD, D.C.

A clerk has filed a bias complaint because, although he has been sorting mail left-handed for 13 years, officials are trying to force him to obey a rule that says all letters must be sorted with the right hand. *Newsweek, February 1982.*

ADC AND THE PROFESSIONS

PROBE #18 listed articles dealing with ADC that appeared during 1981 in the WILDLIFE SOCIETY publications. As we made a nasty remark about the SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MAMMALOGISTS, we thought we'd better check up and see just what their output was during 1981. They haven't changed. While we admit there were some articles of possible interest from the standpoint of background information on the habits of various species, the only ones we felt had even remote application to ADC were:

Petrac, M.L. & J.C. Topping: *Studies of natural populations of Mus. VI Sizes of populations inhabiting corn cribs in southwestern Ontario.* 62(1):146-153.

A statistical study of house mouse populations captured in corncribs which were replicated habitats showed population sizes ranged from 15-364 (average 54.5) in spring and summer and 6-39 (average 14.4) in winter samples. The densities ranged from 0.26-3.91 mice/m² and 0.04-0.85 mice/m² in the same time samples. No indication crib volume and population density were related, but crib orientation was felt to be an important factor. Cribs facing east-west had higher populations than those facing north-south. It was theorized the former provided a better buffer to the cold prevailing westerly winds.

Wourms, M.K.: *House mouse predation on cockroaches.* 62(4):853-4.

A controlled laboratory study showed house mice did prey on German cockroaches, but investigators were unable to conclude that "free-ranging" mice would also prey on these insects.

The JOURNAL OF MAMMALOGY was so unproductive, we checked out MAMMALIA (only the English language articles, of course) for 1981 as follows;

Cowan, P.E.: *Early growth and development of roof rats, Rattus rattus L.* 45(2):239-250.

A laboratory study of wild-caught *R. rattus* parents in Australia gives a table comparing growth development of *R. rattus*, *R. norvegicus*, and *R. exulans* on a daily time scale for determination of approximate age of young individuals caught in the field.

Schaefer, V.H. & R.M.F.S. Sadleir: *Factors influencing molehill construction by the coast mole (Scapanus oraxius True)*. 45(1):31-39:

A comparison of areas with and without molehills showed moles dug mainly in areas of light, wet soil. The number was highly correlated with total weight of worms present and the soil bulk density.

The JOURNAL OF ZOOLOGY (London) for 1981 produced the following:

Brodie, J.: *Norway rats (Rattus norvegicus) on cereal stubble*. 195:542-546.

Cereal fields in Gt. Britain are heavily infested with rats in the summer. After harvest, the majority of resident rats seek food elsewhere leaving a small percentage who live on the field borders and are marginally dependent upon waste grain left in the fields.

King, C.M.: *The effects of two types of steel traps upon captured stoats (Mustela erminea)*. 195:553-554:

Correctly set Fenn traps kill weasels more humanely than do gin traps. ["Gin" traps] (I always thought these referred to sleazy bars) are the British equivalent of our steel-jawed leghold traps. Fenn traps are a type of body trap not like the Conibear that I have never seen in this country].

Stoddart, D.M.: *Seasonable variability of Norway rat (Rattus norvegicus) infestation of agricultural premises*. 194:257-289:

A detailed study that proves what we always believed. Rat infestations in rural areas reach their greatest peak in April. Numbers decline as the rats move out into the fields through July. Populations start to build back up inside again in August to a new peak in November. There is a slight decline from December to March which was felt to be due to "disinfesting activities" ('control' to you Yanks).

Seems the only time I'm not in hot water is when I'm in the shower.

ANIMALS HAS GOT AS MUCH RIGHTS AS HUMANS

We thought our first article on "animal rights" was funny (PROBE #2), but once again we missed the public pulse. The movement instead of dying out is actually growing. The National Law Journal, leading newsweekly of U.S. Attorneys, devoted page one to a feature story on militant legal strategies of animal "liberationists". Quoting Genesis in the lead sentence, the reporter goes on - - "While mankind still has dominion, lawyers, academics, and political activists have joined forces to form a small but growing band that challenges all that." Efforts for farm animals are likened to the protection of "Indians, incompetents, and aliens". They even advertise an animal rights conference at Yale University this year.

Representative Thomas Harris (D-IA) talking to pork producers revealed he had received over 1,000 letters from Animal Right's supporters in his capacity as chairman of the House Livestock Subcommittee. He admitted much more pressure like that and hearings for House Bill 30-5 which would enpanel a "Farm Husbandry Committee" to effect 'meaningful dialogue' between 'farm interests' and 'animal welfare activists' might be forced into receiving a hearing. And another alphabet monstrosity has appeared - - NOAH (National Opportunities for Animal Humanity). This is going to hold an "animal rights" telethon this summer. I can't wait. *Environmental News Service*, 1(3):2, 1982.

Sure and if opportunity knocked some would complain about the noise.

NATIONAL WOOLGROWERS ANNUAL MEETING

A general attitude of optimism prevailed as the convention convened, due largely to the promise of a change in direction in the present Department of the Interior's (USDI) animal damage control (ADC) policy from that of the Carter Administration. The new Interior ADC policy may allow limited use of 1080 for predator control (with EPA approval), some relaxing of restrictions on denning and the M-44, and, in general, acceptance of predator control as a management tool and an equal element in an overall wildlife management program.

Unfortunately, Ray Arnett, Asst. Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (USDI) cancelled out as keynote speaker at the last minute. However, Jack R. Grieb, Colorado Div. of Wildlife, gave a well-received presentation on *Cooperative Programs for Progressive Control*. His opening comment was: *Coyotes have not been properly managed the past few years.*

Raymond Momboisse, Managing Attorney,² Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF), Washington, D.C. spoke on *EPA Hearings on Compound 1080*. He gave the history of 1080 starting with the Leopold study in 1964, through the Cain study, the Nixon Administration, and EPA actions banning use of 1080 as a predacide and the efforts to win it back for coyote control. He then outlined the expected EPA hearing procedures.

Jack Merwin, South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish, & Parks, spoke on *A State Damage Control Program That Works*. South Dakota took over the Federal ADC program seven years ago on a cost-sharing basis. The \$500,000 program is funded 60% by the Federal government (he claims they are actually only providing 40%) and 40% by the State. He emphasized the success of the program was due to its acceptance as an equal element in South Dakota's overall wildlife management program.

There was a conspicuous absence of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service personnel at the meeting. Only 2 FWS personnel were approved to attend by the D.C. headquarters: Robert Gilmore, Assoc. Deputy Director and Dr. Bart O'Gara, Leader of the Rocky Mountains Wolf Recovery team. The latter talked on *Restocking Wolves in the Western U.S.A.* He stated if the decision is made to "restock wolves", a zone area will be established not only to protect wolves in their selected habitat but also to protect livestock owners bordering these sanctuaries. He felt his observations on Canadian wolf programs prove it possible to have wolves and a protected adjacent area.

- The ADC committee passed the following resolutions (not exact wording):
1. The NWGA commend EPA for scheduling adjudicatory hearings on 1080 and also on the decision to hold regional meetings out of Washington, D.C.
 2. The NWGA recommend USDI eliminate Regional Office and Area Office involvement in ADC and request the State Supervisors receive direct supervision from D.C.
 3. The NWGA request FWS prepares an eagle management plan to assist in control.
 4. The NWGA supports efforts of Wolf Recovery Team but urge adequate livestock protection.

The above was condensed from notes given YE ED by Homer S. Ford and Tom Nicholls on the annual meeting in Portland, Oregon on January 20-23, 1982. They were received too late to include in the February PROBE.

Middle age is when liftin' yersel' out of bed is exercise enough.

EPA 1080 HEARINGS

Ray Momboisse, PLF, is ramroding the State of Wyoming, Texas, NADCA, National Wool Growers, National Cattlemen, etc. arguments to overturn the EPA decision to ban the use of 1080 as a predacide. He met individually with NADCA members in Monterey who are slated to be witnesses at the hearings. Several times he has expressed his appreciation of the depth of expertise available from members of this organization and his confidence our help would enable them to return 1080 as a useful tool in ADC. Members who are slated to testify are: A. Warren Ahlstrom, Milton Caroline, Guy Connolly, William D. Fitzwater, Homer S. Ford, Walter E. Howard, Clyde R. Madsen, Wilfred O. Nelson, Jr., Norton R. Miner, George S. Rost, and Dale A. Wade.

Middle age is when a girl says "no" and you sure are grateful.

MORE BIG BROTHER GOVERNMENT THAN WE REALLY NEED - AS USUAL

The Research & Special Programs Administration (U.S. Dept. of Transportation) has ruled that pyrotechnical devices like *Shellcrackers* come under the Class A explosives category which makes them practically impossible to transport. While Marshall Hyde (a staunch supporter of NADCA) was the only source named, all other sources of exploding shotgun shells will come under the same classification. Thus these devices will no longer be supplied for airport and agricultural uses to fight bird problems due to transportation restrictions. Another important ADC tool will be lost in a bureaucratic snafu unless we convince them to make an exception for wildlife usage. *Thanks to Michael J. Harrison.*

My luck would be only half bad if it would improve 50 percent.

RICH WOMAN RUNS UNUSAL CAT HOUSE

So help me that's what the headline said over a story about a Ms Patricia Ladew, Standard Oil heiress. Ms Ladew bought a \$40,000 eight-room house in Oyster Bay (Long Island, NY). She renovated, constructed special cat exercise runs, and started her own feline orphanage. Six years later the orphanage is home to 130 cats attended by two volunteer housekeepers. Ms Ladew is picking up a yearly tab of \$70,000 including at least \$10,000 in vet bills. The felines go through 1,700 pounds of kitty litter every other week. There is a stockpile of 140 cases of cat food in the basement. There is even a special room for 18 leukemia-stricken cats. One of the housekeepers is quoted: "We don't believe in putting them to sleep. Our oldest cat, named Lady, is 21 and three legged. She had a cancer operation." It is stories like this that make me feel an excess profit tax on oil companies is not enough. *Albuquerque Tribune, ? 1982.*

Do I live within my income ? I can't even live within my credit.

YE ED - *William D. Fitzwater*

We're a little rushed on this issue as we felt you must be made aware of the ESA hearings. We just got back from the week in Monterey, have been busy on the EPA 1080 testimony, and getting ready to leave for Hawaii the end of the month for several weeks (Eat your hearts, snow-lovers). There is a good store of material on hand but we just didn't have time to work it up.

(over)

Incidentally, the "orange-footed pimpleback" is an endangered mussel found in Tennessee and Alabama.

I have been a little smug in editing the PROBE. I thought I had been doing a good job, but I had my eyes opened at the meeting as has already been mentioned (page 4). As leopards can't change their spots (what a stupid statement!) I can't promise anything, but I would like to put out a publication that makes most of you happy. So would you please write at least a postcard telling what is right and what is wrong with the contents of the PROBE? Do - - -

the "one-liners" jar you? (I'm proud of how clean I've kept them so far!)

DISNEYWORLD, D.C. and other jibes at the bureaucracy disturb you?

Ol' Timers Column bore you? "Humorous" headlines make you sick?

news items like the "cat" house and elephant stew seem too inconsequential?

summaries of technical articles on ADC seem redundant?

you want more serious or technical articles on ADC? (This is your problem as I've printed all I ever received).

the malicious attacks on Animal Rightists, protectionists, & bureaucrats I don't agree with upset you?

I seem preoccupied with U.S. FWS problems? (75% of the membership is associated with U.S. FWS) pilfered cartoons seem out of place? ETC. ETC.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW. You don't have to sign the card so you can be as nasty as you wish, but your vote will count in determining future editorial content of the PROBE.

Thanks, Fitz

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