

The Delray* Democrat†

May 2020

“We Must Sink or Swim Together”

Michael K. Cantwell

As America was mired in our First Great Depression, the United States Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Baldwin v. G. A. F. Seelig, Inc.* The unanimous decision was written by Justice Benjamin Cardozo, one of the Twentieth Century’s most eloquent and admired jurists.

The facts of the case and the rationale for the decision were both straightforward. In an effort to protect its dairy farmers from competition, New York passed a law setting a minimum price for milk sold in New York. By thus effectively imposing a tariff on milk imported from other states, the law interfered with interstate commerce, over which the U.S. Constitution granted Congress exclusive power.

New York’s desire to protect its dairy farmers was insufficient to overcome the constitutional violation, and Justice Cardozo might have left it there. Instead he took the occasion to contrast the divisive philosophy underlying the New York statute with the cooperative philosophy underlying the Constitution. In words as timeless as they are now timely, he perfectly captured the essence of the grand experiment we began over 200 years ago:

To give entrance to that excuse would be to invite a speedy end of our national solidarity. The Constitution was framed under the dominion of a political philosophy less parochial in range. It was framed upon the theory that the peoples of the several states must sink or swim together, and that in the long run prosperity and salvation are in union and not division.

Today, as we face the twin threats of the greatest public health crisis in a century and the highest unemployment rate since the First Great Depression, America is led by the most divisive president in modern history. Any hope he would rise to the occasion has long been dispelled.

After weeks of minimizing, indeed ridiculing, the threat posed by the novel coronavirus, President Trump finally comprehended its magnitude. He declared a national emergency and immediately declined to take responsibility for the government’s delay in producing and distributing test kits, an essential element in understanding and combatting the spread of the virus.

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Register to Vote By Mail Now!

Even before the coronavirus pandemic the Florida Democratic Party encouraged all Democrats to vote by mail because it is convenient, it greatly increases turnout, and this year it is postage free in PBC.

Today it is no longer solely a matter of convenience. Milwaukee residents waited hours to vote recently because all but 5 of 180 polling stations were closed, and a number of voters [later tested positive](#) for Covid-19. Americans shouldn’t have to risk their lives in order to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

Register online at pbcelections.org and follow the prompts or by phone 561-656-6208. Registering to vote by mail will not prevent you from going to the polls. It just gives you another option if you are unable to vote in person.

*You don’t need to live in Delray Beach to read or to write for *The Delray Democrat*.

†Democrat: 1. An advocate of democracy. 2. a person who believes in the political or social equality of all people.

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When governors of hard-hit states, mostly Democrats, begged for life-saving supplies such as ventilators, masks, and gowns, he mocked and insulted them. Treating them like contestants on *The Apprentice* (or Volodymyr Zelensky), he boasted that the level of federal support might depend upon how nice they were to him. In the midst of a pandemic that has claimed more than 75,000 Americans, this is not merely divisive – it is monstrous and unconscionable.

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He delayed for weeks before invoking the Defense Production Act to order production of critical supplies, falsely claiming the Act was rarely used and was tantamount to nationalizing a company. He finally invoked the Act with his trademark combination of bile and lies, blaming General Motor for moving too slowly on a contract for ventilators when in fact the Trump administration was the cause of the delay.

Trump’s suggestion that states seek ventilators and masks on the open market led to chaos as states bid against one another, driving up prices, only to be outbid by the federal government. When states managed to purchase equipment, it was subject to delays and even confiscation by the federal government.

For example, 3 million N95 masks ordered by Massachusetts [were confiscated](#) in Port of New York and added to the federal stockpile. That seizure [was cited](#) by Republican Governor Larry Hogan of Maryland as the reason he arranged for the 500,000 coronavirus test kits he ordered from South Korea to be flown into BWI Airport in Maryland, rather than Dulles International Airport in Virginia. The Maryland National Guard and State Police met the plane and guarded the kits as the shipment was transported to an undisclosed location.

Perhaps the most divisive issue facing the nation today is when and how to lift the restrictions that have helped slow the spread of the virus. It pits people whose livelihoods depend upon reopening the economy against those whose lives depend upon keeping it closed until the curve of the disease has been flattened.

Once again, Trump has opted for division. He undermines governors by applauding Astroturf protests demanding that states (mostly Blue states) “reopen” their economies. He threatens that he might hold back support for states if governors don’t abide by his request to open up their economies by relaxing stay-at-home rules: “They’ll need, maybe, equipment that we have. We have a tremendous stockpile that we’re in the process of completing. We’re in a very good position.”

No, Mr. President, “we” are not in a very good position. We are in the midst of the greatest public health crisis in a century and the greatest economic collapse since the Great Depression and you are making things much worse.

We are not swimming together, we are not even sinking together – we are sinking separately.

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Trump Forces USMA Cadets to Return

Rob Resnick

President Trump recently announced that he will travel to West Point to deliver a commencement speech to the cadets. Most people were outraged that Trump would force so many graduates to travel back to New York just to assuage his ego. Certainly, his action is medically and logistically recklessly foolish, intended only for his personal benefit, not the cadets. That said, I am glad the cadets get to see the current commander-in-chief. To the graduates – first and foremost, congratulations. This is the product of your hard work and dedication to duty. As you embark on your own careers, take a good hard look at the current President. This is everything a leader is not and should never be. This is everything that will make you fail as a leader in your own right. Take heed.

Most importantly, leaders always have and display character, including unquestioned integrity. There is

wholly unbecoming a leader. Leaders cannot bully and bullies cannot lead.

Leaders display a calm, professional demeanor. They never show emotion in public. In fact, it is wrong to scream at people even privately in your office. Leaders need to be able to adapt to a stressful environment, react to negative stimuli, or deal with any challenge while instilling a calm, confident atmosphere in the team. Leaders need their staff and trusted advisors to speak freely, even challenging the leader. Those discussions are healthy and produce better results. Once a decision is made, the staff comes together. Trump angrily lashes out at anyone who dares question him or his self-claimed achievements. He surrounds himself solely with shameless, incompetent sycophants who blindly follow him, even over a cliff. This is contrary to successful leadership.

Leaders display a calm, professional demeanor. Leaders cannot bully and bullies cannot lead.

no issue worth sacrificing your integrity and your career. Once you do, you never get it back. Throughout his term, Trump has displayed an astonishing and unacceptable lack of character and integrity. As of April 3, 2020, Trump has verifiably lied over 18,000 times. The Trump brand centers on a campaign of daily dishonesty to the American people. Leaders work with what they have and overcome challenges. They do not lie and hide from challenges.

It is crucial for leaders to care about their people and organizations. The primary objective is to accomplish the mission. To do that, you need to care about your people. Train them. Support them. Trust them. Enable them. Never sacrifice them, not needlessly. Praise them and give credit where earned. Take responsibility for all failures and deal with them privately. Whom do you blame? – yourself. Whom do you credit? – your people. Trump consistently rushes to the spotlight, takes personal credit for EVERY achievement, even those not belonging to him or his team. He immediately and visibly blames anyone and everyone for any negative, never accepting an ounce of responsibility. Trump's first thought is who he can throw under the bus. Trump's continuous self-promoting and self-aggrandizement is

Leaders recognize they often do not know everything. They must be prepared to learn. You learn by reading critical materials and being educated by the experts around you. Leaders build strong staffs that they empower, trust, and rely upon to help them make decisions and formulate priorities. It is not possible to do it all yourself, especially in a large complex organization. Trump eschews staff and prevents his staff from function other than as his punching bags. He refuses to read or learn; not only making him unprepared and incapable but placing the country at risk.

Leaders need to inspire others. They need to earn their trust, not absolute loyalty, even when it is not earned. The loyalty is to the organization and commitment to the mission, not blind fealty to a weak leader who chooses easy wrongs over difficult rights. Trump fails to set an example in all he does. The rampant financial and moral corruption in his administration is anathema to leadership and good governance. The American people should not tolerate it in their President or any leader. It should go without saying that leaders should not commit sexual assault

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or abuse others, engage in self-dealing under any circumstances, and should always set the highest ethical standards.

As a retired colonel, I had the privilege of leading teams of outstanding people and growing the future leaders. My mantra was “own it.” If you do something well or achieve a major milestone, be proud. Share and enjoy your accomplishments. If you make a mistake, admit it and learn and grow from it. There is no shame in making a mistake, only in making it worse. So, whatever you do, own it and move forward. Demand the best of yourself but tolerate something less than perfection from your team; just that they did their best, worked hard, and got the job done.

Seasonal Resident? Vote here!

David Kulick

Voters living in a deep blue state, such as New York, can register to vote in Florida where your vote will help decide critical elections. You must:

1. Be a Citizen of the United States of America
2. Be a Florida resident;
3. Be at least 18 years old;
4. Not have been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting in Florida or any other state without having the right to vote restored;
5. Not have been convicted of a felony without your voting rights having been restored.

Being a Florida resident isn't defined in law but over time courts and the Florida Department of State and Division of Elections have construed residency to be where a person mentally intends to make his or her permanent residence. So even if you spend more time in another place, if you intend for Florida to be your permanent residence, you can register to vote.

Evidence of such intent can come from items or activities such as obtaining a Florida driver's license, paying tax receipts, paying bills for residency (light, water, garbage service) and receiving mail at an address, claiming the property as homestead, declaring the county as domicile, and doing other activities indicative or normally associated with home life

There may be repercussions in the other state, such as not being allowed to take the STAR exemption in New York if you take the Homestead in Florida, so make sure to check, but if you plan to make Florida your home, you can vote here.

Of course, you can only vote in one place.

See <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/voter-registration/register-to-vote-or-update-your-information/> and

https://soe.dos.state.fl.us/pdf/guidelinesvoterresidencyupdated_02-2012.pdf

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“You Don’t Need a Weatherman to Know Which Way the Wind Blows

Michael K. Cantwell

And you don’t need a psychiatrist to know that our President is not the “very stable genius” he both claims and longs to be. Your own eyes and brain are more than adequate to the task.

Stable individuals don’t have daily meltdowns, and geniuses don’t suggest that ingesting or injecting toxic cleaning products might be an effective way of treating patients with Covid-19. Even “a very low IQ individual” (to employ one of Trump’s favorite insults) could appreciate the defect in Trump’s hypothesis: “It works on the countertop, why not try it in the body?”

Not surprisingly, his idiotic proposal was met with widespread condemnation and derision, along with urgent public health warnings. Recognizing that this was probably the dumbest public comment he had ever made, Trump claimed that he wasn’t serious: “I was asking a question [sarcastically](#) to reporters like you just to see what would happen.”

Although only a credulous fool would believe that Trump was being sarcastic, it confirms that he is more afraid of being labeled a fool than a sociopath, for only a sociopath would endorse the use of a toxic

former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson got it wrong when he allegedly called Trump a “fucking moron.” He’s intellectually lazy, he’s colossally ignorant, and he has the attention span of a five-year-old. That said, and even allowing that he was born on third base, even allowing for financial bailouts by his father and the Russians, he could not have achieved what he’s achieved were he *any kind* of moron.

Trump’s defining characteristic is his narcissism, his seemingly unquenchable need for praise. The Washington Post has famously [assembled](#) a list of more than 18,000 “false or misleading claims” Trump has made in office, but I’d argue he may not even know what he is saying is false. And that is even scarier than if he were merely lying because it means he is incapable of distinguishing what is real from what he wishes were real, which is a polite way of saying he is at times delusional.

For example, on that dark dreary day in our nation’s history, I’m sure Trump wanted the sun to come out when he began his inaugural address. Anyone who was watching could see that, in Washington D.C. on planet earth, it actually had started to rain. I’m sure he wished that that his inauguration had the largest

Geniuses don’t suggest that ingesting or injecting toxic cleaning products might be an effective treatment for patients with Covid-19.

product in the midst of the worst health crisis in a century, simply to mess with the media and see what would happen.

Here’s some of what happened. There was a spike in calls to poison centers. [Two Georgia men and one Kansas man](#) drank cleaning products to ward off Covid-19. When asked about the increase in people drinking disinfectants, Trump responded, “I can’t imagine why.” Pressed on whether he took responsibility, he said, “No, I don’t.”

Lack of empathy for others and lack of remorse about harming others are among the signs and symptoms of “[antisocial personality disorder](#),” the diagnosis psychiatrists apply to sociopaths. see what other signs and symptoms you think Trump exhibits.

But back to Trump’s Achilles heel, hypersensitivity about his intelligence or lack thereof. I actually think

attendance in history and that his electoral college victory was the largest since Reagan’s. Neither was even remotely close – the crowd for Obama’s 2009 inauguration was [three times](#) the size of Trump’s, and only Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush were elected with fewer electoral votes.

One of Trump’s favorite verbal constructions (to protect himself from charges he is lying) is to put his words in the mouths of imaginary people. After a recent visit to the CDC, he [bragged](#), “Every one of these doctors said, ‘How do you know so much about this?’ Maybe I have a natural ability.”

Again, that is what (in J.K. Rowling’s pitch-perfect epithet) this “tiny, tiny” man longs to hear from those who are his superiors in intellect and ability and humanity.

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But maybe our Mastermind-in-Chief would be wiser to select a Specialty Subject other than Medicine or, more specifically, Virology. After all, he not only thought that household cleaners were a promising area of research for treating Covid-19 but also had to ask Bill Gates, [not once but twice](#), whether there is a difference between HIV and HPV.

As Gates recounted, “I was able to explain that those are rarely confused with each other.” Gates also said that Trump asked “if vaccines weren’t a bad thing” and told Gates he was “considering a commission” to examine the “ill effects of vaccines.” Gates quickly responded, ‘No, that’s a dead end. That would be a bad thing; don’t do that.’ Indeed.

Some of What We’re Reading

From *The Irish Times*

Fintan O’Toole: [Donald Trump has destroyed the country he promised to make great again](#): “Over more than two centuries, the United States has stirred a very wide range of feelings in the rest of the world: love and hatred, fear and hope, envy and contempt, awe and anger. But there is one emotion that has never been directed towards the US until now: pity.”

From *The New York Times*

Maureen Dowd, [He Went to Jared](#): “Trump’s most defining qualities have been on display in this fight: He has been mercurial, vindictive, deceptive, narcissistic, blame-shifting and nepotistic.”

Linda Qui, [Trump’s False Claims About His Response to the Coronavirus](#): “The president inaccurately described travel restrictions he had announced, falsely blamed his predecessor for testing shortages and misstated the role Google was playing in mitigating the outbreak.”

Jennifer Senior, [This Is What Happens When a Narcissist Runs a Crisis](#): “He’s got a captive audience, an attention-addict’s dream come to life. It’s just that he, like all narcissistic personalities, has no clue how disgracefully — how shamefully, how deplorably — he’ll be enshrined in memory.”

From *The New Yorker*

Anna Russell, [The Underground Efforts to Get Masks to Doctors](#): “With supply chains gone haywire and the government doing little, ordinary citizens have organized to keep health-care workers protected.”

From *Politico*

Gary Fineout and Marc Caputo, [It’s a sh-- sandwich!: Republicans rage as Florida becomes a nightmare for Trump](#). “It’s a sh-- sandwich, and it was designed that way by Scott,” said one DeSantis advisor. “It wasn’t about saving money. It was about making it harder for people to get benefits or keep benefits so that the unemployment numbers were low to give the governor something to brag about.”

From *Slate*

William Saletan, [Trump Is Doing to America What He Did to Ukraine: This time, he’s threatening the governors of his own country](#): “‘It’s a two-way street,’ he told Fox News on March 24. ‘They have to treat us well also.’”

From *USA Today*

Dian Zhang, Erin Mansfield, Dinah Voyles Pulver, [U.S. Exported Millions in Masks and Ventilators Ahead of the Coronavirus Crisis](#): U.S. exports of surgical masks, ventilators and other personal protective gear to China skyrocketed in January and February, when the coronavirus was wreaking havoc in the country where it began and as U.S. intelligence agencies warned it would soon spread.

Insurrection Is not a Constitutional Right

Rob Resnick

Recently government officials in states across the nation have faced angry protests demanding an end to the “stay at home” orders issued to protect the public’s health. The First Amendment guarantees these individuals a right to express themselves and their viewpoints, but it does not permit them to incite “imminent lawless action.” The Second Amendment, even under Justice Scalia’s strained reading in *Heller*, guarantees neither the right for Americans to own military assault rifles nor for armed mobs to threaten imminent lawless action.

Many protesters openly, and menacingly, carry military assault weapons including AK-47s. Why are state officials tolerating unruly mobs that cross from peaceful protest into threatening armed insurrection? In some cases, that is exactly what these become.

extremely deadly pandemic. This has nothing more to do with freedom than sexual assault has to do with wanting to make love.

Trump crossed yet another line, inexplicably supporting armed insurrections against elected leaders in several states when these leaders were just following the guidelines announced by his own administration concerning pandemic response and social distancing. Reprehensibly, Trump openly supported armed insurrections against state governments operating within the legal framework established in their constitutions. His conduct ran contrary to the standards expected of any U.S. President or government leader at any level. Whatever policy differences and debates exist, there is no political controversy serious enough to justify any support whatsoever for vio-

These individuals are criminals, not protestors. They are terrorists, not patriots.

For example, in Michigan, an armed mob violently forced their way through the perimeter of the state legislature and into the hallways outside the chamber where legislators were meeting. Although law enforcement prevented them from breaking into the chamber, these protesters were clearly inciting imminent violence against legislators. In fact, lawmakers were given bulletproof vests to wear because of the threat. The Constitution does not protect, and civilized society condemns, such behavior. Law enforcement should have used force to repel the mob back to an approved demonstration area, and arrest them if they refused. One imagines that is what would have happened to armed mobs of minorities or left-wing protesters.

To be fair, most gun owners do not bring their firearms to protests and disagree with this approach of the armed mobs. In fact, these mobs represent at best 10% of the country, at least as far as the extremist views they present. Unfortunately, President Trump offered them ill-advised and extremely inappropriate support, texting the word “liberate” along with several of the states. Liberate is not a message of peaceful protest concerning government policies. It is a call to rid the citizenry of a foreign invader or tyrant. Duly elected state leaders, regardless of party or policy, are nothing close to a foreign invader or tyrant, no matter how much we may argue over their policies. This was not at all an issue of freedom, but rather the extent of societal obligations during an

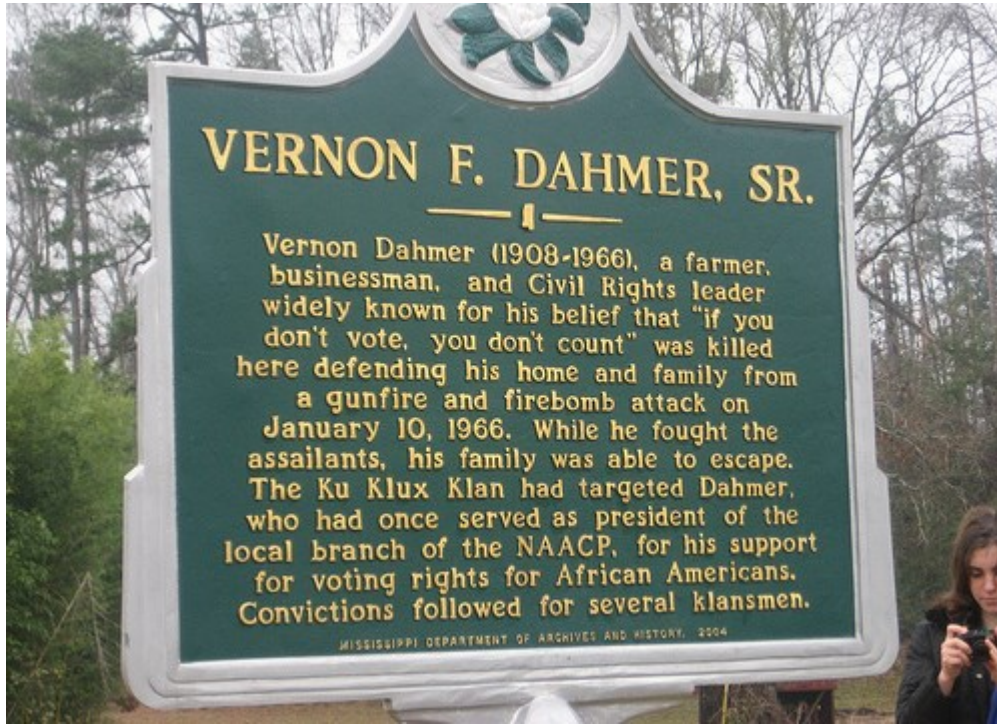
lence or armed insurrection. We enjoy a rich tradition of political discourse, but we never condone criminal violence of any nature.

While Republican Governor DeWine of Ohio imposed some of the strictest restrictions and faced his own protests, Trump deliberately omitted Ohio from his list of states to liberate. Trump was clearly, reprehensibly using the pandemic and the deep fears of various communities, as a wedge issue to foment further discord across the country. This at a time when we need the country to come together as rarely before. His goal was another attempt to deflect or distract attention from his own failures and shortcomings. However, by openly encouraging the armed mobs he increased the risk of violence. This should be intolerable to all Americans, even those who may sympathize with some of the views expressed in the protests.

These individuals are criminals, not protestors. They are terrorists, not patriots. They are armed insurgents actually threatening our democracy, not fighting for freedom. If you choose to brandish military assault weapons at your rally, you are not engaging in protected political protest. You are threatening society and democracy. You tacitly admit your views lack the legitimacy to join the public debate over the respective policy. To state it bluntly, you show your complete ignorance and delegitimize any argument you wish to [offer](#).

“If you don’t vote, you don’t count”

That was the creed and the epitaph of Vernon Ferdinand Dahmer, Sr., president of the Hattiesburg, Mississippi, NAACP, who was murdered by the Ku Klux Klan. If you don’t vote, you dishonor his grave and the graves of the thousands who have died fighting for the franchise. Get registered if you’re not already, make sure your friends are registered, and get out and get them out to vote. And register to vote by mail.



Democratic Club of Delray Beach 2020 Membership Application

Date _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Name/names of household members _____

Address _____

Community/Condo Name _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone number _____

(E-mail addresses are shared with the Palm Beach County Democratic Party so our members will be kept abreast of the latest County Democratic Activity. If you do not wish to receive this information, please initial here ___ and we will not share your E-mail address.).

Preferred method of contact: E-mail _____ Mail _____ Phone _____ Text _____

Send newsletter by: E-mail _____ Hand delivery _____ U.S. Mail _____

I/we are in South Florida from _____ to _____ each year or are a permanent resident _____.

Payment: Individual \$25 _____ Household \$35 _____ Donation _____

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