Points East

By: Ike Adams

Bout all you have to do anymore to get half the population of the country down on your case is argue that trapping fur bearing animals is a legitimate way to earn a living.

The reason I know that to be true has to do with the column I wrote last week wherein I more or less sanctioned the practice.

I had no idea that folks who read Kentucky weeklies live as far away as Michigan and Vermont and even Oregon felt such affinity to coons and beavers and mink and weasels and possums and coyotes, et. al.

I knew that a certain crowd in New York and name your other favorite big city with folks with big money were turned off to wearing furs. They can't stand the idea that some animal had to die to accommodate their taste in attire.

But they still eat beef and pork and turkey and chicken.

Apparently they believe that the cow that surrendered that prime fillet they had for supper just laid down and died.

"Take me," the cow said to the butcher. "I am young and fat and, healthy and I have been pumped full of worm medicine and penicillin and steroids and I am yours. I will hang myself upside down with a chain hooked around my hind legs, shoot myself between the eyes, and reach around and slit my throat so that my steaks will taste all the better and be perfectly marbled. I will skin myself to make you fine shoes and jackets and grind up my leftovers so that you can enjoy me in a Big Mac."

"Me too," said the pig. "Suicide is a small sacrifice to make sure that you have bacon and sausage to go with your eggs. I don't mind getting knocked in the head with a hammer and bled to death to make sure you have a nice breakfast. Can I kill myself right now? Can you turn my hide into a football? Oh please, please, please put my skin in the hands of a quarterback. Can you get me to the NFL?"

(As an aside, you sort of expect a pig to think like that but the country is full of teenage human boys who have similar dreams and would make the same sacrifice to be an NFL quarterback throwing the pig around.)

Chickens and turkeys flock to get in line so they can stick their feet up and get hooked onto the conveyor that holds them upside down so they can get their throats slit and bleed to death before they go into the scalding pot.

Lambs offer themselves cheerfully to similar sacrifice.

Heck, that's just the way that cattle and fowl and sheep are. Anything to keep us humans well fed and happy.

Am I right???? We eat meat and wear leather only because millions of animals are standing in line anxiously waiting to be slaughtered?

So along comes a coon or possum, and you can eat them too, even though they are not as prone to suicide and generally take a bit more convincing to get on the table than, say a lamb. And, for that matter, a possum is usually too greasy and soon too tough and stringy to please most palates.

Mom used to say that the best way to cook a possum was put it on a big oak board and stuff it with onions and sage and stuff and bake it at 400 degrees for 5 hours. Once it was done, you threw the carcass out to the dogs and carved up the board for supper. And even the board was too greasy to eat unless you'd worked hard all day and had a big appetite.

But anyway, even with a possum, you figure that you ought to save the hide and turn it into something worthwhile. Catch a muskrat or a mink and all you have going for you is the hide because I've tried eating both and you don't want to. The board even tastes like a polecat smells and I ain't ever been that hungry.

Ground hog is pretty good though, (I'm serious) if it's fixed right, and before the year is over I intend to try beaver. Polecat is where I draw the line though. I don't want the hide and I darn sure don't intend to cook one.

A buzzard won't even eat road killed polecat and here in the flatlands we have one about every mile on warm winter nights.

"Ojeeoooo-ooooooo that smell. Can't you smell that smell?----"

But the bottom line is a question. What's the difference between wearing leather shoes or eating a big juicy steak than wearing a mink stole? And the answer is that it's a heck of a lot harder to catch a mink than it is to skin a calf or a pig or a lamb or whatever else it takes for dinner.

You want to talk about humane? Have you ever seen a mink or weasel catch a chicken? It's not a pretty sight and it's not an easy death for the chicken or quail and I've watched both. I've seen a hawk swoop down and grab a muskrat and please believe me, the muskrat or mink would have had a far more humane death in a steel trap. I've seen a fox catch a rabbit and its not a pretty sight.

Fur is cheap right now. If you want a raccoon or beaver hat or a mink stole or a fox jacket, now is the time to shop around and buy one.

And if you eat meat of any kind or wear leather shoes, gloves, jackets or what not and you find fur offensive, you are a hypocrite of the highest caliber so please don't bother me with your mail.

I'm going to be outside a lot and I don't have time to read it. As soon as I can find a way to turn these darned beavers into pelts, I'm going into the fur business.

Our Readers Write

Dear Mayor King, Council Members, *Mt. Vernon Signal* and Citizens of Mt. Vernon:

Kudos to our own Polly Abney for her outspoken and forthright letter to the editor which appeared in last Thursday's *Signal*! She dared to voice in print what we all, as cablevision subscribers, know is fact... we are being royally fleeced by Charter Communications in the guise of "upgrading the system." The truth be known is that Charter, being the only cablevision provider in the area, is unregulated, so therefore it can change whatever rates it wants, and does!

I moved to this lovely community from Allentown, PA, seven months ago with my husband, who has lived here in Kentucky for about seven years. In PA my monthly cablevision bill was $32.00, and this was for 99 channels, none duplicated, and all with excellent reception. Because we had more than one cable provider in my viewing area, they were regulated and thus, all subscribers benefitted by reasonable rates.

Charter's rates are unreasonable and outrageous! In just seven months our own monthly cable rate has virtually DOUBLED, gradually increasing from $21.19 to our most recent bill of $42.39 (with the new expanded service). Bear in mind, folks, we're talking a 100% INCREASE just over a seven month period! To add insult to injury, the reception stinks! To be paying this exorbitant monthly rate for cable service that supposedly has been "upgraded" in both quality (new fiber optic lines) and an expanded channel selection, only to have a poor quality reception on most of the channels provided, not to mention many duplicated channels, is absolutely ludicrous!

Calling Charter to complain has been a continuous exercise in futility as Polly Abney so aptly points out. Any complaints we have seem to fall on deaf ears at Charter, even though our complaints are reasonable and understandable in light of the poor quality cable we're all paying too much for. I've called so many times myself over the last seven months, I'm sure they cringe by now when they hear my voice. Aside from the too-high monthly rate, my main complaint has been the frequent interruption of service (at our house, at least once a week, and about two weeks ago it was off for 24 hours straight!). I get one excuse after another whenever I call to complain and to ask WHY the cable is off AGAIN, but yet, the rates keep going up. The cable is off for one reason or another at least once a week, never mind that we might be in the middle of videotaping a movie or a special program... is it fair for us to pay such a high rate for a cable service that is, at best, very undependable? I think not.

My husband and I are now investigating other options (we are considering a "dish," which provides a whole lot more at about the same monthly rate and in some instances, less). In the meantime, I, along with Polly Abney and hopefully, all the TV viewers in the community, implore the City Council to rethink its franchise agreement with Charter Communications. We need someone to represent the interests of the citizens of Mt. Vernon. C'mon, fellow citizens, send your written opinions and complaints to City Hall! We have the right to be heard.

Respectfully,
Margo Zars
Mt. Vernon

"WHAT SAITH THE SCRIPTURES"

Let us notice from John 15:18-20. "*If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you. The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.*" May we ponder on these thoughts"

One of the things we see as we study about Christians in the first century was that they were persecuted, mistreated, hated, and spoken against. Jesus though, points out to us that they hated him first, and those that are his disciples would be hated also. Can you imagine people hating the Lord Jesus Christ? Yes indeed, people did hate the Lord. He was perfect in every way, always doing the right thing. Yet men still hated him, they persecuted him, yea they crucified him. The drunkards, the criminals, the fornicators, nor the "hoodlums," were the ones to heap the abuses on Jesus!. No, the religious people of his day killed the son of God! May every soul who stands for the truth of God, never get discouraged at the persecution that comes our way.

Providence church of Christ
Dan McKibben-758-9316 – E-mail: DanMcKibben@Juno.com
Web Site: www.WhatSaithTheScriptures.com
Time of Services: **Sunday** 10am Bible Study, Worship 10:40 & 6pm, **Wednesday** 7:00pm. Radio program, Sunday 8am, 1460 AM.

Mount Vernon Signal

Publication Number 366-000
Periodical Postage Paid in Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456
606-256-2244

Published every Thursday since November, 1887. Offices in the Mt. Vernon Signal Building on Main Street in Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456. Postmaster, send address changes to P.O. Box 185, Mt. Vernon, Kentucky 40456.

James Anderkin, Jr., Publisher Emeritus - Richard F. Anderkin, Editor
Perlina M. Anderkin, Managing Editor
Paige Benge, Advertising Manager - Jessica Lawson, Circulation Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
In County - $16.75 Yr. Out-of-County In State - $21.75 Yr.
Out-of-State $30.00 Yr.
e-mail address - mysignal@un-net.com

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