

ENVIRONMENTAL RANT

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970 words

Hey, the Redwoods in northern California are getting cut down in record numbers and it doesn't make the news. There are a very large number of animals on the endangered species list. Global warming is something even King George, himself, can no longer ignore. Yet, do I care about the environment? Actually, I do, but only to a point.

See, while I am totally for saving the environment, I have to think of other things first. No, not my job, my personal belongings or anything having to do with me. It's everyone else. One of the common sound bites that come from environmentalists is that we need to protect the planet for future generations. Well, I would really like to believe that people care about the lives of future generations. But I just don't see the evidence.

Here's what I do see evidence of:

1) People interested in maintaining their own lifestyles as they are. OR, improve their lifestyles by making more money.

2) People so interested in 1) that they will perform all manner of mental rationalization in order to make it happen. Whether it be taking a crappy job that makes them hate life, or by stepping on people to get ahead.

3) People who can't see past what's on TV tonight. (Oo! The Sopranos!)

4) People who say things like "sure, I'm all for the environment!" but then drive around an SUV in a major American city.

5) People so afraid of risk, pain or ANY kind of suffering that if a disaster happened and our leaders took every last one of their rights away from them 'in exchange for their safety', they would sit down in their easy chair and smile, feeling safe again to watch Family Feud in 'peace'.

6) Movers and shakers in the world who happily overlook the fact that marketing campaigns have effectively become brainwashing campaigns. Calling them 'propaganda' doesn't go far enough.

7) Movies, TV, media, politicians and other public figures who set examples that only serve to enforce the above points in every member of the Western World.

My point in a nutshell is this: The environment will never be saved until the majority of humans on this planet stop treating each other with less respect than they do the environment.

Sure, 'education' is up compared to one hundred years ago, but lets compare the education the poor folks get to the education the white--I mean the *rich* folks get. If you live in a rich school district, you'll get a better education than if you live in Harlem. Same goes for university schooling.

Let's check out health care. If you're rich, you get to pay for the procedures you need... until you need more procedures. Even the rich don't escape the fact that our health care industry is set up so that we are not *actually cured*, but are instead simply *perpetuated*. In the end, I don't care who is really behind 911, nor do I care about the Palestinians or the Israelis. I couldn't care less about famine in Africa or genocide in the Sudan, or the myriad lies we are told and tell ourselves here in the US.

All I want is for we humans to stop being so shitty to one another.

And no, I didn't have a bad day, I'm just trying to point out that while I don't feel we are a suicidal animal, I do think we are incapable of respecting ourselves and others any less than we already do. And THIS is the reason the environment will never be saved.

Humans have the potential to achieve great things. Explore the universe (both literally and figuratively) create works of art so grand they cause spontaneous tears of joy and/or sadness to fall, and a lot more. We are capable of such wonder, and yet most of what Humans do is one of three things:

- 1) Figure out how to make other people give you their money.
- 2) Figure out how much money you're going to give to someone executing point 1.
- 3) Survive.

Granted, there are exceptions (I did say 'most' of what humans do), but the generalization is that all we really want to do is have money so we can live the way we want to live. We're an

entire species dedicated to the get-rich-quick-scheme. Everyone knows (well, everyone *used* to know) that the get-rich-quick-scheme is not what you base your life around.

Crap, I almost forgot to try to suggest a solution. Okay, here goes:

We need a new group. Maybe a political party even. This group would work quietly, subtly, oozing it's way into society's most powerful corners. From there, each member would illicit change. Right now, I am on a path to do just that. I don't like to make a big deal about what I do but I'm a writer. I am trying to change things with my writing. I work positive, environmentally responsible messages into everything I write. (Maybe that's why I've not been more successful.) In my opinion, this is the only way a sweeping change can occur--gradually, over the span of many years. This is the safest way to illicit change. Sure, there is the gun, but I don't want to die before my time. So, I pick up a keyboard and start typing.

I'm putting myself out there. We all need to do more of what we believe is right, not what's right for our bank accounts. And that **includes** how we treat each other and our environment can come after that. This is because, well, that's the only way it will work.

OK, you can go back to your polluting-car buying and your dumb-video-watching and so on now. Thanks for your (limited) attention (span).