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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....Putney
—Article Number:.....42599

Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

You are doing deer a service by killing them?

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

####END SUBHED####

TEXT BODY:

RE: "I don't just want to read the landscape. I want to eat it.' " [News, Oct. 29]:

####BEGIN TEXT####

The story being told is what I regard as coming from the entitled position on the sociopathic spectrum.

Deborah Lee Luskin, you say that you finally felt the tree, and your place in the forest. The awe and connection to nature, the voice from the universe. Really! No other part of nature has a gun.

10 But this is all about you. And your additional ability to
11 dress it up with an old tale, green-washing, an anti-Bambi tirade,
12 and self-serving facts and ethics.

13 You are doing deer a service by killing them? They eat
14 twigs, bark, and grass.

15 Imagine their lives spent with no shelter, a thin fur coat
16 in the worst winter weather, in a freezing rain that turns to ice
17 covering everything they eat and stand, maybe pregnant, while
18 the wind blows. What marvelous creatures to garner our respect
19 and awe!

20 We have been here surrounded by our acres of lawn and
21 woods since 1983, and never seen an emaciated deer stagger out
22 of the forest. A deer you describe in these terms was probably
23 sick. The “new” idea for humans to thin the herd is one for the
24 hunting lobby.

25 So let’s think about deer, and all the other animals you
26 hunters and trappers (the worst of the worst that should be
27 banned outright) regard as your just reward after baiting,
28 hounding, scent and sound calling, etc.

29 Those lives belong to sentient beings that start with their
30 mother’s love and care. They have siblings and, later, friends and
31 families. They have individual personalities and places where
32 they like to eat and to frolic.

33 Then add this — as animals go, humans are an ugly lot,
34 with our greed, self-righteous manifest destiny status, and, yes,
35 with the way we look. As we treat animals worse than the slaves
36 to whom we have done despicable things, there must be an
37 element of envy for their independence and perfect beauty. To
38 vanquish them is about your power and control in a radically
39 unequal competition.

40 As an artist, I see killing these beautiful beings as
41 Philistines at work. It should not be called a sport. We do not
42 need to eat animals; it is healthier for us and this sacred planet —
43 which humans are destroying in every way — to start weaning
44 away from that.

45 Leave the unhunted coyotes, bears, and big cats to select
46 the weaker animals. That is how nature has worked to produce
47 the excellent machines for living that we can be awed by.

48 Getting back to the sociopathic spectrum: With Putin,
49 Netanyahu, Trump, and others on the pathogenic end, and your
50 kind, generous, and ethical friends on the empathic end, aren't
51 the people who get a kick out of murdering animals well in on
52 the cruel side of the middle?

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

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####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

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###END LOGLINE###