



2 GAMES PEOPLE PROBABLY SHOULDN'T PLAY

According to the company that started the trend, some 18,000 people in hundreds of different weekend groups in the U.S. and Canada pay \$30, \$50, or more per person to take part in an outdoor "game" that you might want to consider carefully—very carefully—before anyone in your family joins in. Called by such names as "Skirmish," "The War Game," and "Survival" (it was originated by National Survival Games of New London, N.H.), the game has two teams of players competing in a woodland setting to capture each other's flag. But to reach the flag, players "kill" their rivals—by shooting them with realistic pistols that fire gelatin pellets filled with red dye.



The game is supposedly safe—players wear goggles—but reports of eye damage have rival companies arguing over whose guns are less likely to cause injury. It's also said to be wholesome fun, according to some 400 to 500 franchised dealers who rent guns to use on playing fields

across the country (and in West Germany, Britain, and Japan, says Toronto-based Adventure Game of America). But Georgia Lanoil, a psychologist on the board of the *Journal of Preventive Psychiatry*, disputes claims that playing provides a harmless release for pent-up aggressions. A conclusion drawn from studies on anger, she says, is that hostile behavior often is a rehearsal for future action. "It's one step beyond viewing violent films, and isn't like football, where you try to get past your opponent to the goal. Here, the goal is annihilation." Adds Dr. Robert London, director of short-term psychotherapy at New York University Medical Center-Bellevue: "Why anyone would get high on people-hunting and simulated murder is something they should discuss with their therapist."

BUSINESSWEEK 1

Reading for Information

Do you believe everything you read? You shouldn't! When you read an article, you need to decide whether the information is accurate and reliable.

EVALUATING SOURCES

A writer's viewpoint, or **bias**, can influence his or her choice of what to report and how to report it.

YOUR TURN Use the questions and activities below to evaluate this article.

- 1 Consider the source of the article. Would you expect it to be fair and balanced? Why or why not?
- 2 Read the article's title. What does it tell you about the writer's viewpoint?
- 3 A **fact** is a statement that can be proved to be true or untrue. What facts are given here?
- 4 An **opinion** is something a person believes. What clues in the second paragraph reveal the writer's opinion?
- 5 Identify the various opinions given about the games. What are the credentials of each source?

Identifying Bias What is the writer's bias? Support your opinion with evidence.

Inquiry & Research

Activity Link: "The Most Dangerous Game," p. 59. Has the opinion of war games you formed while reading "The Most Dangerous Game" changed now that you have read this article? Write a paragraph explaining your opinion.