



Reflections of a River Rat:

‘Urine therapy’ had me wetting my pants

Last week began humorously enough when we mocked Fox News opinionmaker Tucker Carlson for promoting Viagra as a treatment for Coronavirus. He already had fallen into an abyss of credibility when he aired his far-fetched, innuendo-ridden whitewash of the Jan. 6 coup, but now he was descending even deeper as he proclaimed Viagra as an antidote.

On the way out of church, my friend was remarking how tiring this right-wing, anti-government, fear-promoting, science-denying drumbeat had become. The internet has enabled thousands of crackpots to become instant authors, although most don’t have the education, research capabilities, ethics or sense of fairness to present factual information to the public. Civility and decency were sidelined; reason and civic-minded solutions were taking a backseat to ego and partisanship.

An erectile-dysfunction drug as a cure for a pandemic? I thought kooky was defined by the hundreds of QAnon followers who lined Dealey Plaza in Dallas in November, waiting for the late JFK Jr. to appear and reinstate a defeated president.

Just when I couldn’t stop chuckling about Carlson, the whopper of all whopping lies descended from cyberspace into my news feed. An unhinged anti-vaccination huckster was promoting a cure for Covid-19 – drink your own urine.

I thought it was a punchline to a joke. Maybe it included the uncle that nobody can talk about? The one who has says “pull my finger.”

So I had to look it up. Sure enough, Christopher Key was promoting urine therapy on his “Vaccine Police” website. Already, about 400,000 views had occurred, perhaps some followers, but hopefully reasonable persons like me who just wanted to see what the fuss was about.



Anti-vaccine kook Christopher Key told Walmart pharmacists, from his website, they could be executed for administering Covid-19 vaccines, then falsely claimed vaccines were a government bioweapon.

His message was dumber than Marjorie Taylor-Greene asserting Jewish space lasers started the California wildfires or Trump suggesting shining ultraviolet light within your body to kill the coronavirus. As we used to say in the newsroom on bizarre newsbreaks, "You can't make this up."

"OK, and I know to a lot of you this sounds crazy, but guys, God's given us everything we need," Key said.

"Now drink urine!" he stated. "This vaccine is the worst bioweapon I have ever seen. I drink my own urine!"

He also claimed his therapy was backed by "tons of research," which doesn't exist. Doctors everywhere cringed. It's a no-brainer; it's unhealthy.

This urine therapy hoax incredibly stupid. But I knew I had heard it before. It was a throwaway joke from a 2004 movie spoof called "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story."

Legendary coach Patches O'Houlihan, portrayed by the late Rip Torn, is questioned why he throws wrenches at players in practice, then asserts "if you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball."



When questioned if his training methods is necessary, he responds: "Necessary? Is it necessary for me to drink my own urine? No, but I do it anyway because it's sterile and I like the taste."

If I raised a glass to the late Elmore Rual "Rip" Torn, I can guarantee it would not be pee. He died not from urine therapy, but from complications of Alzheimer's in July 2019.

It seems our world has a growing number of Patches O'Houlihans who are trying to shout down the reasonable people tired of the fear-mongering, slanted news and cultural wars promoted by OAN, Newsmax and Fox. They pervert the news to promote political goals.

If you want more Christopher Key and Patches O., consult Wikipedia under "unproven methods against Covid-19." The length of the file rivals James Joyce's "Ulysses."

A few of the most preposterous Covid-19 hoaxes:

Chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine – Trump's endorsement set off panic-buying of the anti-malarial drugs and created a shortage for persons with lupus and rheumatoid arthritis. Both compounds were ineffective.

Ivermectin – This deworming drug for animals relied on flawed research to suggest it could help humans. It proved ineffective, but kept folks busy at poison-control centers.

RFK Jr.'s vaccine rant -- You would expect more from the son of a famous crusader, but he linked the vaccines to autism, tried to tie 5G networks to the

coronavirus, and labeled the death of Hank Aaron as “suspicious” because he was vaccinated. Junior’s conspiracy theories got him kicked off Instagram.

Anti-vaccine rallies – One of the most bizarre hosted Trump’s son, Donald Jr., in Nashville, Tenn. Before Trump railed against life-saving vaccines, one speaker suggested vaccines contained microscopic technology intended to put “another kind of nervous system inside you.” But the real Gong Show event occurred when a doctor raised the “urine therapy” hoax.

My sister-in-law who maintains statistics for a hospital system in Cincinnati is weary of the disinformation and lying too. Each day she adds more names to her log, and in most cases checks the category for “unvaccinated.”

It’s simple. Get vaccinated. Wear a mask. Save lives. Wake up and smell the coffee. Lay off the Viagra. And don’t drink your urine.

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