

# Lessons from nature: Accept change

by Ryan Fiffick  
Contributor

When we are amidst an act of perception, how certain are we of the accuracy of our perceptions? What degrees of complexity or margins of error can we be reasonably responsible for taking into consideration when we're espousing a point, engaging in a study, or simply talking to another shaved ape? What am I talking about?

Just this: the role uncertainty and its correlative human emotion, fear. Thomas Kuhn very eloquently outlines the rampant potentials for cognitive dissonance in any assessment of data sets. We often perceive what we're taught to perceive, most want to perceive, or what our physiological responses dictate our perceptions to be. However, we have another choice: we can opt instead to actively pursue self control in the quest for deeper truths and greater understanding. To accomplish this act of meta-cognition, we cannot simply abolish fear, we must master it. Fear exists to alert us to an approaching uncertainty or impending state of discomfort. It is a neces-

sary component of our human consciousness'. Should we be afraid of a multi-ton train barreling down a railway if we are, for whatever reason, affixed to the railway in direct line with the train? We should be aware of the train, lest we get run over; fear enables such urgency in awareness. Should we be afraid of being struck by lightning if dark clouds are forming overhead? If we're not sheltered, we should be at least moderately concerned. Should a gazelle be frightened by the glint of goldfish eyes shining from within the tall grasses of the Serengeti? Yes, if it is concerned about becoming a snack for a fierce and powerful lioness. Should we fear the end results of the nearly incalculable actions we humans, en-masse, have undertaken—undertaken with little or no regard to the realities that our progeny will be confronted with? If we like the notion of human civilization existing after we've been invited to take a dirt nap with our favorite deity, yes, we should. Should we be afraid of a fellow student asking pointed questions? Only if we fear what that student seeks to bring to light and that we're somehow connected

to said hidden, scandalous, concepts. If you've nothing to hide, you've nothing to fear from questions. In fact, you have a chance to gain a deeper understanding. What if you find a line of questioning to be difficult to answer and the difficulty is intimidating? \*sigh\* Accept where you are in relation to your understanding and work to better that position. The key words here are "accept" and "work". If you're willing to accept who you are right now—at this very instant—find that you don't like who that person is AND are willing to TRY to GROW, to TRY to become better at whatever, you've nothing to fear from questions or from me. For that matter, even if you're not willing to grow, you've nothing to fear from me—I'll just work around you, the obstacles, towards the goals I've set, and towards a better me. So here's this week's lesson from nature: Don't become angry with the wind because it heralds an oncoming gale. Listen to it and take the necessary steps to enjoy the rain. Don't stand in the middle of a field and whine about preferring the sunshine—you'll only get struck by lightning.

## How to help BC recycling maintain clean containers

by Thomas Lide  
Staff Writer

Brevard College recycling has made some major changes this year that all students should be conscious of. Please help keep trash out of the bins used to recycle.

The adjustments that have been made to the program this year make recycling easier for everyone on campus including the work study students.

The sheds that were once used to collect recyclables have been taken down and replaced with large green containers about the size of a large trash can. These containers are not located exactly where the sheds once stood.

There are 2 containers located outside the rear exit of Jones Hall, 2 containers in the lobby of Beam, 2 containers located to the side of Green Hall right behind Taylor,

and 6 containers for the villages located by the quad. Students no longer have to worry about organizing their recyclables and can just drop them in the container. However, all students should encourage one another not only to recycle but to keep unnecessary items out of the bins.

Some items that should not be put in the bins are pizza boxes or any other con-

tainer with food in it, bottles used for dip, and items made out of styrofoam. Items that are recyclable include plastic bottles, paper, aluminum, tin, glass bottles, and cardboard. Try to remain conscious of what should and should not be thrown in the bins and remember that the act of recycling is supportive of our campus theme, sustainability.

**A STORM IS  
COMING.**

**GET TO THE  
BUNKER.**

