

Virtual Hunting Season Upon Us

The fall hunting season shows great promise with upcoming hunting titles by Sunstorm (Deer Hunter 3), Headgames (Cabela's Big Game Hunter 3), SierraSports (Field and Stream Trophy Hunting & Trophy Bear Hunting) and Interplay (American Deer Hunter 2000). The explosion of the hunting genre has puzzled many industry "experts", but the popularity of hunting simulations cannot be denied. In the first quarter of 1999, hunting titles accounted for 43% of all sports games sold for the PC platform, more than any other type.

The reasons for success of hunting games are as widely varied as the players. Some hunt virtually, so they can extend their season year round. Others hunt on the computer, in place of hunting in real life. One such virtual hunter, better known by

Violence in Software

Editorial

Maybe I've got my head on backwards on this, but I don't think so. The sudden growth of the hunting genre of computer games has caused quite a backlash from anti-hunters and certain corporate execs. The frothing at the mouth by these groups, talking about "in-humane actions" and "violence in software" just doesn't wash.

The anti-hunters are going nuts over hunting titles. They even convinced the Target stores not to carry the very popular Deer Hunter game, a decision reversed shortly after. Why are they upset? Because it depicts realistic violence against animals. Of course, that is what hunting is about, right? Running around the woods, shooting every animal you see. Sure... The argument from the anti-hunters that always makes me laugh is that hunting is "in-humane." Of course it is. These are **animals**. They're not humans. To treat an animal as a human is ridiculous and impossible. But now they decide that treating a computer animal is inhumane. Better start working on all those millions of Tamagachi owners who forgot to feed their virtual pet. Or what about Frogger? That poor frog has been run over by cars millions of times.

And of course, we don't hear the "anti's" calling for an end to games such as "Grand Theft Auto" or "Mob Rule" where the killing of police officers is not only allowed, but rewarded.

And on the note of that double standard, how about Sony? Some brilliant corporate exec at Sony revoked Interplay's rights to develop American Deer Hunter for the Sony Playstation because it was too violent and gave an improper example to today's children. Hmm... I guess the example that Sony wants our children to see is that of one person strangling another then pulling their spine out of their back.

his messageboard handle of **Cutch**, said, "I'm disabled and I can't hunt in real life anymore. This DH2 (Deer Hunter 2) has been such a joy to me. And the reason? Simple, it's very much like real hunting. I hunted over 50 years in real life. I started when I was 12 and I just turned 63. Now because of this game, I can keep right on hunting."

The fellowship of hunters is one of the reasons for any hunt, and virtual hunting is no different. Messageboards and chatrooms are active with old pros sharing their knowledge with the beginners. The Internet brings together such a wide variety of backgrounds, lifestyles and viewpoints that everyone is touched.

Best of luck to everyone in this upcoming season. The early scouting reports indicate that this season will be one like no other. Be safe and we'll meet around the campfire!

There is a quote by A.A. Luce, author of **Fishing and Thinking** that, though it refers to fishing, truly applies to hunting, as well:

"Pain and death come to all things; and death at the angler's hand, if he lives up to the sportsman's traditional code, is almost in all cases more merciful, quicker, and less painful than death in other forms,, including death from "natural causes" -- if there is such a thing in the fish-world"

The hate that which they do not know and do not understand

TIP CORNER

In Deer Hunter 2, you can use the SET STATUS PLAYER cheat code to see how individual actions and items affect the game. Once the cheat is activated, you can use an item and watch the three settings for sound, smell, and visibility that relate the deer's awareness of you. You can also see the interest in you that you have created for both bucks and doe. This cheat will allow you to see which items are most effective at which times of year. Experiment with it and have fun. But, be warned...any deer taken with this cheat will be labeled as such in the trophy room.

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