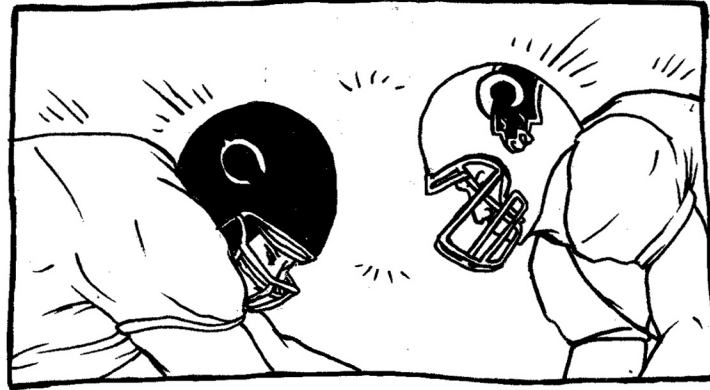


In many species males will show their physical superiority over other males through competition.

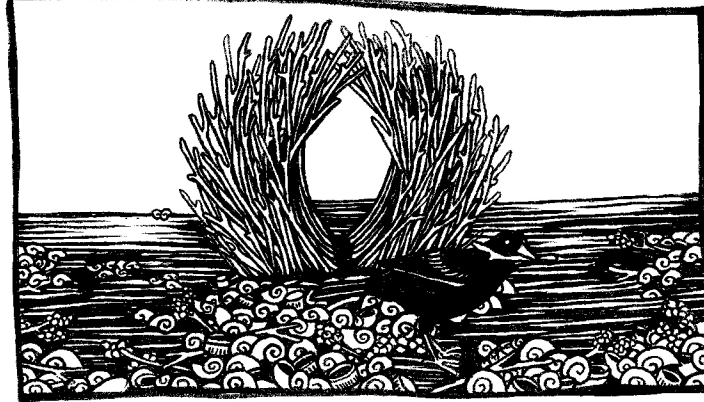


This competition is often harmless, and exists only to establish dominance.

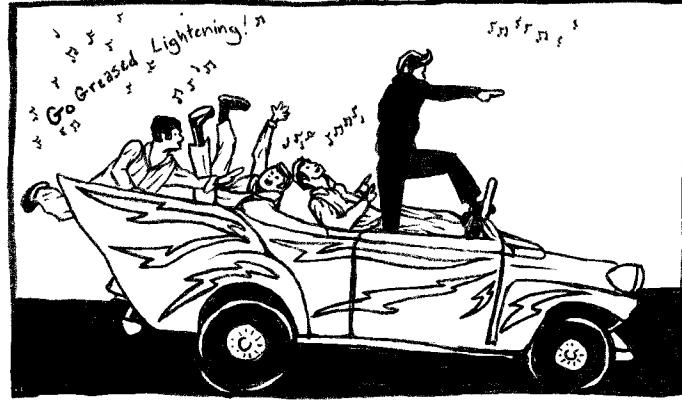


* Bighorn Sheep and Football Players

Some species, like this bower bird, build elaborate structures to impress females. The male will decorate his creation with useless ornament to make it more appealing to potential mates.

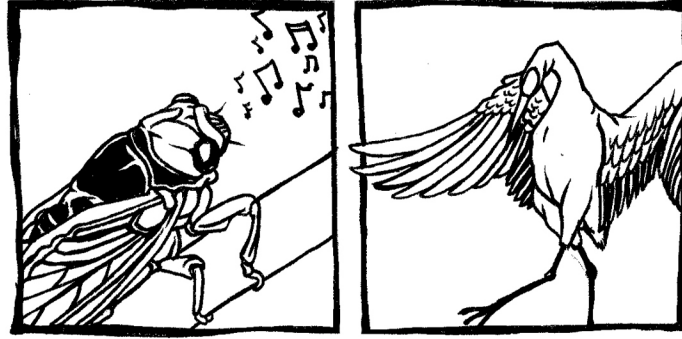


These structures are often used as stages for mating rituals, such as dancing.



* Bower Bird and John Travolta in the Movie Grease

In fact, dancing and/or singing is used by many species to impress potential mates.



* Cicada Mating Call, Whooping Crane Mating Dance, and Patrick Swayze in Dirty Dancing

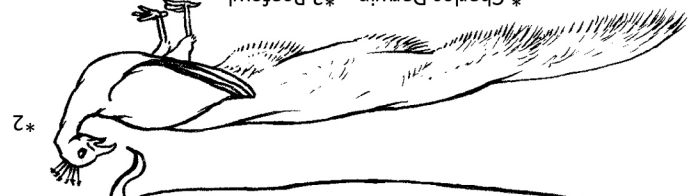
A SMALL SCIENCE ZINE BY ISABELLA ROTMAN

SAY YES!

A GUIDE TO SEXUAL SELECTION



* Charles Darwin * 2 Peafowl



However, natural selection cannot explain elaborately ornamental displays, like my tail which honestly hinder my ability to survive in the wild!

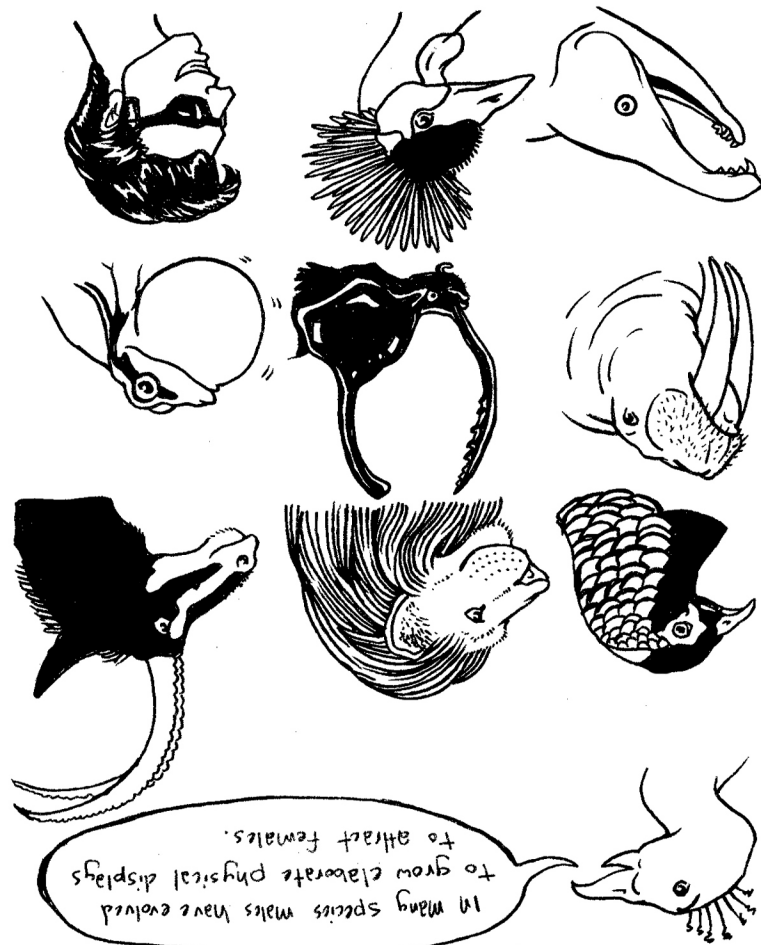
"I have called this principle, by which each slight variation, if useful, is preserved by the term natural selection."

Basically individuals who are the most fit live long enough to pass their genetic code on to the next generation.

"In the struggle for survival, the fittest win out at the expense of their rivals because they succeed in adapting themselves best to their environments."

Since Charles Darwin's Origin of Species evolution has been explained by the theory of natural selection.

From Left to Right Top To Bottom: Amherst Pheasant, African Lion, Sable Antelope, Walrus, Horn Beetle (species unknown), Frog, Salmon, Grey Crowned Crane, Human



This system works because the males that are most fit can afford to spend energy on elaborate displays, and thus will produce the most fit offspring.

He must really have some good genetics!

What a hunk!

Which of course, is the most desirable trait in a mate.

He will have such beautiful children!



Thus, female choice plays a huge part in determining which males get to reproduce. Therefore sexual selection determines which genes are passed on within a species.

In sexual reproduction the female must invest more in each offspring than the male. Females must invest nutrients on growing eggs, while males can generate billions of sperm.

which brings us to the theory of...

SEXUAL SELECTION