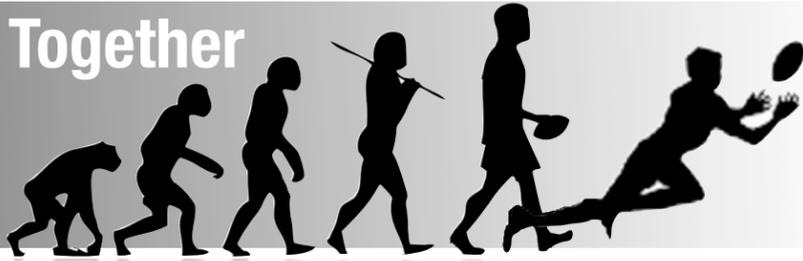


We're All in it Together

Win or Lose

Karma Bats Last



I continue to be puzzled by the allure of professional team sports. The energy, attention, and money spent promoting the regional rivalries and pantheon of mythic heroes of...ball games? The emotions invested, Radio sports talk? and now, the potential to add to the fascination with legal betting, It seems our modern equivalent of the Roman Circuses- a calculated distraction satisfying the most base requirements of a populace, a diversion away from thoughts of a wider civic duty.

I understand the entertainment value of a good game, but my interest narrows to paying a bit of attention to one or two world series games, when the risks and rewards of the teams are the stuff of definitive glory or defeat- the best and brightest, the thrill of the last game, in extra innings, bases loaded... Yeah, I get it, sort of, but a steady diet of this competitive drama can become a tedious exercise.

In High school my journalistic minded friends and I took tape recorders to a football game and interviewed the fans on the sidelines and in the bleachers, our premise was that football, with it's brutish violence and competitive esprit resembled (and encouraged) a glamorized form of warfare, and we wanted to know if the rest of the student body felt the same way- Hell yeah!!! was the general tone of the response we got, although an administrator begged off making the comparison, his dismissal; "I don't want to get into that stuff..." avoided any controversy, and led us to believe we were on to... well, *something*.

Ball games are fine in theory, good clean fun. The dawning schoolyard recognition that a system that rewards winners, means that some will not win, and will be left unrewarded. The weak, underdeveloped, unskilled, and intellectual were holding the short stick on the field of competition- Or in the parlance of the day- The "wimps, faggots, losers, and nerds, were lame." Communal showers with skimpy towels and the adolescent testosterone charged atmosphere of the Gym was the last straw. The coach had to have a talk with my mother more than once as she sympathetically explained how the competitive performance ranking of Physical Education was not something I would thrive in.

My one season of little league found me in far right field watching the bees in the clover, wondering what I would do if the ball came my way. Who knows how many others missed the societal indoctrination, and like me were too embarrassed to to ask; 'what exactly were the rules of the game?' Learning by doing we muddled through as the lousiest team in the league. The locker room mural in Junior High, always got a chuckle- "**GET HIGH ON SPORTS**" it pleaded. That was fine for the jocks, but us sensitive types preferred other methods.

Minor competitive traumas of a sheltered childhood, loomed large in my development, but pale in comparison to the children of real violent conflict. The experience of childhood trauma cling for life, and it is no wonder that crises is the new normal, by this point in history we are all children of conflict, our minds formed by a world of competition, violence, and corruption, our psyches damaged by the normalization of abuse.

Migrating humans, are displaced people, seeking safety, aspiring to security. Often traumatized by the place they live, either by the hardship of livelihood, or the oppression of government, pervasive criminality, or the fear of violence, and anxiety over safety for their families. All this before they even get to our borders looking for help- from the nation that proudly proclaims **Liberty** to the world.

After 12,000 years of evolution, our tools, languages, and social structures have made us Homo Sapiens The most advanced version of what we Homo Sapiens believe to be the dominant force on the planet.

Our Brains declare that '**Our Brains**' are the most advanced. Certainly we do what we do, better than any other species, but those other species, many of which have been at this life stuff much longer, are doing just fine thanks. Or they would be if our species, in all its grandeur, would let them.

Darwin's theory of evolution states that organisms will inherently struggle against one another in competition for limited resources that make life possible, only the strongest, most robust and most adapted species are thus able to survive the evolutionary struggle. The emergence of life, then, is based on competition and individualistic competitive drive is a necessary trait if a species wants to survive. In essence, this theory of evolution has also given justification to everything from capitalist economic theory to pathological ideas of Social Darwinism that believed that the dominance of the Caucasian race obeyed unchangeable physical laws.

Darwin never saw beyond "**the survival of the fittest**" as just one stage in the maturation cycle. The survival of the fittest competition is one stage on the path of a larger evolutionary cycle. Evolution proceeded when crises created by species forced them to go further and find cooperative strategies for survival.

As one of the youngest species, to continue to co-evolve with the world we share we'll have to learn to move from competition to cooperation. The evolution of humanity will require change of some of the most basic tenets of our economic, political and social livelihoods; Greed replaced by a willingness to share. peaceful coexistence valued more than sustained conflict, A transformation of human hubris that means realizing that our survival depends on adhering to the principles and ethics that sustain life itself. For the next step of our evolution, cooperative synergy must replace competitive exploitation.

Bioregionalism a term for living a life firmly rooted in place where the decisions we make are based on an intimate awareness of how our livelihoods are affected by the places we live and how we are in turn affected by the conditions and limitations of our places. In order to consciously create cooperative relationships, it is first necessary to understand the web of relationships that makes our lives possible. Recognizing the contributions of all willing participants in society, making clear what is acceptable, positive, and ennobling, behavior, and instilling this in future generations

Trauma colors the lives of all, but especially child development. Generations of life as refugees bakes in the bone of children a lasting fear and resentment of those responsible for their state, desperate struggle is not surprising, neither is the desire for vengeance. The terrorist that "we" insist must be quelled are the children of conflict. and most of the conflicts and crises that have molded contemporary humans over several generations around the world, have been intentionally created, or aided by specific policies of The U.S. government, in turn, subjecting our nation's own children to on going depersonalization- an acceptance of the unacceptable, and a disempowering malaise, The enemy of critical thinking.

Go team!

-Joshua Golden

ART of The DEAL- My Ass!

Trump sees all deal making as what we call "**distributive bargaining**." Distributive bargaining always has a winner and a loser. It happens when there is a fixed quantity of something and two sides are fighting over how it gets distributed. Think of it as a pie and you're fighting over who gets how many pieces. In Trump's world, the bargaining was for a building, or for construction work, or subcontractors. He perceives a successful bargain as one in which there is a winner and a loser, so if he pays less than the seller wants, he wins. The more he saves the more he wins.

The other type of bargaining is called "**Integrative bargaining**." In integrative bargaining the two sides don't have a complete conflict of interest, and it is possible to reach mutually beneficial agreements. Not as in a single pie to be divided by two hungry people, but as a baker and a caterer negotiating over how many pies will be baked at what prices, and the nature of their ongoing relationship after this one gig is over.

The problem with Trump is that he sees only distributive bargaining in an international world that requires integrative bargaining. He can raise tariffs, but so can other countries. **He can't demand they not respond.**

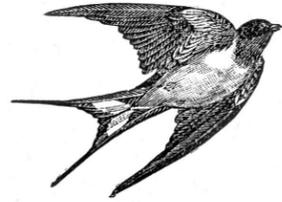
There is no defined end to the negotiation and there is no simple winner and loser. There are always more pies to be baked. Further, negotiations aren't binary. China's choices are not (a) buy soybeans from US farmers, or (b) don't buy soybeans. They can also (c) buy soybeans from Russia, or Argentina, or Brazil, or Canada, etc. That completely strips the distributive bargainer of his power to win or lose, to control the negotiation.

One of the risks of distributive bargaining is bad will. In a one-time distributive bargain, e.g. negotiating with the cabinet maker in your casino about whether you're going to pay his whole bill or demand a discount, you don't have to worry about your ongoing credibility or the next deal. If you do that to the cabinet maker, you can bet he won't agree to do the cabinets in your next casino, and you're going to have to find another cabinet maker.

There isn't another Canada.

-David Honig

"You are not entitled to your opinion.
You are entitled to your informed opinion.
No one is entitled to be ignorant"
— Harlan Ellison



A birth song

3 days we traveled.
You were introduced in rain.

Breathing hard we reached the first hill
the moon whitened
fields empty of horses, the black
pine leaning

in air

the names of birds

For you, then, these waters
parted; for you, my legs
danced, bend; for you
the open flower

in the river: otter, little sleek one

in the light this dust

this moted galaxy

& the bay

tree who is youe cousin

witnesses, celebrants

You are wine in my cup
rain on my belly; the glad
bird singing

in this unmapped country

~ Kathy Epling

"At some point we must draw a line across the ground of our home and our being, drive a spear into the land and say to the bulldozers, earthmovers, government and corporations, "thus far and no further." If we do not, we shall later feel, instead of pride, the regret of Thoreau, that good but overly-bookish man, who wrote, near the end of his life, "If I repent of anything it is likely to be my good behavior."

~ Edward Abbey



Greenfuse is produced by the Waking Dog Collective:

media activists

Including- Joshua Golden, Paul Encimer, Shakti, Debra Carey, Tom O'Neil, Alyssa, Nezzie, Kate, The Muir's, & Goats galore.

Check us out at: www.greenfuse.work
or Box 493, Redway CA 95560,
(707) 923-4488 or 298-7702

We print an edition of 4,400

& distribute through-out

N. Sonoma, Mendocino & Humboldt Counties,
All advertising goes towards our printing costs.

Subscribing is a crap shoot. We are all unpaid
volunteers and nobody really likes doing that.

\$25 or more is a suggested gamble.

We are free to prisoners.

Hope for the best.