



Melissa Bachman's sickening grin photographed behind the corpse of a slain lion is an image that you might have a hard time putting out of your mind, and you'd be forgiven for thinking that behind those unnaturally white teeth is a person without moral fiber. Maybe she lacked love as a child, but for whatever reason, there appears to be a deep-seated insecurity underlying what Bachman and others who shoot animals and then pose next to their lifeless bodies do for "pleasure".

Hunting is cruel and completely devoid of sportsmanship. It takes no courage or character to kill trapped animals. In their natural Savannah home, lions roam many miles of territory, hunt, raise their young and avoid all contact with people. But on hunting ranches, they can easily be cornered. Many of these animals are hand-raised on game ranches and are accustomed to the presence of humans. It's common for them to trustingly approach hunters for a handout of food. Instead, what they get is a merciless death.

Many of these ironically named "conservancies" operate according to a "no-kill, no-pay" policy, so it's often in an owner's financial interests to ensure that clients get what they came for. Owners offer guides who are familiar with the animals' locations and habits. They also permit the use of dogs and supply feeding stations that lure unsuspecting animals to food while hunters lie in wait. The animals are practically led right to the person with the gun.

It's clear from Bachman's boasting and photographs that she has no qualms about assassinating her way through a variety of species, including zebras, alligators, bears and other animals. But believe it or not, many self-proclaimed hunters – including the two millionaire sons of Donald Trump and the CEO of Go Daddy, Bob Parsons – try to justify their pathetic pastimes on the grounds of conservation. To pretend that hunting somehow helps animal populations is as laughable as saying that killing people is a solution to world hunger. The fact is that hunters are responsible for wiping out populations of animals, such as the Tasmanian tiger.

Left alone, animal populations regulate their own numbers based on the availability of food and secure habitat. The enormous sums of money often spent on African hunting trips would be better spent if they were applied toward building a new school or hospital. Either of those things would have a lasting positive effect on the surrounding African villages and would be far preferable to relegating locals to the role of hunting guide to spoiled, bored Western tourists.

Maybe the public backlash against her revolting photos will help Bachman realize that dressing up like a Laura Croft wannabe, killing wildlife and then posing for photos does not make her a strong and powerful woman but, in fact, quite the opposite. Real strength lies in protecting those who are weaker than oneself. As Thomas Edison once stated, "Non-violence leads to the highest ethics, which is the goal of all evolution. Until we stop harming all other living beings, we are still savages".

- This is an edited version of an article written by Mimi Bekhechi, as published in the *Independent*.

Match the definition with the correct word from the text:

1. existing for a long time and very difficult to change
2. Completely lacking or empty
3. tempt (a person or animal) to do something or to go somewhere
4. an uneasy feeling of doubt or fear, esp. about one's own conduct
5. To destroy or be destroyed completely
6. dismiss someone as an inferior rank or position
7. causing intense disgust; disgusting

Read a response to the previous article. There are 5 grammatical mistakes. Can you find them?



Alex Penny 1 hours ago



It is true that this is a untasteful photo, and that the "pay to hunt" system in game parks is inherently flawed, however a number of the assumptions in this article miss the mark. Firstly, to compare the shooting of animals to keep down overpopulation to killing humans is a rather ridiculous comparison. Is feeding ourselves with meat from farm animals the same as cannibalism? No, because humans is not animals. In the same way, this is a rather useless comparison. Furthermore, the journalist makes the blanket statement "Hunting is cruel and completely devoid of sportsmanship", and defends it by arguing that the animal is trapped into being killed, which is unfair. It is reasonable to mention that not all hunting is conducted in this way, so to make a blanket statement like that is inaccurate. As for the comment that "left alone", animals will regulate their own populations; this would be true if humans did not exist on earth, but the reality is that we have changed the global landscape drastically. Because of this we do as a species have a responsibility to manage the ecological systems to a certain degree; whilst nobody enjoys the idea of a magnificent creature being slaughtered by a grinning hunter, to assume that culling is never necessary in any circumstance is highly misinformed. I agree with the base point of this argument that killing a lion (a species classified as "vulnerable" by the International Union for Conservation) is immoral, but perhaps this writer should refine her ecological statements before letting the emotional reaction of seeing a slaughtered lion dominate her opinions.