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May 1984

## The Probe, Issue 44 - July 1984

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# THE PROBE



## National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 43

May, 1984

### DENVER'S BEAVERS ARE LITTLE CUTUPS !!

It's been over a year since Denver City Council banned trapping in that town. Now the Denver newspapers, who helped pass the ban by slanted journalism, are reporting many thousands of dollars in tree losses to beaver. While beaver have been a chronic problem in Denver for many years, it took only six months for some city agency people to start to question the wisdom of the politicians. They hired a consultant to advise them on how to control beaver without traps. He reportedly recommended supplemental feeding which would only lead to more beaver. Then he suggested sterilization. But how can a beaver be sterilized without trapping which is illegal? Denver would need an Olympic grade swimmer who was fast with a switch blade.

The answer, of course, is to rescind the ordinance and work on restrictions if the City Fathers are so afraid of trapping. Denver's wildlife situations will be much healthier over the long run if trappers are allowed to remove surpluses. Wildlife in urban areas have a way of solving controversies by making the bad guys into the good guys given enough time. As Colorado continues to urbanize with green belts, parks, and open spaces, more wildlife problems are certain. A protectionist attitude in much of the populace, city officials, and agency staff will create a lot of strife. Prairie dogs, rattlesnakes, muskrats, beaver, and coyotes are compatible with people only when managed which includes a constant program of killing and removing the surpluses which develop. City fathers, agency staffs, county commissioners, etc. should be made aware of that fact of life. Thank to Major Boddicker in The Coyote Report, Vol.2, #1 (1984).

*To be good is noble; but to teach others how to be good is nobler - and less trouble.*

### SEWER SNAKES

There is supposed to be a thriving population of alligators in the New York City sewer system, but Rosenberg, Texas, recently had its own claim to fame. A pet 11-foot python belonging to a Mr. Houston slithered down his toilet and disappeared in the sewer system. Until it was recaptured several days later, it had the residents of Rosenberg, peering cautiously in their toilets before sitting down to think about it and then piling heavy weights over the top of the closed seat. I am also sure some more timid souls did a lot of leg-crossing until desperation drove them to use the facilities. Albuquerque Tribune (12 Jun 84).

*There are several good protections against temptations but the surest is cowardice.*

**HOT ITEMS FROM THE FEDERAL REGISTER**

Even better than listening to Congressional speeches, the best thing for insomnia is to read the Federal Register. However, every once in awhile they do have something of interest as RD Don Spencer pointed out in the 30 May 1984 issue. This was a list of vertebrate pesticides and applications that were to be approved for 24c (State) registrations:

CALIFORNIA - Carbon bisulfide for fumigating squirrel and muskrat burrows (Agric. Comm., Orange Co.)

Strychnine grain bait (0.65%) for horned larks (Fresno Co. Agric. Dept.)

NEVADA - Chempar Chem. Co. Rozol paraffinized pellets to control meadow mice in orchards and nonagricultural sites.

NEW MEXICO - Degesch Phostoxin tablets-R in outdoor cropland control for Gunnison and black-tailed prairie dogs.

OREGON - Orco Gopher Grain bait for forest, nursery, and grass seed crops to control gophers and "filed" mice (that's a new type of mouse to me).

VIRGINIA - Archem Parapel paraffinized pellets to control pine and meadow mice in orchards.

WASHINGTON - Maki paraffinized pellets to control orchard mice in eastern Oregon on pome and stone fruits.

As if that wasn't bad enough I got a letter from Glenn Hood not only sending me an earlier account (FR 15 Sept. 82: 40659+) of EPA's efficacy data waiver that I mentioned (PROBE 43:1), but also a discussion of the pros and cons of this EPA action by Bill Jackson and Steve Frantz (PEST CONTROL Sept. 82, pp 4-5, 60). Also on this same matter see Bert Atsma in LETTERS TO YE ED.

*When you cannot get a compliment in any other way, pay yourself one.*

**THE WHITE HOUSE IS A ZOO**

As if we didn't know! An AP release points out the maze of fences, guards, concrete barriers, laser beams, sensors, etc. are no match for any wild animals that want to inhabit the President's house. Recently, government business at its highest level was interrupted when a mocking bird invaded the office of White House Chief of Staff James A. Baker III. It successfully evaded all attempts at capture until it decided it had cost the taxpayers enough and left on its own volition.

That bird wasn't the only subhuman invader, Baker lost a pet frog a couple of months ago along with some giant cockroaches he kept to feed the frog. These promptly hybridized with the resident roaches. A wild turkey on the White House lawn during the Carter Administration prompted some rather unkind comparisons by YE ED in the past. However, the continuing saga of house mice and their ability to outwit the Executive Branch remains the biggest animal story from Disneyworld, DC.

Mice have been a problem at least since the Andrew Johnson Administration, but here again they got their best media exposure during Carter's time. When one was seen climbing the curtains in the Oval Room, Carter called in the General Services Administration (GSA), Department of the Interior, Defense Department, and whatever other agencies might have experience in that area (he missed EPA and that is the biggest Mickey Mouse department of them all).

The Defense Department deployed 296 traps in every nook and cranny. Body counts rose from 2 the first month to 38 before finally falling back again to 1. The first anniversary of the President's election, GSA issued a war memo stating the population had stabilized though some odors from the walls indicated that the capitalist U.S. had apparently sunk to communist levels and resorted to chemical warfare. For shame! Thanx to Ann Fitzwater and the Albuquerque Tribune.

*Often the less there is to justify a traditional custom, the harder it is to get rid of it.*

### ARE YA GETTIN' THIS ?

There was a recent article in the Albuquerque Tribune with horror stories of postal employees dumping bulk mail. So if you're sure I've got your correct address and you miss a copy let me know. As I mentioned in #43 there will be no issues for June and August, but I try to get this out around the last week of the month so you should be getting it by the middle of the month it is dated. I did find out that the Albuquerque Post Office lets bulk mail gather dust for at least two days no matter how idle they are before they start to move it out.

*I could never learn to like her - except on a raft at sea with no other provisions in sight.*

### LETTERS TO YE ED

Major Boddicker, (Wildl. Ext. Spec.), Univ. of Colorado:

The PROBE is certainly a welcome addition to the mail each month. It is reassuring that there is still some saneness left in this business. You requested permission to use some of the Coyote Report stuff; have at it, if we can trade. (None of mine is copyrighted as I stole it from somebody else. My only objective is to give you information I hope you will use to further the cause of ADC.)

How did a rennet (that's the trouble with a higher college education - I had to look that up. "The lining membrane of the 4th stomach of a calf" ? I really think rectal mucosa would be more apt) like Ed Johnson\* survive the Gorsuche era ? I hope his eternity is filled with comparable joy, joy in proportion to what he created on earth for his fellow man. Dante had a place described for this gentleman, I don't recall the level.

\* *RD Johnny Jones sent a clipping (WASHINGTON POST, 22 May 84) noting that Ed Johnson was trading jobs with Steve Schatzow, Head of EPA Water Standards Division. Things might be looking up in Pesticides finally. The article states, "...rumored for weeks that a transfer was in the works for Johnson, who has earned a reputation as a 'survivor' after riding out dozens of controversies over agricultural chemicals in the past 12 years. Environmentalists, who accorded Johnson considerable respect despite their frequent differences, speculated that the move was an attempt by EPA Administrator W. D. Ruckelshaus to demonstrate that he could deal with the division's problem administratively, without substantial changes in pesticide law." We shall see.*

Charles Brown, USFWS ADC, Uvalde, TX:

Effective July 8 I will be transferred from Uvalde to Assistant State Supervisor in Oklahoma City to assist (or disrupt) Berk Peterson with his fine program. (Congrats, Charley, we wish you the best of luck. He's replacing another friend of mine, Johnny Meyers, who retired.

Charley also sent us a couple of items which will appear elsewhere.)

Bert Astma, BONIDE CHEM. CO., Yorkville NY:

To provide some information on the efficacy data waiver mentioned in the PROBE (43:1), EPA did suspend the requirement for efficacy data a couple of years ago. This applied first to health-related organisms, but later was extended to all but microbial pests. It has been somewhat difficult to see its effect on vertebrate pest control products since this waiver may be over ruled on reregistration or RPAR ("now euphemistically called 'Special Review'"). It may also be challenged by EPA on an individual basis and the "...personnel involved with registraton of vertebrate

control chemicals seem to be less hesitant than the rest in exercising this option." (Amen !). The result of this seems merely to have been the development of a more aggressive attitude in some states, such as California requiring efficacy data for state registration and Indiana setting a deadline for data to support mole control claims.

"I realize that you may already know much of this, but it gives me an excuse to say thanks for the PROBE. I came to BONIDE just about a year ago from an insecticide company and find the PROBE to be a satisfying, informal education in vertebrate control issues."

*(Thank you Bert. I didn't know anything about it until I heard from you and Glenn Hood. I certainly appreciate confirmation that somebody out there reads a line or two of this deathless prose and takes the time and trouble to keep me informed.)*

Harry D. Pratt, retd. USPHS, Atlanta, GA:

Here's a clipping (this was on urban wildlife problems encountered by a VPC specialist, Derry Stockbridge) from the ATLANTA CONSTITUTION (27 May 84) to suggest not all animal damage is in the West ! Data on actual numbers of 'nuisance critters' creating problems in big cities are not easy to obtain. For example, on my half acre lot, I've had gray and flying squirrels in my attic, chipmunks, squirrels, and rabbits raid my garden, and raccoons raid our garbage can. Our neighbor had problems with bats in his attic and 'possums in his garden. But can you imagine a metropolitan area of 1,500,000 people like Atlanta having coyotes, muskrats, beavers, bobcats, and black bears at least within the suburbs ?

Harry Katz, Elco Mfg., Pittsburgh, PA:

This article (see RABIES) shows there's life in your cause. You must be hard pressed to keep in touch with all the 'do-gooder' laws in the U.S. I'm thinking of putting together some information under the title, "Lord help us from the DoGooders." Last month (May) I sold Elco and have joined the ranks of "consultants".

*Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example.*

## **RABIES**

Dr. Chaudry, Allegheny County Health Department Veterinarian, reports there are 108 confirmed cases of rabies in Pennsylvania this year compared with 40 during the same period last year. He warns the public to leave "cuddly" wildlife babies alone as it isn't natural for wildlife to be unafraid of humans and the chances are they are sick with rabies or some other disease. The columnist (Wyndle Watson) writes: "It is ironic that the dramatic increase in rabies comes at a time when opponents of trapping are mounting their strongest attack on the leghold trap, the only proven means of controlling the population of fur-bearing animals...Regardless of how an individual feels about the leghold trap, one thing is certain: If the trap is outlawed, cases of rabies and other fur-bearer diseases will proliferate...If man does not keep the fur-bearer population pruned, nature will. And nature's methods - disease and starvation - are much crueller than the leghold trap." Thanx to Harry Katz and the PITTSBURGH PRESS (12 June 1984).

*When in doubt - tell the truth.*

**IN MEMORIAL**

DFA Frank Martin passed away 21 April 1984 in the VA hospital, Kerrville, Texas, after a lengthy illness. He had been in the ADC program for over 40 years and still holds the record for the most coyotes caught by a single trapper in one year in Texas. He was a loyal, hardworking, honest man who will be missed by everyone who knew him. A measure of the respect earned during his lifetime was that former governor Dolph Briscoe flew in to give a personal eulogy on Frank's behalf. His widow's (Gladys) new address is: Box 74, 25550 Boerne Stage Road, San Antonio, TX 78255. Charles S. Brown

*Why is it we rejoice at a birth and grieve at a funeral? It is because we are not the person involved.*

**THE SAGA OF STRYCHNINE CONTINUES**

EPA in its infinite wisdom has decreed strychnine must go because there are effective alternatives for prairie dog and ground squirrel control; it is a hazard to the blackfoot-ferret; prairie dogs are only a limited problem; and improper livestock management rather than prairie dogs is responsible for range deterioration.

Wyoming, the most persistent foe of EPA in this battle of pesticides, claims only label changes are needed to reduce possible risks. One rancher wrote Senator Wallop that there is an estimated 560,000 acres of prairie dogs in the State supporting a population of some 100,800,000 animals. He suggests that if strychnine is cancelled, Interior should start a mandatory program of prairie dog adoption, one dog per person. Thanx to Rick Griffiths and Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News (28 Mar 84).

Hearings on this are scheduled for this summer in D.C. and Rapid City, SD, this fall. YE ED has been requested to be a witness so it would be appreciated if you would send any field data supporting the risk/benefit case for continued use of strychnine to YE ED at NADCA headquarters. EPA is still dragging its feet on the registration of 1080 claiming it doesn't have enough field and laboratory data.

*Always do right; this will gratify some people and astonish the rest.*

**HOW COULD WE MISS THIS ?**

The USFWS published a list of over a thousand animal species as candidates for the rare and endangered hall of fame in the Federal Register for 22 May 1984. I find it very difficult to get apprehensive about the fate of some obscure form of mosquito, crayfish, or sponge as the list was all invertebrate animals. Thanx to Charles Brown.

*Most writers regard truth as their most valuable possession, and therefore are most economical in its use.*

**ANIMAL RIGHTS**

Lucky John Maestrelli (California) is on the sucker list for the Animal Rights group and periodically sends me reams of the paper garbage he has gotten. This one was from a outfit called PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals - don't these cute acronyms grab ya?) out of D.C., of course.

One interesting account in this batch was the saga of Ingrid Newkirk who 'leafletted' patrons at a rodeo in Virginia despite being warned to keep off the property. She was given a criminal citation, but found innocent of criminal charges by a jury. As usual, PETA sued for false arrest and the rodeo people settled out of court for \$15,000. So this gives you an idea of how these people get some of their money to operate. In this litigious society we are stuck with today there is always some

shyster with an angle for a fast buck.

They also had a cute 'idea exchange': smearing duck blinds with manure (guess they bring their own) and rotted eggs to make them uninhabitable for duck hunters; applying deer repellent or human hair near tree stands; trying out fur coats in the store and loudly proclaiming she feels ugly in the fur of dead animals at the same time leaving anti-fur cards in the pockets of several coats; attaching tiny stickers that say, "This product was cruelly produced", to meat packages in stores; urinating or pouring sulfuric acid over leghold traps. The end really justifies the means to these sick people.

RD Johnny Jones is another lucky recipient of the Animal Rights classy literature appealing for money and more money. He also sent us a WASHINGTON POST (10 June 84) article on a training program for lawbreakers. The POST publicized a civil disobedience workshop run by a Ms Jane Noll, a professional dissenter. (That's what turns me off the most - the blatant insincerity of the organizers of these fund-raising sessions.) Noll, speaking from her personal experiences in protesting the Vietnam war, nuclear power, and sex discrimination, said, "Going to jail is tough. You have no privacy. There's godawful rock music going 24 hours a day. They're not going to give you vegetarian meals. They're going to laugh in your face." (So who promised them a rose garden?)

*We do not deal much in facts when we are contemplating ourselves.*

#### MEMBERSHIP

The following have joined the ranks since the Directory was printed:

Peeler, Anthony (S) 613 Cody St., Sulphur, LA 70663  
 Robertson, J.H. (SUP) Pres. Victor Div., Box 327, WOODSTREAM, Lutz, PA 17543  
 Thomas, Shirley (wife of Thurman Thomas)  
 Thomas, Thurman R. (C) Box 12, Purmela, TX 76566

*Man is the only animal that blushes - or needs to.*

#### WOODPECKER REPELLENT

We mentioned a new woodpecker repellent chemical from Texas in the last issue (PROBE 43:7) called ST-138. Several wrote the company (WPR Company, Box 31, El Campo, TX 77437) inquiring about the availability of the material. The Company replied that they were awaiting "regulatory clearances" (so what else is new?) which they hope will come by August. They did include more information than I had in the original release. This is supposedly a liquid, non-sticky substance that causes an avoidance behavior without harm to the birds. It can be brushed or painted on surfaces causing some darkening. A gallon of ST-138 will cost \$20 plus freight and cover approximately 300-400 square feet. It will not harm any birds that come in contact with it, but it will kill foliage. They claim no damage to experimental areas that have been treated since 1978. Thanx, Dick Griffiths and Lyle Stemmermen.

*Prosperity is the best protector of principle.*

#### MADCA POLICY

The Executive Board has struggled long and hard in trying to put into words just exactly what the Association stands for. Thanks mainly to the efforts of RD Pink Madsen and Guy Connolly of USFWS research in Idaho, we reached a compromise. As is usual with a committee project, it sure isn't perfect, but we are willing to listen to any suggestions from the troops - so have at it:

## NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

## GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT ON ANIMAL DAMAGE AND ITS MANAGEMENT

Wild animals frequently damage other wildlife, livestock, pets, forests, rangeland, agricultural crops and other resources important to man, may threaten public health or safety, or may become a nuisance beyond tolerable levels. Therefore, control of wildlife conflicts is an integral tool in wildlife management. Effective animal damage control requires the damage be accurately identified and assessed, the tools used be legally and biologically acceptable, and the measures taken effectively mitigate the conflict.

Animal damage control is controversial because of conflicting social, economic, philosophical, and recreational interests in the resources being damaged and the animal species causing that conflict. Besides its controversial social and political dimensions, successful control of animal damage often requires the exercise of special skills. Therefore, animal damage control is best carried out or directed by professional wildlife managers with training and experience in the field of problem wildlife management.

The NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION (NADCA) supports the use of lethal controls where nonlethal methods by themselves are impractical or ineffective. It also supports the use of preventive management for situations where the potential for animal damage is recognized as severe or critical by professionally trained and experienced wildlife managers. NADCA recommends that the number of target animals removed be the minimum needed to bring damage within tolerable limits. Toxicants or other lethal methods with the potential to cause adverse, nontarget impacts should be used only by professional animal damage control workers or appropriately trained cooperators.

Private industries, such as livestock producers and orchardists, that may be damaged by wild animals have an obvious need for management tools to reduce these losses. Public ownership of wild animals entails a public responsibility for damage caused by wildlife. Although state governments are responsible for the management of resident wildlife species, the Federal government is mandated by law to carry out an effective program of animal damage control.

NADCA believes that the current Federal-Cooperative ADC Program is the best concept yet devised to accommodate public and private interests and responsibilities into an effective and accountable animal damage control program. Such a Federal program can best manage and maintain an experienced and professional field force. It can best support applicable research and implement these research findings into management. It can provide the highest standard of responsibility, professionalism, and concern for environmental impacts of ADC activities. It is the only system that can cross all geographical and political boundaries, recognize conflicting interests, and coordinate logical and reasonable solutions to specific problems. The Federally-supervised program should vigorously fulfill its obligations as defined in the 1931 Animal Damage Control Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Acts and should have at its disposal the widest possible array of control techniques so that the optimum mix of techniques can be applied to individual animal damage situations.



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRAPPER'S COLLEGE**

Major Boddicker sent me information on a trapping school he is going to run on the CSU Pingree Park Campus west of Ft. Collins, CO. This is a week's course from September 9 through 15 with some very knowledgeable instructors. As it starts at 6:30 AM and ends after 10:00 PM you are going to get probably more instruction than you really wanted. The course is very reasonably priced too, \$210, which covers all food/lodging facilities comparable to a nice motel for the full week. The agenda, subject to change, is:

## September 9

03:00 PM: Check in, dinner, happy hour.

07:00 PM: Welcome to Colorado, M. Miller, Colo. Trap. Assoc. President.

07:30 PM: Introduction; pretest to find what you know or don't know about trapping; principles of trapping dryland animals - M. Boddicker.

## September 10

08:00 AM: Group assignments, equipment gathering - J. Brinker

08:30 AM: Basics of dryland trapping (bedding traps, staking & drags, bedding materials, demonstrations) - T. Krause, J. Sollo, G. Stewart, & J. Brinker. The class will be split into 4 small groups under an individual instructor to allow for more personal instruction.

10:30 AM: Basic sets (choices and arrangements, spacing, lure placement, wind, fencing & visual targeting).

01:15 PM: In field trapping site (reading sign, selecting trap location, trap, sets, baits and lures, and setting to catch coyotes, red fox, bobcats, mustelids, and other dryland furbearers.

07:00 PM: Basic furbearer ecology, habits and management principles - M. Boddicker.

08:30 PM: Methods in teaching trapping to others - J. Brinker & M. Boddicker.

09:30 PM: Bull session, Q & A, student experiences.

## September 11

08:15 AM: Snare setting demonstration - K. Gregerson.

01:00 PM: Check set locations, baits and lures with snares, dryland sets of Conibears and snares for marten and other furbearers, snare sets for coyote, bobcat, fox, and coon.

07:00 PM: Trapping water associated furbearers - J. Brinker.

08:30 PM: Public relations, trapline photography - T. Krause.

## September 12

08:15 AM: Check dryland sets and critique.

01:00 AM: Field activities on catching water associated furbearers (trap setting and adjustments, practical setting, sets to catch beaver, rats, mink, & coon, snare sets, Conibear sets, and leghold sets for the above.

07:00 PM: Formulation and use of baits and lures, placement strategy, and behavior modification - M. Boddicker & G. Stewart.

09:00 PM: Trapper economics, money, taxes, and IRS - M. Boddicker.

## September 13

08:15 AM: Check and improve all sets, water animal sign, and management.

01:00 PM: Trap modification and repair - G. Stewart.

04:30 PM: Predator calling - M. Boddicker.

07:00 PM: Judging fur quality and grading, examples of problem fur handling - J. Sollo.

09:00 PM: Fur marketing options and methods - M. Boddicker.

10:00 PM: Federal and state laws - M. Boddicker.

September 14

08:15 AM: Evaluate sets and pull all sets, grade water sets.

01:00 PM: Selection and care of skinning and handling equipment - G. Stewart.

01:30 PM: Skinning techniques (demonstrations and student practice) - All instructors.

03:00 PM: Fleshing demonstrations (sewing, stretching, and student practice) - All instructors.

07:00 PM: Happy hour, swap tales, and fight the antis.

September 15

08:15 AM: Trapping coon, mink, and flatland red fox - T. Krause.

10:00 AM: Catch up small group sessions - All instructors.

01:00 PM: Trapline management strategies (longline vs conventional, scouting, prebating, etc.) - T. Krause.

02:00 PM: Post test, grading, and point tabulation - J. Brinker.

03:30 PM: Pass out patches, dismiss.

For more information on this intensive short course (how to get there, registration, types of traps and equipment you will have to bring, etc.)?, write Dr. Major Boddicker, Ext. Wildl. Spec., Rm 109, Wagar Bldg., CSU, Ft. Collins, CO 80523.

*Repatee is something we think of 24 hours too late.*

#### WHAT DID YOU SAY ?

Bob Schmidt (UC-Davis, CA) finally got a reply to his January letter asking the AUDUBON people how come they included trapping in the abominable acts in their fund solicitation letter. Glenn Paulson (VP for Science) states: "I'm sure you are aware of the drive for brevity that is essential in solicitation letters like the one you received...it was excessive harvest, above the sustained yield, for furbearers (and grass for livestock, trees, fish, etc.) that was (and is) being undertaken by the current Administration. That is certainly our view. In fact, we manage many renewable resources on our own sanctuaries on a sustained yield basis (they don't publicize this fact, however), and carry out and/or license all those activities, including trapping, on one or more of our sanctuaries.

In hindsight, we probably should have drawn the distinction between the proper use of renewable resources vs. the improper use of renewable resources very clearly...I read all of our fund-raising materials for scientific accuracy, and the point you raised slipped right by me. I guarantee I'll be attentive to it in the future."

*(If you believe that- 'Yes, Virginia, there is a Santy Claus' !???)*

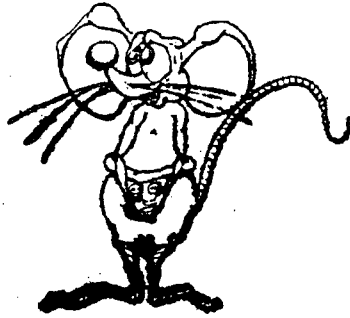
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*YE ED - William D. Fitzwater*

*(continued)*

Our guest author of one-liners today is none other than Sam Clemens - one of my favorite humorists, but contrary to what my kids think, not a contemporary. Charley Cadieux points out I used "incentative" twice in the last PROBE and it should be "incentive". As Mark Twain remarked, "I hate a man who thinks a word can be spelt only one way."

Adios,



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