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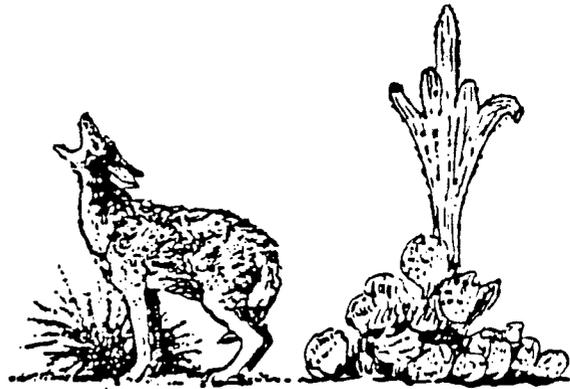


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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1988

NUMBER 85

TRAPPING'S FUTURE?

Ann McWilliam (Editor of RESOURCE for the CANADIAN COUNCIL ON ANIMAL CARE) sent me a reprint (INTERNATIONAL TRAPPER, Spring, 1988) of an article by Alan Herscovici entitled IS THERE A FUTURE IN TRAPPING? He is a well-known Canadian author from a trapping background. Herscovici points out the challenges to North American fur trade from Asia but feels the fur market is steadily growing as a positive factor. However, he sounds the warning against "Animal Rightists", particularly in the USA. He points out anti-trap legislation, pressure on individual politicians, lobbying to have the lynx, marten, and wolverine added to CITIES as "endangered", and attempts to close European markets to wild-caught furs. He warns about a false sense of security from the fact that most of these actions have not had much impact on the fur-buying public. "The activists aren't necessarily in any hurry to destroy the fur trade. As long as anti-fur campaigns bring in enough donations to pay organizational costs and the salaries of the leaders, these campaigns can steadily grow."

The fur trade has not been quite the sitting duck, the animal rightists assumed. Warned by the seal wars, trappers and their allies are learning to organize and lobby. Aboriginal groups have been particularly effective in reaching the Canadian media. Paul Watson who was billed as "The World's Best Known Environmental Guerilla" in a

talk at the Univ. of Alberta's student union found himself confronted with well-informed native people who assured the press that he did not speak for them.

Environmentalists have had a free ride as they pose as "defenders of the environment". Herscovici points out it is up to the trappers and others involved in responsible use of wildlife to show that "animal rights" is NOT conservation and does nothing to protect wildlife habitat. The public needs to know that AR is against ALL use of animals, even for food or medical research. He quotes Ingrid Newkirk (PETA), "Animal liberationists do not separate out the human animal, so there is no rational basis for saying that a human being had special rights. A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy. They're all mammals." Vicki Miller (Toronto Humane Society) is quoted, "I believe that this decade will see the first acts of true violence. Some may be accidental - like a bystander killed in a bomb blast; some will be deliberate - like a vivisector, shot in the street. The violence will confuse and divide us, but it will be a temporary adjustment and then we will learn to live with it as has every social movement before us."

AR has become a business as outlined by Stephen Best (Internatl. Wildl. Coalition), "...experience has shown that the public is more likely to respond to more radical and extreme positions than conservative ones...It is

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 *IN ALL INSTANCES. *

*Editor: William D. Fitzwater *
 Editorial Office: 3919 Altamonte NE
 * Albuquerque, NM 87110*

NADCA Pres.: G.S.Rost, Cedar Crest, NM

*VP: Homer S. Ford, Ridgefield, WA *

*Sec: W.D. Fitzwater, Albuquerque, NM *

*Treas: W. R. Jones, Shell Lake, WI *

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-now possible to pursue a career in the
 animal rights movement...the entire
 environmental/ecology movement is in
 every sense an industry in its own right
 no less than any other." (Now will you
 believe you are not fighting starry-eyed
 idealists?)

The kleptomaniac has given it up. He
 can't take it anymore.

APHIS ACTIVITY REPT.

The following are abstracted from the
 weekly activity reports of APHIS-ADC and
 newsletters like the TEXAS TRAPLINE, THE
 TRAPPER'S JAW, etc. for the benefit of
 non-APHIS readers. This is not a
 publication source. Only names of NADCA
 members are used in situations in which
 they are involved.

EAGLES: NEW MEXICO is working on a
 permit to take two golden eagles in an
 area where 17 calves and \$6000 worth of
 damage was caused last year. So far
 this year nine calves have been injured
 and possibly seven killed. The calves
 are a bit bigger than expected as some
 of them weighed 200-300 pounds. Most of

the strikes have been to the calf's head
 resulting in puncture wounds that have
 developed into severe infections.

VULTURES: (LA) In response to an
 alleged vulture roost problem, EUGENE
 LEBOEUF found the birds were simply
 loafing around the less-than-luxury
 lifestyle of the community. When the
 recommendation to simply adopt the birds
 as community mascots was rejected,
 pyrotechnics were loaned and a
 "delicate" discussion given on
 lifestyles that would be less attractive
 to vultures.

A botanist crossed poison ivy with a
 four-leaf clover and came up with a rash
 of good luck.

THE TOXIC COLLAR

The Stumberg Ranch (Marathon, TX) is
 credited with the first coyote kill
 under operational registration (LIVE-
 STOCK WEEKLY, 5/26/88 P4). The rancher
 had lost between 30-40 lambs on a
 1500-acre pasture by a smart coyote that
 had evaded helicopters, traps, and
 snares for over a month. The pasture
 had about 250 ewes and 200 lambs. He
 removed them and put in 14 ewes with
 their collared lambs and 120 dry ewes.
 This was necessary as the abrupt removal
 of the flock might have upset the
 coyote's pattern. It took 3 days for
 the coyote to strike and when he did he
 got a collared lamb. The coyote was
 found 550 yards from its victim and the
 losses stopped. Roy McBride says they
 have developed "clubs" in South Africa
 who maintain a pool of up to several
 hundred collars. When jackals are
 working an individual ranch, they
 usually can collar all susceptible
 animals in a pasture without having to
 remove some stock. When the killing
 stops, the collars are returned to the
 pool and the rancher pays only for the
 ones lost or damaged. However, this
 practice would not be possible under the
 Mickey Mouse rules laid down by EPA in
 this country.

A collar took two coyotes on one collar
 in another incident (LIVESTOCK WEEKLY,
 6/14/88 p6). This Del Rio (TX) rancher
 found a collared lamb that had been
 killed the night before. About 350

yards away he found a dead male coyote so fresh his eyes were still wet. Fifty yards from him was a female that had died some eight hours before. As only one lamb was killed, it appears they got 2 for 1 on the collar. The rancher was most happy as he had been suffering trouble since 1986. Last year he marked a 94% lamb crop and marketed only 55%. This year he marked 55% and had only 15% to sell, besides losing his entire crop of Spanish kid goats. He used 10 collared lambs with 210 dry ewes in that pasture. His only regret is the animals he lost because he couldn't use the collar sooner. Thanks to NM TRAPPER'S JAW (8/88) for the above.

Despite inflation, a penny for some people's thoughts is still a fair price.



ALF FOR VICEPRESIDENT*

From MARK PATINKIN's ("PROVIDENCE JOURNAL") column which appeared in the 8/4/88 ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE:

We recently crossed an ominous point in the life of modern America. Ten years ago America was a healthy place with 18 million more dogs than cats. Now America has 56 million cats and only 52 million dogs. This data comes from the Pet Food Institute who report that dogs sales have been flat while cat food sales have been going up steadily. That's the first problem with cats, the sour fish-aroma factor in America has increased with the increased sale of those little tins that people buy for cats. There is some discussion now in Washington as to whether the tins should be placed on the Superfund list.

The odd thing about cat owners is they always put those tins in their kitchens. It can't possibly help their appetites, which probably explains why most cat people are thin and delicate individuals. About eight years ago, I wrote an article critical of cats. I tried to keep from being unfair, only making factual observations, such as, just the way cats stare at people makes them a leading cause of mental illness in the USA. I'd questioned why anyone would invest good money in a creature that did nothing but sit on a windowsill all day and glare. My objectivity didn't help, I don't think I've ever gotten so much mail over an article - all negative. One lady in her seventies wrote, "You, Mr. Patinkin, you sit on the windowsill and glare. And you lust besides, you pervert."

Anyway the issue here is why America in the late 20th century has chosen to make the cat its favorite pet. Some feel it's a sign that deep down, we're convinced we've become a declining power and are punishing ourselves by buying pets that have contempt for us. That's the main problem with cats - they think people are inferior. You can see it in their faces and their behavior.

Call a dog, and it will come. Call a cat, and it will give you a look that says, "Don't you dare ever talk to me in that tone again." Personally, I'm among those who are convinced that if cats were larger, they would consume human beings instead of those little tins. This is proven by the fact that in places like Africa where cats are larger they do consume human beings.

Another theory about our new cat preference is that America is becoming more shallow. Though cats like to give the impression they're contemplative, brooding souls, they really don't have much to offer. Dogs chase sticks, shake hands, sit on command, wag tails, and lick you when you're depressed. Cats sit on the windowsill and glare.

Further proof of their shallowness - unlike dog shows, which are talent contests, cat shows are nothing more

than appearance contests. Never once are the contestants asked to heel, sit, or walk at pace. It is strictly a question of which entrant sports the most feline beauty, which is a contradictory phrase.

The only other theory I have as to why our culture has shifted to cats is that cities everywhere have passed those scoop laws, and though dogs may well rank as our best friends, you can't ask us to do that much in return, especially when strangers are watching. Hopefully the pendulum will swing back but in the meantime will any cat owners who are planning to have me over for dinner please move those tin containers out of your kitchen?

** For those of you who don't watch silly TV, "ALF" is an extraterrestrial creature on a TV series of that name who comes from a planet (Melmac) where cats are part of the regular diet. Inasmuch as "Kitty Litter" was unacceptable, I thought I'd try this.*

The biggest disappointment comes to those who get what's coming to them.

MONEYBAGS REPORTS :

In the 2nd Qtr. of this year, we took in \$440 in dues, \$70 in donations, and \$23.15 in interest during this quarter. We spent \$979.23 of which \$939.83 went for THE PROBE leaving us a total of \$4,325.77 in the treasury. (*Eat your hearts out, DEFENDERS!*) WESLEY R. JONES, NADCA Trasurer.

If at first you don't succeed, relax. You're just like the rest of us.

CHOLECALCIFEROL

DALE KAUKENIN (ICI AMERICAS) sent me a research paper (R. Gunther, etal, TOXICITY OF A VITAMIN D₃ RODENTICIDE TO DOGS, in JOURN. AMER. VET. MED. ASSN. 193(2):211-214 (1988)). The paper reports that in tests of two groups of 2 dogs each fed 20 and 10 mg of cholecalciferol/kg of body weight (approximately 1/4 and 1/8 of the published LD₅₀, respectively), all dogs developed hypercalcemia and died. They conclude that cholecalciferol-

containing rodenticides are a much greater hazard to dogs than previously believed.

It's only natural a person becomes quieter as he grows older - he has more to keep quiet about!

READIN'

THE AMERICAN HUNTING MYTH by Ron Baker (Vantage Press, NY) (1985). From a review in J. WILDLIFE MGT. (4/87) submitted by GUY CONNOLLY (NADCA RD#3 APHIS):

"This is a castigation of professional wildlife managers, whom the author chooses to call "commercial" wildlife managers. It purports to prove that hunter-dominated federal and state wildlife agencies are systematically destroying America's natural environments." (The JWM reviewer's own words.) This anti-hunting treatise calls trapping unthinkable and isn't too happy about sport fishing, either. You might read it to get an idea where these people are coming from.

EXTINCTION OF AN ISLAND AVIFAUNA BY AN INTRODUCED SNAKE by Julie Savidge (ECOLOGY 68(3):660-668 (1987)) also submitted by GUY CONNOLLY:

The island of Guam has experienced a sharp decline of native forest birds. Evidence points to the introduction of the brown tree snake (*Boiga irregularis*) as the chief cause of this decline. This is the first time a snake has been implicated in the extinction of other species.

The nice thing about trivia is it keeps us from worrying about important problems.

RO-PEL COMMENTS

My thanx to EDWIN BUTLER (APHIS, SD NJ/PA), KEVIN CLARK (Pres. CRITTER CONTROL), and REX MARSH (UC-DAVIS, CA) for responding to my query last month about the repellent RO-PEL. That is what this NL is all about. I'm just an armchair biologist now and need input from you working stiffs.

The RO-PEL label claims it is a repellent preventing grazing, nibbling,

biting, eating, licking, chewing, gnawing and browsing damage by deer, beaver, commensal rats and mice, tree squirrels, flying squirrels, dogs, and cats. Rabbits and "birds" are included on a supplemental label as well as protection of seeds or bulbs from "birds and squirrels". On another label they claim, "Among those on whom it has already been tested (*I'm leary of this statement as it doesn't say it worked.*) are: bear, cattle, coyote, crow, elk, fox, goat, gopher, horse, mole, monkey, moose, opossum, porcupine, raccoon, seagull, sheep, skunk, voles, wolf, & woodpecker."

RO-PEL has two active ingredients - Thymol and Bitrex. Thymol, if effective, probably acts as a trigeminal stimulant, but there is doubt that it would be equally effective against birds and mammals. The other is a form of Bitrex (Benzyl-diethyl [(2,6 Xylyl-carbamoyl) Methyl] Ammonium Saccharide. This has the addition of sugar (saccharide) instead of acid as usual for the purpose of stabilizing the molecule through its negative net charge and making the material patentable since the Bitrex stabilized with acid patent expired in 1980.

There is apparently no published data on Bitrex and thymol for birds. Morley Kare reported Bitrex was ineffective against chickens. It is extremely doubtful that either or both chemicals would have any effect on birds' generally insensitive palates. It is also questionable it would work against woodpeckers unless the insect larva the birds are eating become tainted with Bitrex.

While KEVIN CLARK says his field biologist reported very good success in repelling rabbits, squirrels, etc., a pen test against black-tailed deer in Washington was negative. Big Game Repellent-Powder (BGR-P) and RO-PEL were dusted on dormant Douglas fir seedlings. The number of terminals browsed by the end of the 28-day test were BGR-P 0%, RO-PEL 88%, and untreated controls 82%. Furthermore, all the RO-PEL seedlings had some burning of dormant needles

suggesting it could be quite phytotoxic if applied to new growth.

*The most conceited man in the world?
He calls Dial-A-Prayer to see if there
are any messages.*

STRYCHNINE & JUSTICE?

Another meddling judge, Diana Murphy, (U.S. District Court, Minneapolis, MN) has been sold a bill of goods by the environmentalists. Murphy ruled earlier this spring that EPA had illegally permitted the continued use of strychnine aboveground. She ordered EPA to suspend all aboveground registrations until the agency could prove no non-target animal would ever be killed as a result of strychnine use. She has created a lawyer's paradise as both the Justice Dept. and EPA are on our side for a change because this ambiguous ruling opens the door for the overturn of all of EPA's pesticide regulations. So while EPA has never displayed any affection for vertebrate pesticides and fought strychnine registrants for many years, the agency is now fighting for its right to issue regulations. It's a wonderful world these lawyers would have us live in. (Thanx to GUY CONNOLLY, NADCA RD#3, APHIS, Twin Falls (ID) and LIVESTOCK WEEKLY 7/7/88)

*Old pineapple growers never die. They
just go on Dole.*

MEETIN'S

SECOND INTERNATIONAL SHORT COURSE IN VERTEBRATE PEST PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, Aug. 14-27, 1989 at Colorado State University. Contact: Dr. Julius Nagy, Dept. Fish. & Wildl. Biol., CSU, Ft. Collins, CO 80523.

*When the metric system takes over,
what'll we call 'pound cake'?*

PERSONNEL

Things are shaking and stirring in ADC as we approach the elections. I know GARY SIMMONS is in California, BOB REYNOLDS took the late BILL SPALSBURY's place in Denver, KIRK GUSTAD, the shivering Texan, was moved from North Dakota a little further south to

Nebraska, the DWRC might be taken out of ADC, PAUL LEFEBVRE decided to retire rather than accept reassignment - - *please keep me posted on changes as it costs money to follow you around.*

They say you can't take it with you. I just want it to last until I'm ready to go.

PREVENTION!

BUNNY FENNESSY (CSIRO rtd? Australia) sent me notes from the 1987 Annual Rept. of the Agric. Prot. Bd. WA. Western Australia is one of the few suitable habitats in the world that has not been colonized by house/tree sparrows and starlings - and they intend to keep it that way. The inhospitable country between WA and the rest of Australia where these species have already established themselves and the strong action by the Agric. Prot. Bd. has kept them out. It cost them \$187,000 to destroy some 1,400 starlings by trapping and shooting but there are no starlings known to be in the State. The sparrows coming in on ships from other ports have not been allowed to become established in WA.

Life isn't fair. Earnings are minus tax, and bills are plus tax.

LETTERS TO YE ED

Dr. HARRY V. THOMPSON, United Kingdom:

Arrival of THE PROBE (April issue. His letter dated July 28 and that is "air mail"!!!) has caused me to write and congratulate you, as editor, on the varied and interesting fare you provide. When JOHN C. JONES introduced me to NADCA he remarked that some readers like your newsletter for the up-to-date information and others for the wisecracks, but I guess most of us appreciate the entire meal. I value the rodenticide update, your commonsense on contraceptives for wildlife, review of THE FOX AND THE ORCHID (which is indeed "beautifully illustrated"), and the USDA EIS (I look forward to more about this). It is indeed incredible that Virginia considered a bounty law on the coyote. We spent much time in the fifties and sixties persuading our government not to

continue a bounty on grey squirrel tails and received much help from the late Fred S. Barkalow, but not long ago I read that the Isle of Man was preparing to have a bounty on our native rabbit!

In March 1990, I hope to be in California for the VPC conference to meet old friends and talk about animal welfare and vertebrate control management. Incidentally, Dr. WALTER HOWARD is to give a talk on animal welfare to the Royal Society of Medicine in London on November 29, 1989.

RICHARD WINTERS, APHIS, Stafford, VA:

I believe it was BERT BIVINGS who went to France for the Bird Conf. instead of BERT HAWKINS. (I'm suprised I haven't had a nasty letter from B. BIVINGS. He is not reknowned for being closemouthed.) GARY SIMMONS is leaving for Sacramento to be RON THOMPSON's assistant (another case of not letting me know when you move. It costs money when these letters bounce back to us.) Reorganization of APHIS is the big news here. October 1st is the deadline. We will see. I'm in the fourth quarter of my career. Ha. Appreciate the job you are doing with THE PROBE. And I know it is a thankless one. But who else is stupid enough to do it? Ha.

ALTON DUNAWAY, APHIS DS, Jackson, TN:

I look forward to and enjoy each issue of THE PROBE. Thanks for the dedication and hard work. Here is an episode we got a big laugh out of:

We loaned a propane cannon to TVA for assistance with goose depredation on sprouting corn only to have it captured, arrested, and confiscated by three TVA patrolmen and one Kentucky wildlife officer. After receiving a call reporting deer poaching, the officers surrounded the cannon on a moonlit night and closed in. The State highway leading to the site was blocked and the county sheriff was on standby. The wildlife officer with gun in hand sneaked up on what appeared to be a man in a white shirt hunkered down in the

bushes. "Come out with your hands up - the jig is up," he shouted. At that instant the cannon recycled and let out a thunderous belch. The officer had a laundry problem to take care of when he got home that night.

JIM FLEMING, Trapper, New Sharon, ME:

Enclosed are some goodies from the local papers (see ALL THE NEWS...."). NADCA has been put on the free mailing list for the MAINE TRAPPERS ASSN. NEWSLETTER since I had the pleasure (?) of being editor - a position guaranteed to open you to public scorn and vilification. (Gee, thanks! This is over 80 pages, slick paper, profusely illustrated, even with some color! Puts THE PROBE to shame.) Keep up the good work. Give it to 'em.

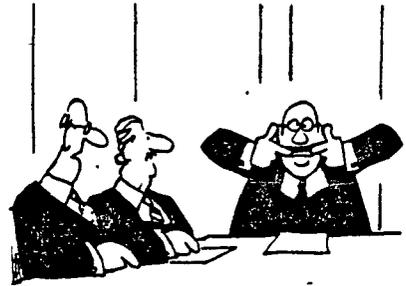
DOUG HALL, GA APHIS State Director, Athens, GA:)

I would like to express my views on professionalism of NADCA, THE PROBE, and ADC biologists. Like Nick Holler stated in #84, I have some concerns regarding the professional image of ADC and NADCA. I have been in ADC for 10 years but did not join NADCA until two years ago because of personal views and the fact the Association listed several wildlife organizations/agencies of which I was associated with or a member of, as "the enemy". I felt I was able to be a productive biologist without becoming a member of an Association that had some views that did not align with my wildlife management knowledge, belief, and experience.

I guess I have mellowed some and take what is in THE PROBE with a grain of salt. For those who are concerned by the content or how opinions are expressed, I may have a solution that will ease troubled water. The first paragraph of each PROBE should state that the views, opinions, beliefs, etc. may not be those of the entire Association and should not be construed as such. You are an expert editor, you can think of some good way to express this thought. You are to be commended

for the good job you do, I certainly wouldn't want it. But, if you put your clarification statement at the beginning of the newsletter, then the contents will be taken for what they are, volunteer information on ADC events of interest from around the country, and a collection of personal opinions, and information sometimes overly slanted toward negativism and the lack of professionalism.

(Doug, you made some good points and I am trying to follow them. It was a journalistic faux pas not to have a masthead. As I don't really like it on the front page, I hope you will go along with it as a permanent feature on the top of the second page where it is usually found in most magazines. I would appreciate comments from everyone regarding the content and format of this.)



W.D. HAS A GOOD POINT. MAYBE WE SHOULD LIGHTEN UP AROUND HERE.

MILT CAROLINE, NADCA RD#4, San Antonio, TX rtd. USFWS:

The purpose of this letter is to question your critics as to their knowledge of why George Rost thought up the idea of NADCA (The criticism of THE PROBE is not all because of a pretty ditty). There needs to be an examination of what is written about ADC by those who know little or nothing about it. What are their means of downgrading the ADC establishment? Doesn't everyone realize that they use every means at their disposal including fabrications and purposeful misdirection and misstatement of facts? And what's this business about NADCA reputation among wildlife biologists? Aren't some

of these avid followers of DOW, USHS, Sierra's, Audubons, etc.?

I, for one, know that the majority of your readers are very much in favor of your approach. It hasn't hurt one bit. If there is any suggestion that I might make it would be to use your sense of humor to use ridicule as a means of replying to subjective criticism. Keep it up.

(Thanks, Milt. There is a difference in philosophy between modern ADCers and us practitioners who started in the trade some forty or more years ago. They have not experienced the position of being the bastard at the family reunion like we were by "wildlife management professionals" in earlier days. As I have stated before, I carry grudges. I dropped out of the American Society of Mammalogists some twenty years back when they wouldn't publish a paper on my gerbil work in India solely because it dealt with too much "control". Thanks also for the ditty, Milt. I'll save it for the December issue and make somebody else mad.)

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

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT

David Foreman of "Earth First" runs classes on environmental terrorism. He thinks that pulling up survey stakes, putting sand in bulldozer cranks, shackling himself to trees, and pounding spikes into tree trunks to mangle logger's saws is non-violent protest and compares himself with Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. He says, "We need to scare people. It's not our job to come up with the final, politically acceptable solution. We're advocates. There are rational solutions, but others should find them." *(that explains everything!)* He tells the class how to use self-deprecating jokes like politicians to make the audience think they are regular guys. Not to dread a knowledgable audience, "If you relax, you can sound like you know a lot more than you do." Wear an animal costume

when passing out pamphlets. He modestly predicts that "...1988 is the greatest biological crisis since evolution began 13.5 millions years ago. By the year 2000 the only large mammals left will be the ones we allow to exist." His underlying moral, "biocentrism". You can't change one part of the world without affecting every other. The crab in the mud has as much right to life as a man. You must give up worldly goods to choose wilderness over drinking more Coke. Instead of building more highways, bring back the bison. When asked how he proposed to bring back the bison, he said, "I don't have all the answers. I think that's one of the problems, that we think we have all the answers. But I just want to energize people to ask the questions. I believe in compromise and balance...(?)...We're protecting something like 3% of the land in the USA as wilderness. I would be satisfied with 20-30%." *(This is why I keep telling you we must take these nuts seriously. This concept of overkill on Foreman's part is what I'm doing on the other side and some of you object to it!)* Thank to JIM FLEMING (Trapper, New Sharon, ME) and NATION (Lewiston, ME) 3/27/88

"Crocodile Dundee" appeared briefly in Midland (MI). Ben Clifton (12-yrs. old) heard his dog, a Doberman pinscher, barking in the backyard. He went out to investigate and found the dog in a standoff with her teeth in a 3-foot alligator's back and the alligator's jaws around the dog collar. The only weapon he could find was a tennis racket *(I'm gonna put my good fiberglass one out of reach of the grandkids.)* He beat the 'gator over the head. It let go of the dog and started after him. He kept beating it until it finally rolled over and he called his mother. The reptile died on the way to the animal shelter. Apparently it was an escapee from a local fraternity, but it was kinda scary. Thank to KEVIN CLARK (CRITTER CONTROL INC.) and MIDLAND (MI) DAILY NEWS, 6/25/88

Death threats against Molloko, the first California condor conceived in captivity had lead curators at the San Diego Wild

Animal Park to install armed guards and a fortified perimeter around the building where the chick is housed. The death threats have come from people claiming to be "environmentalists". So what else is new?

GUY CONNOLLY (NADCA RD#3 APHIS) sent in the following shorties from a NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL publication:

Like a scene out of Alfred Hitchcock's THE BIRDS, a Los Angeles couple returning home at night found their walls and furniture carpeted with small birds. Some 2,000 migrating Vaux swallows had swooped down their chimney and entered their home. When the birds started flying at them, they called in the ADC people. It took three officers over four hours to get them out of the house, but it was going to take a lot longer to clean up the mess. What a way to get fertilizer!

A Mr. Hudson noticed his morning paper moving. A bird had nestled in the paper before he picked it up from his lawn and put it on the seat of his car beside him. He stopped the car and shifted into neutral to let the bird go. He had one leg outside when the car slipped into gear and started moving. Hudson tried hopping down the road to keep up with the vehicle as he had one leg caught under the seat. His pants fell down, his foot got loose, and he fell out of the car. The car plowed into a neighbor's porch. The bird flew away unperturbed by the havoc it had wrought.

An Omaha (NE) man attempted to smoke a snake out from under his house. You can imagine the results - - \$6,000 damage to the house. The fire chief advised him to call an exterminator next time.

About a dozen hungry elephants tramped into Assam (India) and plundered its winter food stores. The animals found barrels of lao pani (rice beer) with the inevitable result of a night of riotous living until they fell into a drunken stupor. They staggered out the next morning with monumental hangovers only to return in the evening looking for more beer.

Everyone is like a carpet tack - he can't go any farther than his head will let him

REGS

RICK GRIFFITHS (DOD, Port Deposit, MD) sent me a bundle of my favorite reading - Federal Register and PESTICIDE & TOXIC CHEMICAL NEWS relating to regulations. The American Farm Bureau Federation has been lobbying strongly against implementation of the Endangered species labeling plan. This as conceived originally by EPA would turn into a real nightmare. The Farm Bureau requests:

- 1) Complete and adequate rule-making procedure which provides for public comment on the final system.
 - 2) A economic assessment of the program's impact on agricultural producers.
 - 3) Verification of biological data and habitat maps.
 - 4) Consideration of alternatives to cancellation of pesticides, such as changes in application rates or timing.
 - 5) Delay of program implementation until the above objectives are accomplished.
- (Best of luck, fellers.)*

If I had a little bit of humility, I'd be perfect.

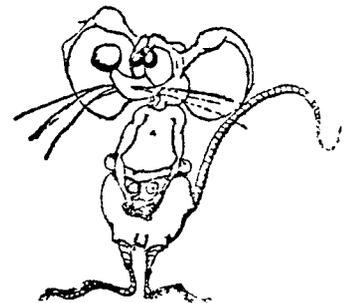
EDITORIAL COLUMN

I honestly do read the stuff I write, but despite several rereadings, computer spellers, and drafting Ann as a checker, I invariably see mistakes when I first read the printed copy. So please correct me when I'm wrong.

Thanks to DICK WINTERS for the excellent one-liners to brighten up an otherwise dull day.

YE ED -
William D. Fitzwater

adios,

**National
Animal
Damage
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3919 Alta Monte, NE
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