

Opinion

Lessons from nature number one

by Ryan Fiffick
Copy Editor

Nature. It's all around us. From the tiniest of nanobes, barely recognizable amino acid sequences, to the interactionary complexity of the planet as a whole, Nature surrounds us, IS us.

We've countless opportunities to witness Nature through the most intriguing of universal occurrences and states of being: Life. Without life, Nature would go mostly unnoticed (I can't say that it would pass totally by as that is simply beyond my scope of vision) As arguably a member of the living, I must admit to having learned more from observing other forms of Life acting with, through, and against Nature than I've ever learned from direct experiences of my own. A vicarious auto-didacticism, if you will, offering me a chance to at once laugh at my friend for burning his hand on a hot stove-top (kids are cruel), AND to learn that unless I wanted to suffer as he did, I shouldn't touch things that become red and glowy when switches are flipped—regardless of how soft and fluffy it may appear. I learned by watching and then thinking about what was seen. *POOF* I discovered cause and effect.

Later in life, I would learn that causality is

usually not so simply derived. Rather, it seems even the most brilliant and complete of insights require a battery of relentless and stringent tests for validity and the tireless cataloging of mounds of resulting data before any credence is assigned. With this admission, I offer the distinct possibility (if not probability) that all of the connections I make in the following articles, all the theories offered, and perspectives shared are entirely flawed. To prevent wasting the reader's time, I will attempt to keep this chronicle as rich with observations and accountable data as possible while offer assessing interpretations only when wisdom seems to demand it. I will not, however, shy away from calling a moose, a moose, or a llama, a llama. I will attempt to avoid the anthropomorphication of creatures and systems analyzed, seeking instead to find behaviors and situations that humans reflect, finding the Nature in humanity, not the humanity in Nature. Through observing the behaviors and ethological interactions of other forms of life, I believe we may, as I learned in my friend's kitchen, learn the causes and effects of our own Natures without being either cause or effect.

A brief example so that the reader knows what to expect:

According to leading researchers, "Male chimpanzees remain in their natal communities and join groups of males as they approach

maturity. (Goodall, 1986) These male groups tend to be closely related. (Morin, et al., 1993) They patrol terrestrial borders and attack all extracommunity individuals encountered, except for reproductively fertile females, whom they attempt to recruit into their own community. (Nishida, 1990)

According to recent national political developments, the Republican Party, presently spearheaded by, embarrassingly enough, George W. Bush, was reared in a politically charged family by his father, one George Herbert Walker Bush and one Barbara Bush (bless her sweet heart). George II bounced through a career of monkey-shines embarrassing enough to drive most normal, consciously abiding of men into hiding only to be absorbed, protected and graced with opportunities by the community that produced him. That community has recently chosen a young, not-so-wordly yet easy on the eyes, woman of breeding age, to attract support for their communities bid for dominance over other neighboring communities. In this attempt at gathering support, the GOP is creating a constant flow of attack-ads designed to malign the public images of those in neighboring communities.

I can't help but to see a parallel. The irony that springs most immediately to my mind: most of them don't believe in evolution.

Oh, the times they are a changing

by Radosav 'Backo' babic
Business Editor

One would often think of power, money, stabile governments, good quality of life, and dominance throughout the world while mentioning the term "western countries." Opposite to that, term "eastern countries" had a completely different denotation. Those were frequently considered to be poor, corrupted, undeveloped, unsafe, and really unprivileged countries. The reason I am using past tense, rather than present, is simply due to the fact that things have drastically changed.

The scenario on a world map is somewhat different now than it was just a few years ago. An individual would have to be completely blind, closed minded, ethnocentric, and really not willing to accept reality if even trying to prove different. Some of the main actors in the movie called "World Politics" slowly seem to be

taking side roles; on the other hand, some players from the background are bravely stepping into leading positions.

While mentioning the important side players and possibly the next World's powers I thought of China and India. The questions that rises is whether or not we have enough credibility to portray this century as being Asia's Century, having two massive and powerful nation rise up. Even though many would argue that China has a lead in this race, India is not too far behind.

I always believed that by studying history one can somewhat predict the future. Nevertheless, predicting the future on World's politics seems rather foolish and almost impossible. There is, however, one word I am quite comfortable using, which could easily be "labeled" to all historical events and the episodes that are yet to happen, and that is a world "change."

I strongly believe in Buddhist saying, which states that "the only permanent thing is change."

Many of the World's greatest political leaders and even empires somewhat and somehow got lost in the history, and it seems almost scary to even think that the 21st century will be a history to many. So what is actually a future brining to all of us???

Even though America still seems to be a leading world's political power and European Union keeps on expanding being as stable as it ever was, Asian powers aren't too far behind and are rising up rather quickly.

We all recently had a chance to realize what China is capable of. As a hosting country for the Olympic Games, China set up a leading example, set the tone, and raised up a bar so high that it almost seems impossible for any other country to even get closer to it. As bizarre as it sounds, to many, China is still to be considered as a developing nation. And where is India in the whole story???. More about the race between China and India in the following edition...