

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal
Damage Control Association

Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for

June 1999

The Probe, Issue 201 - June 1999

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdmprobe>



Part of the [Environmental Sciences Commons](#)

"The Probe, Issue 201 - June 1999" (1999). *The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association*. 241.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdmprobe/241>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

Supplement to No. 201

June 1999

GENESIS

There has long been a need for a professional society in the field of vertebrate pest management ("nuisance animals", "animal damage control", whatever). Wildlife managers and educators tend to belittle this aspect of wildlife management. It has become a "black hat" agency...

The objectives of NADCA as stated in the attached prospectus are to work for the conservation of natural resources and economic survival in the best interests of the United States. One way of obtaining these objectives is to educate public opinion on the need for vertebrate pest management in an organized, factual manner divorced from emotional prejudice. The other way is to strive for professionalism in supervisory and field personnel working in the field of animal damage control...

To a wife a retired husband is twice the husband and half the income.

HELP !!!!!

This is the first issue of the NADCA Newsletter. We need a name. The Board turned down the Editor's suggestion of GOPHER CHOKER as not being professional enough. THE PROBE does relate to gopher control and does indicate our hope to probe into policies, personnel, etc., that hamper ADC operations. But we could use a better name.

The Newsletter will not appear on a regular basis, but only as often as the membership provides sufficient grist for the Editor's mill. We want to keep posted on legislation that affects vertebrate pest control and trapping as the latter remains one of the most important options in animal damage control. We would also like to have suggestions on the improvement of skills in this field; the availability of new tools, chemicals, and techniques; meetings; personnel changes, and job openings...

(Issue #1, September 1979)

The only time a politician would be silent is if he said what he thought.

THE SECRETARY'S DECISION

In a recent speech at a Predator Control Summit meeting in Texas, Secretary [of the Interior] Andrus referred to the present ADC program as a "war on wildlife." This in itself exposes the fact that Andrus has no knowledge of the animal damage control program, wildlife management, livestock management, range management, or wildlife population dynamics. Secretary Andrus also lacks concern about the livestock losses to unmanaged predators and is not aware of the real world problem...

(Issue #4, February 1980)

I've always wanted to procrastinate -- but I never got around to it.

PROBING FOR THE PROBE

Writing a newsletter is like getting married to a nymphomaniac - - the first couple of months it's a lot of fun. What brought that up is this newsletter is supposed to be the outpouring of words of wisdom, helpful hints, gripes, news and gossip from you ADC types in the field, not the ramblings of the lone stranger. I do appreciate the humor and articles I've gotten from some of you, but these have been few and far between and I would like more help from the field...

(Issue #8, September 1980)

Advice is something a man gives when he's too old to set a bad example.

THE BLACK DEATH

Always knew cats were no good, and recently two human cases of plague caught from house cats have been reported. In one case the victim's cat brought home a dead chipmunk. The cat died 3 days later and was buried. The woman became ill 8 days after the cat brought the chipmunk home and died two days later. Both the cat and woman proved positive for plague. The other case was a veterinarian in Colorado who was bitten by a cat - - both recovered but both had antigens for plague.

(Issue #15, July 1981)

I usta like cliches but now I avoid them like the plague.

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.

COMPLAINTS

...Another complaint was the unprofessional way THE PROBE treated the dear, departed Secretary Andrus and my type of "corn"... The paper is conceived, developed, and aborted in the space of a week. Thus, THE PROBE does not always represent the more staid, professional attitude of the rest of the Board, but merely the uncensored thoughts and "humor" of YE ED. I see red when the politicians and environmentalists refuse to concede ADC is essential to the health and economy of this country... The Board and I are doing what we can to help the profession of ADC in general and field personnel in particular, but we need more input and help. End of sermon.

(Issue #15, July 1981)

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

BATS IN THE BELFRY?

"You're lucky", says Britain's Devon Trust for Nature Conservation. Bats roosting in an attic provide a free and easy way to keep a house warm in winter. "Thick piles of bat droppings act like any other inert granular substance and have an excellent insulation effect." It appears we may have also overlooked the excess animal heat given off by copulating rats in the basement, too.

(Issue #17, November 1981)

You're never alone with schizophrenia.

ADOPT A 1080 STATION

The highly publicized "Adopt-a-Horse" program of the FRIENDS OF ANIMALS that was foisted on the Bureau of Land Management is undergoing reevaluation... BLM is rightly worried about the damage being done to the range by these animals in their native states and hopes to do something about a problem that used to be easily solved by turning them into 1080 stations.

(Issue #17, November 1981)

Who says nothing is impossible? I've been doing nothing for years.

GOOD GNUS FOR EWES

The return of 1080 is viewed by some as almost as good as the Resurrection while to others it is the opening of Pandora's box to inflict irreparable damage on all wildlife. As is usually the case, neither extreme is the true picture of what will actually happen. Any knowledgeable ADC specialist realizes 1080 is just another tool to use against a wily adversary. There is no one answer to the coyote depredation problem, but we must have options based on biological efficacy of a material or method rather than regulations based on emotional appeals from an uninformed public...

(Issue #18, January 1982)

To a bachelor a wedding ring is like a tourniquet-- it stops his circulation.

OL' TIMER'S CORNER

One of the few pleasures associated with being Sec/Treas, YE ED, and general bottle washer around here is getting to hear from old friends from PARC days... There is a practical side to this as Monte Dodson recently wrote: "Bill, you better pick those old timer's brains while they are still around. Many trapping secrets have gone with others to the grave. How about a directory? I'll help pay for it." The directory is a good idea. In the next issue I'll publish a list of names and addresses of those in NADCA.

(Issue #18, January 1982)

To err is human... to blame it on someone else is politics.

IT IS NICE TO KNOW YOUR ARE NOT ALONE!!!

At a workshop for editors of State Pest Control Association newsletters at the NPCA Convention last year, Bill Cunnea (Manager of Internal Communication, Velsicol Corp.) stated: "Newsletter editors are basically under-budgeted, understaffed, underloved (YE ED note: Even dirty old men need love-- just not as often) and overworked... one person, an editor, simply isn't enough to garner the information for the state association, the industry, or maybe the world. How information is presented, the variety of information and its pertinence to the audience are essential to getting your audience involved."

(Issue #21, May 1982)

When the meek inherit the world, who will drive the trucks?

LETTERS TO YE ED (a reply)

...After so many years of listening to Defender of Wildlife types say how bad ADC is, I get a real kick out of being "biased" the other way. Actually, I'm a conservative middle-of-the-roader, but the other side has hogged the rostrum so long I'm going to take the extreme view.

(Issue #22, June 1982)

Fun is like insurance. The older ya get the more it costs.

MEMBERSHIP

This is your organization. Us old fuddy-duddies who set up NADCA have nothing personally to gain (the smaller the membership, the fewer newsletters YE ED has to mail out). We did it because we felt a commitment for our life's work in ADC and the opportunity to get a better deal for ADC personnel and the profession without job or policy restraints. Considering the lack of support we've gotten from those who have the most to gain from a strong organization, we've been doing a fantastic job. We had impact on the 1080 hearings, anti-trap legislation in Congress and several States, and have put on a number of educational meetings. But our efforts can go just as far as your moral and financial support...

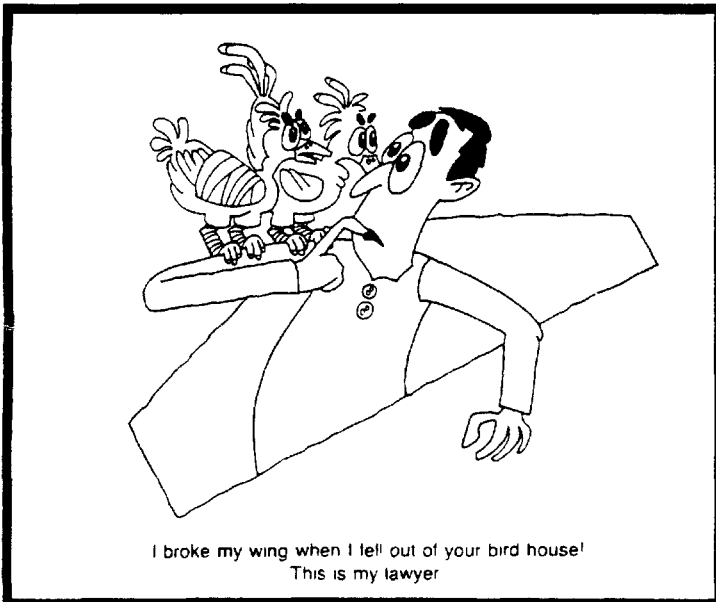
(Issue #25, September 1982)

If we're at the top of the food chain, how do you explain mosquitos?

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Had the pleasure of meeting Jim Glass and Rick Story from the WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA... last month. Jim gave a rather scary talk on the increased momentum of the AR movement. He felt what they say is so persuasive that unless you think about it, you might even send in your contribution to this benefit fund for lawyers... The lawyers taking AR cases for nothing (who ever heard of a lawyer doing something for nothing ?!) figure there will be a way to collect a fee later on. As judges are basically lawyers who mark their own examination papers, a high percentage of our legislators are lawyers, and the media gets most of its materials from the troubles lawyers start, we can't afford to pass this over as a fad. Agriculture, industry, and medicine are all in the same boat with the sportsmen and us ADC types. Thus we must combine our efforts to minimize the impact of this movement before it gets out of hand and we all become vegetarians and elect a parakeet for President.

(Issue #34, July 1983)

LETTERS TO YE ED (a reply)

Remember Greg Rost's comparison of ADC types with jackrabbits that get their thrills by crossing the road in front of speeding cars at the last minute? I think there is something masochistic about us ADC types who keep trying to help the public and are constantly shot at by the lunatic fringe.

(Issue #41, March 1984)

Nostalgia ain't what it usta be.

KISSED BY A RAT

Dateline Toledo, Ohio: A pet rat named "Yentl" save her owner from a fiery death by licking the woman's face until she woke up. The owner claims the tame rat was sleeping with her, when a short circuit in an electric blanket started a fire in the mattress (as I believe the worst in any rat story, I'll bet the rat's chewing caused the short circuit).

(Issue #43, May 1984)

TO THE EDITOR

Thanks/thanx for THE PROBE. Its arrival is one of the highlights of each month. Ad multos annos ! (Latin, not Spanish).

B. V. "Bunny" Fennessy

Sorry, Bunny, I was sic (with a k), as they say. It should be evident that our editorial policy is a dynamic process changing drastically by the hour. The underlying cause is a senile editor who can't remember what he said from one issue to the next but is too lazy to go back and read what he has written so he wings it.

(Issue #46, September 1984)

If ya can't say anything good about a person -- let's hear it!

A LAST PLEA FOR MEMBERS

The initial officers of NADCA were retired federal ADC specialists... We were elated to have the opportunity to continue to benefit the profession in which we had spent our entire working careers. But it took only the first year of recruiting members to realize that dreams and realities are not always the same. Our membership totaled 445 at the end of the first full year of our existence and has hovered somewhat below that figure ever since... My biggest disappointment has been in not being able to convince the 700 active USFWS ADC employees... that the aims and objectives of NADCA were designed to help them carry out their jobs in a more professional way and provide them with a communication link... The officers of NADCA have discussed the advisability of continuing the organization. We have informally agreed to disband at the end of 1985...

George S. Rost, President

It is with real sadness that I concur with George in his summation of the situation regarding the continuance of NADCA, but a quick check of last year's directory shows that of his estimated 700 active USFWS ADC employees we have only 178 signed up. The fact we have 84 retired USFWS members who have absolutely nothing to gain by supporting the objectives of NADCA is a sad commentary on the morale and dedication of the current ADC work force...

(Issue #49, January 1985)

Alimony is like keeping up payments after the car is wrecked.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - Sept. 21, 1985

The Board voted unanimously to continue with NADCA as we felt we are entering a new era where we might be more effective in helping ADC in general and the USFWS program specifically... NADCA will prepare a series of position statements to assist individuals in bringing ADC's aims before legislators... We would like to have a more aggressive public action program...

(Issue #57, November 1985)

Ya never know what happiness is until you're married -- and then it's too late!

HUNTERS BEWARE

We in ADC have long been aware that while banning trapping is the first goal of the animal rightist groups, hunting and then fishing are next in line. Our fat friend of the FUND FOR ANIMALS, Cleveland Amory, confirmed this in a recent issue of AGENDA, the Animal Rights Network publication. He said, "Trapping interests have a strength all out of proportion to their real numbers. Hunters are always there in support because they figure if we get our foot in the door by banning trapping, hunting will be next, and so on. And they're right."

(Issue #57, November 1985)

Never doubt your wife's judgement -- look who she married.

ON BEING MASOCHISTIC

Pushing for this transfer of ADC from Interior to Agriculture has been like threading a soggy noodle through the eye of a needle. I have been optimistically predicting certain events only to have them put on the back burner. I had the feeling I was going to be held responsible if ADC eventually fell through the cracks and nobody won... USDA officials have expressed the opinion that NADCA, despite its small size and funding, has played a major role in achieving this transfer. Your officers have worked with a single-minded intensity not matched by any other organization. Contacts and experience have helped make the most of what we had to offer...

(Issue #58, December 1985)

A husband should tell his wife everything he thinks she might find out.

EPA DOUBLE TALK

After several years of turning down suggestions by ADC representatives on needed regulatory reform for use of the M-44s, EPA finally agreed to some necessary changes, but then negated the entire agreement by throwing it open to the environmentalists. With their help, EPA backed down on 5 of the proposed changes it had agreed to, watered down 4 more, than added a new limitation that hadn't been there to start with... This has been a real sell-out by an agency hampered by a staff consisting solely of political hacks, bureaucratic misfits, 'wet-behind-the-ears' lawyers, or bunny huggers. And I speak from 5 years of experience working 'for' EPA (I class myself as a 'bureaucratic misfit' having been forbidden by Ed Johnson to write any more reports contrary to their preconceived conclusions).

(Issue #66, September/October 1986)

The difference between a taxidermist and a tax collector - the taxidermist leaves the hide.

CATS AND MORE CATS

Jerry Mix, Editor of PEST CONTROL, called me up to say the publisher had gotten a nasty letter from some Humane Society rep regarding my article on cat control... They intended to circulate it and bring down the wrath of the Animal Rightists. I hope I placated his boss with the observation that it wouldn't hurt his circulation any because that type of person wouldn't be caught subscribing to

subversive magazine like PEST CONTROL, picking up a free copy in the Library. (Incidentally, cat hunting was a popular nighttime social activity of Chestnut Hill (PA) bluebloods in the thirties.)

(Issue #67, November 1986)

...I guess I'll never learn, as I'm just getting over reactions from a column I recently wrote (I also edit a monthly newsletter for ol' folks at the Palo Duro Senior Citizens' Center): "A writer denying he neither idolized or anathematized cats, insisted he only wished to sweep away the superstitions about cats. 'One of these superstitions is that cats always land on their feet. Now the last thing I do before going to bed is to toss my cat down the cellar steps. I have discovered that by giving it a certain twist, I can make it land on its head every time!'"

The thing I can never understand is why it is when I'm at a party, the house cat always comes up to me to be petted?

(Issue #66, September-October 1986)

Be thankful for bad luck - - without it you'd have to blame yourself!

IN THE CAT HOUSE -- AGAIN ?!

Dear Mr. Fitzwater:

We read your article... in PEST CONTROL. To say the least we are stunned by your suggestions about how to control cats. Your recommendations are not only promoting the suffering and death of innocent creatures but are so archaic that we pity the fact that you could be so insensitive and ignorant...

It is unfortunate that people like you only see harming and killing as solutions to a situation where a human might be inconvenienced... Many of us like to live in a world where humans and animals can coexist in peace. We hope you will think about this and attempt to develop an attitude that reflects kindness and caring for others instead of conveniently and brutally exterminating anything that gets in your way.

*Sincerely, Teri Barnato, Coordinator,
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals*

Dear Ms. Barnato:

I too am "stunned" to be rebuked by a representative of an organization that allegedly has connections with a covert criminal gang like the ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT. The acts of vandalism (laboratory break-ins at a number of installations around the country...in which valuable research data was destroyed along with considerable property damage) and attempts on human lives (letter bombs and threatened random poisoning of candy bars in England) which your organization condones is blatant interference with the freedom and safety of other persons who think differently than you do and is as reprehensible as a PLO terrorist attacks on innocent bystanders.

The fact that your organization takes credit for the violation of secular laws (such as sit-ins in fur stores, restaurants, construction sites, and NIH offices) indicates that it is only a matter of degree of your involvement in illegal activities to force people into a life of vegetarianism because you think that is the moral thing to do...

I make no apologies for my article on controlling cats. It was written for the information of people who have a problem with these animals. I certainly didn't expect it to change your philosophy any more than your tirade has changed mine...

I am sorry you were upset by my article. It was not intended for persons like yourself, but for people who believe in human rights. I too get upset when I read the trash you "animal rightists" put out but realizing your "head is made up," I don't bother to educate you.

Sincerely, W. D. Fitzwater, Secretary, NADCA
(Issue #69, January 1987)

Never marry for money. It's cheaper to borrow.

ON ADC'S TRANSFER TO USDA

...I feel I've accomplished what I set out to do when I helped found NADCA - - create a more favorable administrative atmosphere for ADC, despite some setbacks, than existed under Interior.

(Issue #75, September 1987)

A fine is a tax for doing bad. A tax is a fine for doing well.

AHH! A KINDRED SPIRIT

A Maine legislator, Paul Jacques, introduced a bill that opponents have described as "barbaric, sadistic, warped, moronic, simplistic, and frightening." Pretty bad, huh? The bill? Oh, just one that puts cats on equal footing with dogs caught killing domestic animals-- the offending cats can be killed. He introduced the bill at the request of a couple whose prize waterfowl were attacked by a neighborhood cat. In one attack a goose lost five eggs worth \$250 each. He does have some friends, but as in many cases he finds placid cat lovers become tigers when somebody suggests cats aren't always lovable creatures.

(Issue #75, September 1987)

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Then give up. There's no use in being a damn fool about it.

LETTERS TO YE ED

...NADCA will be worthwhile only if the members in the field make it worthwhile. I never once received support or encouragement from the field when I was Regional Director. When I met face to face with trappers/supervisors in the field, they would say they appreciated our efforts, but they never followed through with info that would give us a chance to work. All this doesn't upset me too much as I know new ideas and new organizations really have to struggle to succeed...

C. R. "Pink" Madsen, Florence, WI
(Issue #79, January 1988)

Most people who get credit for patience simply can't get up enough nerve to start anything.

A REPLY

I got a letter last month from a member complaining about the lack of professionalism expressed in THE PROBE... here was my reply:

You are not the first nor the last to complain... 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 macabre 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 is all comes down to is the editorial staff consists of one person who is office boy, reporter, typesetter, editor, and subscription department... To ever get above the poverty level we need more members... 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 you 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...

(Issue #80, February 1988)

When it comes to giving, some folks will stop at nothing.

MONTEREY PEST CONF.

As usual, this was an excellent conference in a lovely setting... There were papers on bromethalin and cholecalciferol and also on public attitudes toward ADC. These even touched on my favorite whipping boy- Animal Rights... The speaker, Dr. Dale Brooks [of UC Davis] had a good quote from Kurt Vonnegut - "If you think Nature is your friend, you don't need enemies." ...[He] did point out that you don't get very far attacking public beliefs openly but must work towards changing individual attitudes. Some people care more for animals than humans, as they relate to their pets. To attract the press, we need one-line slogans like the bunny huggers use. To counter "Helping Hands for Animals," I suggest we might use "Bats are beneficial creatures but I wouldn't want my daughter to marry one."

(Issue #81, March 1988)

If at first you don't succeed, failure may be your thing.

HUMANS GOT RIGHTS???

A representative of PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA) got the U.S. Coast Guard to take six lobsters she had "rescued" from a Washington, D.C. restaurant and turn them loose 15 miles off the coast of Maine. This was well-covered by the media, of course. (Knowing the 'expertise' of these people, I wonder if she realizes red lobsters don't swim very well.)

(Issue #91, March 1989)

The best remedy for gray hair is total baldness.

THAT SMARTS!

A Lena Williams states in the NY TIMES that "...most animal-rightists say goose down (for coats) is out because removing the down causes considerable pain to animals." (Smart doesn't apply to ARs. Coat makers don't pull individual feathers out of live geese. You silly goose!) Williams goes on that ARs make "...a case against wearing wool saying sheep are often nicked during shearing..." (and don't wear silk because)... "its manufacture involves killing silkworms."

(Issue #95, September 1989)

Virtue is its own punishment.

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT

I suppose you have all been made aware of Albuquerque's problem on national TV with an invasion of bears (the number is up to 19 now) into the outskirts of town (heading for the University?). This has given the media a shot in the arm and the bleeding hearts something to emote about. The first one was tranquilized at the top of a power pole and did an impressive swan dive accompanied by fireworks. The vets saved it (have you paid a vet bill recently?) and now the Humane Society is raising some \$5,000 to send it and its cub to Oregon. I'm sure Oregon needs another bear family and the bears will probably die of toxic shock when they get the first whiff of a strange atmospheric substance - moisture. The Humane Society also collected some 10,000 pounds of dog food to feed the bears until Game & Fish pointed out it was illegal. A TV survey reported 67% of the residents were in favor of feeding the bears and only 33% against it. Another example of the education problem with which ADC is faced.

(Issue #95, September 1989)

Of all the nasty, foul, lowlife schemes I ever heard of, I like yours the best.

MEMBERSHIP

At the end of NADCA's first full year of operation (1980), we had 445 members. Ten years later the head count is 429. Despite the good we feel we have done for ADC, we haven't been able to arouse the support we need to become more effective... Playing around with figures gleaned from the Directory we find that 54% of the membership have APHIS (or USDA-ADC) backgrounds. So this is no longer strictly a Federal ADC organization and our leadership needs to be more diversified. This is shown by its 9% of private trappers and pest control operators, 7.7% farmers and ranchers who recognize the threat of vertebrate pests, 6.7% State ADC employees, 5.8% manufacturers/distributors of vertebrate pest control materials, and 5.6% University staff... The support from "old folks" is still good, 19% of the membership are retired individuals who are still willing to give a helping hand.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

In conjunction with the 4th Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference in Madison, WI, your Executive Board had its annual meeting... President ROST pointed out that NADCA had assisted in the shift from USDI to the more friendly bosom of USDA... We agreed that our main

objectives... would be on education of the public, closer interaction with professional wildlifers and related organizations, and improvements of ADC professional standards. YE ED subscribes to the saying, "Don't be indispensable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted," and thus has agreed to continue THE PROBE only UNTIL a dedicated masochist has been found.

(Issue #96, October 1989)

LETTERS TO YE ED

You deserve the highest praise for your devoted work these 11 years in typing, editing, and mailing THE PROBE. As a part-time writer and consultant I have benefited greatly from your notices and reviews of new publications and registration changes on pesticides... You certainly have made it a labor of love and much appreciated by many NADCA members.

*Dr. Harry Pratt
retired, US Publ. Health Service, Atlanta
(Issue #95, September 1989)*

Your impending retirement (can it really be true?) from the editorial chair moves me to write, while you are still in office, to say how much I have enjoyed THE PROBE, with its mixture of factual information, reports from members and interesting anecdotes, with the thread of your comments (sometimes critical, often witty) running through. Thank you, again.

*Dr. Harry Thompson
Surrey, U.K.
(Issue #99, January/February 1990)*

The worst thing about the younger generation is that we're not in it.

HUMANS GOT RIGHTS???

The Rocky Mountain Humane Society protested the circus opening in Denver claiming the animals are "psychologically battered" during training. They also claim circus animals are "forced to perform unnatural acts" (there must be a new meaning to that word or circuses have changed since I attended them). Ringling Bros. etc. officials claim this is just an attempt by a small group of animal rightists to draw attention to their extremist views...

(Issue # 96, October 1989)

Mountain goats wallowing on some rare plants in the Olympic Nat'l. Park (WA) have botanists and NPS fighting the ARs. The goats were introduced in the 1920s and when the area became a NP, hunting was stopped. Now there are 1,000 goats in the Park destroying native plants, some considered rare. The NPS tried choppers and tranquilizers but the cost to capture and relocate ran to \$800/animal and many died in handling. When the NPS announced it was going to shoot the goats at \$40/head, the Fund for Animals objected on the grounds that the goats are rare animals.

(Issue #98, December 1989)

No matter what happens, there is always somebody who thought it would.

HUMANS GOT RIGHTS??? (continued)

Inhumane torture! A jailed animal rights activist, Fran Stephanie Trutt, was not permitted a conjugal visit to her cell in the state prison by her four dogs. Her lawyer is probably right in saying, "The truth of the matter is her dogs are her only friends."

(Issue #102, July 1990)

Light travels faster than sound. That's why some folks appear bright until they speak.

Sherm Blom really snowed me with all the clippings on the Nucla (CO) big prairie dog shootout. Anyway, it looks like 2,956 prairie dogs were killed; T-shirts, critter coffins, and booze were the big sale items that boosted the economy of the town; and 22 protestors made noise and threatened to get more drastic next year. One of the better "Letters to the Editor" was by a Louis Phillippe (Ft. Collins): "You've got to love the Rocky Mountain Humane Society. What entertainment they provide. Demanding National Guard babysitting while they attempt an illegal hunt sabotage is like asking for police protection for a rabid pit bull at a dog show. The 'thousands' of protestors planning to attend this rodent control contest will kill more innocent wild creatures with their cars enroute than the contestants. If any, Robin Duxbury included, are seen slapping a mosquito, they should be arrested. The RMHS does not operate animal shelters, nor does it care for unwanted pets. It exists only to protest all human contact with animals."

(Issue #103, August 1990)

For every silver lining, there's got to be a cloud.

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT

Eagles - (NM): Golden eagles have been killing up to 250-lb calves on a Socorro Co. ranch for over five years... Losses to date have been over \$12,000. Control by trapping with leghold and pen traps have been unsuccessful. The next step was using a chopper and Codanet gun... With a fixed-wing flying overhead cover, one eagle was brought down but it escaped when a corner of the net hung up on a bush. The next day two eagles were captured and shipped to Denver for pesticide research...

FLASH!!! (When I wrote the above article I had the nagging feeling that shipping those eagles to Denver for pesticide research was throwing faeces into a quickly revolving appliance for creating wind. I had THE PROBE ready for the printer when I got a message from Mike Fall with the following headline. Mike said it was on the front page of the DENVER POST right next to an article on Nobel Prize winners. As he said that's the closest ADC will ever get to a Nobel peace prize.)

Headline: "Eagles to be Poison-test Guinea pigs; Animal Rights Group Denounces Experiment in Controlling Coyotes."

(Issue #96, October 1989)

*I'm next to the smartest person in the world.
Someday you must meet my wife.*

HUMANS GOT RIGHTS???

A judge ruled that a deer hunt on the U.S. Air Force Academy grounds could be held despite AR objections that the deer were too tame to hunt. He felt the impact of the 1,500 mule deer herd on the 18,000 acre Academy grounds was detrimental to the habitat and created a car accident problem. Robin Duxbury (who has the facility for getting her name in the papers with ridiculous quotes; wouldn't you know a kook like this would have a name like that!) said the Humane Society would not hold mass protests as in the past, but would "send a few people down to the Academy to commemorate" the deer that are killed. (Why not with a venison dinner?)

(Issue #97, November 1989)

Follow-up on the Air Force Academy deer hunt: They were hoping to kill 80-90 deer but only got 61 does this season plus two illegal bucks (what say you to that, Robin? Sexual discrimination?)

(Issue #98, December 1989)

I don't care if Zsa Zsa wins her next round in court. She's already lost her appeal.

KITTY LITTER

(If you can't say anything good about cats -- this column is for you.)

...Wisconsin has as many as 1.2 million cats on active and retired farms in the State. These kill tens of millions of birds in Wisconsin each year. Cats that are cared for remain excellent hunters and Cat Chow - milk subsidies no way interfere with their sport. The studies are showing these individuals are being maintained at unnaturally high levels so that free-ranging cats rank as Wisconsin's main predators above fox and skunks.

Erma Bombeck, one of my favorite writers, just raised her stock 500% for me with this one:

"Don't expect Michael Jackson to lose sleep over it, but there's a new video for cats. For \$20, a cat can get a 30-minute video of colorful birds chirping and fluttering provocatively across the screen. Why am I not surprised? If royalty ever gets a foothold in America it will be through cats. A feline is without doubt the most indulged, spoiled, independent pet to own a human. I contend most cats suffer from chronic PMS. They're unpredictable, moody, sometimes loving, sometimes hostile. They are stroked on their own terms. They invented self-esteem; there is not an insecure bone in their body..."

(Issue #99, January/February 1990)

When you care enough to give the very best, give money.



LETTERS TO YE ED

...When you mentioned being office boy, reporter, etc., you overlooked pointing out that you are highly informed, experienced, always generous with your time, knowledge, and energy. I remember all those years you would go out of your way to exert extra energy and your unreserved willingness to share your knowledge in helping me and others in controlling obnoxious vertebrates.

Perhaps we should analyze the letters in the PROBE:

P - Pursuit of truthful facts.

R - Reporting of what the emotional alarmists are doing and saying

O - Observations in the fields of misinformation and misconception

B - Best and only source of information for members of ADC who do not receive all printed materials concerning unethical efforts.

E - Entertainment in a subtle form. I like those one-liners...

Now look at your signature:

F riendly philosophy

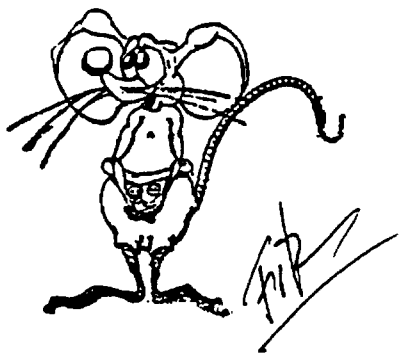
I ndiscriminate viewpoints from all sides

T ruth to counteract confusion

Z ealous efforts to do a great job.

Walter Weber, Lecturer/Entomologist
Indianapolis, IN

(Issue #81, March 1988)



Just a quick note to say thanks for your continuing efforts on behalf of ADC, for sanity, for straight thinking, and a great sense of humor. Your fans and friends outweigh your detractors by 30 to 1-- You are doing a great job and we in the ranching and farming community appreciate your good work!!!

Norman Rousselot, Rancher,
Past-President, Nat'l Woolgrowers, Sonora, TX

My dictionary says that a professional is one "having great skill or experience in a particular field of activity." You and the other leaders of NADCA certainly qualify. I appreciate your hard work on the organization and THE PROBE and all that you do to help keep us in touch with each other.

Thurman Booth
Little Rock, AR

In Memoriam

William D. Fitzwater
Founding Member, NADCA
Editor, *The Probe*, 1979-1990
Secretary/Treasurer, 1979-1986
Secretary, 1986-1989

EDITOR
ROBERT M. TIMM

Adios, Fitz.

It has an been an honor to follow in your footsteps.

Bob