

Plague ? Diary

CENSURED
by Amazon

Hysteria by Fantasy

Day by Day

by J. Merton

Plague? Diary

The 2020 Covid-19 Calamity

Hysteria by Fantasy

Day by Day

Revised edition 2022

by J. Merton

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Please spread this far and wide,
so that you may help people learn
to see beyond their fears.

UPDATE

February, 2022

This book was submitted to Kindle Direct Publishing, a subsidiary of Amazon, Inc. in the summer of 2020. They refused to publish the book. The following message was received in an email:

Due to the rapidly changing nature of information around the COVID-19 virus, we are referring customers to official sources for health information about the virus. As a result we are not offering your book for sale.

This seemed just plain goofy at the time, as every 'official source' had something different to say. Indeed, some 'official sources' seemed to contradict other 'official sources.' In addition, this book had not offered any health information whatsoever. Except to eat real food and get some exercise and sleep. So it seems that the refusal to publish was just another knee-jerk reaction with no consideration of the actual contents. Initially it was decided to simply drop the idea of publishing this. So other projects were turned to. Then, in late 2021, another wave of Covid-19 hit America and the atmosphere surrounding the situation seemed to confirm many of the points that had been raised a year and a half previously.

A review of the original manuscript also revealed that an up-front statement regarding a summary of the fundamental theory would perhaps be helpful. This book is not political in focus, but politics does have a major impact on the theory. In addition, new information has become

available that amplifies the arguments. This new data will violate some general superstitions that feed some of the most sacred politics of many Americans.

The gist of this presentation is that stress hormones are the real killer in the Covid-19 situation. A combination of media, politics and science-stupidity all amplify the fear factor. Any fear always amplifies stress hormones. Stress hormones are silent ambush predators. These naughty chemicals then make everything else seem much worse than it probably is. The chemical flood causes unseen tissue inflammation. Then fear spawned stress will induce inflammation, clogging the lungs and other tissues.

In addition, the superstitious-based failure to get vaccinated causes the virus to return every time a new variant evolves. Consider that if the U.S. military viewed vaccination as a weapon, the entire world would receive a dose in a matter of a few months. Given a direct order to move aggressively, chemical facilities, such as those at Ft. Detrick, Maryland, could be producing vaccine in a matter of days.

The new information that has come to light spawns a hypothesis that asks a question prohibited by politics. Are cigarette smokers afforded protection from the effects of the virus? Consider the following correlations:

- In Europe, infusions of tobacco smoke are used to reduce lung inflammation in any disease situation that calls for a therapy of this type.

- The Japanese have some of the lowest Covid-19 rates in the world. This puzzles epidemiologists to no end. They have examined every factor they can think of, but absolutely nothing seems to point to a cause for these low rates. Yet the Japanese are also very heavy smokers, consuming more cigarettes per capita than any other nation on the planet.
- American politics prevent the tobacco factor from even being slightly considered as having any effect whatsoever. Any suggestion in this direction would be answered with cries of heresy and a threat to end a researcher's career. So any scientist with the idea that tobacco is a factor keeps the thought quietly to themselves.

If you wish to skip the memory of initial anxiety, you may jump to page 114 and go directly to the insanity of how it got this way. But at least look at the entry for May 1st. Questions are asked that you cannot answer.

Also remember that someone will probably start a war and suddenly the virus will no longer exist; because it will no longer be in the news. (This was originally written before the invasion of Ukraine.)

Also, please review the Appendix carefully, so you are able to discuss this like you have a brain.

Then please try to relax. Enable your stress hormones to recede. Allow your growth hormones to contribute to accelerating your personal evolution.

Preface

To original edition

Is Covid-19 an epic-dilemma or an epidemic? Maybe and who knows, though there are very many odd angles and bent vectors and twists of viewpoint.

This is a record of Kudos for many Americans. It is also an indictment of the media, who worsened the outcome by a steady stream of consistently irresponsible broadcasting. The dueling dual Parties have been rather naughty with their semantics as well. Some of the silly circus du jour is logged just for the record.

This is not a history book, but just another slant about interesting times. I'm leaving a heck of a lot of hell out of this. Many will write history; some will write it right, but in past tense. This was written as the windows of TV and my face saw it in real time. Sometimes I hint at puzzles, but everything after the opening orientation is based on the actual reality as it existed in somebody's head, fantasy by fact. It is, however, much more than a regurgitation of the CNN, the BBC and the FOX. This record is my version with surprises you should read to learn there are many other ways to see. Whether you personally identify with the Cuomo Cleanup or the Trump Army approach, this treatise will upset you about something and you may acquire genuine cognitive dissonance as well.

Full disclosure: My only agenda is for people to think, get along and work together; converse, compromise, commit and create. **The Appendix includes Radical Essays to this end, and some Plausible Prognostications.**

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This holds a dirty secret,
that grabs you now and then;
But it will never be revealed,
On FOX or CNN.

Media mass frenzy
has come to kill again;
Ratings rule the rhetoric
on this they can depend.

They're coming for the gullible,
they always panic first;
Frenzy makes some chaos
that makes the country worse.

Next they want your children,
so governments can fight;
and none of this will ever end,
until you see the light.

Riddle: Why is Hell a cold, dark place?

Answer: Because separation is cold
and fear is dark.

Compassion makes us warm.
When your eyes become healthy,
your body becomes full of light. (St. Luke)

Learn to see.

Memory refresh

Plague Diary may be a catchy book title, but Covid-19 does not in any way need to be a genuine plague. I knew about plagues long before Coronavirus appeared. Earth manufactures plagues if conditions get unbalanced; every half dozen centuries or so. Then the semi-extinction that results drives social evolution. Justinian's Plague made way for the Prophet and the Black Death paved the road for the Reformation.

History did not prepare me for how this curse played us. Yet in a way, mankind played the virus, as you may *see*. Covid-19 emerged as a most interesting adventure; a rather excessively interesting adventure. Coronavirus is in no way a Chinese Curse. However, to say "May you live in interesting times" really is a genuine traditional Chinese Curse. You may not realize just how interesting until you look back and *see*.

It all seems somewhat odd, even to my aging brain. In the sixty-couple years that I can recall, there were very few interesting adventures in our times, just a few events. Events come and go, then get half forgotten; perhaps they occasionally enter someone's nostalgia. Very soon, Covid-19 will be like yesterday's gone morning mist.

Once a new normal firmly sets in, the old normal becomes distant and vague. Some of the people who died from Covid-19 have no memory at all of the 9-11 attacks. Soon there will be a generation who has no memory of

Covid-19 except the stories that will be told by the now middle-aged who then become the grandfathers and grandmothers among the lucky survivors.

Events are merely history once forgotten. I did the survival skill of putting my head under my arms under my desk in Lavale during the Cuban Missile Crisis. I went to DC and occupied the mall as part of the failed attempt to shut down the government in the spring of '71. In the 1980s I drank me into a stupor, so if anything happened it passed me by. I returned to DC for a war protest in the 1990s, but that accomplished nothing. I was sequestered in a basement on September Eleventh and did not know that buildings had collapsed and all airplanes were grounded until very late afternoon. I also lost nearly everything I owned in the years following the 2009 crash, but *life itself* has really been a dull routine.

It seems as if these event things come along every ten years or so. The only element in common is that the events are always associated with either an over-reaction or under-reaction on the part of government.

I did quit drinking eventually, but not one of these events changed me one iota. Covid-19 did not change me either; but I have to wonder what the year **2030** will bring

...

Some of the next few pages were assembled a little after the fact to remind the stage about the setting. In case someone stumbles on this log at some point in the future. Names have never been changed to protect the

guilty. A few names are left out to prevent embarrassment for saying something really stupid without thinking.

No guarantees are being offered here; fact checking is your problem. Any mention of Coronavirus, which is a whole group of viruses, refers to Covid-19, which is a trade name for the disease itself. Sometimes you will see SARS-Cov-2; this is the virus itself.

Just wandering around, we are bombarded non-stop by millions of virus particles per square meter. We usually perceive absolutely no evidence of this invisible infiltrator. Sometimes the evidence can be excruciating. The 2020 Covid crisis involved the evolution of a new and definitely most curious creature.

This beast was originally hatched as a mere rumor, and then was something we did not need to know about. This morphed into a foreign problem. Then that became something that it was OK to know about but did not need to worry about. After that, it was acceptable to worry a little, but it was time for everyone to relax and everything would be just fine.

Suddenly, hundreds of people seemed to be dying every day. Uncanny had descended upon us; suddenly.

Wikipedia says that Coronaviruses are enveloped viruses with a positive-sense single-stranded RNA genome and a nucleocapsid of helical type symmetry. It is no wonder these viruses are so mean; they are nearly impossible to understand. There are a bunch of species,

most of which only infect four legged animals. They have characteristic spikes that project from their surface. Mild variations lead to the common cold. Some strains have way higher mortality rates, like Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), at 35 percent.

Covid-19 is **not** one of the worst ones.

That is the end of technical stuff that we do not need to understand. The rest of this narrative is quite simple to grasp. If you can use a dictionary.

America's first epidemic

Was not the 1918 Spanish Flu.

In America, smallpox killed more than 140,000 people during a 1770s epidemic. This was when the population was two million. (A seven percent mortality rate; which would be twenty-three million dead today.) We had major cholera outbreaks in both the 1830s and 1840s. There have been numerous epidemics in North America since Lincoln's War that have killed thousands of people.

Welcome to Earth, the planet of the black swan.

The very first plague in recorded history was influenza of unknown fatality level, but which spread from Babylon to Burma about 1200 BC. The Justinian Plague, in 542 BC, took many millions of poor souls. The Black Death of the Middle Ages had perhaps 100 million victims.

None of the dead saw it coming.

Covid-19 is a *bit-player*.

As calamities go, Covid-19 seems catastrophic mostly for people in terrible health to begin with. So cut back on the mac and grease, eat your grains and veggies. Get some sleep and go for walks. Extend a happy attitude and Be Kind; this helps everything work better.

My Rx for peace is simple. If you can focus.

Covid-19 can be *seen* thru other eyes. First, follow the path of propaganda, act by act and scene by scene, then consider the alternatives at the end of the play. A play it is, and as the playwright knew, "all the world's a dream."

Sometimes someone may give you some nightmares.

Bump a bit backwards

2017 (Three years prior.)

January 6th

A Pentagon report reviewed past virus outbreaks and warned that the next pandemic will likely be a new respiratory illness. They predicted ventilator and PPE shortages. (This was two weeks prior to Donald Trump's inauguration.)

January 11th

Anthony S. Fauci, MD, speaking at a forum on pandemic preparedness at Georgetown University, said the Trump administration "will be challenged by ongoing

global health threats, and *also by a surprise epidemic outbreak.*" Poor Dr. Fauci is going to be a lead actor; stage center. He may be wishing he had not said "epidemic."

2018 (Surprises in hindsight.)

Pay attention here, this is to carefully review, compare these numbers with the April 30th, 2020 totals. Note that the 2018-2019 flu season resulted in *fewer* illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths than even the 2017-18 season. The trajectory peaked in mid-February and trailed off in April; like this year. In total, the CDC estimates that about **43 million** people got sick during the 2018-2019 season, 647,000 people were hospitalized and **61,200 died**. That's on par with a typical flu season, and *below* the CDC's original estimates of 959,000 hospitalizations and **79,400** deaths.

Was Covid-19 here last year?

Except sans hysteria?

Before the beginning

We were all dazing thru the days. This is a part of the reason we let all this happened.

November 2019 (Home front)

Tomorrow seemed to be nothing more intricate than a vague promise to slide into calm and quiet. Diana, a life-long special friend with special needs passed over in November. It was surely most sad, but this epidemic

would surely have been psychologically difficult for my friend. May she R.I.P. rather than endure this. Suddenly: no responsibilities. I mourned, but I would now retreat, with no appointments and little need to patronize the petroleum predators. Now I believed I could live and scribble and hike unrestricted. I retreated a bit to the west. Little did I know that my amusement would turn to a vacillating morbid opera of fringe science dueling personal image protection.

If you listen with extreme care, you may hear the Gods laughing their ears off.

December 2019 (Still home)

It was a mild winter. By March of 2020 most of my memories of four months ago are mostly vague. Most of my time was spent just organizing research and typing journals. We, meaning myself and several of my few remaining friends, scattered Diana's ashes at her old sanctuary in Funkstown. I likely purchased groceries four times, but went out very seldom otherwise. Since I do not do Christmas because of the greed and rudeness one encounters, it was mostly just another month . . . then . . .

Then . . . elsewhere . . .

November 2019 (China)

A laboratory type worker was studying a new coronavirus virus inside a virus type laboratory in Wuhan,

China. The study was just a regular activity for medical type research.

This new virus was originally only known in two legged bats, from which it was collected in the forest wilderness; away from highly dense people groups. So far, this is all super scientific. There was absolutely nothing sinister going on, so far; just regular science stuff.

Then . . . Whoops! Then it gets very accidental.

December 1st 2019

This is the apparent date the virus laboratory worker first infected a two legged person type animal with the new coronavirus. The person infected by the lab worker was himself. This mode of infection is a very serious violation of scientific protocol. (It happens frequently, though.)

Almost immediately after the lab worker was infected, the virus got loose in the wild again; this time in a crowded urban wilderness. Two legged un-winged animals would be in a serious predicament for a while.

Our world was about to become one Shakespeare would surely recognize. The stage had been set. Like everyone else on Earth at the time, I could easily play the Sargent Schultz part.

I knew nothing. We were OK; no crisis was made.

Yet.

A 20 - 20

Vision-mare

January 2020

7th

China confirmed a cluster of pneumonia associated with a new coronavirus. The vector was said to be something at Huanan Seafood Market in Wuhan, Hubei Province.

11th

The genetic sequence for this new virus was published online. It was not yet officially named. The Malaysian Institute for Medical Research successfully produced the primers and probes specific to SARS-CoV-2 on the very same day. American science is not so involved yet.

13th (Not a Friday)

The first non-Chinese case of Covid-19 occurs in Thailand. By the 16th, it had spread to Japan. It was just flu, so the three letter networks had plenty of other news to chatter about and sensationalize.

20th

After returning to Seattle from Wuhan, a 35 year old man experienced pneumonia-like symptoms. We had no idea at the time, but this was the first confirmed case of Covid-19 infection *reported* in the United States.

22nd

President Trump, trying to maintain calm, announced: "No, we're not worried at all. We have it totally under control."

January ends with a bang.

31st

Laboratories are probing the virus for weaknesses and reviewing possible avenues for developing a vaccine. By the end of the first month of 2020, there was a lot happening world-wide that the average American knew little or nothing about. Including me.

U.S. citizens who have been in China's Hubei Province in the past 14 days will now be subject to two full weeks of mandatory quarantine when they travel back to the United States. I did not know of this either.

Confrontational leadership began to spawn a steady flow of misinformation. The No Ban Act, introduced by Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), tried to prevent a travel ban. Senator Biden called the travel halt "xenophobic." Loopholes allowed a steady flow of air travel to continue anyhow.

A global emergency was declared. Under what authority?

I did not hear about this right away because I did not watch TV news yet. At some point Google News had the virus up, but I did not note the date. This would have been my very first awareness that China had a virus issue at all.

At the end of January we had absolutely no idea of what we would soon be menaced with. A one hundred year itch had appeared, a bit mutated. Soon, some bodies would become tricks to be used by a virus to make more viruses. With each sneeze spewing one million corona particles, the math will become statistically staggering.

What a glorious opportunity to create mass hysteria!

February

The month starts out slow. For the next few pages, entries are mostly to record the flow.

2nd

Trump announces: "We can't have thousands of people coming in who may have this problem, the coronavirus. So we're gonna see what happens, but we did shut it down."

9th

I had not gotten out since we scattered Diana's ashes. So I visited LostBob. We briefly talked about the Coronavirus spread, and Bob emphasized that the common flu seemed more dangerous. His attitude was rather lax, and He believes that China would likely contain the situation.

10th

Trump said "The virus is going to be fine." That turned out to be true from the point of view of the virus. People will soon be dying from stress hormone floods.

11th

The new coronavirus received its official name of SARS-CoVid-2 or Corona Virus D-2019.

19th

The president thinks "it's going to work out fine. The warmer weather has a very negative effect on that type of a virus. So let's see what happens."

24th

The White House announced that Americans had nothing to worry about. Later we learned that advisors were doom saying in private. The narrative was about to get like those batteries of bowling ball pendulums on YouTube.

26th

The president now says that "Because of all we've done, the risk to the American people remains very low. There's a chance it won't spread too. At this point, the White House is actually right. Unfortunately, Trump will be losing rhetorical control of the situation very soon.

28th

The first US death from Covid-19 occurred today. It was a Washington state resident in his 50s, but not the one who contracted the virus in China. The president, probably not knowing about the death yet, said "I think it's really going well. ... We're prepared for the worst. One day, it's like a miracle, it will disappear."

29th

The rest of us, not knowing about the fatality yet either, will finish the month basically in the dark about a number of details. This includes not knowing that there may have been Covid-19 deaths *in 2019* that were unreported.

March

Please be patient, the pageant will soon become eruptive.

8th

The president retweeted a story about Surgeon General Jerome Adams playing down the risk of coronavirus for Trump personally. That takes a load off. The point here is that all of the rest of us should have stayed calm about most the rest of us.

9th

The president is noticing not being appreciated: He said "The Fake News Media and their partner, the

Democrat Party, is doing everything within its semi-considerable power to inflame the situation." The Surgeon General said "The risk is low to the average American." This is to the point, but the fire is about to catch the television.

10th

There is a debate emerging regarding actual risks of the coronavirus. Unfortunately, the debate style swirls the gradually mounting frenzy. Trump, in a press conference, notes that there have only been few deaths, with only 8,000 fatalities projected. He said "We're doing a great job with it. And it will go away. Just stay calm. It will go away" (All flu goes away.) Fox anchor Trish Regan commented that the coronavirus is "another attempt to impeach the president." Well . . . ? Or is that . . . HUH?

11th

The World Health Organization declares that Covid-19 is a worldwide pandemic. Here the WHO started eating buffalo dung and howling at the moon. At this point there was *no credible evidence* that a PANDEMIC was afoot.

13th

Then there was a White House lawn ceremony. With a proclamation of therefore I, Donald J. Trump, per the provisions of (42 U.S.C. 1320b-5), do hereby proclaim that

the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a **national emergency** under the Stafford Act.

The crazy was planted;
WHO watered it well.
Now the TV will make it all sell.

The president also announced that the "FDA will bring 1.4 million tests on board next week and 5 million in a month. I doubt we'll need near that." This may not mean much yet, but it will. Tests will become fuel for frenzy.

14th

I made my first entry in my date book about Coronavirus. The US of A is sort of locked down due to epidemic. This announcement did not escape me. Let hell begin. I am becoming obsessed with the idea of keeping a plague diary, but as of this date the log is still reconstructed. I am having delusions of anxiety.

"Beware the Ides of March"
is about to take on a gut-wrenching meaning.

15th

The news has been insane, including people being arrested for claiming they have coronavirus and then spitting on Walmart customers.

16th

The World Health Organization has now reported the first Coronavirus numbers for the U.S.; totaling 1825 cases and 17 deaths.

21st

The Mexican border was sealed off, as announced on the Department of Homeland Security web site.

I made a grocery run. Walmart was as usual. Also a private visit. A friend at the visit believes that this epidemic will be easy; just "stay away from sick people," he said. The traffic is a little light, but the big hills out my window are just as normal as they always are. One item caught my attention that made me start to wonder about how many different swirling ways a flu virus could go. The options for a clever virus are legion. An issue, they say, as Easter approaches, is that right-wing evangelists have set a coronavirus cluster bomb. In Asia and Europe, some church gatherings have been super-spreader events. In South Korea, more than half of the infections are been linked to a single church. A prayer meeting with 2,500 attendees triggered a big burst of Covid-19 in France.

22nd

Landon Spradlin, an evangelist, implied that coronavirus management was nothing more than "politically motivated mass hysteria." (Well, not yet; but just wait for it.) On his way home to Virginia from

preaching on the streets of New Orleans, he started feeling ill and was admitted to a hospital in North Carolina. He was then diagnosed with Covid-19. On March 25, he died. With God on his side.

24th

Trump: "You're going to lose a number of people to the flu. You're going to lose more people by putting a country into a massive recession or depression." Some history does support this statement, believe it or not.

26th

Trump: "They have to go back to work; our country has to go back. Our country is based on that, and I think it's going to happen pretty quickly. I have a feeling that a lot of numbers that are being said in some areas are just bigger than they're going to be. I don't believe you need 40,000 or 30,000 ventilators."

27th

We are watching the news more than we should at this point. It does warp one. My roommate went to Walmart with me to get groceries. This is the first time that either of us has been out since the lockdown started. We both got really spooked by the uncanny vastness of all the empty parking lots. (Twilight Zone music...)

28th

For the duration I will be doing what I would be doing anyhow - what I feel like at the time. Even if the sun appears to be coming up. That has a way of changing everything. Tomorrow the rhetoric will begin to become hallucinatory.

29th

We are beginning to experience genuine concern. I have realized that some of the dialogue is going to seem a little cold. I had not realized how dystopic it would become.

Trump said: "So you're talking about [worst-case scenarios of] 2.2 million deaths from this. And so if we could hold that down, as we're saying, to 100,000 - it's a horrible number, maybe even less. So we have between 100 and 200,000, and we altogether have done a very good job."

30th

We were a bit uneasy about it, but I let a visitor come to Wilson to look at some trinkets I have to sell. He turned out to be a preacher that offered about a nickel on the dollar for the entire lot. If I get sick, I intend to hunt him down and haunt his apartment.

Trump, in our last quote for a while: "New York is really in trouble, but I think it's going to end up being fine."

We're loading it up, we're stocking it up. ... And you know, it's a terrible thing to say, but we think the deaths will be a very low number." The White House is still attempting an aura of calm, because leaders do not like chaos.

March 31st (Is only the end of the first full month.)

A compulsion pushes me to wonder. We know that the world we thought we knew will become more different than we realized we could imagine. Yet, there have not been much in the way of projections by 'experts' to merit mention as of yet. Relax now, the prognosticators will be coming out of the media's woodwork before you have time to relax completely.

We are about one moon into the lunatic phase. I have experienced a few ten second anxiety attacks; my state awareness fixed it quick. This is not over yet.

The end of month totals are ... well, you decide what to think about nameless numbers. Looking back a month, previous totals are buried. There are different numbers in different dashboards. These numbers are relative to next month and have little other value. Please do not forget that these numbers had souls.

Totals	Cases	Deaths
World	850,000	40,000
USA	180,000	3,800

March was a very new experience for almost all of us; I still think there was little of it that was shocking. Some of the antics we witnessed were surprising, though. If you did not find yourself shocked either, keep reading.

April

1st

The Governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, has been on CNN every early afternoon. After 9-11, the Mayor of New York seemed more presidential than the Oval Office president. Today, the Governor of New York seems to be filling the presidential part. As we shall see, this play has many actors. Shakespeare is giggling in his grave. Google did not provide their traditional April Fool's Day joke, for the very first time since forever; in Google World terms.

2nd

As cities all around Earth close down, posts of animals providing entertainment are being posted on YouTube. Rats are now running loose in New Orleans because the dumpsters contain no food. Monkeys are going mad over hunger as tourists in Southeast Asia stop going to temples. Some have been filmed in murderous rampages to get at a piece of food thrown by a passerby. They say that our planet has 700 million free range dogs. The ones loose in India are being fed, as an essential public service.

3rd & 4th

This household is not really totally in tune with the crisis yet. I took a load of trash to the county dump. The world looks no different than a month ago when I went to the dump. I think that perhaps I was expecting a sort of ghost world. I cannot figure out what people are thinking; or not. I have absolutely no idea about what is going on out there. You had no idea either.

April 5th

President Trump is insisting that He hadn't seen January memos by a White House official warning about the virus. Trump also announced He was placing a "very powerful hold" on funding for the World Health Organization. This narrative will be bouncing about a bit in response to reports because everything seems to be going that way.

The White House seems to be a bit disorganized. Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham was moved out, without even having given a briefing, in continuous White House staff turmoil. She was replaced by Kayleigh McEnany, who said that thanks to Trump, "we will not see diseases like the coronavirus come here." Staff members that say things that are both unnecessary and ridiculous are going to be a daily problem in containing the chaos.

In response to the developing situation, Congress has passed an aid bill. Trump has announced He will ignore a provision requiring the inspector general to report to

Congress on the handling of the funds. The president does not want to embarrass his friends who get great gobs of goodies. Edits you may not have dreamed of will be a factor in the unfolding script.

Trump does not mind personally attacking a Health and Human Services inspector who noted massive shortages of protective equipment at hospitals. In government, some people must be problem identifiers.

Peter Navarro wrote a memo to the President in January warning about a "full blown pandemic" causing *trillions* in economic damage and risking the health of *millions* of Americans. This should be seen as hysteria hype by now. Ho-hum hype. However, now it cannot be stopped.

April 6th - 7th

The TV is already promoting virtual tours for home remodeling and repairs; custom clothing was only a few months ahead of this trend. No-touch delivery adverts abound. There is an app for remote doctor consultation, including prescriptions. The justification for brick and mortar diminishes daily.

Mr. Trump has the amazing ability to admit that we are suffering a terrible situation and in the next breath say that it will all be better. The networks are still babbling about what they call "Trump doing nothing." No White House staff has "done something" about a flu season since 1787. The Federals do not have a health system.

Ask the hospitals why they "did nothing." They will have many answers, all of them valid. They did plenty. This country does not have a comprehensive medical response system. America will never have a world class health system until people learn to get along. Then set up a system like Europe.

Some people will recognize Trump's rhetoric as attempting to stop panic. The media frenzy passed a tipping point and insured that his tactic did not work.

Low on details some days, even mass graves are now in the news; and not in Africa. There will be what the tabloid news is calling mass graves in New York and also elsewhere. This is something not seen here for decades. Meaning grasping at straws to scare people. These graves are really just typical paupers burials, in a neat trench, nothing new to New York, and are standard practice for people who die with nothing. Always have been.

Even with all the anxiety, other countries come to the front of the brain. Like Korea, north-wise, is probably not worried about Coronavirus coming from the South. Nothing comes from the south. No one seems to know what the situation is in the North. They claimed to have no cases, then a report leaked that they executed a patient for being Coronavirus-positive. Then they shot the official that ordered the execution.

Some little voice in the corner of the ceiling says that the news will get weirder before it completely returns to a gentle full-blown almost boring.

April 8th

I went on a mission to seek essential quality of life supplies. The Interstate created few surprises. Car traffic is a little light, but many tags were still from two or three states away. Big truck traffic seems normal; at least north and south. Wide loads were still mobilizing construction equipment, Walmart trucks were moving loads, and most importantly, a trailer load of Coke passed us.

John #2 did not hesitate to go out; LostBob visited. I had to violate the general recommendations to learn that everyone else is violating them as well. LostBob remarked that the social situation at his house was more or less business as usual.

Family and friends come and go like just another day at the bar-b-q. On one hand Bob is complacent, but at the same time he is calling for a November peak in the epidemic. It did not surprise me at all that he has a spreadsheet he is using to track the advance of Trump's Invisible Enemy.

A multitude of weirdness appears in front of us, first as the potential of a mirage, and then the form solidifies and is suddenly in our face, asking a question that you never, in your worst nightmares, ever wanted to answer.

There is a potential boatload of Trolley Car Paradox cases coming down the tunnel. Once a patient is on a ventilator for 'x' number of days, it is known that the patient has no remaining chance of survival. None. The

number 'x' is not yet known for sure; but it will be. We have other patients who need ventilators. Once 'x' days pass, a patient may have three days to live; on the ventilator. They will live a few hours without the ventilator. We have other patients who need ventilators. Knowing they are guaranteed to die anyway, do you take their ventilator away to save the life of another?

So far, the subject of people-race has not been mentioned much. The virus is a Chinese one according to Trump and some Chinese Americans got brutalized by uneducated brutes. Then, today, we suddenly have a new slant on statistics. Yesterday the numbers were all public health numbers.

Now we have political numbers. Someone, somewhere, is screaming about a Secret Anti-White Genocide Plot. The fact is that where your ancestors come from has nothing to do with a situation like the possible total doom of all people life. As we shall see, not everyone sees the same. Especially me. Supervolcanos are the only extinction threat I agonize over.

In the continuing quest to introduce America to Americans: A medical doctor on television news remarked that the lack of resources, like Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), are just another day at the clinic for many large city health systems. *So what exactly is the definition of a crisis?*

April 9th

Total Earth numbers hit 1.5 million cases sometime last night. Some of New York's lag numbers (new cases, etc.) seem to be maybe over the hump. China is reporting a second wave.

Gov. Cuomo used the term "Groundhog Day Reality" during his press conference today. I already had a spooky feeling that the situation has numbed down into a sort of foggy limbo. It is almost like society itself is suffering from depersonalization.

The spookiness of the huge empty parking lots at shopping centers around Hagerstown and at the Valley Mall is just spooky. There is no dramatizing this, or making poetry about it, just as there is no sugar coating it; it is all just plain and simply uncanny.

Non-violent prisoners have been released to reduce their exposure to already infected inmates; at least one prison riot has been reported. A jail in Chicago is said to be a "large" source of infections, with over 400 cases between prisoners and staff. Prisoners seem to not be dying! *This is a more important clue than you may realize!*

In overseas developments, the ignoble House of Saud has declared a cessation of fighting in Yemen in response to the epidemic; perhaps Wahhabi does not allow killing sick people. Over in Ecuador bodies are piling up on the streets due to lack of facilities. The term "American refugee" is seldom heard; the United States Department of

State has brought 50,000 refugees back home in a special operation.

A nursing home was evacuated of about three dozen residents after none of the staff showed up for work. A friend that works at a nursing home tells me that there no visits allowed there and the staff is all wearing masks, but otherwise it is operations as usual. Except they take your temperature when you show up. They have adequate PPEs for internal use, but the staff has been warned that they may need to begin re-using masks.

Hate crimes against Asians, especially women **(!?!)** has hit a hundred attacks per day.

Economic indicators are terrible for poor people. More than one in 10 workers has lost their jobs in just the past three weeks because of the anxiety.

The outbreak erased nearly one-third of the economy's output in the current quarter. Forty-eight states have closed businesses. Countless small businesses have laid off millions.

Non-grocery retail crashed 95% in the last week of March. The number of airline passengers has dropped 95% from a year ago. U.S. hotel revenue is down 80%. Economists are swimming in a new reality and do not know exactly how to assess the damage. "We're just throwing out our textbooks," according to Beth Ann Bovino, an economist at S&P Global Ratings. There is no chapter on hysteria.

I'm watching "The Last Pope" on the History Channel, which predicts Rome to burn during the current Pope's reign. A CNN report out of Italy says that the criminal underground, comprising a significant part of the economy in the south, is out of work and are not allowed to collect unemployment. There are reports of food shortages and a food truck hijacking. There also seems to be a real threat of a holy Mafia uprising actually seizing power after the lockdown is lifted.

It is a good thing the rich are being allowed to loot the treasury. If the market for yachts collapses, it may take months to restart it. Plus the Fed is going to buy Junk Bonds. I wonder who this bails out. I do not think this will help me much.

The Financial Times reported that wheat prices are rising due to pasta demand. Everyone seems to be hoarding macaroni or whatever. Easy to grow, wheat as pasta then collapses in the processing and distribution chain: For pasta eaten in the UK, most is made from wheat grown in Canada, which is then processed by companies such as Barilla and De Cecco in *Italy*..

CNN tells us this evening that at least three aircraft carriers have Coronavirus cases. Any armchair Captain can guess the potential implications of a navy that cannot fight. Do you have the queasy feeling that we will hear more foreboding in this theater?

People are consistently giving their state Governors good marks in handling the epidemic. Their marks for the

White House are down; except perhaps among Republicans. A few days ago, Trump was saying the economy would be reopened in a few weeks; like just after Easter. Perhaps He is paying better attention now; He will no longer give a timeline, considering that Easter is a few days away.

There are way too many rumors and not enough data. If someone is trying to keep track of how this epidemic is playing out, they have their work cut out.

The Internet dashboards tracking the spread have been days behind recently.

April 10th

The world-wide death toll has hit 100,000. The US passed 18,000.

The President is painting a rosy picture with New Orleans and Detroit turning around. He claims that more temporary hospital beds have been built than we need. We are also reassured that our food supply is safe. The media manages to dispute everything, even if it does not matter. The Democrats are even worse for this.

The whole spectacle is an exercise that can wear you down. By the time you fact check a lie, three more lies have been told. They must teach Joseph McCarthy in political and journalism schools.

They say we are now in an economic recession. I guess they mean the happy economic activity which has

become a fantasy to hopefully happen next month. White House experts are not at all in agreement on re-opening the economy.

Trump says the He will make the hardest decision of all time and don't worry because all the metrics He needs are in his head. (Points to head.) It is not clear exactly when the president completely caught a crisis mind-set, but He seems netted now.

We have a legion of experts, without much data, spewing speculation as fact and jabbering about things they have no knowledge of.

New York is now swamped with more Coronavirus cases than any foreign country has. The Governor made an interesting point when criticizing pundits that claim Coronavirus has a "natural course" that needs to run. Cuomo eloquently insisted that the doctrine needs to orient toward disrupting the natural course.

Cities have unclaimed bodies piling up and is preparing 'mass' graves. The FBI and the media and anthropologists all have different definitions of 'mass grave.' If not for the CRISIS, hardly any of these events or situations would be news. We hope they don't find out that the virus can be spread by people biting dogs. Yes, I am confused.

Sanjay Gupta repeated an estimate by someone who suggested that 300,000 contact tracers will be needed once the curve drops. This is necessary to prevent a

second spike. 300k is an average of 100 trackers per US county. They should use Census takers.

Nurses in the US, responding to a shortage of PPEs, are wearing garbage bags. Laid-off surgical nurses are staying home.

In New Orleans, the Spanish Quarter, the old town with all the Spanish architecture, is empty. The City is using cell phone ping data to confirm conformance with the stay at home order. The Mayor stated that she was not told of Coronavirus ahead of Mardi Gras, and furthermore was criticized for canceling St. Patrick's Day and Super Sunday. Some people do not get it; for example, Louisiana state officials. Some people will just not have the decency to join in the hysteria.

The Governor of Oklahoma is trying to lockdown his state and this faction called "Faith Over Fear" has stalled him in court.

It just fully hit me that sports are not running at all. What are people to do? I cannot imagine football reruns, but it may come to that. Sports fans probably would not know the difference anyhow.

In response to drunks violating the lockdown, Thailand has banned the sale of alcohol for ten days. Italy is extending their lockdown in the face of mounting impatience. Police patrols are ordering everyone inside. One area in the north sadly lost an entire generation of memories and stories and wisdom. The thought of Italy is

an anxiety generator over how this will play out. It should not be, as the Italian towns are a quirk, nothing more. It is still just the flu.

Quote from somewhere: "Phrases like "this isn't how it's supposed to be" capture the sense of uncertainty."

April 11th

United States Coronavirus total cases passed five hundred thousand last night. The death toll is now over 20,000. We are the first country to report 2000 deaths in 24 hours.

Also reported was that yesterday was our largest single-day *jump* in deaths; but many New York new numbers are down and their fatality curve is flattening. There is a unique regional quirk in that New York City people tally the dead in "9-11" counts; "One 9-11" = 2,753 bodies. The New York Governor quoted Winston Churchill, "Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning." Cuomo also gives Trump high marks for responsiveness. There are a lot of different views on everything.

The President intends to open the country "right away" if Americans "are healthy." Apparently, He can order things to open if He determines an interference with interstate commerce is occurring. We also got clarification of the definition of 'mass' burials as the term applies to New York City. As of yesterday, it involves twenty-five unclaimed bodies a day. Like last year. And the year before.

A Harvard epidemiologist stated the issue in an interesting way: "We are learning to fly the airplane while we are building it." (The TV networks seem to repeat everything except what I would like another glance at, but the quote is close enough for you to get the idea.) The south US is getting a coating of tornados to go with their virus today. The Weather Service has also scheduled a second wave of storms, in case you miss the first one.

Today's weirdness has the Post Office needing a 75 billion dollar infusion because of the radical drop in mail volume. News you thought you would never hear includes auto insurance companies giving rebates for staying home and not having accidents. Sports are frozen, but we are still stuck with Google sports news. Worse yet, it is all about some version of sports politics, and not much about what the players do. You know; like games.

I should have thought about the Amish because I once lived near them in Path Valley, but I forgot the thought. Fortunately for them, it was announced that there are special contacts being made so the Amish are aware of the situation. Kool. The Amish will have no issue with social distancing from the English; they do that anyhow. There is a possibility of a drunken hog farm hand hitting a buggy with his pickup truck. This is typically one of the few points of contact with the English.

Some of the epidemic math models projected a potential of needing over two million hospital beds. Like a

foggy crystal ball. The United States had a total of just *under* one million beds on line when Covid-19 first hit.

Then there is the possibility that the Congregations have a sort of Lemming neurosis and are praying for mass suicide: As Pennsylvania's evangelist pastor Jonathan Shuttlesworth promised in a March 30th speech: "We're going to hold an outdoor Easter blowout service, a national gathering. You come from all over, like Woodstock. Shame on every European full gospel church, bunch of sissies, that shut down during this thing," He said. He went on to say that holy water should, by definition, be safe, and removing it from church lobbies "should be a sign to you that your whole religion's a fraud. Any faith that doesn't work in real life is a fake faith. Totally fake."

For days now, Psychology Today's blogs have been trying to cover every imaginable psych angle of the Corona crisis. Advice is available for those shut in with hyperactive children; what to do if you are sequestered with a psychopath; the pitfall of quarantine overindulgence; the coronavirus talk they wish they could give; there is a self-care alphabet for quarantine; and stranger-danger has gone viral in the pandemic; as well as explaining that following CDC guidelines is not valid criteria for an OCD diagnosis. Finally, the very most valuable posts provide methods to cope with yourself.

Interesting phenomena are rising out of the craziness, some of which are fascinating. People are remembering more dreams as well as creating false memories about the

events. Of course, this is a most wonderful opportunity for some creative conspiracy cooking.

Creative efforts are rising to stop Covid-19 from spreading. New York City has ordered homeless into hotel rooms. The City intends for at least 6,000 vulnerable single homeless residents to be in rooms by April 20. Homeless seniors will be prioritized and homeless persons with symptoms will be moved to a hotel.

There are items in the media stream that continuously remind us of the strangeness of non-fiction.

- 200 doctors and nurses died of Covid-19; on the job.
- Crime is way down, even in violent US cities.
- The States and the Feds are bidding against each other for medical supplies.
- The Feds forward supplies to the states. Huh?

Sixteen million Americans are freshly out of work. Some will not have jobs even when the situation normalized; we know not what normal is yet. Sam Adams Brewery has started a relief fund to assist restaurants. Kudos. We hope that the capitalists step up more, but do not expect them to.

Every state in the United States is now under Emergency Disaster Declaration. Hungary has become a dictatorship in response to the crisis.

Analysis of out of area cell phone pings for Daytona Spring Break allowed the phones to be tracked. CNN had a time lapse map of the pings streaming back to their

origins. The concentrations of returning phones correlated with virus hot spot outbreaks to some degree. It appears that the cell carriers have opened access to server logs and these are being used by many local governments to monitor movements and gatherings.

Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Lesotho are the only inland countries with no confirmed cases of Coronavirus. There are also about a dozen island nations so far untouched, as well as several dozen small countries with fewer than ten cases.

South America was slow to wake up to the virus. China is leading the way with aid to help them cope. The Foreign Policy Research Institute tells us that "extra hemispheric powers are present and challenging U.S. influence and power in a significant way, as they offer to fulfill a leadership role. This challenge to the U.S. position and influence *in its own hemisphere* may have most significant long-term implications for the United States.

The World Health Organization warns that Covid-19 is spreading at an alarming rate in rural areas of Africa and says urgent help is needed to strengthen the continent's fragile health system. This is a gross exaggeration.

Twitter, Facebook and YouTube all banned conspiracy fruitcake Alex Jones in 2018. On his personal site, Jones is selling snake oil to prevent or treat Covid-19. The claims are so outlandish that the FDA stepped in, issuing a letter telling Jones to cease peddling the products.

The flat-Earth crowd seems almost logical in light of some of Alice on psilocybin silly conspiracy theories. 5thGen technology helps Covid-19 gain ground; the virus may be a cull of the population by elites; perhaps to save social security; or aliens created the virus; or the testing is to find hybrid aliens; or they will force everyone to take a vaccine to sterilize us; or Mother Nature is out to get us; or it was set up to introduce the New World Order, but what is probably really happening is that they are trying to bring down Trump and they released CoVid-19 to cause a financial collapse so He will lose the next election.

April 12th

There are no psychological landmark numbers today. There seems to be some small (but growing?) consensus of a leveling of the stats. I do not believe anyone's projections. Partly because no one seems to agree on much of anything; except PPE shortages.

However, on a BBC epidemic tracking page, they have a graph that shows recovered cases. Dated today, the number is about 500,000 recoveries. With about 1.75 million cases; that is a 28 percent so far recovery rate.

It was not clear yesterday, but apparently the President declared another Declaration; or Disaster or something. It is still not clear what the Official Name of This Official Order is. Fox says "Major Disaster Declaration." They also say "for Wyoming" (the last state to lock?), then in the next breath adds "the first time a

president has ever declared a major disaster in all 50 states at once."

Then it seems that the Governors declared something. The historians will have a basket of enigmas figuring out who did what. I wonder if Trump has thought about what the history books will say about his administration.

The story is warping more than evolving. One day it is like this and the next day that was not like that at all. We are so mired in fact and fantasy that it is like untangling a ball of gooey hair in the dark.

There is good news floating around, though. For the paranoid among you; Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Stuff has approved the sale of guns in parking lots. Now Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms really does sound like a convenience store.

Asthma sufferers cannot go out, but if they could, they would actually find clean air in the cities. Not only that, but they are selling gas a few miles down the road at \$1.85 a gallon. How could I almost forget to mention something so monumental?

Some say that a sign of (at least partial) collapse is that non-government shadow entities step up and fill in where government has failed. Examples include the Cajun Navy doing rescue during Hurricanes while the Feds had their thumbs pre-occupied. Now we have Google and Apple teaming up to solve the Covid-19 case tracking

problem. There is no doubt in my brain that they will do much better than the CDC in Atlanta.

Random thought: Only in America would someone's last words be "Who is going to pay my medical bills?"

Astronauts are due to return from the space station and have remarked that "It is quite surreal for us." They return to another world. They can likely barely comprehend what they will become witness to. Our whole world is searching for answers. Internet searches for prayer doubled for every 80,000 new cases of Covid-19.

Someone hinted that the sir president could invoke the Commerce Clause and order the Governors of the several states to cease and desist their interference with interstate activity. Meaning by this that the lockdown is nullified and everyone would be free to mingle as provided by the constitutional right to disassemble. Except that the Commerce Clause is in a Congress part of the Constitution. I do not know if Congress has given the president this enforcement power, but there seems to be no precedent for the president. My crystal ball says there will be a court circus over this if it comes to pass.

Reality Check: The dark humor woven into this narrative intends in no way to belittle the suffering. Suffering is sad. This same exact suffering happens every single year. What is really different except the news? Covid-19 is a mass unplanned psychology experiment. We must always seek to understand.

Authorities responded to a call of multiple shots fired at an apartment in Bakersfield California. Deputies found six victims and learned that a large party was going on despite the state's stay-at-home order. The suspects were four men driving a sedan. It is not known whether or not they were vigilantes who were privately enforcing the state's order. They may have been seeking revenge for infecting a family member. They may have just be suffering from cabin fever; neurosis can strike city people rather radically.

Abortion clinics are not being bombed. Sometimes quiet shows up where you least expect it.

Governor Cuomo is playing pork politics by complaining about pork politics; regarding dollars per virus case allocation among states. He is also, I think, the first to sign an executive order to require employers to provide masks for employees.

The president is insulting the press for not asking questions that make him look good. This is dialogue management, not disease management.

This afternoon I heard that *there are still eight states with no stay at home order*. What's up with this? What does 'national' mean? It means that not everyone sees the same world that the hysterical see.

The World Health Organization (WHO?) has hooted that the virus is stalking our race. I leave no footprints, so

It cannot stalk me; I'm good. The WHO owls call on a falling sky. Who-steria, Who-steria, Who-steria.

Monopolizing the CNN TV coverage is the New York Times paper coverage of the day-by-day sequence of the president brushing off indications that an epidemic was on the way. Why was he not having anxiety attacks like he was supposed to?

It is obvious from this that Trump did not give a darn. Just ask the media. Trump says He is a war-time president in the virus fight. If this is a war, and the virus is the enemy and is stalking us, then Trump is treasonous. At least according to a basket of Democratic semantics. He must have given aid to the enemy; or something.

Tornados are a valid scientific reason to be anxious and take action, but are still not justification for hysteria. Funnel clouds have been assaulting Mississippi with swaths of "catastrophic" damage. The National Weather Service recommended that taking shelter, like now, should take precedence over considerations of the infectious aspects of the shelter. I can easily imagine an echo of condemnation over this advice; . . . by someone . . . somewhere.

April 13th (Not a Friday.)

New York total death toll passed 20,000. Over 3,000 US military personnel have tested positive for Covid-19, including at least 585 crew members on the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, which has a crew of about 5600.

This morning, one crew member died. We are not near last year's fatality level yet.

President Trump, always the fearless one, has Tweeted that Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, should be fired for saying that "It would have been nice if we would have had a better start." Fauci prefaced his remarks with a full paragraph of Trump-face-saving semantics; for crying out loud. How dare hint at the truth to a reporter.

Now a word from our sponsor: SCOTUS will be hearing certain verbal arguments about whether a certain Mr. Donald Trump must certainly surrender some of his most very private records to certain public congressional and state investigators. The president has already certainly been ordered to turn certain papers over to certain authorities. The Supreme Court issue to be verbally argued is whether or not the uncertain temporary stay of the original certain order regarding the certain papers will be certainly extended or neutrally nullified. An encore will certainly follow. Sometimes karma has a sense of humor.

Even more terrible, the Weather Service is predicting severe storms for my house today. Already my exhaust fan is running intermittently backwards because wind gusts. This will not faze the mailman, in spite of the silly stories that the postal service is about to collapse. Someone with little to write about suggested that Jeff Bezos might buy Post Office assets and double delivery prices. By the time

the middle of some days is here, I am not really sure what reality I have awoken to.

Reports surfaced in Africa that the Chinese mistreated Africans in China if they contracted Covid-19 in China. Africans are upset and who knows what the repercussions will be. China has numerous juicy African assets ripe for picking. Tyranny and rumors of tyranny lurk.

On the good news screen, Apple and perhaps Google will be displaying Coronavirus test locations by default. Again we have non-governmental organizations stepping to fill in for a sort of half confused federal system. In the maybe department, the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta announced that "We are nearing the peak." This sounds good as long as it is not windy up there.

A trivia note for today harkens back to before the Flood. BBC Report: Prague, Czechoslovakia - A traditional Czech Easter fertility ritual, involving lightly whipping women, is being canceled this year due to coronavirus. I hope this does not anger the local spirits.

Several vectors are reassuring us that the food supply is safe and moving and there will be no food shortages and no one will starve in America unless you are homeless. The grocery-warehouse-distributor storage stockpile holds sixty or ninety days supply, depending on whom you ask. This covers almost everything but produce and dairy. So far, so rosy. There are exceptions.

Exceptions will domino. Truck drivers, already in short supply, are needed to move the goods. Warehouse workers are needed to load the trucks. Food is needed to stock the warehouses. A huge example has exploded out at us. Smithfield Farms ceased production a few days ago; this stops delivery from about **2,500** hog farms. 50,000 employees are out of work. They were killing 32,000 porcine a day, churning out millions of pounds of pork per week. This is but one packing company.

Today there are reports of more and more packing plants closing. I do not eat pork, so my food is not interrupted here. I will be hit when Tyson Chicken is hit, which I totally expect to happen. We also all need our veggies. Especially if there is no meat and the pasta runs out. Not everything is machine harvested; produce may rot in the fields if pickers are not available. Food distribution is a web of chains. The chains all have weak links and not many need to fail before the web itself collapses. The vultures circle as we sleep. (Edit: Not really; there is new news later...)

Do you have an overwhelming feeling that you may starve to death? Relax, it is an illusion. There will be food.

Tens of hundreds of legions of additional layoffs were announced today. An enigma, especially for the urbanites, is that many workers cannot go back to working if the schools are bunkered. The paradox is that schools need to be among the last institutions to open. In addition to the

abundance of paradox, we are confounded by semi-circular insanity. There is no end to the mess they made.

Northeast states are trying to negotiate a protocol for restarting life. They need to get on the same page before every-one just heads out and become an every-body. I mean if this really a threat to our species. This is in no way funny only because no one knows what to think or what to do. It is all extremely complicated and no matter what the procedure turns out to be, some crackpot will complain.

There will be another wave, hopefully small and quickly contained. Yet the hysteria will start up again. Yet perhaps a Schrodinger rogue wave is possible. Yet we cannot say. We have never done this before, as Governor Cuomo is so fond of saying.

Valentina Stoycheva, a PhD clinical psychologist, says "We are living in an Orwellian novel."

April 14th

Deaths in the United States have doubled in less than a week. New York passed 10,000 deaths and globally the number now exceeds 120,000. There are hints that many of the numbers we get are skewed down, like in the UK, where only hospital deaths are reported. Some countries may be censoring some news, and North Korea does not have no anything at all whatsoever.

Unemployment is only one of the news leaders this morning; I'm saving the circus for a few paragraphs down.

Six million Americans are out of work. Amazon workers are striking; Amazon is hiring tens of thousands of workers which, based on my history books, smells like strike-breaking. The Governor of Florida is putting a few people gloriously back to work by declaring public mutual assault exhibitions, which they call "pre-fresh-ional-ras'ling," as an "essential business." I wonder if they are training to help Jeff Bezos break his strike.

Snippets of good news abound, but usually there is a flop side. One good sign is that drive-in theaters are now experiencing resurgence, as people are desperate to get out. The bad business news is that some farmers are destroying crops that they cannot sell. The really bad news is that CNN is sensationalizing isolated instances of bad news. This is irresponsible fear mongering and is a totally unsuitable reporting style considering the circumstances.

I find myself uncomfortably siding with Trump about some of CNN's reporting style; he would strongly disagree that FOX is an order of magnitude worse for hype and even outright lies.

Today at the Circus, Trump has declared that a Condition of "Mutiny" now exists in the form of state governors declaring that they, and not the president, will decide when to restart the economy. Trump's memory is like a water balloon; it holds just so much, then bursts. Only ten days ago, He was insisting that He did NOT have the authority to close down life in general. He insisted it

was up to the governors; otherwise He would be violating "state's rights" (his words).

Now Trump demands the authority to be an authority not granted by law. He was even ignorant enough to say that the states were begging for supplies that "are not federal responsibility." Governor Cuomo has stated simply that he will not join in a confrontation with Trump, but fully intends to ignore presidential orders if he sees a hazardous situation for New Yorkers.

Our economy needs to be phased in as one single sector at a time. The procedures must be confirmed in a stepwise manner. The governors know this. Trump thinks He can appear on TV on some upcoming Saturday and announce that the economy will miraculously be totally normal by Monday at quitting time. Kudos to the governors.

There are numerous TV spots pleading for the release of elderly prisoners from prison. Yet, if the prison is contained, this may be one of the safest places to be. Except in Illinois. If they are allowed to walk off, they had better stay out of the national parks, because the cities are not the only places being invaded and taken over by wild animals. (See April 2nd) Believe it or not, coyotes and bobcats and bears (Oh My!) are even taking back Yosemite National Park, of all places.

A second Christian pastor, this time in Virginia, who defied distancing guidelines and said that God was more powerful than a virus, has died of Covid-19.

Trump has suspended funding for the World Health Organization pending further investigation. Our epidemic is WHO's fault because they did their job and helped China. This is just fake finger dis-pointing, which is worse than disappointing. Now He obstructs justice by only managing dialogue.

This evening, the president is also backpedaling a bit on his powers. So He will authorize the governors to open their economy as "they see fit." He is plumb messing up the show; what a whiney little girl. We were so hoping for a Constitutional crisis. He did close his talk tonight with "the governors better do a good job or we will come down hard on them." So we still have a casual chance for a charming circus.

In closing this log for today, sadly to note, the US death toll from Coronavirus passed 25,000 before dinner, with total cases now beyond 600,000 infected souls.

April 15th

Total worldwide cases of Covid passed two million about ten a.m. this morning.

The new news is mostly just new details. There is a 20% difference in following epidemic guidelines between the Democrats and the Republicans. It seems that the Conservatives think all news is fake, so they need to worry less. Regardless, New Jersey is arresting violators of mandatory guidelines. These arrests began in late March, but you would think people would know by now. Instances

of arrests for being people have also occurred in the states of Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, New York, Ohio, Maryland and Tennessee; and are threatened in numerous other states. These arrests are also occurring in other countries, including Canada, Dubai, the UAE and Israel.

Today's international news includes a galactic outrage at Donald Trump for his crusade against the World Health Organization. The consensus is that Trump's investigation and public remarks, besides being full of innuendo, constitute a personal vendetta. Our very own Center for Disease Control in Atlanta came out in support for WHO, bless their brave hearts. I wonder if a CDC official will be threatened with firing.

The Donald's official moniker will be imprinted on the actually paper stimulus checks that are actually mailed. It is a shame that people need to cash these, as they would make fascinating political ephemera; perhaps a museum will get one.

Next, will Trump build a wall around the White house with his name on every brick? The important thing is that the poor will know that Trump is thinking about them. So you know that the law, in all its majestic equality, is allowing the poor as well as the rich to loot the treasury.

Overseas stories are mixed. Some countries seem to be over the hump, but the Japanese are not fully following epidemic guidelines. This seems most unusual, as their culture has traditionally been viewed as naturally obedient. Perhaps Western decadence is now permeating Japan. An

economic depression has been forecast for most of South America. The virus may be spreading virtually unchecked in Africa; it seems likely that a lot of news is not getting out from Africa. The situation does not seem to be improving much in Europe either. The fatality rate for those infected (world-wide) is mostly running at 5-12%, although it is only 0.5% in some small third-world countries.

I just realized that I am tracking this Covid-19 situation like it is a major historic event. I have been sucked in to a crazy reality that is really nothing more than a footnote in history. Do you see how easy it is to get over focused and forget that we have a life?

Pastors claiming that God would protect them seem to have died only in Virginia and Louisiana. Apparently this line of thinking has died out as well. Men of the cloth are dying, but most had recommended that their flocks obey the state and not their emotions.

The lack of solid knowledge about the functional aspects of Coronavirus is becoming more and more obvious. There is mounting anecdotal evidence about symptoms and long-term effects. There is no version of consensus. We do not really know if asymptomatic people are contagious, or what the incubation period is.

There is evidence of some after-effects that sound strangely like viral meningitis (neurological symptoms), but I've heard no-one use the 'm' word.

The nature, efficiency and reliability of the test procedures are foggy; there are probably only five real experts and they are too busy to talk.

April 16th

The US death toll passed thirty thousand last night. There are still nine states with less than 1000 cases of Covid-19. Recovery numbers are being posted by John Hopkins University; the US passed fifty thousand (temporarily?) cured. Uncounted bodies continue to be found, like the seventeen in a New Jersey nursing home closet.

We have seen over 22 million unemployment claims filed in the last month; 5.2 million in the last week. The Federal Small Business Loan program has run out of money. Grocery sales were up over 25% last month, but that is temporary.

Reopening the American economy is going to be as crazy as the shut-down. Trump insists that business must begin reopening May the first. The governors who have spoken all say that May 15th is the earliest that testing and case tracking will be on line. They insist that this is absolutely necessary before they allow any group contact activity. There are uneven links in the chains of test supplies. Until these logistical details are solved, nothing can go back to normal. The restaurant industry insists that they cannot operate without a functional assurance that their customers are safe to serve.

Not yet mentioned are the liability issues that this epidemic will raise. Now we know. Now we must face all of the repercussions of our actions. You better be well insured. Mua Ha Haa Haaaaa!

Our natives are apparently getting restless. In Michigan, a massive caravan of cars and vans descended on Lansing to protest the lockdown. The leaders of the movement say that it is quarantine if you lock up sick people, but tyranny to lock up non-sick people. I'll bet a nickel that this was cooked up by Republicans; just got this feeling. There are also protests in other states, including Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia. People are voting with their car tires because they are scared, not because they are locked in, as the media reports. In Texas, unemployed cars were lined up for miles to pick up food.

The Trump family is not scared, or locked down. His wife and dear children can commandeer a fleet of cars full of Secret Service agents to go out anytime they like.

The rich, as well as the poor, are feeling the pinch. Terry Bradshaw was on FOX news and whined that his rich friends are having to eat two year old steaks out of the freezer. But without sitting in a hot car all day.

Mr. President also rattled New York's cage for no apparent reason, claiming that NYC "inflated" their death count for some reason. Governor Cuomo classified Trump's remarks as "More bizarre than usual." It turned out that the counting method Trump criticized was based on a directive by Trump's Center for Disease Control, as well as

a on a number misreported by the media. Bless the press, they know not what they do. But they need to learn.

Overseas, some of the news is unsettling. Like Vietnam, who locked down in January, has fewer than 300 cases and zero deaths. This is an example of the tyranny of total lockdown, with quite vigorous enforcement and quarantine camps. Some countries are being allowed to reopen their economies. President Trump will likely not learn of these situations, so He will not punish them. I will continued to be confused, though.

The original source of Covid-19 seems not to be the one originally reported. There are also hints that everyone involved has disappeared, which could mean several things. We will likely never know the true details.

There are at least 75 lab programs working on a Covid-19 vaccine; perhaps as many as 100 labs will soon be involved. This is a complicated issue, with almost an infinite number of details. There are literally nine different ways to approach a Coronavirus vaccine. So far, there are four of these in limited clinical trials.

I happened to notice something we have seen very little of lately: new news. An actually non-virus news post was on CNN, with the same exact single story on BBC. It seems that Iran has little to do and the Iranian Navy is playing chicken with the US Navy. "Silly little children" is all one can say. That's all for the new news today.

Here we have a hint of some of the behind the scenes efforts that will not usually make the news: Jack Daniels Distillery is switched production to make hand sanitizers. This is likely not an isolated case, but will likely be one of the few points of light the media will report.

Notre Dame burned one year ago. A National Geographic documentary detailed the awesome falsework fabricated to stabilize the remaining structure so repairs could begin. This was an uplifting note in the midst of, well, you know.

We are a full month into crisis mode and there few logical hints of what the new normal will *really* be. Unless perhaps a New Normal Numbness. Most of the details we are hearing are in a temporary paradigm.

April 17th

All of the counts continue to creep. Numerology weirdness popped up today as the US total infected passed 666,666 cases and the death toll passed 33,333 on the same day. This means nothing, it is just another anomaly.

Media attention is mostly on the Great Reopening of America. Talk and counter-talk do vex us. There is a Federal plan, but the only states near ready to implement it have very low infection numbers.

Some of the commentary on TV is not funny just because it sounds like science from the Comedy Channel.

Several states have simply announced "No, Not Ready" for the Federal Plan.

Contact tracing protocol seems to be emerging, if slowly, but testing is a quagmire. Nearly every testing method has roadblocks in its supply chain. Many of the reagents are only available from Chinese suppliers. Is our technology infrastructure racing at a crawl? Probably not, as dozens of new vaccine trials have been announced. Vaccines take many moons to get to market, so "do not get infected" will be the rule for the balance of the year.

Overseas signals are mixed, with some countries starting to re-open, and some calm countries starting surges.

Trump is like a yo-yo about China; perhaps it depends on who He just spoke with. At any rate, one day the Chinese are heavenly helpful and the next day they are naughty. He is also urging the protestors forward, calling for Democratic states to be "liberated." I must wonder who, exactly, is occupying these states because you must be occupied, as an actual requirement, before you can be liberated in an actual event. This is all very confusing.

CNN had more clues of grass roots organizations stepping up to fill in for a semi-functional government. Why can't the protestors volunteer to do something useful?

Non -epidemic news for today is again a single story. Over 30 civilians were killed in Myanmar in recent weeks,

the UN says. The situation is described dire, as fighting took place between the military and an ethnic group.

Governor Cuomo pointed out something interesting; a sort of consensus illusion correction attempt. Apparently he had been hearing the phrase "emergency capacity" used when discussing the hospital load issues. Cuomo rightly said that the US has NO emergency hospital capacity, except for Corps of Engineers portable units, *and never did*. About 85% of the hospitals in America are privately owned. Some are not even *required* to treat you. We have NO emergency stockpiles of anything but oil, and little of that. There is actually more small-arms ammo in private hands than in US Military stockpiles.

Today I have my first personal note for about a week. A Walmart run for body fuel was due and I thought I would have a check to stimulate my economy. The check did not come yet. Traffic is still light and the Walmart crowd was low as well. Many more people are wearing masks now, and I wore one too, but many people were exposing their foul, virus laden breath thru the air. There was no toilet paper. My roommate went to Walmart later and noticed that a full warehouse skid (~ 4' cube) of toilet paper four-packs was being set in the front of the store. There was a sign limiting sales at one per customer. When she passed the skid again, only minutes later, there were only three packs left.

I wonder every few days if there is really an epidemic at all. One web site I glanced at said that "our species is

threatened." Nonsense. It seems that most people are immune, or nearly so. In spite of how scary the numbers may look, the total world mortality is not really that much above baseline. The county I live in has about 150,000 people, but only a little over a hundred cases. We have had one Covid-19 death, but probably several deaths from the regular flu that are not reported. The county to the east has over 500 cases, but the two counties to the west have a total of thirty cases between them. Infection rates just north and south of us are not what I would really call alarming. Over six thousand people are dying every day in the US of causes that are not reported on a daily basis.

The six o'clock CNN circus is got to be true because it is so strange. Trump was totally in charge the day before yesterday. Then, yesterday, He was letting the governors call the shots. Tonight the governors are being jumped on for trying to implement the guidelines Trump announced yesterday. Flip flop, flip flow, flip flop. It will all be good; Congress is getting mad as hell. Maybe.

April 18th

Global Covid-19 deaths are now in excess of 150,000 poor souls. United States' total cases passed 700,000 as we slept. Homeland average mortality, from just Covid-19, is eleven victims per one hundred thousand people. This is one victim per ten thousand. Where I live, the rate is less than two per hundred thousand people. These numbers depend on how you run the numbers. Ten percent of the

crew of the USS Roosevelt (~600) have now tested positive for Covid-19. Most crew members are showing no symptoms at all. Two out of 6000 have died; which is a mortality rate of 33 per one hundred thousand.

Navajo Nation, which is in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, has over 1,200 residents who tested positive for Covid-19, and nearly 50 have died out of a population of 350,000. This may be one of the many details that historians will miss when researching the current epidemic a hundred years from now.

Today's CNN and FOX chatter is all about the timetable to reopen business. The controversy is mostly about testing. The White House says it is the responsibility of the states to conduct testing. Trump says there are more than enough supplies to perform the tests. The governors insist otherwise. In spite of hopes, New York is not showing any promising new numbers. Two thousand people a day are hitting New York emergency rooms with *possible* Covid-19.

Florida has reopened some beaches on a limited basis. This is not likely significant in the big picture. In other state news, the White House is inciting protests in several of them. One commentator said that the president "suffers from a lack of admiration." Protestors suffer from a lack of knowledge. Those volunteering and doing something useful strive in spite of their knowledge.

Most foreign countries are continuing or deepening their lockdowns. Bangladesh has a refugee crisis with tens

of thousands crossing the Myanmar border to escape a civil war. I wonder how many bush wars rage in Africa.

Today's not infectious news includes Vice President Pence giving the graduation speech at the Air Force Academy. It made a strange panorama, with the cadet chairs placed in widely spaced staggered rows. I've had TV news in the background when there are no good documentaries. I really have gotten the impression that the networks are selecting one or two non-epidemic item per day as a bone thrown to variety. What do they not tell us about?

Knowing the facts, like rather low mortality rate, does not necessarily create peace of mind. Every hint of a headache or even just a pollen induced sneeze, generates a minor anxiety brain belch, a fear of sickness, which screws my thought processes round and round. The neuro-psychology of suggestibility is an overpowering force, and not just to me. I see it in the paradox of demonstrations against lock-down and I see the same basis generating a half empty town. I see fear in the paradox of agricultural communities short of groceries, in danger of collapse, as America's complex food distribution and processing chains threaten to crumble.

The only antidote besides perseverance is some activity, any activity that demands that one to think about something else.

Retail operations are doing their own planning for the reopening. Here is another example of the private sector

realizing that the government, especially at the federal level, cannot be relied on to coordinate anything. A major mall operation in Nebraska was interviewed on CNN and sounded quite logical and coherent; they see a four to six week timetable before there is any significant brick and mortar retail activity. President Trump's own holdings of hotels and resorts have laid off 2000 workers.

We are being terrorized by the worst galactic disease in a century, and, in the middle of all the confusion, the Internet is peppered with new jokes, strange parodies, odd cartoons and funny videos. It is curious in one way, but ... it is also people nature. You know the clichés; think about it. Remember that it never stops being serious just because people laugh.

I have to confess to judging the media a little harshly at times. More and more reports are coming out about real human Americans rolling up their sleeves and doing whatever needs done. I did not go back and edit out my previous remarks about the media because this is a log of the developments as they develop. This is intended as a real-time record of impressions as they were received by me and as twisted by my perception in real time. Plus I am not a politician, so it is OK for me to admit to being wrong sometimes.

There was a marvelous special on TV with all these rays of joy that still exist if you remember how to see. Famous song artists joined with music and wonderful

messages for all of us. I got choked up in spite of the musician's living room audio engineering.

April 19th Checks to here

The US death toll from Covid-19 has passed 40,000. The total case load is rapidly closing on three quarters of a million. Over 250 nursing homes in California have active cases of the virus.

Ninety percent of school students on Earth are currently denied a classroom experience. Most of them do not have remote learning setups. Over two thousand languages have been infected with Covid-19. Consider for a moment the issues of coordination that the UN faces. Think about contact tracing where every other contact speaks a different bilingual combination. This is not rare in Africa; there are literally places where you need multiple translators. Americans think that a single second language is a social intrusion. Oh, if it were so easy.

On the home front, anti-lock-down protests continue, spreading a little and are active in California, Colorado, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin, but each seems to be shrinking in size. Also in Ohio, one prison has 1300 inmates who have tested positive for Covid-19. Ohio's total prison population was about 49,000 about a month ago. This single outbreak, meaning not including other prisons, represents 2.6 percent of the total Ohio prison population. This compares to the general US

infection rate of **0.2** percent. This really is less than one percent; it is not a typographical error.

A thousand miles south of Ohio, already entombed people are facing another round of devastating tornados. Fifty million people are under storm watch.

Little shops all over America are stopping regular work and switching to medical mask production. Kudos.

On my home front, I went out for an essential errand today. We are under an order to wear masks in public. The two stores I visited had signs on the doors denying entry to those without masks. Not a problem, as while I really did not hear about the order, I was already wearing a mask anyhow. Locally, the case rate is stable, with no uptick in days. Locally, news I can act on is grab it quick or miss it. The active cases are in Zip codes east of me.

Overseas, there is an Internet rumor that countries with female leaders are posting better numbers in regard to Covid-19 containment. South Africa gangs have declared a truce to assist relief efforts. That's two wars on hiatus. The Italian Mafia apparently has a box with \$75 billion in cash. They have been called "Italy's biggest bank." They are buying shares in businesses to keep them solvent; they will be taking IOUs in votes. The Mafia is not on hiatus; this may become ugly.

Yesterday the president, for some reason only He can understand, made the statement that Obama left our military without any ammunition in its stockpiles. Some

people no doubt believed him, even though it was a deliberate and blatant lie.

Since Trump brought the subject up, if we had no ammo, our guns were not used, our military must be paralyzed. So can we use DOD money for medical equipment? Also, since you have had 3 1/2 years to screw around, why did you not get critical stockpiles replenished? Huh? We deserve an answer. But we will not get a truthful answer, will we?

The states are supposedly responsible for testing people for Covid-19. The states do not have enough testing supplies. When they try to fulfill their responsibility by purchasing essential supplies (like from China) they are branded as renegades by the White House. What is a body to do? It is fairly obvious that you are darned if you don't and darned if you are.

The BBC asked "Could Donald Trump delay the presidential election?" Is this becoming a story about an epidemic in the White House? It is genuinely and strictly a matter of how much you do not see with your eyes. I wonder if Trump fully realizes that actual people are watching him in real time, every day and all the time.

April 20th

America passed three quarters of one million total cases and forty thousand fatalities from Covid-19 alone. There have still been many more deaths from other causes. New York posted their lowest daily death toll in

many days, at under 500. Numbers nearly everywhere seem to be getting a little better; but who can really know what turns this craziness will take.

To answer yesterday's closing questing, our fearless leader seems to have been thunderstruck by the realization that us informed types do not realize how wonderful a job He is doing as He Makes America Groan. Perhaps it is because the governors are whining about shortages they need help with. Also that some federal help would help.

Trump has retreated behind a wall of select video snips. His staff have managed to find a lot of clips of people praising him; humm-humm-humm; grey noise. One TV commentator was being clever and called Trump the "Scapegoater in Chief."

There is a TV spot of front-line medical care provider people saying that "We are doing our job, we need Donald Trump to do his." Here are some sobering numbers: On the front line, 2/3rds of the care-givers are women and 1/3rd are low-income.

Demonstrations took an interesting twist. Doctors and nurses are physically blocking protest caravans. Physically standing in the road and blocking cars, they are. Protests show little sign of evaporating. There was a crowd of 1000 in Harrisburg and new demonstrations in New Mexico.

Florida is opening their beaches. Like many protestors, many beach-goers were not wearing masks.

BTW - We learned this morning that the World Health Organization had American citizen type employees who were not only monitoring the Covid-19 situation, but were also in frequent real time contact with the White House. It seems that many of the recent "breaking" facts are primarily emphasizing the fact that the White House is lying about everything. It is slime, spin and swirl. Am I having a Nixonian Uncanny Valley experience?

I think I forgot to mention that the profiteer predators are coming out of the swamp. They will all relieve you of some of your fears as well as part of your money. There are new warnings today. People are trying to cash counterfeit stimulus loan checks. The ingenuity of the unscrupulous never stops, does it?

A chorus of screams is rising over cash flow issues small businesses are having. We have a perception that small businesses are Republican. I wonder if Republicans know that accepting government financial assistance is clearly a form of S. o. c. i. a. l. i. s. m?

Turkey, not locked down, has passed China in total cases. China, taking advantage of the lockdown, arrested a number of dissidents in Hong Kong. Tyranny and rumors of tyranny; again.

Differential distraction today is about a rampage of carnage in Nova Scotia, where an average guy described as really nice flipped out and killed twenty three people. You never know, do you?

An epidemiology professor at Harvard, Bill Hange, said on CNN that the United States is at the beginning of its epidemic. Really; he really said *the beginning*. (Primal Scream!!!!)

April 21st

World Covid-19 case totals passed two point five million unfortunate suffering bodies. Consider that on April 2nd, total cases hit one million. Then, about two weeks later, on April 15th, the numbers passed two million cases; that was less than a week ago.

United States deaths have doubled in a week. Again!!! America has seen over 25,000 new cases a day for over a week now. New York, the Empire State, has become a virtual country by leading the entire planet in Covid-19 statistics. *It is almost as bad as last year.*

Only half of Earth's people population is now living under some kind of social restrictions.

Governor Cuomo is steadily coming across as well informed; one of the few. His rhetoric is civil, logical and demonstrates real leadership. Cuomo's metaphors are on point, like "We cross the swamp by stepping on the stones, staying on solid footing, one step at a time."

New York is proactive, for example putting 1000 people on task to clear the unemployment backlog. He seems to be neither exaggerating nor sugar coating the

situation. It is to our detriment that we cannot say the same about the White House.

Big business, not small, is getting most of the federal financial help. I insist that the administration is using the epidemic as cover to *loot the treasury* and deregulate crimes against the vulnerable. John Kerry made an explicit statement to this effect regarding the environment. President Trump is master of misdirection, pulling excuses out of a hat and has a huge grin because of what is going on backstage.

Massive long term unemployment has hit the, what was for a while, the self-sufficient (or so Trump said) American domestic petroleum industry. At least the oil barons say they do not want a bail-out; but they will take a fee-free loan.

It is a shame we are unable to fill our salt domes with negative \$35 per barrel oil. President Bush, being an oil guy, would have seen the profit potential in this.

Protests are not what they used to be back during The War. Facebook would have been a handy tool in 1969; today it is just a controversy platform.

Some Facebook groups are organizing demonstrations that advocate socially stupid, because disease-spreading, social events. Assuming that Covid-19 is a threat. Facebook has a policy to block announcements that promote criminal and other socially stupid acts.

Here are some choice cover-up quotes:

- Donald Trump Jr. (R-Heir), who although He has not yet been formally named, is practicing anyhow, accusing Facebook of "colluding with states to quash people's free speech."
- Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) "I'm concerned that they and government officials are partnering to shut down views."
- Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo) asked if "free speech is now illegal in America?"

Republicans are threatening legislation that allows revenge against Internet companies that allow non-Republican bias on their web sites. You know, like Josh Hawley said.

Republicans are virtually advocating that people spread Covid-19 by accusing Facebook of suppressing free speech. I am sorry, but I am not going to apologize because some speech is somewhat restricted.

It is illegal to cry fire in a crowded theater that is not burning. Likewise, you would be very prosecuted for deliberately misdirecting a fire-fleeing crowd that led people to certain death. Facebook is preventing exactly this species of misdirection. CNN, not so much.

A sane voice can be found in Sen. Blumenthal's (D-Conn) tweet: "Powerful special interests are using astroturfing & dangerous tactics to undermine the fight

against Covid-19. Facebook is right to take a stand against harmful misinformation.”

President Trump is issuing an Executive Order to stop immigration that is not happening. This will distract people from the real issues and get brownie points from his under educated supporters. This is a brilliant political move. Praise is everything. Whoops! A number of Americans, governors and pundits alike, are yelling "Politics, not public health." Being a self-employed narcissist is hard in America; it takes all his time.

Numerous governors are (experimentally?) reopening the economy in their states. So far, at least Georgia, Nebraska, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas are allowing activity with some minor restrictions. Whether they do or do not, they all get flak hurled from both ends of the confusion. They say that this will either work or there will be a disastrous resurgence. Bunk! In half the states the result will be a mix. We can say no more, statistically speaking, considering we have very little useful data.

My serious impression is that both ends of the scenario spectrum, from hoax-insisters to extreme-pan-phobics, are simply missing big chunks of fact. They are both 50% right, but they themselves seem to be totally oblivious as to which half they are wrong about. Of course, none of us can know.

Apparently Major League Baseball, stadiums, affiliates and so forth hold substantial chunks of cash collected for seasonal tickets. In spite of all their other troubles, they do

not get to keep the money. A lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles to force refunds, which in one case mentioned in the case, was \$1,730. I do not have the other numbers, but if you work the math, this is likely an ouch-and-moan amount of money.

Psychology thinks it has a big mystery on its hands. The lockdown caused by coronavirus seems to be have an effect on people's dreams. Social media is buzzing about unusually vivid experiences. Why this is happening seems to puzzle the psychologists. What is so hard? People are actually getting enough sleep for the first time in their lives. This crisis is just a different form of chaos. So it creates a little different internal environment. No mystery here at all.

April 22nd

The case and death numbers are of course still climbing; by definition they cannot decrease. Thankfully, there are no psychological significant milestones today.

Deaths at nursing homes continue to mount, but little in the way of details is hitting the media. New York had 28 nursing home deaths yesterday alone. This is one aspect that will not be fully known for at least weeks. Nursing homes may be on the verge of depopulation; there is no way to know anything for sure. There are also additional deaths in prisons all over the country.

There seems to always be some element of vagueness or incompleteness in every report that appears.

More food processing plants are also closing because of infected employees. Some of these write thousands of paychecks every week. We shudder to consider what next Monday's unemployment numbers may be.

Every day there are new repercussions not considered by the public or by public planners. Nearly ninety cruise ships are stranded just offshore; thousands of crew members are stuck with no shore leave. Someone must get food to them, and there must be an aura of panic over on-board Covid-19 possibilities.

Every employer in America seems to have unique issues with the safety of returning employees. Harvesting has different protocol from assembly lines, and warehouses are different compared to retail. There are questions about testing needs as well as supplies, both for testing and PPEs. An environment of illness in employment is an explicit violation of federal regulations.

California health officials revealed that autopsies show that two residents died of Covid-19 on February 6th, dating the first deaths to **three weeks** earlier than first reported (February 28th). This throws a serious wrench in both the timeline and the blame game. Especially since the deceased had not traveled to China. **This proves that the virus was in the wild in California before being reported in the state of Washington at all.**

Before I jump on Trump today, I would like to point out that, when I remember, I try to be fair. I must admit that, in some ways, I feel a little sorry for our president.

Even when He actually makes sense, someone has something detrimental to say. Yesterday, at a press conference, Trump said that after general containment is achieved, it would be a matter of putting out fires. This is actually a good analogy. Control the perimeter, then work your way in, just like a forest fire. I should be taking names, but someone countered this with a rant that Covid-19 was some kind of special super situation that required some sort of unspecified uber-action. We are already doing that. The critic presented very little rhetoric with any sort of logical basis. I can do that; why can't I get a fee?

The White House is canceling new Green Cards (legal immigrant ID). Who will work the harvesting operations and packing plants? There will be at least a short term shortage of workers in these areas. If Trump thinks that owners of small shops that went out of business are going to pick green beans and pack fruit, He is sadly mistaken. Americans do not do stoop labor and they do not like packing lines. Trust me, I have worked in a few food processing operations and people hate it unless they are making \$20 an hour.

A contractor that I was estimating jobs for about ten years ago said to me that, "White boys will not dig ditches. We are grateful for our Hispanic workers. We would not survive without them." Trump should consider putting that in his toupee and patting it.

There are glitches in mailing stimulus checks for recipients with no bank account. Trump wanted his name

on the checks and the imprint held up mailing. This was solved by a genius that pointed out that the banks mail millions of debit cards out all the time. Duh! Again.

Adding to the mounting inequity data, it turns out that large restaurant chains got major cash loans, but small operations were left out in the Covid. We are supposed to be joyous that the wellspring of Wall Street does not seem to be all that deep into the pit of suffering. In case you did not get in line last time, Congress just gave away another half a trillion dollars to various businesses. Do you wonder how much \$484 billion actually is? For 330 million people, it works out to \$1,4**66.67** for every man, woman and child in the country.

This time it is a lot different, though. The money is for hospitals and the smaller shops and for testing needs. Imagining that Congress is being logical and meeting actual needs causes cognitive dissonance; who would have thought this was even possible?! (President Trump is not in any way the only crisis management issue.) Financial news is not all rosy; the states are almost all running out of money.

It has been three months since the Wuhan lockdown; CNN returned to check the situation. The food market, where Codiv-19 supposedly originally went wild, is still completely closed. The police also closed down the CNN film crew, and no one was interviewed. Wuhan's new normal is elevators marked for separation, tissue provided

to touch buttons and getting your clothing sprayed as you enter some buildings. At least if CNN is in town.

This is almost, in some ways, like a good time to not have a family. Governor Cuomo had a little talk today, showing personal sympathetic experience with being closed in with a house full of people. Tension exists on numerous levels; personal, inter-personal, and with our social systems, as well as ... well, you know by now.

Fully equipped and supplied laboratories in New York, working at maximum capacity, can do forty thousand tests per day, if they are working 24/7. But there are a lot of buts, as Governor Cuomo said. If all machines do not break; all labs do not run out of a single key test element; all stations are not unmanned.

There are enough machines; until they break down, because they are not engineered to run 24/7 non-stop for weeks. Technicians are also rare and supplies are iffy. Forty thousand tests a day may not be sufficient to operate a New York state Covid-19 economy.

The New Normal will be everywhere. We will not hear about old colors that are the new black any longer. We have new cliché humor. Sometimes it will surely be just as ridiculous as new colors for other colors became.

For example, a real US Senator already said that "Russian interference in US elections will be the New Normal." An issue here, however, is that this aura of acceptance is tantamount to almost applause.

April 23rd

All new case and death numbers are still rising; most increases are just a little less painful. New York City is listed as a country in the death totals on John Hopkins University on-line Dashboard. 50% of European deaths may be in nursing homes.

Cases of attempted suicide by exposure to Covid-19 have been reported.

There were 4.4 million new unemployment signups in the last week. The five-week total is now 26.4 million. The job losses have now surpassed all job gains since the 2009 financial crisis hit. There are more hints of massive retail failures.

Dissent may not be what it seems to be. First, an update on demonstrations, which have now occurred in 18 states. Fueled by fans of conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, the militia in Illinois (with John Roland as propaganda officer) has threatened to "open the state" themselves. They were also fueled by Trump Tweets to "Liberate" the states. Events are reruns.

I suppose that the nurses who stood up to protesters are domestic terrorists because they interfered with protestors who were exercising their rights. The nurses are lucky that they are indispensable, or they may be chatting with the FBI. Few governments will tolerate impeding fearless leader sanctioned demonstrations. Do not laugh; the FBI is really that crazy sometimes.

Legislatures in some state, like Michigan, are siding with the demonstrators and considering statutory action to end the horrible restrictions caused by such a trivial planetary epidemic. Some factions in America sure seem intent on disharmony, generating social disconnection, impeding compromise ... by playing on people's fears. This style of maneuver is a standard choice of authoritarians.

Anti-war demonstrations should have been called pro-peace actions. They were seeking the end of conflict. The demonstrations this month are an extremely different kind of street action compared to the 1960s and 70s.

On the same day, Trump criticized the governors for opening before safety protocols are in place. Playing both sides of a fence is also one way to start a civil war. Survey results say 66% of Americans want to follow science. Imagine that. There are forces behind the scenes and on social media intent on stirring conflict. It seems to be conflict for its own sake.

I do not buy into any conspiracy theories; they are not necessary to explain anything. Con-Theory just adds another layer of illusion to a situation. However, there is ample evidence that the Trump administration is disassembling environmental rules, wrecking the National Park system, and removing treasures and treasured protections alike.

In the meantime, taxes on the rich are being slashed and the epidemic is being used as cover to literally loot the treasury. This insinuation is not a joke, but a sad literal

truth. Look at what has happened in cash handouts. Your grandchildren's national treasure is being stolen by shuffling paper. By. . . The. . . Billions. . .

I wonder which side of the witchcraft show I am on. I try to watch my Fran-che, but WTF!?! The US Attorney General is filing friend of the court briefs. These filings are in favor of protestors who are filing suits against their governors, who are following President Trumps reopening directives.

So Trump's AG is helping to thwart Trumps publically proclaimed policy?

MSNBC declared an "Official White House Three Ring Circus." This is totally not fair. Trump is more creative than that. His circus has five to seven rings, depending on day to day changing needs. This is a dynamic situation.

CNN interviewed Carolyn Goodman, the mayor of Las Vegas, who does not understand why casinos cannot reopen yet. She said that she did not know how it would work, but that would be the casino's problem. The mayor complained that we do not have enough blind studies to justify continued shutdown. Blind studies???

Anderson Cooper let her fry herself with his simple, to the point, questions. The next guest was Nevada's governor Sisolak, who was rather unhappy with Goodman's lackadaisical attitude. The mayor of Las Vegas must have been watching the White House press briefing, because it was said there that tattoos and haircuts can be

performed without violating social distancing. This should be really-really easy if you have really-really long arms.

The double whammies are around every corner. In a press conference late yesterday, Trump insisted that Covid-19 would definitely be totally **gone** by autumn. Almost in the next sentence, his CDC spokesman said that Covid-19 would absolutely be **back** with certainty this autumn. (Paraphrased.) Then Trump insisted that the CDC did not say that. Then the CDC insisted that they were correctly quoted. Round and square we go. A CNN reporter called it Trump's "traveling medicine show." This continued in the evening, with the president claiming that warm weather will kill the virus and Dr. Fauci saying not to rely on warm weather to help.

A rumor is circulating that elections in Wisconsin spread the virus. That voting could be so dangerous never occurred to anyone. Except in countries that do not allow elections. I'll offer no suggestions regarding what some sectors may think about where this could go.

Lines of 1000 cars of people waiting for food are still being reported. Bless those that help!

In other good news, Liberty Mutual and State Farm Insurance companies have returned \$Billions in premiums for car coverage. They in no way needed to do this. Kudos!

Subway has donated 15 million meals. Kudos!

Banks made a reported \$10 Billion in fees they collected processing the small business emergency loans. Bankers all grin when demigods rant. Everyone repeat with me: Let's all loot the treasury!!! They get NO kudos!

The courts must not have much to do, what with crime down. In other a moronic action, the Missouri State Official Attorney General has filed suit for damages against China for costs related to Covid-19. I'll spare his name, but he must have missed class the day they taught the ancient doctrine of sovereign state immunity. (Translation: It violates international law to sue foreign countries that own stockpiles of nuclear weapons.)

Not only that, but we have some Red Queen stuff. If you consider flying gunboats to be impossible. President Trump has issued orders that naughty acting Iranian gun boats be "shot down." Really, I'm not making that up. It was not a typo; it was a Tweet. He said the boats are to be "shot down." They must have flying gunboats.

BBC has a small variety of non Covid-19 titbits. An Arabian tribe has dared challenge the Saud crown prince's plan for a new tech city. The House of Saud keeps tanks of insecticide for that. Indonesia revealed that the site of their new capital city is an ideal location for a tsunami. There are wildfires in Poland. Earth is so unfair.

Very bad news is coming because there are countries at major risk for famine, including Yemen, the Congo, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Ethiopia, both of the Sudans,

Syria, Nigeria and Haiti. They say that if not for Covid-19, African locus swarms would be big news.

By the way, they say that you can forget summer vacation this year. Unless you already live in a vacation spot.

April 24th

The United States passed fifty thousand deaths from Covid-19 alone today. Some good news is beginning to trickle out. So far, 4.7 million Americans have been tested. John Hopkins University is posting recovery numbers. Out of 2.75 million total cases, about 750,000 recoveries have now been logged. Eighty thousand of the recovered are in the United States.

Remember that another two million distressed persons remain. Death rate curves are different everywhere. Many voices warn of another spike of new cases.

States are beginning to open in spite of warnings of a re-surge. The impact of this will not be seen until at least a few days after the 5-10 day incubation period runs again.

In Atlanta, a teen-ager did not want to follow state policy to stay home. When he returned, an argument with his step-father over the lock-down started, resulting in the now armed step-father putting a bullet in the teenager. Capital murder charges have been filed, but I would bet a ball of mud that that this is not an isolated case. Epidemics

can be like a long winter; especially if they start at the *end* of winter. Cabin fever makes city people uncanny.

Long shots happen every day. Who would have thought that a 100-year-old man, whose *twin brother* died from the Spanish Flu a 100 years ago, would die from Covid-19 in 2020? This actually happened in New York.

Our circus du jour is Donald Trump's suggesting the injection of disinfectants, meaning into the actual people body itself, should be investigated as a possible anti-viral. Everyone else with any sense immediately scrambled their paper airplane force to intercept this nonsense.

The company that makes Lysol launched a mission warning that no one should inject or drink Lysol. These products are to be kept away from anyone who may misuse them, such as children and presidents.

The FDA let loose a barrage warned families not to let anyone inhale bleach fumes. This definitely does disinfect the lungs; it also prevents oxygen from being absorbed, so do not try this inside or out. Do not consider even attempting this until you actually witness Mr. Trump demonstrate the proper bleach inhalation procedure in the Rose Garden.

BREAKING NEWS: Donald Trump says He was actually just asking a "sarcastic question" of a reporter, and not suggesting research on injecting Lysol. CNN replayed the original words coming out of the president's mouth. He lied outright about his sarcasm. We also know that He

explicitly approached the CDC with this suggestion that internal disinfectant be researched. The reply was not simple; it was "No," but in bigger words.

He said "here we go again," about criticism. People need to stop criticizing him for reacting to criticism. Trump has emphasized over and over for days that He is "Just here to make suggestions." He is *only* the Suggester-In-Chief. Leadership is a governor's job.

Trump has not ever gotten so much intense media exposure. He has yet to learn the impact that seeing someone in action can have on public perception.

Additional information has been released that indicates there was already the presence of Covid-19 in the United States in February. DNA analysis reveals that there was an unrecognized outbreak in Italy. Models show that perhaps *thirty thousand* people were infected in the US prior to initial media sensationalism.

Worldwide, governments are censoring information and journalists are being harassed or arrested for posting bad news. On every continent on the planet. Including in the continent called the Oval Office.

April 25th.

Covid-19 cases in the United States have passed 900,000. Worldwide deaths will pass 200,000 today. In most areas, numbers for new cases seem to be dropping.

There is no good news. There is no good news. There is no good news. Wrong!!! Wrong, wrong, wrong!!!

Sorcerers of light, their numbers legion, including children and small shops and grandmothers and high school coaches have materialized. A multitude of these and others too numerous to possibly mention, have stepped up to conjure basic medical equipment and help with whatever need is needed all around. They have brought out their magic sewing machines and 3D printers and laser cutters and everything else that good old-fashioned American MacGiverism can use to shape-shift reality into relief. It is like MacGyver has spawned MacGiver. Hail Humans!

Sadly, if the forces of the dark side had done something besides incite chaos and separation, this crisis would have been contained by now.

Speaking of which, the White House army group seems in full disorganized retreat over being caught red-handed in a stupid lie. One commentator said that Trump has "Cut and run." The response ranges from a mild call from the Boston Globe for Trump to resign, to CNN screaming "Lier, LIer, LIER!" from the top of their anchors. Trump's attempt to cover up what was just a suggestion for disinfection has, shall we say, back-infected. Yet there are those who insist that He was actually misquoted.

This year's elections are lining up to be selection by post proxy. A number of states have announced that all ballots will be the absentee type due to social distancing.

Elections in one state have reputedly spawned some virus spread. Will the ballots be color coded for the primaries? You know, to prevent people from voting for the wrong party.

Sports are back in view. Tele-drafting seems to be the rule for next season. I'm not sure how this actually works, but I'll bet it is frustrating to someone. Many things are frustrating until they become the normal. Psychologically, this is Pre-Habituation Frustration Syndrome. Relax, they will get over it. Once re-habituated. There is no way that sports will be interrupted. Gladiator exhibitions have always been available in all cultures calling themselves civilized. It is a stress release for the masses.

We hope we like TV reruns. CNN has suggested hints that this is all the TV we are going to get. This will not be an issue for me once the local library opens. I can see some people, craving excitement, going mad by watching the same reruns running over and over again.

April 26th

Total world deaths have passed 200,000. The US has tested over five million citizens. It seems that several Covid-19 numbers will be hitting some nasty milestones tonight as we sleep.

The White House has finally revealed the sad facts concerning the alleged advice to inject disinfectants. As it turns out, this was entirely the fault of the media. Because they should have known better by now than to broadcast

Trump's remarks without Him having even half a chance to backpedal.

What seems really-really odd is this incident is one that was responsibly and correctly reported by the media. Yet, we give them no rousing cheers just because they get it right every now and then.

In other media news, meaning about the media itself, some conflict creating website is accusing the USDA of letting tons of food rot while the food banks are bare. First of all, the food does not belong to the USDA, which is a government agency not holding physical type food chain resources. Second, the food is rotting because restaurants are closed and there no alternative processing facilities available. Third, food banks actually are getting some of this food, and they are handing out food to the needy in multi-tonnage lots.

The three letter media may be in a position to be the only propoganda phonics, because many local news outlets are now half shut down because of crisis furloughs. These institutions serve quite a number of important local needs. They are a vital public service. You may become easier to manipulate if they disappear.

Conflicting communication continues confusing citizens. In a survey of four major prisons, holding over 3000 inmates, 95% of them tested positive for Covid-19. Only a handful are showing symptoms. Because they do not watch much FOX or CNN.

Is this disease really dangerous for the average person? Is this situation as insane as we are being told, or are we all insane because our priorities are all mixed up? Should we be concentrating on localizing those with diabetes, obesity and such, who seem to be the ones dying? Given the steady froth of nescience floating around, how are we to know what to believe?

Trump has also, BTW, brought the poison control centers up to the front line of His little war. Since the disinfectant debacle descended, calls to poison hotlines are way up for... wait for it ... poisoning by disinfectants.

Glory be! With one third of the population of Earth stuck somewhere, air pollution continues to drop. Animals continue reoccupying territory they were once driven out of, meaning cities.

The Veterans Administration has a TV spot pleading for medical personal "at all levels." It is a shame that we are on the outs with Cuba, as they have doctors and nurses to spare. In fact, they recently sent 1,200 of them overseas, as part of Cuba's foreign aid program. It is a real shame that the grandchildren of Cuban criminal fugitives, who happened to hide in Florida, are still preventing relations with the good and wonderful Cuban people.

Probably mentioned by some commentator, but missed by me, is the likelihood of massive credit card defaults. I hope this is not excessively painful for the banks. They have suffered enough, what with all the sweat from processing loan fees. While the subject is money, can

anyone explain how the Stock Market is doing so well with such a wrecked economy?

Normal crime is way down. Criminals are always the first economic sectors to adjust to a new normal. Some of the new is reinvention; snake oil is back with a new bite. Over one million scam and profiteering products have been removed so far from TheBigRiverInSouthAmerica[dot]com. [2022 note: Kindle Direct Publishing does not allow an author to mention Amazon.com in their books.]

A variety of financial angles have been worked, such as fake store fronts seeking loans and counterfeit stimulus checks. Much of the new normal will be very old school.

April 27th

Total cases on Earth will likely exceed three million today. The US will likely see a full million cases, as we are only about 15,000 below that. Oddly, total cases in the entire African continent are only about 30,000, with deaths below 1500. Except no one is collecting numbers.

News has been routine the last two days. Most of the reports are about the pros and cons of individual states reopening; or not.

Is there a video still available of the press conference a few days ago, where President Trump suggested injecting disinfectant to cure Covid-19? One version shown on CNN has a focused view on Dr. Deborah Birx, one of Trump's medical advisors. Her body language is

fascinating. As the injection suggestion is made, she looks away, as if "I'm not part of this." Then, as the silly semantics continue, Dr. Birx seems to try to make herself smaller, like "I am not really here." Here is a delicious study in people psychology.

Vast complication can arise out of a simple little virus. It seems that cyber-attacks have morphed a bit. There have been increased intrusions into medical and related infrastructure in the US. Analysts report that the attack signatures indicate the likelihood of a state actor or actors being involved.

Complications consume us, especially regarding official pronouncements. It is a good thing that projections are not advice, or we would be spinning in spirals instead of just circles. It seems the economy is going to rebound very nicely, except that it will be collapsing beyond immediate repair. Somehow, this is unclear.

It is also no wonder that public confusion is turning from frustration to mass uncertainty. People are afraid; they do not really know how to react.

It is even less encouraging if one looks elsewhere. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre says Covid-19 adds further risks to millions of already vulnerable people. Over 45 million have left homes due to violence. Five million are displaced by disasters. There were 33 million new displacements recorded in 2019, the highest annual figure since 2012.

Tony Spell is back in the news as one of the pastors who insists on flouting social distancing guidelines. He defied house arrest yesterday by hosting a congregation for a Sunday service. Spell, casting a sermon, was seen in the Life Tabernacle Church in Baton Rouge Sunday, walking among more than one hundred seekers.

Tyson Foods is promoting hysteria by claiming that the food supply chain is "breaking." This may be true about the restaurant supply chain, but as we now know, this is a separate supply chain from the supply chain that supplies the grocery supply chain.

It is mostly different farms, different processing plants, different warehouses and different distribution systems. It may indeed be a rough six months while this sector restabilizes. Just do not get the idea that these facilities have been eliminated. The buildings did not fall down. The infrastructure is quite sound.

The system will restabilize as it has in the past. These networks are always under the stress of weather and changing demand and other factors. The networks adjust; it works itself out.

Besides, surveys show that people with more money eat out more often; simple. People with higher incomes are always less affected by these changes; they will return to the restaurants. Most importantly, television indicators are that pizza does not seem to be impacted by the crisis, so life does go on.

April 28th

The US passed *one million* cases this afternoon. Of three million Covid-19 cases world-wide, over two million have been listed as recovered; a 33% rate. Of the US cases, 100,000 recoveries are logged; a 10% rate.

Seattle's University of Washington is home of the some of the world's top epidemiologists. They were collecting flu spread data, and happened to be doing studies in secret because of a silly CDC restriction.

As it turns out, they went back and analyzed their samples. And, as it turns out, the University of Washington had Sars-Cov-2 virus samples in their lab in early February. This means that the virus was certainly here in January and possibly was in the population even earlier.

So why no Christmas crisis? Why did hospitals not start filling in February? **Was there an actual epidemic before an epidemic was announced?**

Many individual states are reopening their culture. People know by now that the economy only got half put on hold, but lives seem to be shut down. All the experts are doom-saying over society trying to normalize. People are scared, but need to move on. In two to three weeks, we will learn if the new whatever wisdom will work. Perhaps we should beware the Ides of May.

Tyson's 'breakdown' was back in the news, sort of. The governor of Arkansas was on TV and noted that his state had about sixty major meat processing plants. Every

last one of them is operating, and at normal capacity. They are being scientific, so they will likely continue operating.

Tyson is trivial, in the sense that if they go bankrupt, someone will buy their facilities and start them back up. Collapse of the 'food chain,' indeed. This is nothing more than irresponsible hysteria conjuring.

Do not let them confuse you with a bunch of 'facts.' Facts are putty in their nimble world.

Disinfectant injectant is still part of the lingering chatter. Trump said "No, I don't take responsibility for the spike in people ingesting disinfectant." The BBC picked this act up, so everyone on Earth who does not make stone arrowheads knows by now.

The Boston Globe, an old-fashioned paper newspaper, does not like Donald J. Trump. They are suggesting that the White House be disinfected with Lysol.

Howard Stern (who remembers him?) got into the act, suggesting, and not by wink and hint, that all those Trump supporters should be drinking their disinfectant. This is very naughty-think, and an over-reaction, as the Trumpers merely need education.

Several days ago it was noted that all this mess is the media's fault. White House staff has repeated this, saying behind the scenes that the media should have given more air time to the specialists and less air time to the narcissists.

President Trump does not, in any way, need any air time to embarrass himself. He has Twitter. Trump jumped on the media, lashing out that they should do a better job, considering all "the Noble Prizes for reporting that they have been awarded." BTW, There is no Nobel Prize for reporting and he also did not spell Nobel correctly. The Tweet went delete, but not before a screen-shot.

Overseas, the typical is all that is going on. Covid-19 has an expression with a variability that can only be appreciated by looking at world-wide numbers and local conditions and all the response protocols.

April 29th

As we approach the end of the first full calendar moon of crisis, the fatality total is approaching 60,000 unfortunates in the US alone. World deaths will pass one quarter of a million shortly.

Yet, we are nowhere close to the numbers made by the 1918 Flu; Earth now has a heap bigger population. The 1918 Flu infected 500 million people, a third of the world's population at the time. This is equivalent to **2.5** billion infected today. The current world-wide total is **0.03** billion.

The death toll is estimated to have been anywhere from 17-50 million; being 2-3% of the population. This is equivalent to **200** million deaths with today's population. The current fatality total is **0.2** million, or **0.003%**. Well over 40 million births have occurred so far in 2020.

Notice that there about the same number of zeros, but the significant ones are all on the other side of the decimal point. The population of Earth was 1.8 billion in 1917. Then in 1927, it passed 2.0 billion. The years around 1918 came nowhere near extinction.

In the really big show, Covid-19 is benign. It is a bit-player, an inflated illusion like the monster under the bed. The paradox inherent in life and death views cannot be solved except by those who died. Yet we remain and the living are what is important to the children.

The part that everyone will comment on, but like, you know, will do nothing about, is America's Disease Management System. Everyone is a problem-identifier, but other than the Humans mentioned thru this diary, no one wants to get their hands dirty. Congress looks all regal in their power ties. A lot of the stage Acts of Congress consists of ten thousand page menus that spread around a tasty chef's salad with a generous topping of bacon.

Covid-19 was a crisis up-in-your-face in one single place - the illusion that America has a health care system.

Speaking of humans, Elon Musk has been barking about the lockdown. "FREE AMERICA NOW," he tweeted, sending out news articles about plans to relax social restrictions in some states. Millionaire libertarian T.J. Rodgers joined in, in the New York Times. He pointed to the relaxed lockdown in Sweden, a Socialist country, as a success. Data is so easy to cherry pick.

There is an unnamed, though common, malady in politics that I call Economy Psych Semantic Syndrome. This is the phenomena where dollar numbers are thrown as psych-ops in order to confuse reporters. The reporters then report the story incompletely, and everyone has something to argue about. In Washington, this is called politics. Out here in the boonies it is called pathetic.

For example, and this is directly related to the Covid-19 situation, Senators from Kentucky and Florida are warning about a bailout for financially devastated New York. New York did not ask for a bail out. Governor Cuomo asked the Federal government to assist **ALL** states with the financial burden of Covid-19.

Yet New York pays \$38 billion more in taxes to Washington than the feds return to NY. So far, OK, as New York is not poor. BUT, the states of Florida and Kentucky (see previous paragraph) received over \$30 billion *each in extra funds* from the feds; over and above what they pay in taxes. (A bailout every year.) The copper frying pan is calling the copper pot a gull-darn copper thing.

President Trump has ordered meat processing plants to stay open as an essential national security industry. This does not mean that the White House will be getting bacon on a regular basis, as the workers are declaring sovereign immunity. They say they will be going to work when they are well good and safely-over-protected-ready. Sovereign immunity means that the workers can decide; this also applies by the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

What the White House does not seem to know, is that meat packing plants hire them-there aliens. Also except the governors can blackmail the workers with unemployment checks. If anyone thinks any of this is simple, please explain. My personal opinion is that it is all about bacon.

They may be no end of the chaos. As soon as one crisis falls away, another new unforeseen appears. Now they say that we will have a major shortage in general medical supply. I tell them not to worry. As soon as you are out of everything, there will be a task force. They will come to a consensus about the nature of the problem. By the time they figure it out, the Chinese will have increased production and resupplied everyone. So be relaxed.

The script in our grand opera took a turnover to ad-lib last night, as a massive Hebrew funeral took to the streets in New York. Without being socially acceptable distancing. You would think the Hebrews, and I genuinely admire them, have lost the awareness of near-extinction.

The funeral got a fame façade when the Mayor rightfully said something like "What!?!." For which he was landed on hard for being sort of anti-Semitic by the Anti-Defamation League, which was sort of silly.

Not all the news is nauseating. Economy gurus are now predicting some sectors to do nicely, even while still in the knockdown. Lucky ones are expected to do like Midas in the after-time.

The sectors include appliances, consumer essentials, discount and bulk retail, on-line commerce, health care, housing, pharmaceuticals and remote work technology.

Yesterday, over three dozen workers were killed in a warehouse fire in the city of Incheon. On the same day, only two (2) South Koreans died of Covid-19. They do not watch CNN or FOX.

April 30th

A landmark in total fatalities was passed today, or perhaps yesterday. If you forgot the early part of the narrative, this landmark will surprise you. Stay tuned until tomorrow, and I will reveal the mystery.

Federal guidelines on social distancing expire tonight. The states are being routinely hyper-criticized for re-opening people's battered lives and attempting some normality. The White House has stated that the federal distancing restrictions will not be extended.

President Trump is telling us that vast numbers of tests will be conducted in upcoming days. He then goes on to insist that the testing is not all that useful. Trump is being soundly condemned for this position, even though he is very possibly right. This is something he cannot be accused of very often.

Reports of medical personnel shortages have been twisted by not mentioning that there are many unemployed nurses in America. Even as some areas of the

country have serious shortages in nursing staff, elsewhere many nurses are being told to stay home without pay. They were laid off due to the elective surgeries halt. Healthcare holding groups are looking to cut costs. This, after all, is how a disease management system functions.

Reports are beginning to trickle in on first quarter capital collapse. American Airlines lost \$2.2 billion. Job losses continue to mount. There now seem to be over 30 million unemployed, which is around 18.5 percent of the workforce.

Here are rough end of the month summaries. Other sources probably differ.

Totals	Cases	Deaths
World	3,275,000	235,000
% of people	0.040%	0.0030%
USA	1,060,000	62,500
% of people	0.030%	0.0020%

May 1st

The answer to April's mystery is that the death toll in the United States from Covid-19 has now passed the total flu deaths that occurred in the 2018-2019 flu season.

In other words, it has now caught up with last year.

All those nasty numbers are tapering off. This is what flu does. Like last year. Usually about May. Like last year. Then the year before that. Also most other years.

One little thing that is different this year is that last year countries with low flu rates did not make it to the news. They still had low rates this year.

I totally plumb missed last year's epidemic altogether. Perhaps I was really busy and really did not notice.

Do you remember the 2019 epidemic?

- How long was the economy shut down in 2019?
- Could you get toilet paper in 2019?
- Were the city streets empty of traffic in 2019?
- Was there an Olympic pool full of money handed out?
- Was much of the planet Earth thrust into an uncanny valley of silence in 2019?
- **Was television news assaulting society with a 24 hour 7 day incessant nonstop barrage of absolute anxiety announcements in 2019?**

Can anyone answer those questions? Or these?

Like why was \$1.5 trillion dumped into the money supply this year? Do you think you have even a teeny-tiny clue how much money this is? You will not even wonder where the money went. One third came the people's way. The other trillion just went away.

- So why did one out of five families witness their lives being wrecked? If it is like the before time.
- So why were millions of gallons of milk dumped? If it is like the before time.
- Why can I not find toilet paper? If it is like the before time.

- Why was it not like this back in the day? If it is like the before time.

Just because the hospitals were not overloaded until **after** a climate of fear had been established?

Just because many people have no idea that they are ill until they happen to get tested?

Just because most of the ill can convalesce at home?

Just because this is mostly just like last year?

No, because there was mass hysteria this year.

This is an itty bitty tiny detail that is hugely big in a major way different this year.

Different from every last single other year in the last one hundred years. This cannot be overly emphasized or redundantly repeated enough times.

Of course, they will say that we do not understand. Of course, the experts are not ever so very wrong. Never.

Earth really was flat until the Pope made it round. Then stopped the sun so Earth went around it. It is also vital to get a mega-super-pandemic because we predicted one. Because we are quite stuck with quite medieval paradigms more than we realize.

Just because I will look like, you know, like really totally discredited if reality is not really the reality that I tried to convince you that was real. You know. It is like Donnie Rumsfeld's unknown unknowns, but reversed.

I do not usually understand all this political nescience, but some of it is fun to poke fun at. Unless they are killing people with hysterical announcements.

The good news is that we can now say that we know for certain that the secret Illuminati New World Order conspiracy / plot to take over by near extinction did not work.

But I gotta wonder if maybe somehow the Illuminati are making money from toilet paper.

The bad news is that there will be a next time, be it aliens taking your babies, or a war overseas, or an alien religion recruiting animals, or women with pointy hats recruiting aliens, or a torch and pitchfork crowd that passes your house at midnight or . . . a faux epidemic.

Next time, just like this time, you will play the herd animal and be a properly acting domesticated person. You will not have a clue as to what is being done to your perception. So you shall play, on whatever stage they set.

Farewell for now

Now we go trudging along, with nothing I can identify today that glares out as being genuinely different from yesterday.

Or the day before that or the day before that. Although I know that is just the way I see it.

Will this be the New Normal, or just the new numbness?

With apologies to Paul, Yesterday,

Life was such an easy game to play;
now, we know not . . . what to say
but, me, . . . I don't believe in yesterday.

Perhaps we were always numb.

Oblivious.

Sleepwalking thru an assumed reality.

We thought was life.

Is it a new normal? Or merely an after-time?

It was a dreary spring. We are either scared senseless or basically bored. Therefore the summer will be beautiful, right? At any rate, please do not blame this on me; my keyboard is possessed by a spooky essence.

I, meaning Me,
Hereby Proclaim and Declare,
unilaterally and unofficially, that the
National new normal is only new nuisances.

As I said, this did not change me. If it does warp you, perhaps you shall see.

Ya'all have a nice adventure. & please read the Epilog!!!

APPENDIX

*It's a brave new world out there,
or at least it had better be.*

Gene Hackman in *Enemy of the State*

Paranormal aspects of Covid-19

The views on Covid-19 run a full spectrum, to wit:

1. The virus is an existential menace that threatens the very continuation of people-kind. This is the fear reaction, the most common, a subtle and troublesome brain injection. It is probably not correct.
2. The epidemic is dangerous, but most of us will make it. This is the middle of the road approach, educated and rational. Rational never *proves* correctness.
3. The epidemic is total nonsense; more people are dying every day from many other causes. This is the stupor reaction, an actual disconnect from reality exactly the opposite of the #1 reaction. Yet it may be correct.

Of course, you believe it is coming back, do you not? You do, partially because everyone else believes this. If you read the May 1st entry and this whole section, you will begin to learn why else.

In order to better comprehend how the mass hysteria contributed to the high fatality rate, some background is necessary. It is not the devil in the detail for this situation; the chaos in the details is what we really need to take a close look at.

The functional devil in Covid-19 has its chin on everyone's shoulder and is whispering paradigms that alter everyone's visual perception. In other words, how you think about the illness *makes* how you *see* the illness.

APPENDIX

All of the information presented on the following pages closely conforms to the following rigorous criteria:

- It is incomplete. Just like government facts.
- Some of it is wrong. Just like the media.
- Next month it will be different. Just like life.

Facts change. Details may induce anxiety unless you go deep enough to collect good information. Over and over. A review of what you think that you believe with absolute certainty, beyond a shadow of debunking, is next:

Yes, there is a disease called Covid-19.

- However, many people do *not* get infected.

Yes, Covid-19 is real.

- However, *not* everyone who is infected gets very ill.

Yes, Covid-19 is *potentially* dangerous.

- However, not everyone who gets ill gets seriously ill.

Yes, with Covid-19, when people do need hospitalization, they are actually very ill.

- However, *not* everyone who is hospitalized dies.

Yes, Covid-19 overloaded *some* hospitals.

- Yet the numbers drop dramatically at each level. Plus there is more to this than meets the numbers.

Everything about the crisis was handled wrong.

- Actually, the television was flooded with experts who had a pet peeve and were obviously missing

key information. The public has little idea about the actual details of "the handling."

The economy shut-down. During the period of crisis, the grocery stores were all closed, there were no trucks on the road, there was no electric power and the Internet did not function. The toilet paper industry collapsed. Meat became practically unavailable.

- Actually, 15% of the economy was put on hold. Very little "shut down." 90% of what did close did so on a very short term basis and will recover. Pizza lives! 15% laid off means 85% of people are working and buying groceries and paying rent. Two reasons jobs seem desecrated is the twin psychology of empty parking lots and media bombardment.

It gets even more ridiculous if you are not careful who you listen to. Some whack-jobs, and not just Alex Jones, were spewing all manner of extinction forebodings. Conspiracies were available to suit any taste.

Covid-19 will cause the end of our species. At least billions will die. Earth will become a wasteland.

- Actually, during the crisis, a vast number of people died of many other causes and corona babies were made by sequestered couples. In April, 2020, over ten million babies appeared. Do the math.

Covid-19 radically increased death rates in the US.

- Wrong! Over **7000** people die every day in the United States. This covers all causes, medical, violent and accidental. In the first month of the Covid-19 crisis, about 40,000 Americans died of this new flu. (Fewer than 1500 per day.)

In the same period, over 150,000 Americans died of other causes. This happens month after month. Flu season is seasonal only. Every last year and every next year.

As pointed out elsewhere, fatality numbers are not always what they seem to be. Death statistics can be meaningless without DNA confirmation.

To basically summarize, the so-called liberals and so-called conservatives in America are really not experiencing the same Covid-19 situation at all. Liberals seem as intensely concerned about the virus; yet conservatives are almost apathetic. There is an explanation for this, which you will be somewhat uncomfortably dragged thru if you continue to read.

Hypo-facts with a side order of fantasy

There was an excessive amount of twisted rhetoric being flung around. An encyclopedia would be required to document it all. More about the significance of this will be found under the media's tar and feathering. Here are just a few examples to set the mood.

They point to the states that closed down first. They did not mention if the Chinese trenching roads to prevent exit was an effective tactic.

J. Powell, a federal economic guru, said that we now were experiencing the "Worst economy in history." He must mean "worst this year." Powell left out a couple of little bitty things, like the Dorian migrations and a really long list of depressions after every war.

Neil Ferguson of Imperial College London nearly terrified Boris Johnson into closing his country; yet a leading expert from Oxford insisted that the number of infections actually peaked in the UK *prior* to the lockdown.

On April 25, five states in the US had less than 1000 cases. Rhode Island and Delaware were **not** among these. In Ohio, 20% of infections were people behind bars. Some entire US counties, *including two in California*, had ZERO cases of Covid-19. All numbers are inconsistent.

An analysis covered by the Wall Street Journal found no correlation between lockdowns and loss of life per capita. Population density and public transport usage seemed to be more significant factors.

What if *only* opiate addicts or the homeless were getting infected? You would **not** have been notified!

Containers for continued confusion

There are other odds and ends to consider, which cannot be put in logical order; because there is serious illogic to many parts of this.

Covid-19 can be acquired by touching a surface and then your face, *but this is not believed to be a main vector*. Virus lifespan on surfaces is actually *unknown*. Only 30% of patients had a fever, *which was a critical diagnostic* when the virus first emerged. Was Covid-19 really dangerous for everyone? In New York in April, 14% of the population was infected. The fatality rate was 0.5% *of those infected*.

Most that became severely ill had an underlying condition. 55% had high blood pressure, 40% were obese and 35% had diabetes. 85% had multiple conditions. Many of the deaths in the US were due as much to preexisting causes as to the effects of the virus. This is significant factor and will be covered further below.

In the US, one million cases means *329 million not infected*. At 330k deaths per year, and a population of 330 million, it would take 1000 **years** to depopulate America. Except that people will make babies, currently at a rate of roughly four million per year.

Just because SARS-Cov-2 was just "discovered" does not mean that it was not already in the population. New data indicates the virus was here in January and likely

even sooner. We know for sure that it came from China, right?

The east coast virus is a *different strain* from the west coast one and came from Europe, mostly Italy and the UK. French scientists have found that someone there was infected with Covid-19 in *December, 2019*, a month before France announced its first confirmed case.

A fair amount of attention was focused on the lab accident in Wuhan, China. It was easy to get the impression that this was so rare that we should obviously be very suspect something sinister was at work. But . . . One survey of laboratory-acquired infections found over 4000 accidents in a single decade. Of these cases, nearly 2500 occurred in the United States and some of these resulted in fatalities.

Yet, the crisis is not to be found everywhere on the planet. Where it has appeared, the presentation of most aspects of the situation is extremely uneven. Denmark has usual flu deaths of about 1000 per year; Covid-19 deaths totaled about 350 on April 20th. The Denmark flu death rate went *down*.

There is a big mystery behind India's rates from the Covid-19 infection. There is an exception there as the rates in Indian cities are low compared to other hotspots. There are significant differences in the thought systems between India and America. (Plus the CNN and FOX factor.) This may be part of the answer to the 'mystery,' as discussed more below.

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Perhaps Florida did well because old people know a thing or two. They know that these events are only events and only destroy you if you let it happen.

Look at a Wikipedia map of **total cases**, for mid-April. Notice how most areas look very infected?



Now check out the Wikipedia map of cases of Covid **per capita** (mid-April 2020). Notice how Africa looks less infected, yet the US looks the same?



Wikipedia has pages on Cognitive Dissonance and Logical Errors and such. Educate yourself; learn about how your thinking can be manipulated.

A few more interesting details

The numbers tell us part of the story, but the script book also includes some really cool props and make-up, sensationally supplied by the three letter media.

According to the World Health Organization, even *if you are infected* (if sick), the fatality rate from Covid-19 is not significantly higher than the common flu varieties that will return to annoy us every year. Covid-19 involves organ attack:

- Nervous system damage.
- Guillain-Barre syndrome.
- Pulmonary and Cardiac issues.

These are unusual for flu symptoms. Psychological aspects can be suggested here. Those most likely to catch Covid-19 include:

- Anyone in poor health or already ill.
- Nurses and Doctors.
- Nursing home residents.

Considering other psychology, these people are stuck in place one way or another; they can very easily see themselves as trapped. *They do not need to be aware of this perception for it to warp their emotions.* As well as confusing their immune system. *Framing a sequence of*

events as a war with no end in sight is a psychologically detrimental way to present any situation. The suicides among medical personal that were attributed to Covid-stress should be no surprise.

Hundreds of doctors and nurses have passed away, partially from exhaustion, in the United States alone. They were worked to their limits, short of essential supplies, in over-loaded facilities and surrounded by despair.

Uneven and more unusual presentation

- Ethnic and regional differentials occur across all numbers. One's environment can radically influence everyone's psychology. Anxiety runs on a spectrum; it can fester below the surface until triggered.
- Many people in their 20s, not usually vulnerable, have died. No one has much of a clue about this. Some doctors say "possible psychology" here.
- Male infection rate is 50% higher than female. There are cases of couples who were exposed and the wife was barely sick, yet the husband died. Women clear coronavirus from their systems faster. Could hormones, which push emotions, give women an advantage in fending off Covid-19?
- What is not unusual is that the course of usually mild to rarely lethal is true of all flu; every year, year after year.

So . . . How, exactly could all this confusion be?

The sort of, but not quite, nature of reality

As this continues, keep in mind that the influence of the media constitutes a critically important factor in the overall equation. Worry not, we will come for them.

There is something most peculiar about Covid-19. It is a flu virus, nothing more. It is not Ebola. The virus was here, invisible, then . . . *something* changed, *something* became different. Suddenly our very existence seemed threatened.

This is an illusion. This may need repeated until you get it. Now hear this. Covid-19 is real; the crisis is an illusion. Covid-19 is real; the crisis is an illusion.

There is a factor that is being overlooked. There was a trigger, but it was not necessarily what doctors would call organic. The trigger was fear.

The crisis was caused by the confusions that live between people's ears.

On April 28th, I asked the following questions:

- "So why no crisis at Christmas?"
- "Why did the hospitals not start filling in February?"
- "Was there an actual epidemic, caused **strictly and only** by an actual virus, before an epidemic *spell of perception* was cast?"

Psychological research consistently indicates that people see what they want to see. This is not seeing with the eyes, but rather seeing with your thought system. It is

possible, then, that liberal and conservative political thought system *made* their beliefs about the threat of Covid-19.

Trump's attempt to calm people about the virus created a motivation among Republicans to downplay the severity, and at the same time created a move among Democrats to *amplify* the seriousness of the threat.

Also, a threat might enable government interventions that conservatives dislike; so are motivated to downplay the severity. Or, because a disease might validate government interventions that liberals *do* like, liberals would have a motivation to magnify the threat.

The sad part is that these positions are amplified for no other reason than to maintain an atmosphere of political *separation*.

Confusion infusion 101

Those positions are very different perceptions about the nature and perhaps the actual reality of the Covid-19 situation. It is all caused by the simple fact that our brain provides its own version by additions to how we see and much of what we hear. This comes from our experiences and memories but mostly from a fear connection our brain makes for us. Whether it is real or not.

This injected information is unique to the **one** you, massaged by **one** unique brain, so **you** literally see a

unique reality. This reality is, by definition, different than what everyone else sees. Unless, of course, they have *exactly the same thought system* that you have. We have a heavy burden of proof to show ourselves as never delusional. Unless you are the absolutely only sane person on Earth. This concept can only apply to me. And everyone thinks so.

We do not see the world just as it is. We see the world plus our thought system, cleverly interwoven by our constantly contriving brain. People are the fear questioning animal. A human is a person not swayed by illusions generated by irrational thought; especially fear.

America is one of the safest societies in history. We do not live in the jungle. There are no saber-tooth tigers in the tall grass. Cities are not concrete jungles; this is a 1980s mentality. Yet many people live as if everything is hostile, so they need to project hostility as well. Numerous illusions emerge from this syndrome, from fraudulent business to spouse abuse to mass slaughter festivals.

The constant fear mode of many people spawns their angering, road raging, rampage killing and pandemic paranoia and *it is all senseless*. Because it is not needed.

This can impair the way we relate to others, in particular those who **don't** share our beliefs. Knowing that others can be seeing things differently from us and none of us are totally correct permits civil contact. Know, in fact, that we are both always wrong about something.

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There are nine fear networks and therefore nine anger trigger networks in the brain. Patience alone is all that is required to prevent these networks from functioning. Patience is the only force in the universe that has immediate effect. Patience is a holy secret.

You hurry only in fog; you must stop to *see*. The fuller your patience state is, the more direct your perception of reality will be. Relax and *see* for yourself.

One thing about the feel of fear - is that if you *see* thru the feel and if you ask good questions - the fear will disappear. You cannot hold your fear in your hand. You cannot put fear in a box. It exists only in your brain. Everything that exists only in your brain is distorted by memory and other naughty forces lurking within your brain. People are the single fear questioning species on Earth; animals are unable to question the reality fear. It was not necessary for flu to become a **panic**-demic.

This fear questioning is not a matter of bravely facing a knife or marching off to battle, but rather a matter of realizing that you are possessed by unseen petty fears. Petty fears create confusion and over-reaction and getting swept away and joining a cause and the next thing you know someone is throwing artillery shells.

This situation exists when you are frustrated or angry or when you express a judgement of anyone else. Realize that if you think that you judge or you think you feel anger, what you really feel is fear. The *way* you are *seeing* is of something not really here.

Like this or not, brain scans validate this anger / fear link and everyone's brain does it pretty much the same way. That punk front always hides a little girl.

This brain injection happens, not only without your permission, but without your knowledge. Observe yourself and others and you can confirm this for yourself. Neuropsychology has discovered the networks that cause the distortion, but the details are beyond the scope of a plague diary. What is relevant to Covid-19 is how brain distortion presents itself to the public.

Normal out of kilter

What we label as normal is really an average psychopathology, so common that we do not notice it. Look around; hatred, anxiety, and drama royalty seem to be everywhere. These states do not function smoothly in a social setting. These states create conflict, internal and external. Besides making the sufferer feel like crap. This psycho-pathology of 'normal' life is a function of maturity. These are mental corrosion; these can be *repaired*.

These states are also a failure to allow your-self to be human. Fear of fear prevents the human instinct from surfacing. The brain is operating below par, and beneficial qualities and potential remains dormant. At the same time, various unhealthy thought realms fester.

"The only thing we have to fear itself" is not correct. We need to give up *the* illusion of fear *of* the illusion of

fear. These things are built in layers, thicker and thicker and thicker, until we cannot *see* at all.

These unhealthy factors are multiple, but mostly:

- Hatred and envy
- Sloth and selfishness
- Conceit and agitation

The science of this mind corrosion is based on several areas of psychology. So that *you* can get better acquainted with *yourself*, here are some terms for a search engine:

Social delusions; of special interest are:

- Social biases
- Social contagion
- Consensus reality

Personal delusions:

- Delusion syndromes are legion; most people have at least a minor form of at least one of the many fascinating presentations.
- Cognitive biases are legion.
- Self-awareness, which most people do not have.
- *Mere belief* in the pseudo-science that people are of different races has many adverse mental effects.
- Defense mechanisms, which are the brain *plasticity repairable* part of this issue. They are also the parts of the brain that are one of the major triggers for the knee jerk reactions that start conflict.

When our meaning of things is obscured by any confusion, the mind's peace is disturbed and you know **not** why. If disturbing issues overwhelm, you become so numb by fear that you can even forget you are confused.

A recent survey revealed that 40% of Americans believe their mental and physical health has been harmed in some way by exposure to politics. How could that be? If you think this is not so bad because it is less than half of other people, you can assume that the media is taking steps to increase this percentage.

Confusion is not a mere nuisance to be shoved aside, anesthetized, or repressed. Mental confusion is a hammer telling us we are ensnared in our fear and suffering.

Now that you have an overview of how easy it is to confuse the general public, the next factor to consider is best described as a naughty contributor to the delinquency of adults.

Gut Fear Response

This response may feel like it starts in the gut, but that is only where it is felt. The fear response begins entirely as a brain reaction. People respond to fear in ways that are deeply etched and evolved over millions of years; it helped **us** survive. Now, it interferes with survival.

Patience is impossible any time the brain's logic function is prevented from operating. Anger is the most potent reality blocking state known. Anger causes virtual

hallucination and a distorted perception. But anger is not the real issue; the problem is fear itself. There are many elements pointed to as causes of this logic failure, but consider a single factor extremely prominent in America.

This factor would be crappy diets.

There is a direct link between gut microbes and brain / behavior disorders. Bacteria and viruses in the gut affect the central nervous system because their byproducts (bacteria poo) circulate. These metabolites are linked to behavior disorders. Changes in the microbiome can result in an impaired ability to properly recognize fear.

These changes in neural function interfere with forming connections, *blocking the brain from learning*.

Deficits in fear learning line up with malfunctions in the brain's frontal cortex. This includes the ability to extinguish a fear relating to perception of a current threat. The result is a cauldron that threatens the ability of the brain to cope with threat.

Therefore even those little fears can take full control of behavior. Social contagion amplifies the fear reaction and away they go.

Fear is a fire, and it can be extinguished once we learn patience and are able to properly assess if a threat really poses danger. The inability to lay fears aside conjures disorders such as anxiety and PTSD. Let someone's poor diet make diabetes, fester some fear of health issues, wait for bacteria poo to enter your brain and

all we need is a flu virus to totally warp your reality. Also to totally confuse your immune system.

Most common chronic diseases generally go hand in hand with inflammation and an unbalanced gut environment. So do autoimmune disorders; this is more important than is often realized. Many of these, like diabetes and obesity, are also tied with Covid-19 complications.

Covid-19 can affect the central nervous system in addition to the respiratory and other organs described in the media. Behavior symptoms are reported in at 30% of infected individuals and include dizziness, headaches, weakness, muscle pain, and impaired thinking.

Another factor is the high incidence of sugar abuse and stress hormone overload in these conditions. Sugar and hormones are two *drugs*, and together they function very much like slow acting alcohol plus sleeping pills. The combinations are often deadly. While sugar is not generally called a drug, it has little nutritional value. It has drug effects. It gives an energy boost. Look it up. Do not take this to mean that Covid-19 plus sugar is a deadly combination. Sugar is only one of the factors in the immune equation.

Stress hormones, the other set of drugs, also always cause inflammation, which varies in location but usually includes the brain. This cocktail is fatal to anyone's clear thinking. *Susceptibility to suggestion increases*. Keep this in mind; it matters.

The gut-brain system has a two-way nature. The state of your gut affects your disposition. Your mood also affects your microbiome. This raises cause-effect and feedback loop questions. It makes anxiety and depression add to the intensity of a Covid-19 infection.

We may have trouble *not* being depressed by the virus. Fear of infection can easily cause anxiety. All this multiplies the imbalance, providing an overwhelming challenge to the immune system. Throw in non-stop frantic media accounts and you have a *recipe* for being overwhelmed.

Covid-19 messes with the gut in half of patients. This is caused by the infection traits of the virus. There are receptors (it is technical) on many cells that the virus attaches to. Suffice to say that these receptors are found in the intestines and colon as well as in lung tissue.

One of the reasons we are targets for an epidemic is a fiber-free diet. We are *suffering* from "processed" food, a *shadow* term meaning that at least some nutrition has been stripped out.

Without fiber, few beneficial microbes flourish. If an out of balance microbiome lasts long enough, the gut can actually allow Toxins and Bacteria and Virus (Oh My!) to invade your now vulnerable body. Then they trespass into the blood vessels and the heart sends them all thru the system. Microbes are naughty news in the blood. A virus attack is the tea spoon of stone that crushes you.

The nervous system issues mentioned above can also be symptoms of diet deficiencies. Then, impaired thinking makes one susceptible to panic and hysteria. Note that all of the causes and symptoms and other aspects all overlap and feed each other.

Especially the potential for anxiety and hysteria. Do not forget that the basis that totals up to a disease situation is **fear** and nothing else.

Psych contagion and the Band-wagon effect are important influences. Basically said, behaviors are highly contagious. Anxiety leads to depression, and soon pessimism, criticism and irritability come along. This brain state, and the beliefs that ferment them, often moves from person to person. Symptoms can spread to three degrees of separation. Studies of idea contagion on Facebook show that psych states can spread over dozens of degrees of separation over the Internet.

Imagine that someone's thinking is muddled by diet and other lifestyle factors. Next they get bombarded by media frenzy over a 'deadly' disease. Then they get infected. It would be impossible to not wonder about death.

Self-imposed death, sometimes called Voodoo death, is another presentation that may be more common than is generally noticed. This is parallel to the nocebo effect, which causes harm; the opposite of placebo.

There are cases on record of people being told they had terminal cancer. They went home and died based on the doctor's schedule. Yet an autopsy revealed a wrong diagnosis; no cancer was there. These patients, like the victims of fortune tellers and such, were killed by their own thought system.

The Center for Disease Control reports a growing number of different symptoms. There are many lists available; all are different. *Most of the symptoms are rare,* meaning that they do not apply in most cases. *These lists do have the potential to induce hysteria.* People have been observed literally mimicking symptoms simply by learning that they are possible. Psychologists have a boatload of such mischievous tricks to play on you.

If you feel sick, you may have Covid-19. You may also have an allergy or trivial influenza. Or umpteen other things that you should not lose sleep over. Back in the house call day, doctors used to say "Take two aspirin and call me in the morning." Because you were almost always feeling better then. So relax and get some sleep.

If they were tested positive for SARS-Cov-2 virus, Covid-19 was listed as cause of death, even if they had a heart attack. If their kidneys failed due to a pre-existing condition, they may be a Covid-19 statistic. (BTW, some hospitals got funds based on Covid stats.) Inflating the numbers this way did nothing except to spread anxiety. In early March there were no tests. Pneumonia was called Covid-19 even if it was due to other lung infection.

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Try following some parallel epidemiology studies and you will soon see that numbers can be put in various boxes. It depends entirely how the data is broken down. There is a lot of political mileage available in twisting the categories because it massages the counts.

Everyone is a psychologist today. It just so happens that this vector is of way more impact than people have realized. The media hinted at the confusion and fear that people are experiencing, but no one has gazed deeply enough.

You, citizen psychologist, do not look at self.

Few people fully know the terrifying potential of that naughty collection of organs between the ears. The mind is a terrible thing, especially when it operates.

Before this continues, please refresh your memory with a few facts:

- During the 1918-1919 epidemic about 500 million people were infected (**33%** of the world) and estimates count at least 50 million deaths. This is at least **3.0%** of the entire population, which was one and a half billion.
- By May 2020, four million people had been infected with Covid-19 worldwide (**0.01%** of the world) and about one quarter of a million died. This is **0.004%** of the population, now at seven billion.

Indicting the media and club(s)

The guilty at large are expending enormous resources to find a scapegoat for this debacle. The three letter media are blaming everyone. The president insists it is China's fault and is rabble-rousing worldwide. It should be obvious by now that China is only part of the story. As covered below, the China situation is very complicated.

Parts of the other blame parts of this story are the Republicans blaming CNN and the Democrats blaming any available target. Basically it is blame, blame and blame. So it may be helpful to first look at the situation thru some other tunnels.

So, first a word to those whom we sponsor:

Americans believe that there are two political parties and therefore the US is an open democracy. This is a gross illusion that allows evil to fester. Federal and State law is such that only the Democratic and Republican parties are permitted to functionally participate. Independents do get elected; but only rarely. The parties should be called the Statutory Bipolar Parties (SBPs). This system, *established by statute*, currently holds power in the US. These are now the only officially approved political parties. It is restricted this way by law in most states. If you are not a member of an official party, you cannot fully play democracy.

For practical purposes the parties form two wings with fancy names for simple convenience. Republican means

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representative government, but this party only represents financial interests. Furthermore, the Democratic Party is no greater a supporter of real open democracy than the Republicans. Plus you can flip the names and it works both ways. The way these parties interact, the overall situation is more like two bickering wings. Yet, this too is a nothing more than a charade.

No apologies for any of my words will be forthcoming. Shame, shame, shame on the SBPs.

Considered more closely, the members of these parties seem not to be a good fit for certain tasks. The most obvious misfit occurs when they are elected to Congress. The SBPs consistently demonstrate their inability to work and play well with others.

With the exception of many governors, the SPB response has been little more than slinging balls of slimy semantics. Specifically referring to their rhetorical antics during the Covid-19 epidemic. I do not feel warm and patriotic here.

The SBP has become a set of de facto conspiracies. Not in the sense of some sinister plot. Rather in the sense of a sinister focus on party wing market share. It appears like a reversed Mandelbrot Set, where the more you zoom in, the more distorted it all looks.

This may-as-well-be-a conspiracy spawns separation, distorts issues by over-amplification, places emphasis on differences and has no sense of priority. No plot was

necessary; we simply let them make a nice soft cushion to park on. This shelters the SBP from any need to cooperate, compromise or create unless their back is to the wall in a conflict, real or imagined.

The Constitution of the United States openly authorizes a single legitimate political party. (Really; this is explained below.) The Constitution does not authorize private political clubs to split Congress down the middle. This is power bunkering, not rule making. There are other intrusions that violate the spirit of American ideals.

- The states pay to keep the membership rolls and administrate the *private* elections of two *private* political clubs known as Democrats and Republicans. *Independents are prohibited from voting in some states.* This is called "orderly" democracy. Because those Independents are so hard to train.
- A locked-in power situation provides no incentive to be useful. No matter what happens, both wings of the SBPs are guaranteed to be in power. Why should they even consider changing at all?
- Issues are made permanent. For example, they will never allow abortion to be outlawed in all states; for they would then have one less issue to distract you with. They will insure that terrorists have motives to keep you afraid. There will never be full employment.
- This illusion of an open election is actually an iron curtain that prevents open democracy. Voters have the

illusion of choice, when in fact various informal forces make the candidate choices for them. Skull and Bones has more input than you do.

- The SBPs are locked in by a charade of competition veiled by the chaos of conflict. The situation amounts not to open democracy, but tyranny.

They even have voters believing that votes are "for the lesser of two evils." Is this supposed to be consolation?

Have we become so numb, so indifferent, so fully brainwashed, that we willingly follow a herd to the voting booth in order to vote for evil?

What sort of reality has taken America away?

The answer to this seemingly complex quagmire is rather simple if you will simply allow it. Simply stop voting for Democrats or Republicans; period, no exceptions.

Just stop; just like that.

Vote exclusively for independents that refuse to accept any party. Vote independent, any independent. No matter who you put in Congress, there is no way they could foul the stench worse than it already is.

At least you could fix Congress one moron at a time instead of the impossible task of even thinking about fixing the Democratic Wing or the Republican Wing. Just shut them down by letting them wither away.

Extinction by refusing to play; simple. Sometimes the best way to win is to not play. Stop the partisanship by

stopping parties. They are not partisans like the French Resistance, who was in favor of the people. The parties are partisans in a top-down sense.

The one single legitimate political party authorized by the Constitution of the United States is in the **First Three Words**. *Read the gull-darn words.* **You** are the Party; of one and many. All you need to do is act. For your family and your community and not for someone's entrenched royal political power-tie club.

No party is the best one. No party has the best candidate. No party will solve your problems. No party ensures your family a prosperous future. No party can guarantee peace on Earth. No party wants the very best for your children.

The Constitution is a marvelous thing; **JUST USE IT!!!**

We can also identify other sinister aspects that contribute to morphing this into a much sadder situation than was really necessary.

Death by tabloid

Now we come for the CNN and the FOX.

The logic in the title to this sub-section will be obvious if you have read about the paranormal aspects of Covid. The BBC has been mostly reporting responsibly; thank you dear PBS for broadcasting the BBCs non-sensation sense; instead of a load of hysteria marinated in non-sense. We could *see* the planet had not been desecrated. Although in

ways the BBC did over focus a bit. Now that I've dusted the Brits, and shown fairness, I can feel OK about giving the stateside tabloids a deep scrubbing.

The sky is falling! The **sky is** falling! **The sky is falling!**

Screaming EPIDEMIC in a crowded social sphere is exactly identical to yelling fire in a crowded theater. Quite quickly, the result is a situation much like a witch hunt, but on a Mobius strip. You become a judge yet you are among the hunted.

CNN jumps on the Republicans; Democrats quote the CNN. So FOX jumps on the Democrats and Republicans jumps on the CNN. Also vice versa and round and round and so it goes without any end. But this is not a plot, it is simply dysfunction. We get a crazy situation where the Left Wing acts like the Right Wing if that is what it takes to make mud to sling. Then the Right Wing does its own flip in their knee-jerk response.

The White House was under airwave bombardment every day for "inaction." But the president is not a king; his job is to see that the laws passed by Congress are properly administered. President Trump was never given the authority to place a virus under arrest. Public health is mostly under state regulation. The states did react.

President Trump asked, "Who could have known?" That struck some as a ridiculous thing to say because "everyone should have known." NONSENSE; the criticism of the response is totally unwarranted simply because a

situation like this had not been seen since the time your great-grandparents.

You thought you had a health care system. How could this happen here? You thought we had a modern society. How could anyone have possibly known that this was some kind of "Big One"? Doom predictors are everywhere; most of them are crackpots just inflating a dim menace, so no one listens. How could they possibly know that they were supposed to take action? What was different? **You cannot answer those questions.**

Why was Covid much worse in America than practically anywhere else?

Why did they not do something about the World Trade Center attack in the 1990s? They were warned about the likely attack location by security experts **three years** before the event. No one listened because this type of attack was *inconceivable*.

Numerous scientists and politicians were insisting that the virus crisis was overblown. These voices got bit parts in the play. Some epidemiologists insisted that the widespread economic shutdowns were not necessary.

Then there is the 'expert problem.' Even in their own areas of specialty, experts can be quite mistaken simply because they are missing *one* key fact. Then we have the agenda issue: experts always have an agenda even if it is only sales: "Buy my point of view!" We should know by now that half-crazy experts get 15 minutes of fame.

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All samples from the data spectrum are judgmental based. The data points are cherry picked to make someone's point. *Everyone* has an agenda, whether they want to admit it to themselves or not.

There is a book titled *How to Lie With Statistics*. Whether they have read the book or not, there is always a natural obsession with presenting only information that one 'likes.' The corollary is to ignore data that you do not like. Anything that disputes your personal thought system is FAKE NEWS!!! Many examples of data presentation show how judgement can get lopsided.

An example is an article on Scientific American by an emergency room doctor. He had years of experience and had never *seen* a flu death; nor had any of the emergency room colleagues that he contacted. What does it take to *see* that patients do not die of flu in the emergency room, but rather upstairs in a ward? DUH?!?

Science by interview has issues. Journalists generally ask the wrong questions and then frequently land on a trivial detail that can be sensationalized. Or perhaps the scientist answers some other question besides the one asked, and thus intensifies the confusion.

Another issue that this generates is that no one wants to trust scientists as it is. We know we are bombarded by at least some nonsense; what can we believe? I will not fact check because I am lazy.

In the face of such uncertainty, we should maintain a healthy skepticism about what all these experts assert as truth. In other words, learn how to fact check.

After the recent election influence fiasco, many canceled their Facebook accounts. Unfortunately, this left a higher percentage of gullible followers on Facebook, making the platform even riper to spread social contagion.

Even some flu history is still being reported in a distorted manner. The 1918 'Spanish' Flu should be called the Kansas Swine Flu. The first known cases occurred at Camp Funston, Kansas where 50,000 soldiers were in training for WWI.

Spanish priests in the 1400s knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that Islamic religious schools were a mass social disease. These dens of devotion could only be cured by hysteria and lies and social separation. The diagnosis was mental disease and the *priests* were the afflicted. So they held an Inquisition; of the innocent.

All it will take is to find a **single** SARS-Cov-2 sample from a spring 2019 patient to expose the crisis façade as a total hoax. This would be proof that this year is no different except for the media generated hysteria. What would you do then?

What are you going to do next year if you find out that most people in the US tests positive and 99% of people were not really affected? How are you going to justify the disruption, some of which is long term or even

permanent? What do you tell the people whose lives were turned upside down by the hysteria facilitated and amplified by the media?

CNN and FOX will answer these questions to the same full extent that the next administration does. Not at all; not a word. These questions will never be answered, because there will always be rotten fish for fresh bait, to drive everyone into some reticular morass preventing contact with reality.

You are obsessed today with whatever dangers the television networks decide to put in the news today. All the while you do not see fundamental threats like climate change at all.

We can't help this easily; it is the nature of people. We come like that. People tend to view intense *now feelings* to be more important than the new feelings when they learn of other, even more real, threats.

In a survey, people were asked to say what country they thought posed a greater threat. Most simply reported the last country they had read about. If the last country you heard about was China, no other countries would exist until another was named. You would answer "China" to any question. You had been primed. You would be amazed at the extent that you are manipulated by advertising and media priming.

There was a prominent official in the White House who gave a press briefing every day in April 2020. You

could literally hear the opinion of the last person this official spoke with in the official's choice of words. This official was literally primed by everyone he spoke with and every Tweet he saw. (Guess who?)

The media moderation to repair this mess will not be forthcoming. I merely wonder out loud here, but what if a class action, malpractice, wrongful death suit be filed against the major media moguls? The grounds would be irresponsible speech amounting to malpractice. Like what has already been said: "Yelling fire in a crowded theater." False sensationalism in pursuit of ratings.

Yet it could be worse.

Consider a thought experiment

What if CNN and FOX ran non-stop counts on all causes of death on their screen every day and all day long. Imagine further that every story was about this state's accidents and that state's suicides and some state's sepsis deaths. This could be done simple by reporting nothing but accidents, emergency room visits and so forth.

There are easily enough numbers, and of course experts to comment, to fill the news day every day. Visualize virtually no other news, just crash and pain, blood and death. With this version of virtual reality, which is what the television really makes, you would live in a virtual world consisting of nothing but death.

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By May 1st, the Covid-19 situation had run for less than two months. It should be simple now to imagine non-stop death announcements. Now extend this to hearing death everywhere. Soon, you would *see* little else, and not just on television; you would *see* death in everything.

Consider what your life would be like if this is all you came to know. This is a recipe for anxiety, nightmares and madness. Covid-19 will do that to you if you believe everything you hear and see on television.

All major 24 hour news channels are equally guilty, but for different reasons. The CNN's anchors routinely rant in a spirit of tabloid sensationalism. The FOX, using the same soap box voice as CNN, makes the consistent error of fact sloppiness; they check fact not.

May the farce be with you.

So, FOX and CNN, decide whose side are you on. Do you continue to favor charade parties or will you support America? You will pick sides because that is what you do; you cannot help yourself. You have the power to help us fix America. Just keep telling people that they have options; tell them about the options instead of ignoring the options. This would be real reporting and provide a fuller picture of the really big picture. The approach is called professional non-sensationalism. This is about all you really need to do.

America, where are you now, we can't fight alone against the monster. Please help.

Testing questing is not arresting

It is absolutely true that we have one million cases due to testing. We would not know otherwise. Many of those who tested positive needed no treatment. Some did not even get ill. We do not know who is positive, and it may not matter. Any positive will be a 'case' but probably will not be a hospitalization.

Testing is being promoted as a stop-gap while waiting for a vaccine. Testing works almost as well as witchcraft in protecting you from infection. Testing does carry powerful psychological value.

There are two general types of tests. Antibody tests say "you have been touched." They do **not** indicated if you will get sick or not. DNA tests say "the virus is one with you." This test also does not indicate if you will get sick.

There are subtle differences in how you should respond to a test, depending on the test type as well as on the result. Speak to your doctor. The only medical advice I give is already covered elsewhere.

IDK points around testing

So, what do you do after the test?

If you are positive, they say you go home and stay. False positives are one of those things; better safe than sorry.

If you are negative, then perhaps antibodies have not shown up yet. Perhaps it is a false negative.

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- There have been numerous reports of testing errors.
- Health experts said that recovered coronavirus patients may test positive again.
- Random tests tell us nothing that we can use the day after tomorrow. This data goes stale quick.
- Tests taking more than 24 hours for results are useless.
- The testing will show what look like spikes and they will include the false and benign positives.
- There are many brands of tests. Some are less reliable, especially home versions.
- After a test, you can still get infected.

The World Health Organization cautioned against immunity passports; *negative test results are invalid the next day.*

In some states, if you do not have symptoms, you do not get a test.

Due to the number who become seriously ill, this testing is only a statistic inflator.

Can the United States ever deploy the number of tests, perhaps as many as twenty million per day that experts say are needed to implement mass testing?

Flu does its thing, runs its course, then returns. Yet it is just flu, and not a disease of extinction.

A few other options

Here are a few more things to think about before you wade thru the potential horror stories. The comments on epidemiology are directed at specialists, but it is an angle that should be studied. Theoretically, this is mostly a data mining operation. The justification for this type of study is that the results could be quite valuable in planning for the next time that the media creates mass hysteria.

The Unpower Option is an alternative to the naughty situation that is attempting to disembowel America. Then, do you know what 'normal' is? Normally, I must wonder.

Epidemiology Angle

There was a study done in 2019 by an epidemiologist that examined bullets as a microbe. The statistics clearly showed that there is only a single risk factor for getting shot; meaning by a gun weapon.

What if we study anxiety as a pathogen? Placing all the psychology and body effects discussed above into a basket, we have a concise list of contributing factors. Can we trace hysteria thru the social networks and see how it correlates with the spread of hospitalizations?

BTW, the single risk factor for getting shot has nothing to do with your job or where you live. These details make no difference. The only risk is if you carry a gun. This literally makes it 50% more likely to get shot. The gun does not protect you; it draws fire.

The Unpower option

Here I speculate a bit with a general paradigm that, to some, would constitute an up-side-down mode of viewing some aspects of reality. Unpower is the opposite of power but it is not anti-power. An example of the application of unpower was when Gandhi and a few friends walked to the beach and made salt, which began the crumbling of the British Empire in India. Conflict does not solve conflict. There is always another way.

Is there a way to approach an epidemic in the spirit of unpower? Meaning seeing it not as a war, not something to confront. Cooperation rules, so it is not a battle, but a situation, like a flood. Flood cleanup is not an act of war. An epidemic is a mess needing clean up. You do not tear your house down to clean it. You follow a different procedure. There is always another way.

A frequent paradox associated with the perception of mass emergency situations is a spectrum of response. On a graph, which likely would be a bell curve, we have perhaps 25% complainers on the left, a quiet mass in the center of 50%, and a volunteer and do-it group of the 25% on the right side.

We could say that this curve represents a spectrum of humanity. The 50% in the middle have an average level of humanity. It is easy to see the more human of the two remaining groups.

Before I am accused of leading to an ethnic cleansing campaign, consider carefully that animals are aggressive, self-centered and rarely cooperate to accomplish goals. These are not human traits. Yet, it is still all good.

Humans, as you may have seen, frequently negotiate, compromise, are community oriented and join together, especially in disasters. Everyone can have their fears dissolved so their hidden human can operate.

All two-legged wingless animals have the same anatomy; the only real difference across the spectrum is a matter of the *thought system* comparison described above. This is strictly a matter of neural wiring. Period.

There is a Cherokee story about two wolves that are inside of everyone. One is mean and nasty. One is kind and helpful. You become the wolf you feed.

There is a quote from the movie "Cold Mountain" (2003) about Lincoln's War. The quote has to do with "standing in the rain." If you do not know the quote, watch the movie. You will learn what Trump's fantasies would be up against if he was a real war-time president in a time of real war. Decide if you would want your children "standing in" that rain.

The reasons that archaic thought systems get wired into modern people brains are well understood by social and evolutionary psychology. What concerns us is what to do. The technicalities of people science can guide us in designing a peace process.

People's brains can be rewired. The concept of neuroplasticity is becoming well known. If you are evil, wicked, mean and nasty, you can start with your local health department or Twelve Step program.

Let our Quest Cry (not a campaign cry) be "Make America Sane." Does anyone remember the Prince of Peace?

Peace be upon you.

Is normal even an option?

Why did we refer to the old normal as 'normal'? If the new normal is different from the old one, how can we know that we are dealing with 'normal' at all? What does 'normal' mean? If the new normal does not ever happen, you will in no way notice. You will habituate by then.

As soon as we think about it, it starts to get sticky and slippery. The dictionary definition of normal is, briefly, "conforming to a standard." For example, "I went to a normal school." Normal also means not deviating. Think about 'not deviating.' Everything in America deviates from some norm. Everyone believes they are middle class, and at the same time they see themselves as special; thus somewhat different from the 'normal.' The word 'normal' has an uncanny way of going from acceptance to demand. Nothing is really normal unless it is mostly like you.

Nazism was very normal in Germany in the 1930s. Your grandparents had a normal very different from yours. Being overweight and diabetic is normal in America. Girls

with green hair were not normal a decade ago. Why do we believe that normal is better than abnormal?

Part of the new normal is that if there was an overseas virus yesterday, it will be an American virus tomorrow. Learn to live with it. Part of now reality is to realized that it has been like that for as long as there have been runways long enough for big airplanes.

Much of the new normal will not be new at all. Regarding exactly how the new will define normal is totally unknowable. It will not be up to you. Normal will define itself. You will not see it coming. You may not notice. It may not be much different.

An option we hope is not

Let us play a game called "Pretend that it is now the year **1720**." Except the population of the United States is over 300 million, business systems and traffic is as active as today; cities are packed.

Now, let us say that a genuinely deadly virus suddenly appears in a busy port city.

- Except there are no trucks or trains.
- Everywhere you see horses pulling wagons and mules walking along canals. There is no Internet, cell phones or even telegraph. There is a local newspaper.
- There is no modern medical system and certainly no vaccines.

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- There is a large hospital in the few large cities that have a medical school. Your average town has a small facility for critical care, but the capability is very limited.
- There is not exactly an oversupply of local doctors, there are hardly any trained nurses and medicine is herb based. Plus leeches and such.
- Also, there are no medical ventilators; not a single one.

In colonial times, traffic between towns 25 miles apart was common. Asymptomatic people could have spread the virus by 25 miles a week; perhaps faster. An exponential stage could have evolved in a matter of a few months and then invaded population centers within a few weeks.

With a text-book epidemic time-table running, and no warnings at all, there would be **no** containment. No one would know what hit them until all the neighbors were sick. People would work until they got weak and then just stay home. For perhaps three weeks; or until . . .

Other than isolated, nearly self-sufficient villages, there would soon be victims in nearly every town in the country. By April Fool's Day, society could cease to function.

When the first wave of survivors recovered, and without our modern storage facilities, food distribution would be practically nonexistent. Cities both ancient and modern starve soon after the food stops flowing in. Last year's stored goods would be running out and there would

be a shortage of labor to begin spring planting. Hunger would set in to some degree. In a really-really ugly case scenario, roving bands would be seeking food. Many of the surviving children would be orphans; surviving widows would sell themselves to eat. Bodies would be burned in mass pyres.

The social mess created in the aftermath of the US Uncivil War would appear as quite calm and orderly compared to the random chaos of lurking plague.

These details merely hint at the insanity that could have resulted. Society would have required at least a full year, and likely two or three, even with very good growing seasons, before recovery could even begin.

You are luckier than you realize; bless yourself.

In 2013, the AIR Worldwide Research and Modeling Group reviewed the 1918 Spanish Flu. They estimated the effects of a similar event in the US with a computer simulation. In the model, a modern day Spanish flu would result in 188,000–300,000 deaths. (Spanish flu was a different family of virus, but had effects very similar to Covid-19.)

In the 1980s, scientists were warning that Florida was extremely vulnerable to a major hurricane. No one lived in Florida during the last monster storm, so no one listened. The state got devastated.

Similar warnings were raised by the Corps of Engineers regarding New Orleans. Hardly anyone listened. The city got devastated.

For many decades, scientists have been warning us that air travel would bring us an epidemic. No one listened. No one did a gall-darn thing to prepare in any of these situations. Regardless of the actual cause, America got devastated. Over and over again.

For decades, scientists have been begging us to please pay attention to climate change. You will not listen again forever. You do not care forever. The next time it will be your children suffering devastation.

Why not just let them come for your children?

Now think about this: What if I would have told you, in the year 1999, that in 2001 the Pentagon will get attacked, the World Trade Center will collapse, you will remove your shoes before flying anywhere, the NSA will be tracking Americans and we will invade Afghanistan. You would have thought that I was a stark raving lunatic. You may have been right, but it came to be.

2021 will be more different from 2019 than 2001 was different from 1999. Hold on tight.

In the meantime, let us be merry, for the sun came up.

Epidemic laugh lexicon

It is break time. This is just a sample of fun words so we can smile just a bit; other catch-phrases will likely continue to pop up:

- **Mask Art**, a term used by Governor Cuomo of NY in response to a supertanker full of beautiful face masks sent to him from all over. KUDOS once again! Here we have the human citizens, mentioned more elsewhere, operating in Full Peace Dress. This is different than the Michigan Protest Dress.
- **Super-spreader**, which should be self-defining; this refers to infection, not cake icing.
- **Social distancing**, an acceptable way to avoid people who annoy you. Like door to door vagabonds.
- **Flatten the curve**, the most complex statistical math concept that we can fully understand.
- **New normal**, a form of pseudo-Utopia that will not be noticed unless it does not happen. It includes a mental fog and frequently forgetting that one has a life.
- **Contact tracing**, a necessary procedure to reveal naughty contacts, like mistresses and sports bookies.
- **Work-In**, a way to get exercise without anyone at the gym laughing at you.
- **Covid Baby**, a people child of regular standard issue, but conceived under sequester and then born during a planet-wide pediatrician crisis.

Plausible Prognostications

Approximate predictions of adjustments to come tend to always be unfathomable. I do have a crystal ball. I do not know how it works. So the following is like what emerges from a crystal ball, but it is just made up.

However, it is all based on a little history, the fact that my ADD caused me to hold fifty different jobs over my life, as well as an ADD generated reading list. So I've seen a thing or three.

I am just as qualified to be wrong as the hacks that get a paycheck for silly predictions. I guarantee that every possibility is plausible. Except the excessively weird stuff that I save for last. Even though even weirder things have come to pass.

The worst case scenario sees economic collapse of the Mongol invasion variety, total social meltdown, failure of everything, mass famine, roving bands of militias and, of course, multiple infection waves.

Just those few things.

These insane situations will not happen, so let us all smile together. For the most part, everything really will be totally as wonderful as President Trump has promised us.

Now, sometimes even hurricanes have silver linings, so we have some wonderful things to list:

- The rich will get platinum linings for their clouds.

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- Elective surgeries will catch up. This will get cash flow going into hospital administrator's bonus funds.
- Big banks will be solvent and the market for Bentleys and yachts is stable.

Then, there are items fall into the maybe category:

- Some opportunity created by chaos will become the next new thing that amazes us all.
- Small abandoned churches may get started back up.
- Donald Trump may not get re-elected. Just saying.

Considering the high number of likely exposed people, supposedly a very high percentage of the population, it is actually possible that a similar high percentage of the vulnerable have already been victims.

Still, all the potentials are not bearers of joyful tidings. There is also a more than ample supply of doom-day stuff for those who love foreboding. For example, the virus will likely not go extinct; it will lurk somewhere. If only a small portion of the population was exposed in the first wave, then the next wave could be an exact replay of April 2020. Except that herd immunity will mess up everyone's fancy math models.

Events will occur that will astound you. They should not. It has already been in the history books. History has a Groundhog Day aspect. If you have an anxiety disorder, read no further. If you are curious, or enjoy pondering on the end of the world, we go there on the following pages.

Immediate new normal

Nothing will seem to change at first. Adjustments on the part of government will be minimal. The US will **not** re-stock to prepare for the next epidemic panic period.

In the euphoria of the new normal, people will temporarily forget that medical bills can bankrupt a family.

You will not notice repercussions of the aftermath unless CNN or FOX tells you about it, which they will likely not bother with unless it is a super slow news day. You will not remember any of the April situation.

Temporary changes

The states will be closer to insolvent at the end of 2020 than they were at the beginning of the year. There is no bond money to float deficit spending. You may assume that services will be cut. Some infrastructure may fail due to lack of funds.

Closure of call centers mean that donations are not being funneled to non-profits. It will be socially painful. It will not be Trump-beautiful; people will be crying. The next normal in these areas will require months, even in your wildest dreams, to go back to the old version.

Expect numerous temporary social issues to appear. The homeless hoard will skyrocket in size. Crime may not be any different than the beforetime. Crime will likely be the first economic sector to swing into open mode. There may be an initial overload of abandoned pets and perhaps

dead rats. Big animals will be a city slicker's issue, but only for a week or two.

Hate crimes will continue to increase; especially against Asians. Abortions on hold will create more delinquents in 20 years. The orphans can then be recruited by hate groups. All kidding aside, there will be numerous side effects in these areas that we can in no way possibly imagine.

Food industries that are slowed down will face an initial labor shortage when starting back up. This will likely be true in a number of other sectors as well. Many small businesses will not reopen. Numerous storefronts with one or two employees cannot pay overhead and owners are forced to just walk away. There will be a steadily spreading micro-migration as people seek jobs. The economy will absorb this yo-yo within a few months.

Economic endurance effects

What effect does economic confusion have on the mortality rate? Trump claimed that a recession will lead to a greater loss of life than the Covid-19 epidemic. It is a picture that spins and looks different every time you stop it. In some views, mortality decreases; in others, they skyrocket. It is confusing because of a cluster of paradox; like suicide rates increase, but other causes of death drop.

Few people on the roads make few traffic accidents. Less driving is better air quality, and fewer breathing issues. Fewer workers also mean fewer workplace injuries.

More spare time, if it leads to more exercise, is healthy. More home cooking is healthy. So far, we have longer lives.

However, mental health deteriorates. Binge drinking booms. Stress-related conditions increase. Opioid-related deaths continue to increase. There is a flop side.

The question of recession mortality is an insanely complex one. The cause-effect relationships are sticky and slippery simultaneously. The data is foggy, and the eyes on it are plentiful. The eyes all have an agenda and they all seem to have a voice.

Coronavirus shutdowns seem to be saving lives now, but the economic impact may worsen poverty and access to healthcare, increasing mortality years later.

The answer is there is no answer, there is no big picture and leaders cannot lead us on this. It is not the fault of leadership, it is strictly to be blamed on the agonizing impossibility of understand *everything*. Especially if one attempts understanding all at one time with a conflicted culture consuming the conversation.

That goes triple if you have the illusion that the economy is a simple force that is possible to manage. The economy is an organism; the body-economic is sick. The only money doctors we train work on Wall Street. They are not there to heal your financial security, but to take it away from you.

Some fantasies that would be nice

None of your fantasies will ever come true; it is counter-productive to try to live in the Land of Ahs.

You need to *create* something to come true.

Or just go to Disneyland.

Semi-permanent probabilities

Business and government will both probably come to a new definition of essential personnel. Local governments will not give up the data feed they get from cell phone pings. America is now a real-live surveillance society under a telescope. India is requiring all employees to have a phone with a tracking app. America is already there.

Not having a smartphone is going to mark you as a health security risk. The police are now flying drones to supplement regular cameras while monitoring the public. You really are being tracked now. Really. That's OK, because you are now even more glued to the Internet than you were in 2019. Relax, you will find everyone else is in the same state of stupor.

Temporary help agencies are going to be the new Lords of the Manor. Here, wealth is not in land-based income, but in labor-based steady cash flow; reselling the labor of others. They will still be serfs, because they are virtually incapable of quitting their jobs. It is a rare serf that escapes the daily pay paradigm of storefront agencies and parallel predators.

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In mid-April, a survey of people required to work at home during the crisis revealed that they wish to continue to not go into the office. Work at home people tend to be inefficient with supplies, so sales here will go up. They will also be able to buy all sorts of gadgets they can call tax deductions; so we have the potential for a real hidden economic benefit.

Schools are adapting to remote learning. Why run expensive school buildings? This reduces expenses for cleaning and maintenance supplies, as well as future construction; there are thousands of schools in America. This can be another creative way to phase out more education; which is becoming less necessary. Ten years from now robots and immigrants will have all the jobs.

Even gyms are now working remotely. There may be a market for play-along exercise machines. To be prepared for the next lockdown. There may be numerous other opportunities to invent new services to help your lockdown accommodation. France is busy already building "post lockdown" recreation facilities.

There will be empty commercial real estate everywhere you look. Massive retail failures will collapse the commercial real estate market. The time to spend money is when a market collapses, so a few new real estate empires can be expected to appear. This will be similar to the 2009 housing crash, but probably with quite different unforeseeable repercussions.

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Some details may go one of several ways. We will stop shaking hands. Americans may learn to bow a bit, but this is rather iffy. People will learn to dance in six foot circles in the grocery store. Toilet paper will be found again. (Soon, I hope, we are almost out of vinegar to soak our sponges!)

Restaurant culture and habits will change. Sit down dens of inequity will be even more expensive and exclusive. You will be tested for virus to be allowed in to eat. Remember that the law is equal and the rich as well as the poor must wear masks.

Eat-out hot food will be strictly carry-out. There will be a temporary rush to manufacture special units needed to retrofit restaurants for no-contact pick-up.

There will be macabre after-effects that go unnoticed at first, yet may have real impact. This will sound cold, but hard facts are like that. Nursing home populations may plummet, radically lowering rates. The American prison population may drop to Chinese levels.

Changing subjects, a big company named after the biggest river in South America will dominate retail. There will be also be many other business opportunities. Italy may not be able to meet pasta demand; wheat comes from Canada anyhow. America could become the new Capital of Pasta.

Possibly more horrible stories

There is currently a significant attempted migration, mostly fleeing violence, across the Mediterranean from Africa. The details are ugly, but most of the continent of Africa is ensnared in some variety of chaos. Could Africa be depopulated by Covid-19? Or there may be an opportunity for a messiah to appear, inspire the survivors, and make a Pan-African Empire. History is littered with tsunami-like aftermaths of depopulation, whether they are from weather or germs or supervolcanos.

Much of South America is also a festering social disaster area. Poverty is perpetually prominent; corruption is common; the environment is eviscerated and it faithfully promises to not get better. What would you suggest that we do if ten million peasants showed up just on the other side of the Rio Grande? Laugh not. A well planned and organized operation could push a spearhead thru Mexico and make a clear path to follow. This would be easier to pull off than you may think. It could be difficult to stop without unthinkable results.

There are things we can prevent simply by being as human as possible. There really are storm clouds lurking and you should pay attention to the military weather. Stop and take a deep breath and consider that if everyone is not careful, they will come for your children and send them to war. Try some compassion and compromise and cooperation and creation. Believe me, I know it takes a bit of effort and sometimes it is hard to remember.

Evil can only thrive when awake people do nothing. The sleepwalkers will not notice. Horrible scenarios may come to pass as they have already in the past. Only you can create the peace.

Pandemic paranoia and mass murder

Is it possible that the hysterical disturbance created in a pandemic initiate a process that result in armed conflict?

Scapegoating, often triggered by shock, seem to compel us to locate a source, an agent at fault; any agent. Attacks on scapegoats inevitably follow and sometimes spawn atrocities.

The Black Death pandemic was followed by persecution of Jews in most plague areas. They were tortured because of accusations that they spread the plague by poisoning wells. The harassment never stopped. The paranoia that began then paved the way for the persecution of the Holocaust.

It can be different when people decide they need their neighbors in order to survive a mortality crisis, so then meanness factor goes down. A study of nearly four thousand disaster events from over one hundred countries from 1970 to 2000 concluded that people bonding or not in the face of collapse was very predictable. It seems that the more hurricane exposure there was, the more likely a society would pull together.

It is different with diseases. This menace targets family and does not even begin to ruffle the roof shingles.

This then causes people to become more paranoid and conspiracy theories flourish. Powerful emotional drives to find a scapegoat are so strong that intervention can make things even worse. But, politicians have often encouraged scapegoating because it distracts you from finding the government at fault.

Increasing attacks on persons perceived to be from Asia are on the upswing in the spring of 2020. If this does not concern you, I beg you please to get some compassion counseling. The more human you get the more fully awake and alive you are. It is a feedback loop. Try it out.

Then there is another item

China is taking advantage of the crisis in South America, are using money and ink to wiggle in. They make friends in failed countries and they collect IOUs, like the Italian mafia does. Modern empire builders are slick.

Because of the virus, the US military has halted exercises, stopped bringing in new recruits and put ships in port. There are some situations that even a \$700 billion budget and massive bureaucracy is incapable of handling.

Would China take advantage of a US Navy, crippled by the virus, to occupy Taiwan? Chinese military doctrine is openly available on the Internet. They have the resources to take a number of steps that the US may not be capable of mounting a response to.

China's navy recently sailed a battle group, led by the aircraft carrier Liaoning, around Taiwan's coast. One observer said that it was "To test whether the combat strength of the U.S. military has been reduced due to the epidemic."

US bombers were removed from Guam in early 2020. According to a RAND analyst, China could have easily destroyed them.

This sounds crazy, no? History always sounds crazy. China has made astounding gains in recent decades. They weary of being bullied by the West. In mid-April, networks were reporting that China is becoming assertive in the region as the virus eases on the mainland.

Trump is leading a drive to pull production and supply resources away from China. The motives behind these maneuvers are not really relevant here. What matters is that this is very similar to the actions the US took against Japan in the 1930s. Japan's response was to invade their neighbors to reestablish supply lines.

How about a little fire, Scarecrow? Except that this time Dorothy is not here with a bucket of water. Water would not be effective against Trump's Wicked Witch of the East in the 21st century anyhow; she has a hazmat suit and nuclear weapons. If the US military ever interferes in China's activities, the consequences will be devastating for *mainland America*. A shooting war in this paradigm would likely get extremely ugly and do so extremely quickly.

The only way for us to win this game is to not play.

Accept this gracefully. Even in-your-wildest-dreams, all your attempts at control are futile. We shall see when you shall see.

Smile and be kind. The Epilog follows.

Epilog

There was mass of war with the 1918 flu
Earth is a better place to live
than it was a hundred years ago.

Let us not drag it all backwards.

Let this be our rally cry:

Peace Stations! Peace Stations!

This is not a drill!

Peace Stations! Peace Stations!

Life is the real thing!

To find Peace, first be Peace.

For the children, the Tree of Liberty is refreshed
from time to time with the sweat of patriots.



PERSEVERE

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