

Anderson Afield

More and more people means less foom for wildlife

By JOHN M. ANDERSON

Folks nowadays are much ado about the right to life. It is a curious fact that all this attention is focused on people as yet unborn. If you are out of the womb, nobody's gonna march and scream and wave banners proclaiming your right to catch a fish, breathe clean air, shoot a duck, or drink water that does not cause cancer.

I was in Washington last week, arguing in favor of protecting and restoring our priceless rivers and marshes, and all the fish, birds, and mammals that live therein. People depend on them for food, recreation, flood protection, and other amenities that make life worth living. But when you get right down to it, nobody paid much attention to this meeting; - no TV cameras, no Sam Donaldsons or Diane Sawyers. My right to hunt and fish, and not have to worry about poisons in food, water, or the air, will not be tested in the Supreme Court.

It was about 50 years ago, in the European Theatre of Operations, that men of the cloth (we called them chaplains in those days) solemnly assured us that it was our sacred duty to take the lives of as many young Germans as possible. They made it plain that those misguided souls did not have any right to life because they were a threat to our own right to life.

If you don't like to hunt and fish, watch birds, or look at beautiful scenery, you may figure it's just as well that nobody raises a fuss over your right to do these things. On the other hand, the threat to your right to any kind of life increases steadily, day-by-day.

Money spent for the Stealth Bomber and star wars is money spent to deprive others of their right to life. And the more we spend, the more our so-called enemies spend for the same purpose.

The one over-riding cause of it all? PEOPLE.

There are about 250,000 more people on earth today than there were yesterday at this time, and today's count is 250,000 less than tomorrow's. In a week's time, world population growth is equivalent to a city the size of Philadelphia. Over a year, 90 million additional hungry mouths equate to another Mexico. About 90 percent of the increase comes in the so-called

Third World Countries. They are also called "under-developed", or "have-nots" nations. Whatever they're called, in 30 years they have added more people than the combined totals in North America, Europe, Japan, Russia and Oceania!

Unlike my meeting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as hungry hordes stream across the Rio Grande and as thousands starve in refugee camps in Ethiopia, the TV cameras and reporters show us what's going on. We usually respond by sending boatloads of grain and rice, about \$300 million worth in most years.

And our congressmen are now introducing legislation to bring those displaced people in Hong Kong, Russia, Cambodia and elsewhere into the U.S. This seems to be the humane thing to do. Is it really?

The root cause of all that misery is - if you'll pardon the expression - sex. Among the factors governing the rise and fall of nations, sex is Alexander the Great. Regardless of their food supply, sex can subjugate hunger and cause folks to turn their backs on a bowl of rice, oysters Rockefeller, or even a chance to hunt ducks! We can't do anything about that, because you can't modify an instinct.

Consequently, there are about 10 times more people on this globe than it can support, at least healthfully and comfortably. Now instead of millions of tons of grain which only makes the problem bigger next year, why not send 'em a few tons of birth control pills, offer free vasectomies, tubal ligations and condoms?

Ever since our ancestors gave up hunting and gathering for a living and took to raising and storing crops, our world population has been going up while the amount of land capable of supporting us has been going down.

Whether or not a fetus has a right to life is a question that gets all our attention. A right to what kind of life is almost totally ignored.

John M. "Frosty" Anderson was Director of the Wildlife Department of the National Audubon Society from 1966 until his retirement in 1987.



PLENTY OF DUCKS - At the western outlet to Harveys Lake there are ducks-a-plenty. But more development often means less room for wildlife. (Photo by Ron Bartizek)

Water

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anything from the restaurants here at the lake unless it comes from a can," said Bob Dennison, Wilkes-Barre. He said he fears the water around the lake may not be safe. "Restaurants mix water with everything they serve," he said. "I really think local officials should show more concern."

Some other residents say they feel safe. Jim Drury, owner of Drury's restaurant, says he has no concern over the water problem. "I have no concerns. We do not have our own wells," he said explaining his water comes from the Dallas Water Company. "Our water is tested once a month by DER and the Dallas Water Company."

Dick Williams, Pole 126, said he feels the council and authority are doing their job well. "The council is notifying and testing Warden Place," he said. Although he said he is concerned about the prob-

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Dick Williams
Harveys Lake resident

lem, Williams said he "is not acquainted with it."

"I feel sorry for those people (at Warden Place)," Williams said Monday. "I hope they get it straightened out." He said the council and authority are doing exactly what they should. "Talk to the Warden Place residents and find out what it is," he explained.

Williams said he may have his water tested just to be safe, but does not expect to find any problems. "Water here has been excellent," he said. "I feel the problem is local (to Warden Place)."

Two charged in lake hit and run boat accident

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

Charges have been filed against two individuals in connection with a hit-and-run boat accident on Harveys Lake which sent two women to the hospital during the Fourth of July weekend.

Gary A. Evans, 45, 324 E. Broad St., Nanticoke, and his girlfriend Adrienne Ratchford, 44, 72 Pulaski St., Kingston were charged Friday with recklessly operating a watercraft, recklessly endangering another person, and providing false statements. In addition, both were charged with summary offenses including failure to submit a required accident report and failure to render assistance to casualties.

The charges were filed with District Justice Earl Gregory, Shavertown, by Harveys Lake Police Officer Ron Spock and Fish Commission Enforcement Officer Claude Neifert.

The charges follow almost two months of investigation stemming from a boat accident which occurred July 1 around 11:45 p.m. near Pole 140. Police allege that Evans and Ratchford were operating a 1955 Chris Craft outboard motor boat, which Evans owns, that slammed broadside into a boat carrying five people, including a 6-year-old boy. Two women aboard the boat, Nancy Begala, Harveys Lake, and Adelia Demoulee, Port Orchard, Washington, were treated at Nesbitt Hospital for shock and facial injuries. Evans' boat was allegedly operating without running lights.

According to police reports, Evans called the Harveys Lake Police Department on the morning following the accident to report his boat vandalized. In a statement submitted to police, Evans claimed that he tied his boat at Pole 142 around 9 p.m. July 1. Then, on July 2, he said he came down to show a friend his boat and discovered it underwater. The boat had a

hole in the left side and Evans claimed he tried to patch it but could not.

On July 3, Harveys Lake police said they received a call about a gas and oil slick on the water near Pole 142. The police discovered Evans' boat underwater tied to Pole 142. Neifert impounded the boat.

According to reports, the State Police did a comparison test with broken glass and fragments and determined Evans' boat was the one involved in the accident.

Evans and Ratchford claimed in statements to the police that they were not involved in the accident. According to them, at approximately 9:15 p.m. July 1, they got out of the boat and sat on the dock until about 10 p.m. Then, according to the statement, they both went up to his boat house. One of them returned to the boat about five minutes later to retrieve Ratchford's purse. "At about 11 p.m. my girlfriend went home and I remained at the house the rest of the evening," Evans said in the statement.

Marion Attanasio, a neighbor of Pole 142, told police she saw Evans and Ratchford on the dock after 10:30 p.m.

"I am not sure of the exact time, but I know it was after 10:30 p.m. Saturday evening. I saw Gary Evans and his girlfriend both in Gary Evans' boat," Attanasio told police. She said that after midnight, she was awakened by loud talking and saw the police and a boat with a spotlight looking for something. "I also saw Gary Evans and his girlfriend looking down where the boat was tied. I could not see the boat but I could see the ties. When the police came back this way, Gary and his girlfriend went up the hill."

Warrants will be issued through the mail to Evans and Ratchford for a preliminary hearing. No date had been set as of Monday.

Where to get water tested

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

Residents of Harveys Lake concerned about the contamination currently detected at Warden Place can have their water tested for a minimal cost.

For \$12, The Kirby Health Center, located on North Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, will test residents drinking water for traces of bacterial contaminant.

Residents must pick-up a special container at the center, fill it with the water, and return the sample to the center.

According to a spokeswoman at the center's lab, results from the test should be received by the resident in the mail within two days.

The Harveys Lake Environmental Advisory Council is offering to have the test done. Residents must pick-up a container at the borough building and pay the \$12 fee. About 50 bottles had been handed out as of Saturday.

The Dallas Post

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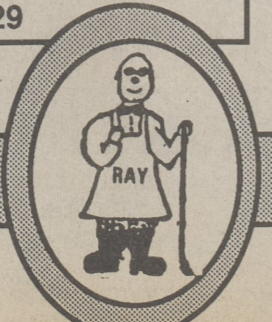
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