

Letters to the editor, March 26

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Body

Trump can whitewash better than Tom Sawyer

If Mark Twain was still alive, he would do much better to have President Donald Trump whitewash the fence instead of Tom Sawyer. Over the past few weeks, Trump has excelled at trying to cover up his administration's slow response to the coronavirus and continues to do so.

Weeks ago, Trump claimed that the then-count of 15 U.S. patients with coronavirus were getting better, and soon the number of victims would be down to zero, and by April the virus would disappear with the heat. When that obviously didn't work out, Trump promised a million test kits would be available very soon, which was hugely inaccurate. Then he said the kits were being made available to anyone who wanted one, which was also inaccurate. He also falsely claimed that health insurance companies would cover the cost of testing and treatment and that his response was hampered by procedures from times past.

If that wasn't enough, Trump made his most iconic whitewash effort. The president was asked by a reporter why he had dismantled the National Security Council's global health security office in 2018. He responded by calling it a nasty question. He claimed he had no knowledge about the disbanding. He said, "I didn't do it. ... I don't know anything about it."

Trump lives in a world where absolutely nothing is wrong and nothing is his fault. Get out of the way Tom Sawyer, Donald Trump has on his rose-colored glasses, and he's here to take over.

Bryan Kasten - Piedmont

Don't ignore boomers. They have useful survival tips.

When I was 5, I was told I could not play outside because I would catch polio. Now, I'm 73, and I have to be watchful for coronavirus.

We baby boomers have been through a lot: polio, swine flu, Vietnam. But don't sell us short, we are tough and smart. And most of us did survive because we knew how to take care of ourselves.

So to the youngsters out there, I say: Stay indoors, wash your hands, and don't think you cannot contract this disease. Be smart and maybe you, too, can live into your 70s.

Ellen McMackin Spencer - Glen Carbon

Trump's 'Chinese virus' term is a racist distraction

Regarding the editorial, "Trump's 'Chinese virus' reference encourages anti-Asian hatred." (March 20): First, there were the derogatory terms the "yellow peril" and the "perpetual foreigner." Now comes the "Chinese virus." As a Chinese American, I am angered.

However, we must remember: President Donald Trump has a record of attempting to distract us from what matters.

The current administration had months to prepare for a disaster that has sickened and killed many people around the world and is now spreading in the United States. President Trump painted optimistic pictures and discounted medical and science experts. Panic and desperation have followed. The Trump administration's failure to provide tests, ventilators and protective equipment impacts us all. Our heroic doctors, nurses and other health professionals are, and will be, fighting with their arms tied behind their collective backs against the coronavirus, and now America's society and economy will have to shut down until the battle is over.

Ed Shew - Lake Saint Louis

'Spanish flu' was used before. Why not 'Chinese virus'?

Regarding the editorial, "Trump's 'Chinese virus' reference encourages anti-Asian hatred." (March 20): I am never really surprised at the hypocrisy of the editorial page, especially the latest accusation of President Donald Trump's use of the term "Chinese virus" being racist. Most experts agree the coronavirus was first detected in China.

Your paper has printed many articles referencing the 1918 "Spanish" flu as being responsible for millions of deaths worldwide. Researchers now doubt that deadly flu even originated in Spain. I suppose your use of "Spanish" is not racist since liberals are not capable of racism.

Mike Kistner - Oakville

St. Louis should put health before carryout food

If a single member of our small business community, or one of their innocent patrons, dies from this unsparing virus due to curbside, carryout initiatives, what will St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson and St. Louis County Executive Sam Page say? What will they tell the surviving loved ones when they ask why these two leaders didn't completely shut down the city and county sooner?

There will come a time when we will be called back to our city centers to bolster small businesses, a return to normal life. This is not that time. This is a time to preserve lives. We cannot stop this virus, but we can slow it.

The best way to support St. Louis' small businesses is to send their owners and workers home. Save lives. Leaders should focus on preparing our hospitals for this plague. Then, when we're on track to stabilize the health of our community, fight for every penny from state and federal funding, from insurance companies, from private investors, from philanthropists and tax-evading billionaires to inject confidence back into our area.

When that day comes, St. Louisans will be there. We'll buy sandwiches and sodas and host auctions and trivia nights. We'll sell cookie dough and pizzas and donate all the toilet paper we hoarded. We'll be there when the time comes, but first we need a chance to get there.

Dan Riley - Bel-Nor

Want to do something constructive? Give blood

This will surely be the biggest disaster we will have to deal with for many years to come. It will take many years to overcome the results. Here's something you can do to help out: Give blood. Make an appointment with the Red Cross, or a local hospital.

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Many people currently in hospitals need blood. Just think of accident victims, cancer patients and others who need blood regularly. You would be treated as a hero. You may possibly save a life. I gave blood a few weeks ago so I cannot give again for a few weeks, but if you have not given, today is the day. Go make that call and do something positive.

Jean Marquart - Union

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