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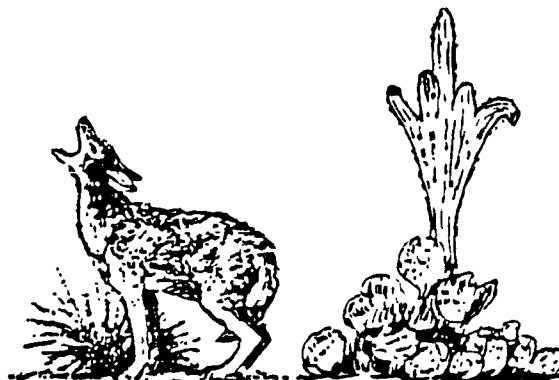


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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

FEBRUARY 1988

NUMBER 80

EVOLUTION OF ANTITRAPPING

John R. Gentile, The evolution of antitrapping sentiment in the United States: A review and commentary.

Wildl. Soc. Bull. 15:490-503, 1987, J.C.JONES:

On November 4, 1930, Massachusetts voters banned the use of "inhumane" trapping devices. Fifty years later (November 4, 1980), a similar referendum in Oregon failed. For more than 85 years trapping policies have been challenged by those opposed to trapping furbearers - over 450 antitrapping bills have been introduced in state and federal legislatures since 1900. Three fundamental issues of the controversy are: (1) humaneness, (2) right to trap as a national heritage, and (3) management of wildlife.

Prior to 1925, antitrapping efforts were sporadic and unorganized. These were mainly directed towards regulating trapping regulations to conserve furbearer populations. The basic strategy then was to target the fur industry and only indirectly trappers and leghold traps. It was apparent by then that the effort to get women to stop wearing fur coats was futile, better enforcement of existing laws was unlikely, and trappers would not voluntarily choose humane options. Thus the new strategy by the ANTI-STEEL-TRAP LEAGUE (ASTL) formed in Washington (DC) that year was to make public the "cruel and inhumane" nature of the leghold trap. Trappers were not blamed. Instead the general public that condoned cruel trapping practices for the sake of

vanity, particularly women, was the target.

Between 1925-1939, 18 states attempted to ban the leghold trap, but only five succeeded. However, there was growing popular support for anti-leghold trapping. In this period there was also a search for an alternative trap by the humane organizations. There was an increase in establishing trapping seasons and/or restrictions on the size and type of traps (with or without teeth) along with daily trap visitation, restricted locations, tagged traps, landowner permission, and trapping reports.

By 1942, antitrapping efforts had nearly ceased in the USA so by 1948 all statewide trapping bans had been lifted. It is suggested the depression and WWII had the effect of reversing the concern for animals as the needs of people became paramount. However, it was also pointed out that trapping was an American way of life; it was the life-blood of the fur industry whose prices were increasing because of reduced foreign imports during the war; it was one of the oldest industries in America; trapping protected crops and livestock; the public liked and wanted furs; and there was no substitute for the steel trap. Thus between 1940 and 1968 the antitrapping element realized a lack of acceptance of a suitable substitute for the leghold trap and the public love affair with fur, left the influence on trapping regulations as their only recourse.

The DEFENDERS OF FURBEARERS (DOF), formerly ASTL, with a dissenting segment of the humane society (this became the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS)), believed that the establishment of regulations in the late 1930s was responsible for the lack of public support and so set about to arouse public sentiment on humaneness.

The 1970s saw a resurgence of the antitrapping movement. As fur fashions changed from ranch-raised (short-haired) to long-haired wild furs, the demand for the latter rose. The value of red fox, coyote, and raccoon doubled in 1972 and doubled again in 1975, leading to more trapping and presumably more trauma to furbearers in the minds of the humane sympathizers. Since 1968 more than 360 antitrapping bills have been introduced at various levels of government. Currently seven states ban leghold traps: Massachusetts, Florida, Tennessee, South Carolina, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Jersey. In this modern phase, antitrapping actions are usually supported by research. Lobbyists and lawyers are employed to present their views. They train members on effective letter writing and local antitrapping legislation. The trap proponents, however, still consider them naive and emotional.

The latter may be better organized than the antis which are often in internal conflict. The Wildlife Legislative Fund of America (WLFA) has developed a strategy to unite its diverse groups as follows:

1. Be convinced the antis intend to stop hunting, stop fishing, stop trapping, and close down wildlife management. There is no compromise.
2. Appreciate that all fish and wildlife interests must come together for a single defense purpose, and to help pay for professional defense help.
3. Be convinced the facts are on our side. Believe the American people and press are educable about the necessity for wildlife management. They will understand, if we tell them, uncontrolled wildlife populations are bad for people and bad for wildlife.

Talk in terms of benefits to people - raccoons don't vote.

4. Don't dignify the antis' arguments. Don't debate whether trapping is cruel. Talk about how trapping is necessary for people. People then will conclude it is not cruel.

Thus the primary strategy of protrappers is to bolster support from diverse groups based on a single common enemy. The opposition is not antitrappers, they are anti-everything.

The antis are composed of diverse groups, some opposing only inhumane trapping and others all use of animals. Often they work against one another. Since 1979, activists espousing "animal rights" have become prominent in the humane movement as is evidenced by the writings since 1979. Pity for animals is no longer the main issue for them - legal standing is. (*Gentile ends with the worrisome conclusion that "...animal rights issue could serve as a common rallying point for the diverse humane groups."*)

If you are beginning to encounter some hard bumps, be glad. At least you're out of the rut.

HUMANENESS IN PESTICIDES

DR. H. C. ROWSELL (Canadian Council on Animal Care) sent me a copy of a paper he had written in 1979 on the above subject. Humaneness might be considered the Achille's heel in ADC philosophy making us vulnerable to the attacks of anti-cruelty factions. In obtaining our objective of population reduction, we tend to overlook pain suffered by target animals. *My impression of pain has always been that it is a very subjective, individual response. I think pain is largely mental, which is why I refuse to compare pain suffered by an animal in a trap compared with a human in a similiar situation. The human imagines all the consequences that might happen, which the animal is incapable of doing.* DR. ROWSELL points out that pain is capable of measurement by the use of electroencephalograms (EEG) and the

blinking reflex. When the EEGs are flat and eye blinking ceases, the animal is brain dead and can feel no pain. Thus the important factor is the "lag phase" occurring between time of administration of the toxicant and the loss of consciousness by the subject animal.

The use of nicotine sulfate and strychnine is considered unacceptable because they do not depress the central nervous system (CNS), but affect neuromuscular activity. *(To me the lag time with strychnine is so short - I have seen sparrows knocked down within 3 minutes - that I personally feel that while it may cause pain the duration of the pain should be considered in evaluating the material.)*

Sulfur dioxide bombs for burrowing rodents are not rejected by the public even though the cause of death is not humane. When the gas hits the mucous membranes of the eyes, mouth, nose, and the respiratory tract, it is converted into sulfuric acid causing some degree of pain before the animal dies of asphyxiation.

Zinc phosphide was eaten vigorously by the test animals initially, but they soon stopped. Within three-six hours they had a phosphorus smell about the mouth. A small percentage kicked at their abdomens as if in pain. Death occurred in eight hours. While this "in theory" produces an acceptable, humane death, more research is needed.

Red squill which should cause cardiac arrest with immediate unconsciousness did not do so with the test animals. The rats appeared uncomfortable but there were no overt signs of pain or distress. However, the lag of over 24 hours is considered unacceptable.

On the other hand the lag time for anticoagulants was 24-72 hours and under 24 hours for the newer chemicals. Despite these lag times, the animals did not seem in pain. The toxicants did not produce bleeding at the joints which would be painful so anticoagulant toxicants were given acceptance as humane toxicants.

VACOR^R needs more research. While it acts quickly with posterior paralysis ascending anteriorly, the rat appears in distress. This, however, is only of academic concern due to its current unavailability commercially.

Cyanide fulfills the requirements of being a humane euthanasia by immediate paralysis of the respiratory center of the brain. However, it offers other risks in its irreversibility and rapidity of action.

AVITROL^R, though visually repugnant, does not cause pathological changes in the organs or tissues capable of causing pain or distress. Before the onslaught of convulsions, the EEG is similar to those produced by dissociative anesthetics so it is felt the bird cannot feel pain. While humans do not feel pain during convulsions, the muscular spasms and rigidity during the convulsion can result in tenderness and pain following recovery. The birds, behaviorally at least, did not appear to suffer pain afterwards but they had depressed EEGs.

The optimist is often as wrong as the pessimist, but he is far happier.

ANIMAL RIGHTS VS WILDLIFE MGT.

Dan Decker/Tom Brown, How animal rightists view the "wildlife management-hunting system". Wildl. Soc. Bull. 15:599-602 (1987) J.C.JONES:

The animal rights (AR) movement is disconcerting to wildlife professionals as it opposes not only the activities management makes possible, e.g., hunting and trapping, but also the underlying assumptions upon which the profession is based. The fundamental problem with wildlife management according to AR is that it does not respect the right to life of individual animals in a population. Basically AR sees wildlife management as an activity producing a surplus of a particular species to perpetuate needless killing. They attack the profession's credibility on education, performance, methods, and motives. Education is wrong in the emphasis it places on populations to the exclusion of developing a sensitivity to individual animals. Poor performance is

seen in the creation of an ecological imbalance by promoting a high population of game species without regard to other species' needs. The methods involve (horrors!) trapping and hunting. And motives are self-serving - to produce hunting targets so licenses are sold to keep agencies funded and jobs secure.

The movement is equated with civil rights and women's rights and an evolutionary rather than revolutionary change. The strategy is to proceed on 3 fronts: social, political, and legal. Social change is to come through education primarily in the public schools. Political change is to come in the political and financial structure that supports the "wildlife management-hunting system." Instead of financing state wildlife agencies through hunting and trapping fees this should be shifted to totally public financing. Legal change means testing the constitutionality of wildlife laws and those that limit the liability of landowners who permit hunting on their lands.

In other words, AR advocates have a philosophical perspective that is diametrically opposed to traditional wildlife managers. Communication and understanding between the two is difficult, agreement virtually impossible, and confrontation probably inevitable. The "speciesism" practiced by American society is considered as unacceptable as racism is to human rights. The notion that wildlife populations being managed as a renewable fur, meat, and recreational resource is viewed as an intolerable atrocity.

We believe the wildlife profession should not take lightly the vocal, active, dedicated people who hold such a view. To prepare for this encounter, wildlife professionals must examine critically the philosophical basis for traditional wildlife management so as to better deal with antimanagement arguments. We should recognize we are not the targets. The targets are those that are "neutral" and not as apt to consider the views of the animal rightists as extreme and unreasonable as we do. "If we see ourselves as representing the best interest of society, we should make that known. If

we do not come to that conclusion, we need to determine what changes on the part of the profession would lead to that conclusion."

How come vices are more habit-forming than virtues ?

APHIS ACTIVITY REPT.

The following are abstracted from the activity reports of APHIS, TRAPLINE (TX), TRAPPER'S JAW (NM), etc. for the benefit of non-APHIS readers. This is not to be considered a publication source. Only names of NADCA members are used in situations in which they are involved.

COYOTES (LA):

Somebody told DWIGHT LEBLANC about a coyote trap made by sinking 12" of a 42" length of a 10" diameter drain pipe into the ground. This is baited with rabbit entrails. The inventor claims that the coyote will get stuck in it headfirst while trying to feed. DWIGHT thinks that Uncle Remus is alive and well and living in Houma (LA).

Love quickens all senses - except common sense.

MEETIN'S

53RD NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCES CONF., Mar. 1-3 in Louisville (KY). Contact: Wildl. Mgt. Inst., 1101 4th St. NW, Washington, DC 20005.

THIRTEENTH CALIFORNIA VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE, Mar. 1-3, 1988. Papers on the largest and oldest conference on vertebrate pest control. Contact: Rex Marsh, Dept. Wildlife, Fisheries, & Biology, Univ. of California, Davis, CA 95616.

SIXTH ASTM SYMPOSIUM, Mar. 4, 1988 in Monterey (CA). Methods, tests, techniques, etc. in vertebrate pest control measures. Contact: DR. WILLIAM B. JACKSON, Dept. of Biological Sciences, BGSU, Bowling Green, OH 43403. (See below for the tentative program)

CURRENT & FUTURE DIMENSIONS OF PREDATOR MANAGEMENT, Apr. 15, 1988 in Lubbock (TX). Ecological role of predators, control measures, public attitudes, etc. Contact: Dean Eric G. Bolen, Texas Tech

Univ., Box 4460, Lubbock, TX 79409-1033.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE RANCHING SYMPOSIUM, May 16-21, 1988 in Las Cruces (NM). This is on operations and marketing strategies for wildlife ranching. Contact: Raul Valdez, POB 4901, NMSU, Las Cruces, NM 88003.

INTERNATIONAL UNGULATE BEHAVIOR & MANAGEMENT CONF., May 1-22, 1988 at Texas A & M University. Any aspect of ungulate behavior and management. Contact: Dr. Elizabeth Mungall, 342 Double Tree Dr., Lewisville, TX 75067.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL SHORT COURSE IN VERTEBRATE PEST PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, Aug. 14-27, 1988 at Colorado State University. Contact: Dr. Julius Nagy, Dept. Fish, & QWildl. Biol., CSU, Ft. Collins, CO 80523.

ASTM MEETING - MONTEREY (CA)

The papers to be given at the meeting mentioned above include:

KNOWLTON, etal - Evaluation of radionuclides as long-term marking agents for use in baiting studies.

Hegdal/Andres - Testing cable resistance to pocket gopher damage.

Hamilton, etal - Assessment of squirrel-caused power outages.

Ashton/Delven - Low temperature fumigant testing.

Christopher, etal - Sampling technique for assessing rodent damage in growing wheat.

Brower, etal - Evaluation of repellents on commensal rodents.

Heller/Gur-Arie - Rodent control in feed mills.

JACKSON, etal - Field tests of ultrasonic devices for rodent management.

Balasubramanyam/Purushotham - Field testing anticoagulants in rice.

Ashton/JACKSON - Comparing rodenticide bait formulations.

Stoddart/KNOWLTON - Calculating areas of influence and potential numbers of animals affected by management programs.

OTIS, etal - On the use of R50.

Daneke - Plot sizes for testing redwing blackbird repellents.

Windberg/KNOWLTON - Spacing patterns of female coyotes in southern Texas.

SCHMIDT - Vertebrate pest control and

animal welfare.

OL' MONEYBAGS

WES JONES sez we spent \$8,264.99 in 1987, but took in only \$6,651.34. This cut into our reserve leaving us only \$4,326.72 in the bank to start the New Year.

Expenses were broken down into:	
Postage, general	\$ 270.68
Postage, PROBE	737.80
Printing, general	614.95
Printing, PROBE	1013.70
Telephone	12.04
Travel, Per diem*	1800.60
Travel, Auto/air*	2449.40
Office supply	104.04
Miscellaneous	361.78
Miscellaneous, PROBE	900.00

*This \$4,250 expense was partial reimbursement of travel expenses of the Board members who attended the 3rd Eastern Wildlife Damage Conference. The PROBE cost \$2,651.50 or about 62¢ a copy to deliver to each member.

STAND BY FOR STATION BREAK

Attached please find a brochure on NIXALITE. This is not only a unique and effective method of stopping birds from roosting where they shouldn't but MARIE GELLERSTEDT (NIXALITE) has been a generous and faithful supporter for NADCA for a long time.

Speaking of generous longtime support, we regret that MARSHALL HYDE has reportedly been put out of the import business by the feds. He has put a big bang in the lives of us bird controllers for many years.

RULES TO SWEAR BY - OR AT

Pesticide labeling to protect endangered species has been put off again. The House is going to require Federal Registration publication of any proposals and the Senate won't allow funds to be spent until next September. This successfully puts off this stupid piece of legislation until 1989. RICK GRIFFITHS

EPA is going to allow the use of M-44s on wildlife refuges, federal and state

parks to reduce predation on endangered species. FRED KNOWLTON *I think our ol' buddy June Greene decided this in December 87 but EPA didn't learn about it until August 88. So what else is new?*

IN MEMORIAL

WILMA AHO JONES, the wife of NADCA Regional Director JOHN C. JONES died of respiratory arrest on February 11th at the Bethesda Nursing Center at the age of 77. She was born in Eveleth (MN) and graduated from the Duluth Business college. After serving with the Veterans' Administration in Washington, D.C. from 1930-32, she joined the Bureau of Biological Survey, USDA, subsequently the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service from which she retired as the program director of its Division of River Basin Studies.

During her career, she received a number of superior performance awards and commendations, and represented the Service at National and International Commissions and Conventions. Following retirement in 1973 she traveled with her husband, assisting him with wildlife photography projects and subsequent lecture assignments. She was active in the Fish & Wildlife retirees organization and served as its secretary for a number of years. She was also active in the Glen Mar Park Association, where she resided for over 40 years.

WILMA is survived by her husband of 47 years and two brothers, Robert M. Aho of East Meadow (NY) and Everett A. Aho of South Carolina. We will miss this lady.

RABIES

Richard C. Rosatte. *Advances in rabies research and control: Applications for the wildlife profession, Wildl. Soc. Bull. 15:504-511 (1987):*

This is a good update on rabies which is always of personal interest to ADC professionals. Description of various diagnostic and serologic tests available. Vaccination of wild animal populations has been successful in

Europe but is still in experimental stage in North America. Monoclonal antibody determinations are proving a useful epidemiological tool. The greatest potential for the future probably lies in genetic engineering of a new vaccine that can be mass produced more cheaply.

If time heals, it shouldn't be necessary to go beyond the waiting room in the doctor's office.

READING

DALE KAUKAININ (ICI AMERICAS, POB 208M, Biol. Res. Ctr., Goldsboro, NC, 27530) says he still has some manuals left that he will send to any member requesting them:

A.C. Dubock (Editor): Proc. of a Conf. on: The organisation and practice of vertebrate pest control (1984).

The papers are mostly on commensal rodents, though there are occasional exotic species as the European mole, bank vole, neelgai, etc. as well as home-grown ones like ground squirrels and prairie dogs.

C.G.J. Richards & T.Y. Ku (Editors): Control of mammal pests (1987).

Again mostly exotic rodent control but some papers of interest to ADC researchers in this country.

LETTERS TO YE ED

B.V. "BUNNY" FENNESSEY, CSIRO, Canberra, Australia:

Thanks for your decision to make me an Honorary NADCA member, but I will be un-honorary, but still honorable for a little longer. I haven't fixed the date of my retirement yet, but it will be before this time next year. One really needs to take a month's leave to work out the fine details of deciding on a retirement date.

(Bunny was responsible for editing the Division's report for 1984-6 which has just gotten through the printer. He will be missed by CSIRO here as he is an excellent editor. He has called attention to several mistakes made by YE ED and probably shuddered at many others that he was too polite to call to

my attention.)...The name of our Division will probably be changed soon to "Division of Wildlife and Ecology". The word "research" is not in it and it implies the Division is the only one doing ecology. They think "ecology" is trendy, but are obvious to the fact the work is a red flag to many people including those who hold the government purse strings." (*Join the club - look at what Branch of Predator & Rodent Control went through!!*)

DR. WALTER E. HOWARD, Prof. Emeritus, Univ. of Calif., Davis (CA):
I am enclosing a newspaper account of how three female students of FRIENDS OF THE WOLF from UC-Davis plan to gain the media's attention by parachuting into the Muska River areas of British Columbia on February 15 to disrupt wolf control operations. This is backed by activists from the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and Earth First (we get new ones from under every bush). I hope B.C.'s ADC crew takes a holiday that day. There is great competition among the activists to do something more dramatic and illegal than other activists have done.

DONALD T. HARKE, APHIS, State Director, Raleigh, NC:

Thank you for mentioning my "name" in the PROBE #79. For many years people have had trouble spelling or pronouncing my name. It's HARKE, means "rake" in German. Usually when they hear it they spell it with a "y" on the end; or if they see it they say HARK! Never does anyone put a "T" anywhere. It is only five letters, give me a break, Fizz!

(*I had to put this in because I have screwed up this poor man's name TWICE. Now I should remember it. Sorry, DAN.*)

GENE LEBOEUF, APHIS, Crowley (LA):

My favorite duck hunting partner, Walt Day,

is always sending me assorted and sundry bits of information. The cat joke made me think of you so I'm sending on his latest collection as you are always on the lookout for one liners. (Thanks, Gene, you are so right!) Just in case you are wondering, the '29 date next to Walt's name is correct. He will turn 82 this January. Still active,

hunts every chance he gets, and would be taking a tramp steamer except for the age restriction when he turned 80. I often feel lucky to have met more than my fair share of rare birds of the likes of you, George Rost and Walt Day, just to name a few. These days you don't find salt of the earth anymore, just substitutes (an original LeBoeuf one liner!). One last note with respect to steel shot. The stuff from the factory will work fine. I tried to reload and ran into problems. The reloading company has kept the muzzle pressure in their recommended recipes within so safe a range that the end product is not only safe to the user but to the game as well. C'est la vie!

DON DONAHOO, rtd. USFWS, Rexburg, ID:

Thanks for your continued effort to provide us with news and matters of interest in ADC. I also appreciate the news of workers who change jobs, or who have died in the recent past. I have an interesting theory about meeting attendance, or more specifically the lack of attendance. "Too much science and self-serving discussions, and too little interesting presentations from the non-research world." Where are the professional non-research round table discussions? Or, when was it popular to have a speaker who spoke of personal experiences - not backed up by some xy squared research criteria. Such information will not stand the test of research and university atmosphere discussions, but almost every successful researcher begins by contacting a local trapper, guide, or other local talent because he knows about things and animals that can provide base information from which xy squared theories can produce scientifically acceptable data. Personally, I am no longer interested in hearing someone wander around in statistics telling me that the figures point toward some knowledge I learned by first year trapping varmints.

REVEREND TERRY ANDERSON, rtd. USFWS, Kermit (TX):

I was shocked to learn of the death of three former colleagues. BILL SPALSBURY and I spent a lot of telephone and personal time together when I was with

ADC. He replaced me in Albuquerque. That's a loss. JOHN DEGRAZIO and I tromped around in a few feed lots when I was District Supervisor in Denver and he was in bird research at the Lab. I didn't know Walt Nelson well, but when he retired, I was transferred from Denver to Price as his replacement. The Lord received some good men in 1987.

In any case, I appreciate your and all the other officers hard work, and appreciate the "news" whether it is good or bad. Always enjoy your and FRED KNOWLTON's "friendly" exchanges. Just wish you would use some jokes I could include in a sermon every once in a while! I always threaten to sit down and write a paper on "The Theology of ADC," but just not enough hours in the day, or I'm getting slower and slower as I get older and older.

PETER C. NELSON, Agric. Pests
Destruction Coun., Wellington, New Zealand:

Merry Christmas to you and Ann (so I'm a little late with this! Stuff gets buried.) I enjoy reading the PROBE as it does keep us abreast with what is happening in the USA.

In New Zealand Myxo has been rejected for now and we have another group looking at the problem of rabbits. We are also getting involved in bird control due to the damage on grapes, persimmons, Asian pears and cherries. We have some success with alpha chloralose dripping and margine as well as a grain. Another method we have been using on rooks is to treat the nest with a fenthion paste by lowering a stall member (have no idea of what he means here but the report was written by a female) into the tree by a helicopter. Too busy to make the Vertebrate Conference this year.

PATTY SIMS, wife of BOB SIMS, APHIS,
Harper (TX):

Enjoy the PROBE, so glad it comes to the home, that way I get to read it first! Here's a poem my mother sent from Wyoming written by Bill May:

The sun shone bright
on a warm spring day
In the pasture green
'Twas the month of May.

And a group of ewes
beneath the trees
Watched the lambs at play
While the honey bees

Sipped sweet nectar
from the flowers.
And so in contentment
Spent the hours.

And as they watched the lambkins
cavort and run
And bounce and frisk
in the morning sun.

One proud mother
said to another
"That's my twin daughter
and there's her brother.

Their fleeces are silky
and white as snow;
Their father was champ
at the fair, you know.

Then another parent, determined
not to be out done.
Said to her friends
But please observe my Son.

For rate of gain
and conformation-
The very finest in the nation.

Yes, his Columbian father
-if I must say -
is the leading sire
Alive today."

Then, these mothers--
with questioning eyes
Turned to a ewe
whose longing sighs

Betrayed that she had
no lamb whatever;
Who said "When you girls
conceived
I was under the wether."

I got a letter last month from a member complaining about the lack of professionalism expressed in THE PROBE objecting particularly to the Christmas poem as being the last straw that triggered his complaint. He also objected to my aggressive pitch for people to sign up for NADCA as being too commercial and my abrasive anti-anti

philosophy. I'm sure the above poem is not helping my cause in this respect, but here was my reply:

You are not the first nor the last to complain about the lack of "professionalism" in THE PROBE. I am sorry that you and they feel that way because when NADCA was organized, I visualized it as a professional society on a par with THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY. Instead it has evolved into a tirade by one tired, underpaid, and very busy old man who is an unrepentant lover of ethnic and sexist jokes, obnoxious puns, a macbre Gary Larson-type of humor, and a strong partisan belief in ADC. My main philosophy is: life is serious and boring enough and we learn better if we lighten up a bit. I am probably out of step with the majority these days as I got an admonition from the organizers of the California Vertebrate Pest Control Conference not to include my trademark of semi-naked women slides in my talk this March.

What it all comes down to is the editorial staff consists of one person who is office boy, reporter, typesetter, editor, and subscription department. Some material, mostly news clips, government reports, and a few technical articles are sent in by a few, very few, cooperative members, but this is raw material that has to be Reader Digested to fit the little space. Therefore, as NADCA is below the poverty level and cannot afford to have offices, paid staff, and regular meetings among the members, its only active voice is THE PROBE as written by the one man staff. To ever get above the poverty level we need more members and as the membership, with few exceptions, does not recruit aggressively, I try to make the point in THE PROBE.

Regarding the lack of professional level of writing, an honest attempt is made to print all materials submitted by the members but it takes time and thought to work up some of these pieces. Therefore, if you wish better articles, please furnish them. However, we have neither time nor money to print technical pieces in full. I feel the TWS JOURNAL/BULLETIN and the conference proceedings of the Eastern, Great

Plains, and California vertebrate pest conferences fill this need. The best THE PROBE, under present leadership, can do is to keep its members posted on ADC-related conferences, ADC personnel changes, recent ADC publications, summaries of some ADC research, misdoings of the Animal Rightists (which I view as a bigger threat to ADC than any other movement), and 'humorous' ADC-happenings. One of the hardest lessons I learned in working with the public is that yuu can't please everybody no matter how hard you try. So at this stage of the game, I'm out to please myself. But I also feel I have the support of the majority of my readers for my one-liners. You as a working member in the profession have the facilities, resources, and a more modern concept of ADC than I have here in Albuquerque. I will be very glad to relinquish the job to anyone who wishes it for a part or full time honor.

You're never too old to learn except at 19.

THE WRATH OF GRAPES

Cesar Chavez in his latest attempt to organize farm workers has produced a video on the reported poisoning of "hundreds of thousands" of farm laborers each year in his effort to get a boycott of table grapes. "There is no scientific basis whatever to Mr. Chavez's charge that pesticides cause birth defects, cancer or any chronic illnesses. His appeal for funds based on such hyperbole about risk is unjustified and appalling, particularly when he manufacturers his own "epidemiological" evidence of the hazards of pesticides." (Amer. Coun. on Sci. & Health, Newsrelease, 12/87)

Thank heaven for bad luck. Without it I wouldn't have any luck at all.

THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED AS AN INFORMAL NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF NADCA. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF NADCA POLICY OR A CONSENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.

Youth is stranger than fiction.

YE ED -
William D. Fitzwater

Just got this out under the wire. We certainly enjoyed our brief stay in Yucatan and am looking forward to meeting old friends and places in Monterey. I did get the new brochure out and have extras if you need them - GET OUT AND SELL NADCA. Didn't get the Directory done as am still trying to work out a new program WES JONES sent me. Next month?! I did get a new mailing list made up so look for new mistakes.

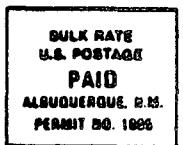
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3919 Alta Monte, NE
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