

Despair may be reason for conspiracy beliefs

OUR OPINION: The emergence of conspiracy theories reveals mistrust

The Air Force jet carrying Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown that crashed and killed everyone on board in Bosnia was really the result of another U.S. conspiracy aimed at removing blacks from positions of influence or power within the U.S. Government.

And AIDS was manufactured by white scientists to wipe out African-Americans.

While it is unfortunate enough that some African-Americans believe in these so-called conspiracy theories, the saddest part is that race relations have become bad enough to allow even the consideration of these kinds of theories.

More than 100 years after the Civil War, and four decades since the beginning of Martin Luther King's

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national battle for desegregation and civil rights, “we the people” of these United States are still separated by a chasm of mistrust, anger and despair. This canyon has forced the people of this nation into two distinctly paranoid camps of “us and them” — or worse yet, “us vs. them.”

The only way the different races will be able to cross over and move beyond this gulf of mistrust we all seem to have for each other is to begin *really* communicating with each other.

The alternative is that we will continue to believe the worst about each other.

Navy continues course of harassment hypocrisy

OUR OPINION: Sexual harassment runs rampant in and out of the military

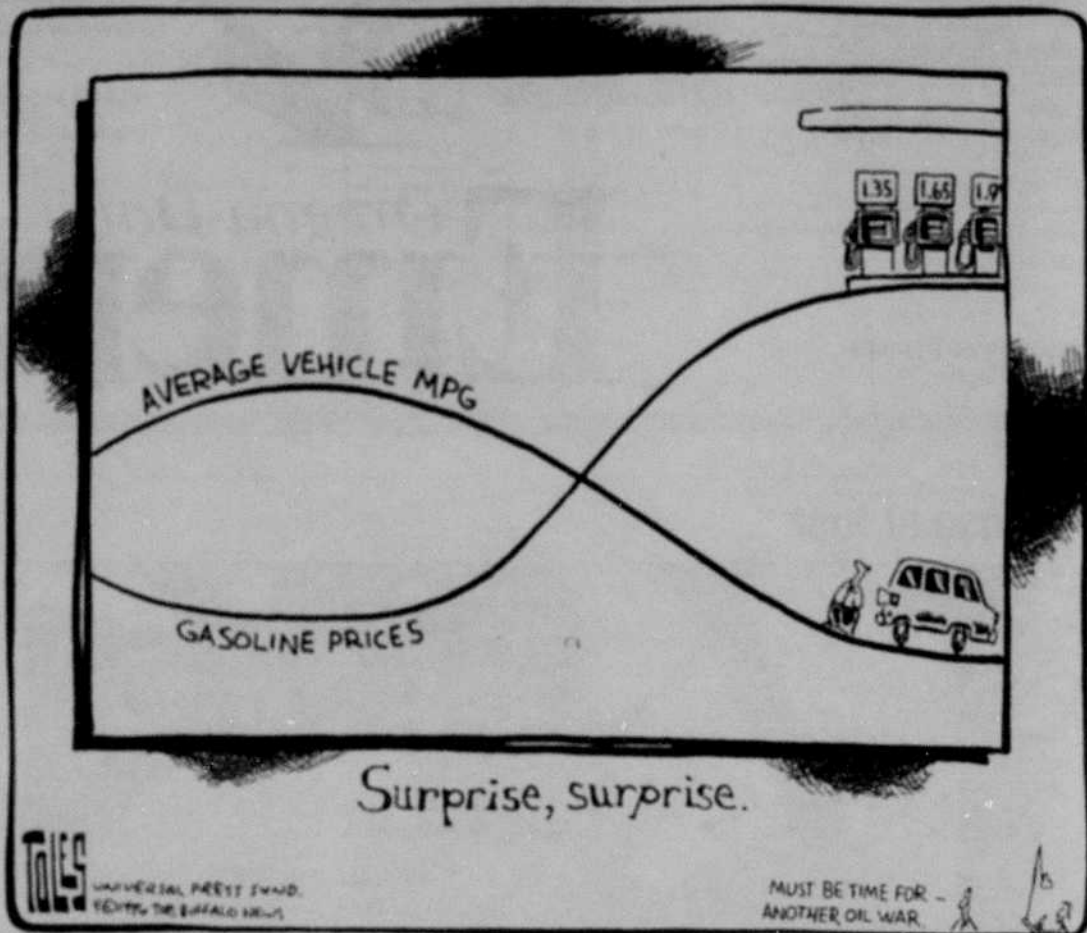
Even the way the Navy's latest sexual harassment case was written up by Evan Thomas in the April 29 edition of *Newsweek* smacks of sexism.

When “women were caught having sex at Bancroft Hall [the dormitory complex that houses the Naval Academy's 4,000 midshipmen in Annapolis, Md.], the senior midshipmen [allegedly] offered them a deal — have sex with him, or face disciplinary charges.”

Though the midshipmen is being accused of having “nonconsensual” sex with one or more women, disciplinary actions, if any, against the other men involved with the female midshipmen weren't even mentioned in the article.

How can we hold the Navy (or any other branch of the military) to any expected level of human decency when civilian society still has hypocritical attitudes toward the behavior of sexist males?

It's time for “boys” to grow up and society to create an atmosphere in which that can happen.



War, famine and pestilence — oh my!

I looked and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was Death and Hades was following close behind him — Revelations 6:8

It would appear in this modern age of prosperity and convenience that the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse have returned. War, Famine, Pestilence and Death are among us once again. One need only look to the world as it is now to see this: the violence and strife that plague our inner cities and other nations around the globe; the starvation of millions in third world countries; the plagues that silently invade us and then kill without warning; and ultimately, death, which feeds upon it all.

No this is not the wrath of God upon the unbelievers, but rather an undoing of our own design. There simply are far too many of us.

War, one may argue, may be due to two things: one — man's inherent warlike nature (yes, as much as we try to overcome or suppress it, it will *always* be a part of us), and two — the caged-rat syndrome.

If too many rats are put in a cage, they will suddenly become overly aggressive. They then begin to kill each other off until the population density of the cage reaches an equilibrium, and the population is now controlled.

One may then apply this model to the inner cities, where the murder rate per capita is higher than it is in rural areas. This is probably due to high population densities, and could explain why New Yorkers are always bubbling fountains of joy.

Wars will be fought over any thing — whether it be land, an imagined insult, or some twisted vision of religious or ethnic morality. Humans are a war-like people and will always continue to be such.

Famine is when there is too little to feed so many. One may argue that it is the myriad of capitalistic imperial policies and such from the West, but it still comes back to the same thing — too many people. Our population grows at an exponential rate, meaning that soon, there will literally be no room left if we continue to reproduce at this rate.

Example: take a chess board and place a grain of rice on the first square, then put two grains on the next square, four on the next, and continue to double the amount for each subsequent square. Since there are 64 squares on a chess board you will begin with one grain on the first square and end with over 9,000,000,000,000,000,000 (nine quintillion) grains on the last square. We haven't even added in all the rice on the other 62 squares. Are we beginning to see the possibilities here if we don't put a curb on our growth?

If we don't stop reproducing so much, then other factors *will* slow us down. It is just the way things work. If it isn't war or famine, then

Mother Nature always has a far more insidious method: pestilence.

Disease is what one may call Mother Nature's “big guns.” When the bubonic plague, or black death, swept across Europe in the Middle ages, it wiped out between 30 and 50 percent of the population in less than *two years*. War has never been that effective, and famine rarely is. There is now a new plague quietly rampaging across the planet — the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

It is almost ironic that something as incredibly simple as a virus could wipe out something as “powerful” and “complex” as we Homo sapiens.

HIV is actually quite effective at what it does. It infects its host and then lies dormant for about 10 years before the onset of AIDS. The immune system in annihilated leaving the body wide open.

It's rather quite simple — you get AIDS, you die. Perhaps one of the reasons HIV is so insidious is because one doesn't know that one is infected until AIDS has set in and others have already been infected. The cycle then repeats. Remember that chess board with the rice on it? Just wait, about 10 years from now it will really hit the fan.

Assuming that we do finally find a vaccine for HIV, or even a cure, how beneficial will that be? Who's to say that something even worse won't come along or hasn't come along *already*?

The new bug on the block is Ebola. Instead of 10 years, Ebola wipes the host out in 10 days. First, flu-like symptoms, then liquefaction of internal organs, and then finally the host crashes and bleeds out, i.e., one ends up bleeding out of every orifice as the virus attempts to “find” a new host. The host becomes, in essence, a viral milkshake.

HIV, Ebola and other viruses don't care who or what you are; black, white, yellow, purple, red or green. They don't know if you're gay or straight, male or female, moral majority or atheist. They're equal-opportunity killers. They are not plagues sent from God, but rather plagues sent from Mother Nature to thin out the parasitic simians reproducing like mad and raping her planet.

In our attempt to dominate the globe we have only found (those with the wisdom to realize it) that Mother Nature is in fact our master and that everything we do ultimately comes back upon us. Nature will always have a way of controlling us.

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