

It has never been easy being an animal at the business end of a hunt, but these days it's hard being the hunter too. Dwindling ranges and herds make the ancient business of stalking prey an increasingly difficult proposition. The answer for many Americans is to shift their shooting grounds from the wild to one of the country's growing number of hunting preserves.

By almost any measure, hunting preserves are enjoying a boom. Up to 2,000 may exist in the U.S., with 500 in Texas alone. Many advertise on the Internet and in hunting magazines, and all offer the same thing: the chance to bag a trophy, with none of the uncertainty of hunting in the wild. "No kill, no pay" is the promise many make.

Of course, making good on that guarantee requires bending the prey-and-predator rules. Animals at some preserves are so accustomed to humans that they wander into range at the sound of a rattling feed bucket. Elsewhere they're confined to small patches of woods where they can't elude hunters for long. At others they may never even make it out of their cages before being shot.

Most troubling, it's not just prolific-animals deer and other common prey that are being killed in such canned hunts, as they're sometimes called; it's rarer creatures too. All manner of exotics—including the Arabian oryx, the Nubian ibex, yaks, impalas and even the odd rhino, zebra or tiger—are being conscripted into the canned-hunt game and offered to sportsmen for "trophy fees" of up to \$20,000.

Not surprisingly, these hunts have their critics. A handful of states ban or restrict the practice, and a pair of bills are pending in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to prohibit the interstate sale of exotic animals for hunts. Supporters of the hunts object, arguing that exotics are bred in sufficient numbers to support the industry and that many surplus zoo animals could not survive in the wild anyway. Even to some outdoorsmen, however, canned hunts are beginning to look like no hunt at all. "I started hunting when I was 7 and didn't kill my first deer until I was 16," says Perry Arnold, 52, of Lake City, Fla. "What they got going on now, that ain't hunting. That's a slaughter."

A slaughter is precisely the way canned-hunt foes frame the practice, and the killing of the Corsican ram is not the only horror they point to. The Humane Society of the United States tells stories of its own: the declawed black leopard that was released from a crate, chased by dogs and shot as it hid under a truck; the domesticated tiger that lounged under a tree and watched a hunter approach, only to be shot as it sat. "Canned hunts are an embarrassment," says California Representative Sam Farr, sponsor of the House bill.

What makes the problem hard to police is the sheer number of exotic animals for sale. There are about 2,500 licensed animal exhibitors in the U.S., and only 200 of them belong to the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, which condemns the sale of exotics to hunting ranches. Even unaffiliated zoos might be reluctant to wade into the canned-hunt market, but many do so unknowingly, selling overflow animals—often products of too successful captive-breeding programs—to middlemen, who pass them into less legitimate hands. The crowding that can result on the ranches leads to animals' being killed not just by hunters but also by diseases that occur in dense populations.

If zoos have trouble keeping track of exotic animals, Washington doesn't even try. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can intervene only if animals are federally protected or if the hunt violates a state law and interstate commerce is involved. Since many cases don't meet those criteria, the animals are essentially orphaned by the feds.

Still, not all hunts on preserves provoke an outcry. Many ranch owners keep exotic animals out of their collections or conduct hunts on grounds that give prey a sporting chance. The Selah Ranch in Austin, Texas, is a 5,500-acre spread covered by Spanish dagger and prickly pear, often with no sign of the elusive animals that live there. "There are a lot of exotic animals on this place that die of old age," says Mike Gardner, owner of San Miguel Hunting Ranches, which runs Selah.

Here too, however, the odds can be stacked in the hunters' favor. Deer are often lured to feeding stations, where they are serenely unaware of the men in the stilt-mounted tin shack 75 yards away. Such lying in wait—or "shooting over bait"—is legal in Texas and defended by hunters. "It promotes a clean kill," says Gardner. Other sportsmen are troubled by the practice. Stan Rauch of the Montana Bowhunters Association believes that fed animals are tame animals and should thus be off limits. "Animals become habituated to people when they depend on us for food," he says.

Even preserves with no baited killings and lots of room to roam may be less of a square deal than they seem. "If a ranch advertises itself as having 3,500 acres, you need to know if that space is open or broken down into pens and whether there's protective cover or the ground is clear," says Richard Farinato, director of the Humane Society's captive-wildlife protection program.

Concerns such as these are promoting governments to act. More states are being pressed to ban or restrict hunting in enclosures. The House bill, which parallels one introduced in the Senate by Delaware's Joseph Biden, would not drop the hammer on the hunts but would give Washington a way to control the animal traffic.

But the new laws could come at a price. In Texas alone, the hunt industry brings in \$1 billion a year; a crackdown could hurt both good ranches and bad. "Cattle prices have stayed the same for 40 years," says Gardner. "To hold on to acreage, you've got to have other sources of income." Safari Club International is worried that since hunting areas are so different, it may be impossible to pass a law that covers them all. "There's no standard to say what is and what isn't fair," says club spokesman Jim Brown. "You know it when you see it."

But there may be a deeper standard than that. If the hunting impulse is as old as humanity, so is the sense of what it truly means to chase and bag an animal. Nature may have intended humans to hunt, but whether it meant to toss ranches, pens and feeding stations into the mix is a question hunters must ask themselves.

#### YOUNG PEACEBUILDERS ACT OF 2002

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2002*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Young Peacebuilders Act of 2002, a bill intended to help young people from regions of conflict around the world learn about conflict resolution, communication, and leadership. The legislation aims to get at one of the root causes of terrorism by enabling young people to interact with each other and gain a greater understanding of their cultures and their differences.

The goal of the Young Peacebuilders Act is to help international youth learn the value of

working together to solve problems, break down barriers and mistrust, and avoid the cultural misunderstandings that have plagued their parents' generation. My hope is that the program this bill would establish can be part of a solution that will prevent another September 11 from ever happening again.

The bill would establish a program in the State Department for youth from regions of conflict around the world. The program would provide for visits in the United States of 90 days or less for training in conflict resolution and mutual understanding. Non-profit organizations and other organizations as determined by the Secretary of State would provide training, with the State Department working in conjunction with the Attorney General to establish criteria for eligibility.

With this program, Americans would have another opportunity to respond to President Bush's call for national and community service. I believe that groups like Seeds of Peace and Outward Bound, where I was an educator and director in Colorado for 20 years, could be vehicles for developing leaders of tomorrow and stewards of peace.

At the Colorado Outward Bound School, I saw first-hand how young people developed strong character and leadership skills by working in the outdoors. Our young people are our greatest resource and our future. Building peace requires an investment in new generations of young people around the world. In light of the violence and turmoil in the Middle East and the September 11 attacks, it is clear that this modest investment has never been so timely or needed more urgently.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to move forward with this important initiative, and I am attaching a fact sheet on this bill.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JODI J. SCHWARTZ

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2002*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Jodi J. Schwartz, who will be honored on Thursday, March 14, by Kolot: The Center for Jewish Women's and Gender Studies. Jodi's kindness and generosity have made her a dear friend. Her extraordinary ability, inexhaustible devotion, and charismatic personality have made her a leader in the Jewish community.

A partner at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen and Katz, Jodi still finds time to serve in a leadership capacity for a host of diverse community organizations, including the Jewish Agency for Israel; American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; the Commission on the Jewish People, a New York UJA-Federation group dealing with the unity and diversity of the Jewish people; Israel Policy Forum; United Jewish Communities; Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services; Jewish Community Relations Council; and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs.

Jodi's appreciation for Jewish causes surfaced while first visiting Israel in the late 1980's with the Young Leadership Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal. During her fellowship at the Wexner Heritage Foundation in 1990-91, she gained a more robust appreciation for Jewish philosophy and principles. Jodi