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Letters to the Editor

**Society left cruel practice behind**

Several decades ago, I decided I wanted a better life, a different life, a more financially secure life. There was only one thing I would no longer have time for. And, it was something I loved. Something that provided exercise and a social life for me. Something that had become a “way of life” for me. Something that was passed along to me by my parents.

Giving this thing up to return to college was one of the hardest things I’ve ever done. But I’m glad I did. I achieved my education goals and enriched my life in other ways. And, eventually, society made this activity obsolete, not acceptable and even a butt of jokes on late-night TV.

I sacrificed a great love of competitive disco dancing for a college education and a better life. My mother had enrolled me in tap, ballet, and toe dancing at the age of 6. My father was a graduate of Julliard, and a violinist with a philharmonic orchestra. So, appreciation of dancing and music was a family heritage.

I think about all the reasons trappers say they can’t give up trapping, and it sounds a lot like the reasons I didn’t want to give up disco dancing. Society has moved on, and trapping is considered not a joke, but an excuse for animal cruelty. So, I think if I can give up the bright lights of competitive disco dancing, trappers can give up the dark shadows of animal trapping.

*Nancy Masten, Heron*