

The Delray Democrat

“You Don’t Need a Weatherman To Know Which Way the Wind Blows”¹

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 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 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

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, May 2020, p. 5.

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 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 + 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.

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.