

Opinion

Hunting is a replacement for industrial meat

by Mandy Zickefoose

Many people would be surprised by my decision to hunt. I was a vegetarian and am an active environmentalist and a supporter of sustainable living. As it turns out, these were all reasons that influenced me to hunt.

My grandfather is 91 years old. The stories he tells me about his life really put things into perspective for me.

He and my grandmother were very self-sufficient. They farmed 261 acres of land, raised livestock, cultivated three gardens, maintained an orchard, worked full-time jobs and, oh yeah, raised two children.

I grew up not too far away from this rare masterpiece, but things did not click for me until a few years ago.

I took a couple of classes during my college career that taught me about environmental pollution and degradation—not that I needed a course to open my eyes to the litter cluttering our highways, exhaust fumes clogging our cities and mercury poisoning our tuna fish market.



The classes showed me that environmentalism is a genuine concern and each person can make a difference. This gave me a strong feeling of responsibility to take care of our earth.

For me hunting is not about killing, it is not about trophies and it is not about the season's opening day. Hunting is about appreciating nature and being thankful for what it provides.

There are many steps for the final product to arrive on our dinner tables and unfortunately, many of us have either forgotten or do not have the time to consider this.

I was a vegetarian for some time. My reasons for choosing such a lifestyle were based on the procedural system of meat production. What I mean is the food industry faces many problems. Raising beef, chick-

en and pork is a business, and often profit takes priority while health and nutrition become secondary.

Obtaining locally grown vegetables was easy for me, but finding locally raised meat was a problem. Much of our meat is raised hundreds or thousands of miles away. Life for these animals on big commercial farms is anything but acceptable.

There are many documentaries detailing the appalling situation in our livestock industry. Due to overfeeding to yield plumper chickens, chickens' legs snap under their unnatural weight. Cattle are injected with growth hormones to alter their genetics and produce more meat.

The techniques for slaughtering the animals are also disturbing. One method for slaughtering chickens is throwing them into boiling water. This way it is more convenient to remove their feathers.

Then the animals are packaged and trucks drive them long distances to arrive in our grocery markets. The animals spend their entire lives cramped into small quarters and

injected with chemicals.

All of this is summed up when on our way home from work we pop into the grocery market, often without a thought for the animal that will provide us with energy to power through the 8am staff meeting.

I could not participate in this disassociated, assembly line production of my food.

Five years ago, my neighbor gave me the opportunity to gain a new understanding of meat consumption. He offered me a bowl brimming with hot rabbit stew, knowing full well of my vegetarian diet. I laughed at first, thinking he was just teasing me.

Then, taking a serious tone, he asked me why I didn't eat meat. I gave him the aforementioned reasons, in what was probably a self-righteous manner. He listened very patiently, nodded his head a few times and waited until he was sure I had climbed down from my high horse.

He began stirring his stew and then he

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Siting of wind plants is dangerous to forests

by Stan Kotala

Central Pennsylvania's forested ridges are the last strongholds of unfragmented wooded habitat left in our region. Such forests are critical to the survival of the wood thrush, the ovenbird, the scarlet tanager, the cerulean warbler and many other forest interior species.

These same forested ridges are the targets of industrial wind plant developers.

A hundred years ago, people who opposed the damming of the Hetch Hetchy were denounced by Gifford Pinchot, Teddy Roosevelt and other nature-lovers as unrealistic preservationists who failed to see the benefits to nature of sacrificing a few areas in order to save many others from the impacts of coal mining and burning.

A century later, with the benefit of better science and more knowledge about aquatic ecosystems, we now know in detail just how devastating large hydroelectric dams can be. A similar scenario is unfolding with industrial wind farms.

There is growing consensus among the scientific community that ridgetop industrial wind plants pose significant threats to Pennsylvania's natural heritage. A recent

statement by the Pennsylvania Biological Survey described the impact of industrial wind plants in ridgetop forested settings as severe.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service describes three broad impacts of industrial wind plants: direct mortality of birds and bats, the inducement of avoidance behavior and forest fragmentation.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission classifies many of central Pennsylvania's ridges, including the Allegheny Front and Tussey Mountain, as "high risk sites" for industrial wind plant development.

Dr. Keith Bildstein, director of conservation at world-famous Hawk Mountain, writes that these high risk sites should be off-limits to industrial wind plant development.

Dr. Todd Katzner of the National Aviary has demonstrated through radio telemetry that the Allegheny Front is on the major eastern golden eagle migratory route, and he states that the golden eagle is the species most at risk from industrial wind plant development.

The Allegheny Front already has more than 400 industrial-scale wind turbines in various stages of planning, construction and



completion between I-80 and the Maryland border.

In addition, the extensive road network associated with industrial wind plants has substantial ecological costs, including increased erosion, chemical and thermal water pollution, spread of invasive exotics and forest fragmentation.

Roads cause many problems when they break up continuous areas of forest in Pennsylvania, and it is getting worse by the day as more roads are built in contiguous forests.

These adverse effects of forest fragmentation include reduced habitat area, habitat isolation and loss of species from an area, disruption of dispersal, increased edge effects, loss of core habitat and the facilitation of alien invasive species. Due to their linearity, roads and transmission lines have particularly pronounced fragmentation effects.

Even narrow open corridors through forests, such as roads and rights-of-way,

degrade the forest by creating unfavorable habitat for many species of migratory birds because of high rates of nest predation by middle level predators (ecotonal mesopredators) of the transitional zones at the edges of forests, such as such as foxes, skunks and raccoons, and nest parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds.

Furthermore, the effects of such openings extend 300 feet into the forest from the edge. Interior forest, therefore, is defined as forest occurring more than 300 feet from an edge. Interior forest is required for successful breeding by species such as the black-throated blue warbler, the black-throated green warbler, the wood thrush, the ovenbird and the scarlet tanager.

In addition to decimating interior forest habitat, roads produce edge effects conducive to the spread of alien invasive plants such as multiflora rose, Japanese stiltgrass, Russian olive, Japanese barberry, tree-of-heaven and Japanese knotweed. Once established on roadsides, these alien invaders infiltrate adjacent habitats, further degrading our forests.

see Wind power pg. 25

Why all should favor single-payer health care

by Chris Byrne

Myths abound when it comes to discussion of virtually any public policy issue, and single payer universal health care is no exception.

We all need to look at the real effects of both our status quo system of private insurance and the proposed system currently before our Pennsylvania legislature: the Family and Business Health Security Act (House resolution HR 1660 and Senate bill SB 300).

As a game theorist with a doctorate in Mathematics and 20 years applied experience for the U.S. military, I look at any system of rules as incentives that ultimately shape people's behavior, at least on average.

The implicit rules of the status quo system of private insurance are that insurers are not obligated to insure anybody. They are free to charge individualized rates to make customers with a high expected payout profitable and/or deter them from buying insurance, and they can restrict coverage to their choice of doctors, hospitals or other health providers.

If an insurance company refuses to pay for treatment or preventative care of any kind, the patient's only recourse is expensive civil action.

The incentives created for the insurance companies are to pay for as little treatment as possible, relative to any level of coverage, and to be concerned with customer reputation only when dealing with major employers of at least a hundred employees. There is little incentive to worry about individuals or small businesses.

Insurers have responded to this incentive by raising deductibles and co-pays and hiring an army of staff to argue with customers over rejected claims rather than paying more claims, which would reduce the need for such a volume of arguments.

Allowing individualized rates creates a particularly ironic incentive to avoid pooling risk, which is the whole point of insurance in the first place.

The incentive created by the current system for the common person is to keep one's current job, no matter how bad the pay or treatment, as long it provides insurance.

Entrepreneurship is stifled because, while going without income is a predictable hardship, going without insurance is gambling with bankruptcy and even death. Fifty percent of bankruptcies in the U.S. are caused by unaffordable healthcare costs.

Higher co-pays and deductibles create an

The current system of private insurance creates incentives ...that run counter to the health of the population, interfere with consumer freedom of choice, inflate costs and raise ethical questions....

incentive for individuals to abstain from treatment until they are in crises because the insurance companies might not pay the full cost, and if they do, they may mark illnesses as pre-existing conditions that will hurt individuals if they ever have to change insurance.

The incentives for doctors and other health care providers are to only perform or prescribe treatment that the insurers will pay for, which too often results in lower quality care.

Insurers reimburse poorly for primary and preventive care, so it is not offered or encouraged. Instead, like patients, doctors put off treatment until a more serious treatment is required that may cost more but for which the doctors are more fully reimbursed.

All in all, the current system gives insurers, health care providers and the public at large incentives to compromise care in favor of cost considerations and to subvert the main purpose of insurance, which is pooling risk.

In the system proposed by the Family and Business Health Security Act, everyone has unlimited coverage for all treatment and preventative care deemed medically necessary, and everyone is free to choose his or her own health care provider.

It is paid for by replacing private health insurance premiums with a 3 percent tax on individual income and a 10 percent tax on payroll for businesses. The status quo is that most individuals insured through their employer pay about 20 percent of income for combined insurance and co-pay, and those privately insured pay about 35 percent of income.

The incentive created for the state by the proposed legislation is to maximize the health of all individuals through preventative care, education and public health programs such as smoking cessation and early childhood nutrition.

This is because under a single payer system, one either pays for prevention up front

or pays for the expensive cost for untreated illness later. Refusing to pay claims would not be an option, and mandating unlimited coverage is key to placing incentives on health rather than profit.

There is also an incentive to keep administrative costs as low as possible by streamlining paperwork. Additional administrative savings would come from doing away with the profit-driven incentives for lobbyists, public relations and advertising costs and the army of staff to argue rejected claims.

Medicare is a reasonable estimate of administrative costs, which run about 3 percent compared to an average of 30 percent in the insurance industry, including profits.

The incentive created for the individual is to seek out all the care one thinks one needs, including preventative care, without fear of discrimination because of a future pre-existing condition.

Some fear that full coverage with zero co-pay gives an incentive for over-consumption, but the behavior of those who currently have excellent insurance providing virtually unlimited coverage indicates that most people do not seek out unnecessary health

care.

The incentive for the doctors is to prescribe the treatments in which they believe. The incentive for not over-prescribing comes from the fact that it would constitute fraud, and they would risk losing their licenses.

In summary, the current system of private insurance creates incentives for insurers, providers and consumers of health care that run counter to the health of the population, interfere with consumer freedom of choice, inflate costs and raise ethical questions about conflict of interest and profiteering off of people's risk of misfortune.

The universal health care plan awaiting vote in our Pennsylvania legislature provides a set of incentives that put the focus of health care back on health instead of profits, along with massive cost savings in the process. Call or email your senators and representatives, and urge them to support the bills.

Chris Byrne is a research associate at the Applied Research Laboratory and an assistant professor of mathematics at Penn State.

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the Rag and Bone

Rebersburg manure runoff threatens waters

by Sarah Berndt

Recently, I attended two local programs regarding the degradation of the Chesapeake Bay. It seems most all of us agree that the Bay is a valuable asset and worthy of rescue, as there is much money being poured into this effort.



The dynamics of life in the Bay are complex, as are all the practices contributing to its demise and all the varied work it will take to renew it. However, it is worth mentioning that the Bay is suffering because of human enterprise, and it is our responsibility to change.

Manure runoff from farms in Pennsylvania and Maryland greatly diminishes life in the Bay, which now has dead zones with not enough oxygen to support life.

As central Pennsylvania is a part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, we who live here must preserve the water quality of our streams and creeks that flow into the Susquehanna River and into the Bay.

When I see a pollution event in my “back-

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said, “Mandy, this rabbit was not raised specifically for us to eat. That is not why it was born.

“This rabbit experienced life. It saw the wonders of northern Pennsylvania, played in the summer meadows and huddled against the winter snow.

“This rabbit was not fenced in, packaged and shipped by truck. There were not genetically altering chemicals racing through its body, only good green flora from the forest floor and fresh spring water. This can be passed to you.”

I was, to say the least, inspired. He made enough sense for me to re-examine my reasons for vegetarianism.

A year ago, I joined a wildlife conservation group. I learned that my responsibility to our planet and my desire to become more associated with what I put into my body can build upon each other.

This past summer I started my own garden with the expertise of my grandfather guiding me along the way. I know exactly where my vegetables come from—my hard

Most of these trout had been growing for two to four years at the hatchery. Here was a huge pile...now reduced to a stinking mass of worthless garbage. Just dealing with the aftermath of this fish kill was four days of hard work.

yard” of the magnitude of the 20,000 plus fish that were killed at a local fish hatchery here in Rebersburg, it makes me mad.

I went to the hatchery and helped net out scoop after scoop after scoop of dead fish until my back could take no more. It was sad and depressing, and I kept thinking of the loss and that the incident did not have to occur. It’s one thing to kill a living organism for food, something else entirely just to waste it.

Most of these trout had been growing for two to four years at the hatchery. Here was a huge pile of what was intended to be good food for a whole lot of people to eat, or slated for stocking in someone’s private pond, now reduced to a stinking mass of worthless garbage. Just dealing with the aftermath of this fish kill was four days of hard work.

I believe this unhappy incident was caused by a careless Amish farmer who spread liquid fertilizer from his manure lagoon on top of snow on top of frozen ground. When the temperature increased and the snow melted, the toxic manure,

work. I spent hours sweating, tilling, weeding and watering. I wanted the same association with my meat.

The chair of the wildlife conservation group introduced me to Quality Deer Management. It is a set of guidelines and practices that ensure well-nourished deer, a healthier deer population and, of course, an active role played by the hunter. The active role is the association I wanted.

I spent hours sweating, plowing, working and seeding the land with greens. These greens provide nutritious food for the deer to grow stronger and aid them in winter survival.

This past fall I took a beautiful, healthy deer. Rather than taking it to a processor, I learned to field dress, skin, prepare, can and freeze the meat. I know the deer lived a natural life, and it was a gift to me.

Anytime I take from the earth, I am thankful, and I actively do my part to give back.

Mandy Zickefoose is a PhD student of anthropology, an organic gardener, huntress and steward of the earth who believes the individual can make a difference.

which could not sink into frozen ground, was carried directly through the hatchery and into Elk Creek.

I realize that not being able to rely on manure spreading machinery is problematic. However, there are Amish farmers here in the Valley who are not polluting the streams and are not continuously negatively impacting their neighbors’ abilities to make a living.

Indeed, many credit the Amish in these parts with saving the farmland from development.

This runoff is not unusual here, and this particular farmer has been confronted many

from Wind power, pg. 23

The construction of forest roads associated with industrial wind plants constitutes a relatively permanent change in habitat structure. Because the construction of such roads involves a major investment, the incentive for long-term maintenance to provide future access is high. The longer these roads are in place, the greater the chance that forest degradation will occur.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s guidance document regarding wind farm location states:

1. Avoid placing turbines in areas where there are endangered species.
2. Avoid placing turbines in bird migration pathways.
3. Avoid placing turbines near known bat hibernation, breeding, and maternity colonies.
4. Avoid fragmenting large, contiguous tracts of wildlife habitat.

As you can see, siting industrial wind plants on central Pennsylvania’s forested ridges is inconsistent with the criteria for acceptable wind farm locations according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

It is especially troubling that wind power developers have targeted ridges such as Tussey Mountain, which has been designated as an Important Bird Area by the Pennsylvania Biological Survey because of its importance to migrating raptors, especially the golden eagle.

As a matter of fact, Tussey Mountain has the highest number of golden eagles east of



times about the situation and his disregard for water quality down stream. If permitted to continue, Elk Creek and all the waters it flows into, down to the Chesapeake, will suffer.

I used to believe that there are governmental agencies, such as the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection,

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the Mississippi during spring migration.

Other disturbing signs include the targeting of Brush Mountain in Blair County, part of the Canoe Creek Important Mammal Area, which is home to the Commonwealth’s largest hibernaculum and summer colony of the federally endangered Indiana bat, and the targeting of Tuscarora, Jacks, Blacklog, Shade and Canoe Mountains, which are homes to colonies of the Pennsylvania Threatened Allegheny woodrat.

Conservationists should seek a balanced approach to energy production. Industrial-scale wind complexes on the Commonwealth’s forested ridgetops offer no real response to the threat of global warming and only token gestures for improving air quality.

In Pennsylvania, it would require sacrificing 800 miles of ridgetop to place the 4,000 wind turbines that would be needed to provide the Keystone State with just 10 percent of its electricity.

A much more meaningful action would redirect the substantial tax subsidies available for wind energy to fund conservation and efficiency incentives, for these would have a far greater impact in reducing the effects of fossil fuel combustion and toxic emissions responsible for endangering the world.

Stan Kotala is the Conservation Chair for Juniata Valley Audubon www.jvas.org, on the Executive Committee of the Moshannon Group of the Sierra Club (www.sierramsh.org) and practices medicine in Blair County.

Letters to the editor

Penn State threatens Spring Creek water

According to the College of Agricultural Sciences in a news release Friday, Jan. 23, 2009 titled "Study Suggests Link Between Agricultural Chemicals and Frog Decline": "Around the world, amphibian populations are in decline, and scientists have not been able to figure out why. Now a study of leopard frogs in Pennsylvania has identified a possible culprit, and the ramifications are troubling, according to a Penn State ecologist."

The study looked at atrazine and phosphate.

Hunter Carrick, associate professor of aquatic ecology in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences says, "The scientific findings point to worrisome synergisms between two commonly used agro-chemicals ...

"Like canaries used to gauge the safety of air in coal mines, amphibians are thought to be the 'canaries' in our freshwater environments, and reductions in their health can warn that subsequent species declines might be in store."

The results of this research were described in a recently published article in the journal *Nature*.

This research has implications for Spring Creek Canyon. What happens to the mother happens to the baby; likewise what happens

to the uplands happens to the creek.

If the College of Agriculture becomes owner, chances are the uplands will be clear cut and crop farmed using conventional farming methods, thus applying the named chemicals to the land. These will seep into the groundwater, down the canyon and into the creek.

Immune suppressants?

Frogs and amphibians are not the only sentient beings affected by agricultural chemicals. There is an epidemic of breast cancer as well as other cancers occurring around us.

We all have cancer cells in our bodies every day, and every day our immune systems using natural killer cells, T cells and other immune cells seek and destroy these renegade cancer cells. What are the effects of immune suppressants in our drinking water?

The health of Spring Creek and the health of the residents of Centre County are in the hands of our legislators.

The College of Agriculture Sciences at Penn State has provided the best argument against their ownership of Spring Creek Canyon and upland.

Gernilee Carter
State College

Swiss banks help wealthy evade taxes

If you think the so-called Wall Street bailouts (particularly to Citigroup) are a poke in the Average Joe's eye, here's a poke to the other eye: Approximately 19,000 wealthy U.S. citizens were discovered evading taxes, hiding at least \$20 billion in the secret vaults of Switzerland's banking giant, UBS.

How they did this is interesting because it began during the Clinton administration.

The enabling loophole was cleverly created by then Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin. Rubin created a policy enabling UBS to help America's most wealthy generate international income.

After his years of public service, Rubin went to Citigroup, serving as Chairman on the Board of Directors. He resigned his position earlier this month.

Secretary Rubin enabled Swiss banks to declare a U.S. client's tax status and to

identify the owners and beneficiaries of the accounts to the Internal Revenue Service.

The "Rubin Loophole" allowed corporate trusts to be effectively faceless, so UBS created a maze of bogus corporate trusts designed to shield the true beneficiaries of the accounts. UBS marketed this advantage to U.S. clients, who were eager to discreetly park wealth offshore and stealthily evade taxes.

Now the IRS is demanding the names of UBS's U.S. clientele. The Swiss have refused to comply, despite a U.S. court order, and are looking to strike a deal with U.S. prosecutors.

I want the list of these tax cheats published. I'm sure we'll recognize a few of these "citizens."

John Walls
Boalsburg

U.S. Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

There has been some talk in Congress of investigations, possibly leading to criminal prosecutions, of members of the previous administration.

Obviously, crimes were committed—crimes of the gravest nature. There was torture, and that was the worst, but there were also warrantless wiretapping, politicization of the Justice Department and so on.

A large part of America's leadership was culpable in this. Congressional Democrats and the media looked the other way.

The greatest danger now, I think, is that such crimes as torture and manipulating intelligence will become accepted as part of the government's toolbox. These crimes could be repeated by future administrations.

I also believe that criminal prosecutions of those responsible would be satisfying to us all but might not do the job of eradicating these crimes from the list of tactics permitted to the American government.

I do not believe that those at the top, the ultimate givers of orders, will ever be prosecuted. There is simply not the will or the

nerve to bring George W. Bush, Richard Cheney or Donald Rumsfeld to the bar of justice. I doubt that even secondary figures like Alberto Gonzalez will be prosecuted.

As a result, several years of criminal prosecutions could lead to nothing but reinforcement of the Bush lie that these crimes were all the fault of a few bad apples on the receiving end of the orders.

Those in government and the media who signed no orders and carried out none, but merely looked the other way, would, of course, get off scot-free.

Recently, Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont has suggested a Truth and Reconciliation Commission whose primary purpose would be to find the whole truth about the Bush administration's crimes. Criminal prosecution would be secondary.

Leahy's idea might not work either, but I think it has a chance.

Peter Morris
State College

Mistreatment at the hands of a newspaper?

I would greatly appreciate it if you would print this. I believe Chris Lee has been treated poorly by the *Centre Daily Times*.

According to our society's laws, a person is innocent until proven otherwise.

In a recent local case, however, that law was ignored by the *Centre Daily Times* and by many in the public and continues to be so.

I refer to Christopher Lee, chief executive officer of the Columbus Chapel and Boal Mansion Museum, supervisor of Harris Township, chair of the Boalsburg 200th Anniversary Celebration and president of the Boalsburg Village Conservancy.

In 2005, Lee was accused of sexual misconduct. The accusation was ballyhooed in the newspaper, yet we saw no similar article about Lee's vindication when, if fact, all charges were dismissed last year by the Centre County Court.

Thanks for the article on green awareness

I am writing to thank you for printing the excellent article, "Group Educates Teachers to Teach Green," by Bridget Monaghan.

Encouraging awareness about local opportunities for environmental activism can be challenging, but when we all come together as a community to declare that such issues are important to us, our collec-

tive energy can accomplish great things.

I appreciate *Voices'* commitment to raising awareness.

Alexandra D'Urso
Dept. of Curriculum & Instruction
College of Education
The Pennsylvania State University

send your letters to oped@voicesweb.org

ASK Cosmo



Dear Cosmo,
My brother came home for winter break and announced to the family that he is "bisexual." I love him, well, like a brother, but I still don't quite get where he's coming from. Does being bisexual mean that he HAS both sexes, or just that he likes members of both sexes? And is it an even fifty-fifty, or does he like one better than the other? Any insights? Signed, Shopping for Clues

Dear Buy Curious,
People like labels, presumably to make it easier to discriminate. This particular discrimination has to do with sexual preference, and your question is whether preference equals identity. On the one hand, there is the human need for intimacy, companionship and shared expression, and on the other hand are the mechanics by which those yearnings may get expressed. If it's all just social intercourse, then you're just another member of society. But if it includes some kind of involvement with one another's private parts, I guess that's when nature or nurture takes its own course...and intercourse.
I don't know what the natural progression is, from heterosexual to homosexual to bisexual, trisexual, quadosexual, pentasexual, octosexual, dodecasexual, etc. It seems there are an infinite number of combinations and flavors when you start including other species or inanimate objects. I think basically there are three kinds of sexuals: the "can't-get-enough-o-sexuals," the "just-about-the-right-amount-o-sexuals," and the "not-particularly-interested-a-sexuals."

If the urgency of your brother's quest to play on both teams seems quite pronounced, and the main motive is to increase his odds at getting lucky, then I'd probably classify such a bisexual as a "can't-get-enough-o-sexual." But if there's no real sense of panic, and he seems to comfortably accept whatever way the ball (or breast) bounces, then such a bisexual is probably a "just-about-the-right-amount-o-sexual." It doesn't appear that he falls into the "not particularly interested" variety, since he was interested enough to share that info with you, you found it interesting enough to send to me, and I found it interesting enough to help someone line his or her birdcage with it. Voila, mission accomplished.

In our household, our new adolescent spaniella Julia Belle tries to hump Eli, the ancient male spaniel. She also tries to hump the new cat, who also happens to be female. Julia Belle appears to be bi-curious. The "bi" part seems to apply to both gender and species. Whether "curious," as in "innately inquisitive," or "odd enough to be a freak show attraction," remains to be seen. I don't know about it making the grade as a freak show, but the home movies of it are totally freakin' hilarious!

To answer the rest of your question, bisexual does not mean your brother has both male and female sex organs. That

level of frustration on many levels.

I also believe there is a lack of communication between the various environmental agencies and that they would be more efficient if they would compare notes once in a while.

I learned from one of the Chesapeake Bay programs I attended that they finally got a few fish to live in the Lancaster area streams again, and that's a good thing. But where were our publicly funded environmental protection agencies when all the fish died in the first place?

Sarah Berndt is a watercolor artist and gardener. She lives in Rebersburg.

Campus and Culture from the Canine Perspective

would be a hermaphrodite. What's the difference between a true hermaphrodite and a bisexual? About \$2,000 per film appearance, and probably top billing.

Dear Cosmo,

I was shocked to see the photo of Michael Phelps smoking marijuana at a college party. Didn't you find this behavior disappointing for a sports icon who was one of our real American heroes? Signed, Down and Out in State College

Dear Drowning Us Out with Hate Knowledge,

An athlete during the off-season smoking pot at a college party? Call Mike Wallace! Call Morley Safer! Call Ed Bradley! Hell, call Andy Rooney, so he can quack, "ever notice your regular phone doesn't have a camera built into it when someone famous fires up a bong? What ever happened to taking pictures with a tray of flash powder on a stick?"

I'm not disappointed in Michael Phelps whatsoever. He still IS a sports legend and national hero. Seems to me he spent a whole lot of time throughout high school and college chuggin' up and down that pool instead of token' up. Talk about boring! If anyone earned a little post-Olympics buzz, he did.

He didn't fall off my pedestal for smoking herb. He's still on it for winning a dozen gold medals for this country, and for setting a new world record for winning eight of them in a single Olympiad. He's already got Mark Spitz beat by a mile just

by being goofy and humble. Being busted as a stoner is just the character trifecta. That sure beats arrogance...and eight medals beats seven.

Pot is obviously not a performance enhancing drug, unless you're talking about cognitive impairment, getting the munchies or laughing a stupid stuff. Then it's a super-steroid. So the Human Outboard Motor is slummin' at some frat party, gettin' all kind and what-not, and some bozo with a spy cam narks him out to the world. I'm disappointed in the clown who got his thirty pieces of silver for a cell phone snap, and probably cost Michael six figures when Kellogg's yanked his Corn Flakes endorsement.

It reminds me of a TV news reporter my human used to work with. She was going on and on about being at a party with a local US Congressman and how he was doing COCAINE (emphasis hers). She was basically telling all the other assembled print and broadcast reporters about it. Finally, some wisecracker set the scales right by asking, "Yeah, April, but was it GOOD cocaine?" She, of course, was forced to either change the subject or dabble in that journalistic rarity called "accuracy."

So, with an eye towards accuracy, my question to the Phelps-a-razzi is, "Was Michael passing you the bong next, or did you just pass it to him immediately before you took your shot?" Publishing pictures from some parties can not only make you rich, but it can also make you one thing you probably already knew you were: incredibly UNCOOL.

from Manure, pg. 25

that have the power to control polluters, like this extended family of eco-unfriendly Amish dairy farmers. However, I have seen no evidence to support this idea over the past five years that I have been following the problem.

Our streams would be getting cleaner if there was an authority that was willing and able to see that a change be made to these dirty farming practices.

Although there are some diligent environmental field workers, it seems increasingly difficult to even get anyone's attention to address the issues, and I sense a high

UNA-USA General Membership Meeting

7 p.m. Monday, March 16, 2009

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State College

Lew Jillings and Arthur Goldschmidt will interview
4 Foxdale residents about their memories
of the foundation of the United Nations.

Refreshments will be served.