

Northern Insights- continued from previous page

ramshackle cabin, after he'd exhausted himself hiking for hours through dense bush to make his caribou observations. He's been going out to the Slates for 17 years.

On the Slate Islands, the only enemy of the caribou is starvation. That's what happened this past winter. Five hundred and fifty caribou died - some violently, falling off cliffs, trying to reach lichens. But there's still 80 caribou left, including three newborn calves. There's still 30 times the density of caribou on the Slate Islands than there is on the mainland. From his observations of the predator-free caribou on the Slates, Dr. Bergerud is showing how a species would thrive, if our wildlife management policies allowed for greater control of predators.

Bergerud has gained some notoriety in British Columbia, by advocating an organized wolf hunt to reduce the pressure on a threatened caribou herd there. Greenpeace and other groups organized a systematic media barrage to "save the wolves." Bergerud is still bitter about that. Because of the environmental groups shortsightedness, which stopped the hunt for ten wolves, the caribou population in the area is about to go extinct. When it does, all the wolves will starve.

Bergerud hopes Ontario learns that lesson from B.C., and takes another look at its proposed policy on caribou management. That policy, released in draft form in February, is supposed to be implemented in 1991. The draft policy emphasizes protection of the caribou's habitat, by placing

more controls on logging near caribou herds, rather than emphasizing predator control. Bergerud points to the Slate Island caribou as living proof of how a species can adapt and thrive, when they're free from predators.

He does NOT want to duplicate the conditions on the Slate Islands on the mainland by killing off all our wolves. He loves wolves. He just wants the importance of predator management to be recognized, instead of being rejected because of what he calls "screwy thinking" and pressure from animal rights' groups. "I'd like to see wolf management. I'd like to see more caribou and more moose and more wolves. I hate to see professional biologists getting pushed out by environmental groups who really don't have much savvy, and animal rights people and anti-hunting groups. I would like to see wildlife management. Wildlife management for caribou and moose for this part of Ontario requires predator management."

This year, Bergerud might set aside his frustration and cynicism long enough to analyze 17 years of notes from the Slate Islands, and publish his findings. When he does, he will challenge conventional wisdom, just like Charles Darwin. For Bergerud, the Slate Islands caribou prove that the first thing an animal seeks is safety - freedom from predators. The SECOND thing the animal wants is food. The Slate Island caribou support his theory because they remain on the Islands, even though they starve. They've learned over generations that they're in an environment that satisfies their first concern - freedom from predators.

Perhaps Dr. Bergerud will suffer the same fate as Darwin - scorned by many peers during his lifetime, but remembered in the history books as a man who taught us something important about Nature, based on his observations of animals living on some very unique islands.

All the world's a circus- cont'd from page 5

cookies, a fridge full of cheese, enough tickets of chance to warrant a gaming license and so many magnetic note pads my lawn mower keeps trying to get into the house.

I've sponsored Kelly Beck in so many Walk-A-Thons, Swim-A-Thons, Bowl-A-Thons, Bike-A-Thons, Stand-A-Thons, Sleep-Over-Thons and Whistle-While-You-Work-A-Thons she ought to legally have her name changed to "The Bionic Beck."

The other day I saw a line of Avon ladies in Beck's driveway asking for Kelly's autograph.

Lately, I've been getting a little concerned. I think Kelly's sales

success might be going to her head.

My tab for Kelly's last Walk-A-Thon at 10 cents per kilometer was \$2,500.

The next time she made a sales call on me I called her on it. She admitted it was on the high side, but insisted it was a very worthwhile cause. Apparently, Kelly and the rest of Mrs. Marr's class at Wainfleet South walked to Nicaragua in support of the Contras trying to bring down the Communist dictatorship of President Daniel Ortega.

This out of the way, Kelly did the sales shuffle, locked in the eyes, pushed the pen and paper at me and said: "Ja want sum?" I signed. But being a bit apprehensive I was forced to ask: "What did I just buy?"

"Macrame," she said with the smile of success and batting eyes to boot. Great. An afghan or a wall hanging, either way, I'd give it to my mom for Christmas.

When U.P.S. delivered the microwave oven with three-stage memory and automatic thaw, I was steamed.

I telephoned Kelly immediately.

I got her answering machine. Apparently she was speaking to an Amway Sales Motivational Seminar in Toronto, but, she'd be calling for her messages.

When Kelly did show up at my door the next day I was still livid. I lit into her... but then she handed me Madame Benoit's two-volume "Nine Course Meals In Under Nine Seconds."

"It's free...with the macrame", she said.

Then she started to shift on her feet, gawd no, not the sales shift. Then the eyes, then the pen, the paper. "Ja want sum?"

"Okay," I said signing: "But this better not be a household appliance or Walk-A-Thon along the Great Wall of China?"

"It's not," she replied. "It's a blayther."

Hmmm...A Blazer. Looks like I got off easy this time.

She was two doors down when it dawned on me.

"It's a 4 x 4 Chevrolet Blayther...fully loaded with cruth control," she yelled back while knocking on Tryfiak's door. I watched as the Tryfiak's jumped out of their bedroom window and began running down the beach toward Morgan's Point.

I know this kid has got to be stopped but I couldn't help but wondering if "fully loaded" included a cassette player with automatic rewind or what?



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NOTICE - DR. WOLDNIK'S OFFICE

Dr. Woldnik will be on vacation from July 12, 1990 to August 6, 1990 (inclusive). Dr. Woldnik has hired Dr. Mary Anne Brett to replace him at his office practice during his absence. Summer hours will continue as posted and office will run as usual. Thank you kindly.

COME & GO SHOWER

will be held in honour of

CLAIRE FEWER

At St. Martin's Church
basement, Terrace Bay,
Sunday July 8, 1990

8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Everyone Welcome



Mrs. Sheila Whitney and Cecille & Wayne Wilson are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children

Tracey

&
Jim

The wedding is to take place July 21, 1990, at St. Andrew's United Church in Schreiber. Rev. David Sparks officiating.



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SCHREIBER LEGION BRANCH 109 SPORTS WEEKEND FISH DERBY RESULTS

On June 23 & 24, Legion Sports held, their first time ever, Weekend Derby. A dance was held Saturday night and a good time was had by all who participated in it.

- The largest Lake Trout went to Judy Nichols - 16 lbs., 8 ozs.
- The largest Speckled Trout went to Barry Gutters - 2 lbs., 15 ozs.
- The largest Pike went to Vickie Beaulieu - 12 lbs., 4 ozs.
- The largest Salmon went to Terry Hill - 2 lbs., 3 ozs.
- The largest Pickerel went to Wendy Madge - 4 lbs., 10 ozs.

Mystery weights were selected by many random draws. Winners of the attendance prizes went to:

1. Helen LeBlance - \$500
2. Maybel Weyberg - \$300
3. Justin Mineau - \$200

The Sports Committee would like to thank the fisherman, our helpers and all who donated pies and to Cecilia for making up the tickets for our raffles all the time, and Mel Bushly for his donation towards our prize.