



NOTE: The following opinion was sent to TIME magazine editor, but was not published.

GENERIC WILD TIGERS?

Regarding,
Tale of the Cat, By Andrew Marshall Monday, Mar. 01, 2010
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1964894-2,00.html>

Dear Editor,

I would love to congratulate you on publishing a half donkey job titled "Tale of the Cat (3/1/2010). Writing an article on rewilding the China tigers without mentioning <http://www.savechinastigers.org/> "Save China's Tigers" charity is as bad, or worse, as going to a fancy steak house and ordering filet mignon without the steak.

Furthermore, You poster boy Ron Tilson is generally known as the arrogant zoo guy opposed to private ownership of tigers, because supposedly the privately owned tigers are generic hybrids and not of pure subspecies, and are therefore useless to conservation.

"The Siberian Tigers of ... Minnesota?" (May 12, 2005) article claims: "Rampant cross-breeding of species and mating parent-child pairs has degraded the gene pool of the five purebred tiger species in the world, and resulted in the U.S. wildcat population becoming a "genetic cocktail" that is entirely unfit for ever returning to the wild, according to Tilson".

And in his most recent book "*Tigers of the World*", he refers to generic tigers as 'tiger soup'.

However, according to your article Tilson wants to hybridize tigers in the wild:
"The last remaining South China tigers could die out within a few generations unless their genes are supplemented with those from other subspecies. It is not an image China's propagandists will want to project: a captive population of "Chinese" tigers, enfeebled by decades of inbreeding and reliant on genes from, say, a Vietnamese subspecies before they can survive in the wild. But ultimately, says Tilson, the Chinese will have to accept this hybridization "

So according to Tilson, private ownership of tigers is bad because privately kept tigers are generic hybrids. But then he turns around and attempts to achieve worldwide fame by hybridizing the wild tigers, and turn them into the generic tigers he loathes so much.

Are we are talking about the same Tilson? Or his possible Jekyll and Hyde personality, or simply a media whore of an old man on jihad, who will do almost anything to gain worldwide fame, even if that means he will be the hypocrite poster child of the century, or at least in the Year of the tiger.

Sarcastically yours

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