

Dolphinarium Essay Competition

3rd Place – Primary School

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School: Eucharist Lewis S.D.A. Primary School

Grade 6

Topic: Dolphin Park or No Dolphin Park – What are your views?

Was Canada wrong in passing the bill S-203 that banned all dolphin parks throughout the country on 24th October, 2018? According to The Saint Lucia government, “at least 60 persons will be hired once the Dolphin Park project comes on stream”. It is argued that the establishment of a Dolphin Park will bring financial benefits to some families and entertainment for the rest of the country. On the contrary, The Saint Lucia National Trust believes that the Dolphin Park will “negatively affect local marine ecosystem, and the livelihoods of 100 fishermen and their families and beachgoers”.

I imagined what it would be to visit a Dolphin Park, and to play with these graceful and intelligent animals, then I think of how I would feel if I was helplessly locked in a concrete tank and the only thing coming out of this is the amusement and glee of humans. Have we thought about how we would feel, if we were taken away from our habitats just so we can amuse another specie?

“Even a child is known by his actions” Proverbs 20:11. Being a child does not erase my moral responsibility to not treat animals shamefully. Dolphins kept in captivity have shorter lives and get more disease than those in the wild. Is it okay to shorten the lives of dolphins just for our entertainment?

According to Mr. Dominic Fedee, St. Lucia’s 11% increase was the highest growth among the Caribbean Tourism Organization for the year 2017. The Association of British Travel agency report for 2018 selected St. Lucia as one of the top 12 destinations for 2018. All while having no Dolphin Park. Considering St. Lucia’s success without a dolphin park, could not the US\$3.5 million expected from Dolphin cove for capital expenditure be used to help the poor and educate the young minds of the country?

In conclusion, the money the dolphin park will bring to a few is insignificant in comparison to the horrible environment dolphins will have to live in. “Visitors can go home after the show dolphins cannot, (Jorn Kriebel). I strongly disagree with the establishment of a Dolphin Park on island of St. Lucia or anywhere else in the world.