

A Closed Season for Politics

The relationship between political reporters and politicians is like that between hunters in acclimatisation societies and their prey. They feed off each other and enjoy a similar relationship to that that used to exist between working girls and the police, where they interacted socially, but occasionally, had to engage in a ritual conflict to keep up appearances.

Deer, trout and ducks all benefit from a closed season, free from being accosted by people with pointy things. Shouldn't politicians have a similar closed season, where reporters are not allowed to confront them with electronic pointy things?

Think of the advantages of not having to pick up your newspaper each day and be confronted by yet another interpretation of some stale political news or scandal. Imagine turning on the tv news and not having to look at the artificial smiles and content free interviews of politicians and reporters.

Lead the way, NZ herald, and declare a 'Politics-Free' season, of say six weeks initially and then gradually work it up 46 weeks. Fill-up the space with good news about ordinary Kiwi's achievements. I am sure circulation would increase, other media would follow suit, and politician might use the time to think.