

Some people are positively puzzling

by Paul Swetzof
for the Tundra Times

Life is interesting, isn't it? One of the interesting things in life that I enjoy doing is solving puzzles. One of the most interesting puzzles is the way some people's minds work, or don't work.

OPINION ALEUT

I find it fascinating how some members of one generation can pollute and rape the planet and knowingly wipe out fish, wildlife and indigenous people, all the while endangering themselves and their children without blinking an eye.

Even more puzzling is how some of that generation's children attempt to right the wrongs of their parents by unwittingly doing as much or more damage to people, plants and animals as the previous generation. And they do it with a self-righteous and smug conviction that they know it all and are saving all that is good in the world.

The puzzling people I am currently thinking about are the so-called animal protectionists and environmentalists who don't include humans in the environmental equation and whose actions continue to threaten our homelands, not to mention the planet we all must share.

Following is a brief summary of some of the practices of this weird group of people which I find most puzzling.

Many of these folks scream about the killing of otters, fur seals, whales and other land and water resources which inhabit our homelands. They claim we are endangering the wildlife.

This in itself is puzzling since we have, over a period of thousands of years, developed an undeniable harmony with the land and sea which has allowed both wildlife and our cultures to flourish.

In a nutshell, we inherently know how to get along with our planet.

Anyway, many of these saviors of the planet have bought or dream of buying some acreage where they can commune with nature. They don't buy land and donate it as wilderness or wildlife preserves, they buy it to live on and to raise things on, such as dogs and cats. And every time one of these people buys acreage, he or she is destroying habitat on and around the land.

This destruction of habitat has done more to destroy the ecosystems of the world and the wildlife that depend on the undisturbed use of these ecosystems to survive than all of the hunting and fishing we have engaged in for the last 10,000 years. Is this hypocrisy or what? But don't puzzle these puzzling people with the facts.

These amazing people must go out of their way just to puzzle me. Many of them don't want us to trap furs or hunt seal, sea lion or other animals to sell or to barter. Some don't even want us to eat them. They want us to survive on carrot juice.

Even though these practices have not endangered any species, these tiny minds have decided that killing animals is cruel.

I find it fascinating how some members of one generation can pollute and rape the planet and knowingly wipe out fish, wildlife and indigenous people, all the while endangering themselves and their children without blinking an eye.

So, will you ever guess what slight of hand many of these people use to keep warm without furs? They use down coats. Hundreds of ducks and geese must be killed far down each coast.

They use synthetic clothes, which are partially constructed with petroleum products. They use plastics, whose production and disposal cause no end of grief to our fragile environment.

Maybe it's just me, but I find these actions strange and more than a little frightening.

What do most of these people do to eat? I can't bring myself to believe that more than a very few of the outer fringe of this cult group survives on lettuce and carrot juice grown hydroponically at home. I think it's safe to assume that most of them eat processed meat and vegetables, raised on rangelands and former forest lands, all of which used to be prime wildlife habitat.

The domestic animals which graze

on the lands of the Lower 48 and to a much smaller extent in isolated pockets of Alaska are the leading cause of the destruction and extinction of wildlife in the United States and in much of the rest of the world.

These strange and puzzling people must be aliens because I don't see how anyone from this planet could be so ignorant to the interactions which have served to sustain and enhance the quality of our lands and waters and the life which inhabits them for so many thousands of years.

I think I'll join a flying saucer society to try and figure out where these people came from and to better understand them.

If this turns out to be a deadend, the only likely alternative is that these sad folks are genetic mutations resulting from inhabiting smog and eating processed meat. If so, I'll pack up some fish and caribou meat, buy a gas mask and bottled water and head to California to study them.