



Sunday

(A, June 26, 1977)

## Disregard For Mother Nature

To The Commercial Appeal:

I am writing this letter in regard to the asinine article written by Henry Reynolds, Mid-South outdoors writer, on June 19. I was amazed that a person in authority of reporting on the outdoors and nature could be so ignorant of current events on energy and callous in regard to wildlife preservation.

To begin with, The Tennessee Valley Authority is presently heavily dependent on coal for energy production — only about 10 to 15 per cent of total power is provided by hydroelectric sources.

Mr. Reynolds asks "how could the three-inch fish pack so much dynamite," when rainbow trout and smallmouth bass did not stop the construction. Obviously, because the Little Tennessee is a specially adapted environment for the snail darter and ruining its habitat would not just limit its range; it would extinguish it as a species.

But Mr. Reynolds' stand on the Little Tennessee is not the basic question of debate but rather his complete lack of regard for wildlife that would not directly benefit himself. It is the disregard and utter lack of respect for animals by men like Mr. Reynolds that eradicated the Woods buffalo, eastern elk and so many other species. In his writing he seems proud of the fact that "bulldozers and chainsaws" have conquered all. All I know is that my children will never see these animals.

Hopefully, we can reach a state of symbiotic existence with nature — certainly that ideal state will be aided by

finding a responsible and concerned outdoors writer.

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### Animal Balance

To The Commercial Appeal:

I would like to comment on Henry Reynolds' article of June 19.

In my opinion man doesn't have the right to sacrifice the other inhabitants of this world for the betterment of mankind.

Mr. Reynolds was quite right in saying that "closing of the gates of Tellico Dam could well destroy the snail darter." But in my view, that's where sound logic ends, and a single-minded quest for progress at any cost takes over. In man's drive for a better way of life, a lot of species are going to be pushed out of existence. But really, does it make that much difference? Yes it does make a difference. People don't realize that by slowly killing off animal populations, as well as plant species, that they are taking links out of a chain that is the key to their own survival.

I agree with Mr. Reynolds that the Tellico Dam would benefit a lot of people. But senseless destruction of nature has to stop somewhere. The Earth is nothing more than a huge greenhouse. And any gardener can tell you that in order for a greenhouse to prosper, a delicate balance must be maintained. Destroy that balance, and all the inhabitants will eventually feel the loss.

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AT June 26, 1977