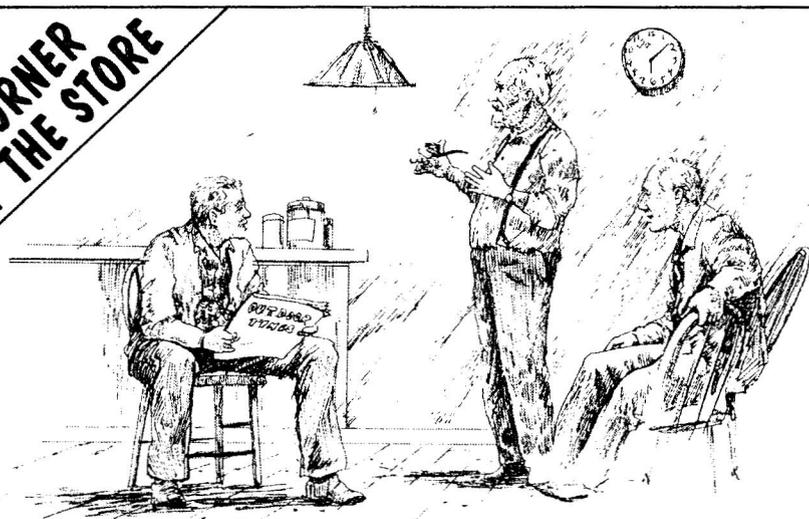


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Eat or be eaten; it's the natural order of things. There seems to be a lot of controversy about wildlife management, PETA, mercy killing, hunting and fishing privileges, 'animal rights', Bambi... Can everyone be right? Of course not. If people have contrasting views of the same subject, somebody is wrong. Sometimes everybody is wrong.

One group believes everything in existence was created and humans were given dominion and superiority over all other living things. This would include eating other creatures and making use of what's left for other purposes: clothes, fertilizer, etc. This 'dominion thing' sounds like quite a responsibility.

Another group believes everything evolved from somewhere. Those living things that were strongest, healthiest, smartest and maybe even luckiest are the living things that have evolved into what we have today.

Either way, both of these groups would have to admit that living things have been killing eating and making use of other living things for a long time - that which is somehow more superior ruling over that which is not. If a hungry or threatened person and a hungry or threatened wild animal meet each other, there is close to a 100 percent certainty one will be killed and more that likely eaten.

Do those who would have us believe that animals have rights explain to the animals that people have any rights? Or do we simply assume that animals have rights and people don't?

As individuals we can work out our own opinions and beliefs. That doesn't mean we have to give credence to a belief that goes against every fibre of our being. We should be careful to realize there is only one right, one truth. "There is no such thing as absolute truth," is a statement that disproves itself.

George Lester Wertman