

October 19, 2014

It's Ebola Day here at Pickings; Krauthammer, Steyn, Roger Simon, and more of our favorites post on yet another example of a government disaster. Charles is first. *Unnervingly, the U.S. public health services remain steps behind the Ebola virus. Contact tracing is what we do, Centers for Disease Control Director Tom Frieden assured the nation. It will stop the epidemic "in its tracks." And yet nurses Nina Pham and Amber Vinson, who developed Ebola, were not even among the 48 contacts the CDC was initially following.*

Nor were any of the doctors and nurses who treated the "index patient," Thomas Duncan. No one even had a full list of caregivers.

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Translation: "Don't blame us. The nurse screwed up." The nurses union was not amused. Frieden had to walk that back the next day, saying he didn't mean to blame anyone.

Frieden had said that "the care of Ebola can be done safely, but it is hard to do it safely." Meaning: In theory, it's easy; in practice, very dangerous. Unfortunately, that's not what he said on Day One. When you hear it two weeks later, you begin to wonder. ...

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Gotcha. You can't get Ebola on a bus or a plane, you can only give it. Good to know. Thanks, Doc.

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Surveying the last few years, Roger Simon asks if it could get any worse?

Let's review:

The stock market is in free fall.

The Islamic State is on the brink of taking Baghdad and Kobani.

The Ebola crisis is spreading and seems on the verge of becoming a pandemic while the CDC is being unmasked as incompetent.

The Iran talks are a charade and everyone expects that country to get the bomb.

Our vaunted college campuses are transfixed by so-called micro-aggressions and a supposed rape epidemic while banning the likes of Ayaan Hirsi Ali and George Will (!) from speaking — and they still cost nearly \$70,000 a year. ...

Scott Johnson posts on the refusal to install a travel ban.

No explanation offered by the White House or the CDC about our refusal to impose a travel ban on Liberian or other visitors from affected west African countries to the United States makes sense, or so it seems to me. Indeed, what has been said (again, so it seems to me) ranges from the nonsensical to the absurd, from BS to balderdash. If a travel ban would serve to protect American citizens and institutions, however imperfectly, what is the rationale for refusing to impose one?

The refusal seems obviously to be driven by a brand of politics that verges on the insane. Thus the reticence of the White House to expose its true train of thought to public view. ...

... Of course, you can't expect our government to be as competent as Nigeria's.

Speaking of Nigeria's competence, here's the story from **Business Week**. And Ethiopia and South Africa are screening incoming passengers. Of course, there're all probably racists.

Health officials battling the Ebola outbreak that has killed more than 4,500 people in West Africa have managed to limit its spread on the continent to five countries — and two of them appear to have snuffed out the disease.

Officials credit tighter border controls, good patient-tracking and other medical practices, and just plain luck with keeping Ebola confined mostly to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea since the outbreak was first identified in March.

Senegal did so well in finding and isolating a man with Ebola who had slipped across the border from Guinea in August that the World Health Organization on Friday will declare the end of the disease in Senegal if no new cases surface.

Nigeria is another success story. It had 20 cases and eight deaths after the virus was brought by a Liberian-American who flew from Liberia to Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital of 21 million people, in July. Nearly 900 people were potentially exposed to the virus by the traveler, who died, and the disease could have wreaked havoc in Africa's most populous nation. Instead, Ebola appears to have been beaten, in large part through aggressive tracking of Ebola contacts, with no new cases since Aug. 31. ...

Ron Fournier doesn't think much of the czar.

1. *We shouldn't need an Ebola czar.*

2. *We already put somebody in charge of corralling federal bureaucracies and coordinating local responses to national emergencies. His name is Barack Obama.*

3. *He has a chief of staff, the nation's chief operating officer, Denis McDonough; a homeland security adviser, Lisa Monaco; a national security adviser, Susan Rice; a director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and a Cabinet full of secretaries.*

4. *That should be enough. ...*

... 11. *The choice makes sense if Obama's main concern is a) the incompetence of his team, or; b) midterm politics. My strong hunch is it's "b". The Obama White House is not self-aware. It is nakedly political. The uneven response to Ebola threatens to be a toxic issue for Democrats, and the president is under pressure from his party's desperate candidates to do something.*

12. *Klain will report to Rice and Monaco. That makes no sense. Even if you think a czar is needed, and believe that the czar should be a Democratic operative steeped in White House politics, this reporting structure is a mistake. He should report directly to Obama. ...*

Michael Walsh says the Klain pick tells us all we need to know about the administration.

The announcement of Ron Klain as the new Ebola "czar" checks all the boxes: Harvard Law, longtime Democrat party op, veteran of the Clinton, Al Gore and John Kerry campaigns. The problem is, it checks all the wrong boxes. The Progressive myth is that we ought to have a government of experts — top men! — to handle the nation's problems in a calm, deliberative manner. The reality is that we have a nation of unscrupulous lawyers, amoral apparatchiks and political hacks whose only area of expertise is manipulating the electoral and governmental systems and getting rich by doing so. ...

1. *If a retread party hack like Klain is the best Obama can do, then the Democrat talent pool is incredibly shallow. Naturally, though, Obama wouldn't think of going outside it.*
2. *The President considers Ebola a political/messaging problem, not a medical problem. Klain is an insider process guy, not an expert in the field.*
3. *The fact that we need a "Czar" to cut across federal agency red-tape and make things happen expeditiously is an indictment of the federal agencies themselves, although no Democrat would ever dare to suggest such a thing. The choice signals that, as Ronald Reagan said, government itself is the problem, not the solution. ...*

At least **Andy Malcolm** is here with late night humor.

Fallon: New York state is spending \$750 million on a solar plant in Buffalo. Thousands of jobs, most of them getting snow off the solar panels. Seriously? Buffalo?

Conan: JetBlue's CEO announces he will step down in February. Of course, it being JetBlue, his actual departure may be delayed until March.

Meyers: Florida police are searching for the people who stole 18 tons of Crisco. Police have failed to apprehend the suspects despite catching them several times.

Washington Post [Ebola vs. civil liberties](#)

by Charles Krauthammer

Unnervingly, the U.S. public health services remain steps behind the Ebola virus. Contact tracing is what we do, Centers for Disease Control Director [Tom Frieden assured the nation](#). It will stop the epidemic "in its tracks." And yet nurses Nina Pham and Amber Vinson, [who developed Ebola](#), were not even among the 48 contacts the CDC was initially following.

Nor were any of the doctors and nurses who treated the "index patient," Thomas Duncan. [No one even had a full list](#) of caregivers.

The other reassurance was: Not to worry. We know what we're doing. We have protocols. When, however, we got the first Ebola transmission in the United States, it was blamed on a "[breach in protocol](#)."

Translation: "Don't blame us. The nurse screwed up." The nurses union was not amused. Frieden had to walk that back the next day, saying he didn't mean to blame anyone.

Frieden had said that "the care of Ebola can be done safely, but it is hard to do it safely." Meaning: In theory, it's easy; in practice, very dangerous. Unfortunately, that's not what he said on Day One. When you hear it two weeks later, you begin to wonder.

These missteps raise questions of competence, candor and false confidence. But the problem is deeper. And it rests not in our doctors but in ourselves.

In the face of a uniquely dangerous threat, we Americans have trouble recalibrating our traditional (and laudable) devotion to individual rights and civil liberties. That is the fundamental reason we've been so slow in getting serious about Ebola. Consider:

1. *Privacy.*

Pham's identity was initially withheld. In normal circumstances, privacy deserves absolute respect. But these are not normal circumstances. We're talking about a possible epidemic by an unseen pathogen that kills [70 percent](#) of its victims. Contact tracing is the key to stopping it, we've been told. What faster way to alert anyone who might have had contact with Pham than releasing her name? Why lose 24 hours during which people have to guess if they'd had contact with someone carrying the virus?

2. *Quarantine.*

When Duncan was first hospitalized, the CDC said it would locate his contacts and check regularly for symptoms. For the secondary and tertiary contacts, this made sense. But not for those in the inner “concentric circle.” They had had close contact with Duncan and were living in an apartment requiring massive decontamination. They should have been quarantined immediately.

Yet [initially they were not](#). In fact, the word quarantine was not uttered by a single authority during the [first news conference](#) revealing Duncan’s illness.

It’s understandable. Quarantine is the ultimate violation of civil liberties. Having committed no crime, having done no wrong, you are sentenced to house arrest or banishment. It’s unfair. It’s, well, un-American. But when an epidemic threatens, we do it because we must.

3. *Evacuation.*

Why have we been treating Ebola patients at their local hospital? This is insane. They don’t have the expertise or the training. They will make mistakes — as we’ve now seen repeatedly at Texas Health Presbyterian.

Besides, training and equipping every hospital in America to treat this rare disease would be ridiculously expensive and 99 percent wasted. Every Ebola patient should be evacuated to a specialized regional isolation center, such as the ones in Atlanta, Omaha or Bethesda.

Not because these facilities possess some unique treatment. There is no treatment known to cure the disease. But they know how to prevent contagion. Local hospitals don’t. It took [15 days](#) and Amber Vinson to wake the authorities up to this obvious reality.

4. *Travel bans.*

British Airways has already [canceled all flights](#) to the affected countries in West Africa. We haven’t. A couple more cases of imported Ebola and we will.

Why are we waiting? The CDC argues that a travel ban would stop the flow of medical assistance to West Africa. This is silly. Simply make an exception for health-care workers. They apply to federal authorities, who charter their flights (or use military aircraft already headed there) and monitor their movements until 21 days after their return home. Done.

President Obama, in his messianic period, declared that choosing between security and liberty was a false choice. On the contrary. It is the eternal dilemma of every free society. Politics is the very process of finding some equilibrium between these two competing values.

Regarding terrorism, we’ve developed a fairly reasonable balance. But it took time. With Ebola, we don’t have time. Viruses don’t wait. The sooner we reset the balance — the sooner we get serious — the safer we will be.

Steyn On Line [Protocol Theatre](#)

by Mark Steyn



A day late and a suit short

Thomas Frieden has now got his [Protocol Ali](#) routine [down pat](#):

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Gotcha. You can't get Ebola on a bus or a plane, you can only give it. Good to know. Thanks, Doc.

The Centers for Disease Control is one of those elite federal agencies that people hitherto assumed was, so to speak, immune to the pathologies of less glamorous government bureaucracies. It turns out it's the DMV with test tubes - just the usual "Sorry? Did we say you need two copies of the green form? We meant you need three copies of the pink form" routine with extra lethality. The Protocols of the Elders of Druid Hills have proved to be boundlessly mutable and mostly honored in the breach:

~Don't worry, the Protocols are in place - except that Thomas Duncan, the original Ebola patient, was left in an open area of the Dallas emergency room for hours and the medical staff treating him did not have protective clothing for the first two days.

~Don't worry, they did eventually get fully sealed, protective clothing - well, except for their necks, which remained exposed.

~Don't worry, exposed medical staff aren't supposed to fly - except that Nurse Amber Vinson got on a flight to Cleveland with a fever.

~Well, okay, but that was totally in breach of the Protocols - except that Nurse Vinson called the CDC to check and they said, "Sure, get on the plane. What's the worst that can happen? And make sure you share the bag of mini-pretzels..."

~Well, okay, but the next time Nurse Vinson got a flight, everyone followed the Protocols and wore hazmat suits - except for the guy with the clipboard, who [works for the CDC and so can't be expected to know all this Protocol stuff...](#)

As I said yesterday, the mortality rate for Ebola is 70 per cent - if you go nowhere near a hospital and just stay in your primitive disease-ridden village. If you go to a Liberian hospital, the mortality rate goes down a whopping three per cent to 67 per cent. One had assumed that western hospitals would be able to lower that significantly, but Hazmat Bob's Ministry of Propaganda is not terribly reassuring on that front. On stage in Minneapolis a week ago, I mentioned the big virus du jour of a decade ago - the now forgotten SARS. In Toronto, the health care system - which was meant to contain it - instead spread it. As I wrote in *America Alone* ([personally autographed copies](#) of which are [exclusively available](#) from the [SteynOnline bookstore](#), and which go to support [my pushback against the climate mullahs](#)):

In rural China pigs are valued possessions and sleep in the living room. That's why hundreds of members of a Catholic charismatic group from New York State had to go into isolation for a hitherto unknown respiratory disease in April 2003. A doctor from Sars-riddled Guangdong province went to a wedding at the Metropole Hotel in Hong Kong, where he managed to infect 16 other guests with rooms on the same floor, including Kwan Sui Chu, an elderly lady staying there for one night. She flew home to Toronto and died, her death being attributed to a "chest infection". Her son Tse Chi Kwai went to Scarborough Grace Hospital and, as is traditional in Canada, was left on a gurney in Emergency for 12 hours exposed to hundreds of people. Lying next to him was Joe Pollack, who was being treated for an irregular heartbeat and whose wife wandered around the wards and came across an 82-year old man from a Catholic charismatic group. Mr Pollack, Mrs Pollack, the octogenarian charismatic and his wife all died, and their sons infected at least 30 other members of their religious group plus a Filipina nurse, who flew back to Manila and before her death introduced Sars to a whole new country.

The fellow with the irregular heartbeat, the Catholic charismatics, the Filipina nurse: none of these people went anywhere near rural China. They didn't have to.

The good news is Ebola seems to be rather harder to catch than SARS. The bad news is the CDC seems to be doing its best to change that.

~The dysfunctionality of the hyper-bureaucratic state and its preference for soft targets (such as Kinder Eggs) over serious ones (such as Ebola) is one of the themes of my new book, [The \[Un\]documented Mark Steyn](#), which comes out on Monday across the US and Canada. It's as easy to pick up as Ebola: South of the border, you can get it from [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Books-A-Million](#), and other major retailers. North of the border, you can get it from [Indigo-Chapters](#), [Amazon](#), [McNally-Robinson](#) and all good bookstores.

Roger L. Simon [Could It Possibly Get Any Worse?](#)

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The Iran talks are a charade and everyone expects that country to get the bomb.

Our vaunted college campuses are transfixed by so-called micro-aggressions and a supposed rape epidemic while banning the likes of [Ayaan Hirsi Ali](#) and George Will (!) from speaking — and they still cost nearly \$70,000 a year.

Donor nations — including the ever popular Qatar — are giving over 5 billion dollars to rebuild Gaza with no discernible penalties for Hamas and virtually no way of preventing the terror organization from rearming (they have already started) and reconstructing their tunnel system under Israel. Meanwhile, the UK, UN, Sweden and nearly everybody else are blaming the Jewish state for practically everything, with anti-Semitism more prevalent almost everywhere than since the 1930s.

Putin has already taken a good swathe of Ukraine, including Crimea, and is licking his chops for the rest of Eastern Europe. The Soviet Union is back and China is on the rise.

Europe is on the verge of recession. Even Germany appears to be stagnating.

The U.S. has its lowest labor participation rate since women went to work. The middle class is consistently losing ground.

Race relations in the U.S. seem to have gone backwards fifty years in the last six, African Americans overwhelmed with victimology and picking on cops before there is any evidence. Critics of the president are constantly accused of racism. Seventy percent of black children are born out of wedlock.

No one trusts the word of the president because he has lied so frequently about everything from health care to Benghazi.

The highly-politicized attorney general has stepped down with an even worse successor in the wings ([Tom Perez](#)).

The U.S. Army is falling apart with only 12 of 37 brigades combat ready. Our Navy is disappearing.

Al Qaeda is NOT on the run. Just the opposite — it's everywhere. The Taliban are getting Afghanistan back, maybe Pakistan too.

No one knows how many terrorists have already crossed our border, what passports they have and what they are planning to do.

Our prisons have become [training camps for jihadists](#).

And with all this, our secretary of State — who has no scientific expertise whatsoever but does speak mediocre French — thinks “global warming” is our biggest problem.

There's a lot more. I know I've forgotten a ton. The mind simply boggles when trying to recall all of it. (What about Assad and the “red line?” etc., etc.). Please feel free to add yours at the bottom.

But remember this. It's not all bad. At least Valerie Jarrett isn't running for president in 2016....[Or is she?](#)

Power Line

[Ebola panic and the limits of political sanity \[Updated With Classic Image\]](#)

by Scott Johnson

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The refusal seems obviously to be driven by a brand of politics that verges on the insane. Thus the reticence of the White House to expose its true train of thought to public view.

In his testimony before a House panel today, CDC honcho Tom Frieden tread lightly in response to questions by Rep. Steve Scalise on conversations with the White House. Lest there be any doubt that the refusal to impose a travel ban is a function of politics driven by the White House, Glenn Reynolds translates Dr. Frieden's evasions: ["So that's a yes, then."](#)

UPDATE: George Mason University Law School Assistant Dean Richard Kelsey has issued the following statement (which I have slightly edited and reformatted):

One has to wonder...why Mr. Obama refuses to use the administrative state he controls to protect Americans. Where's the pen? Mr. Obama used his pen to give amnesty to illegal aliens. He has directed his administrative state to tighten EPA regulations. He has attempted to sidestep the Senate on treaty authority with respect to climate change. He has done things with that pen that are simply unconstitutional.

His principal duty as President is to protect Americans. This President could properly use his powers by making common sense travel bans from Ebola hot spots. For political reasons, he simply, doggedly, and ideologically refuses to do so. The CDC projected that by January, up to 1.5 million cases of Ebola could happen.

Why are we fooling around with this? Our hospitals, nurses, and CDC have shown that they are not ready to handle an outbreak. Indeed, they don't even know for sure what the right protocols are for handling patients. One rogue Liberian has sent this country into panic and has the CDC tracking hundreds of people in this country, two of whom are infected.

The President rarely uses the law correctly, and even more rarely in aid of the protection of Americans. It is time to ban travel from these hot zones until this President and his CDC can demonstrate that they can competently, and with the confidence of our people, address this virus. That protection does not prevent us from helping in the countries that need it most. That too is in our interest. In order to help, however, we must secure our own interests and safety first. It's this President's primary responsibility, and one for which his pen is authorized.

UPDATE by John: Matt Drudge gives the administration's stubbornness some global context:



AFRICA: BORDER CLOSURES SAVED US

DRUDGE REPORT

Of course, you can't expect our government to be as competent as Nigeria's.

Business Week

[Africa stems Ebola via border closings, luck](#)

by Tom Odula And Lynsey Chutel

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Health officials battling the Ebola outbreak that has killed more than 4,500 people in West Africa have managed to limit its spread on the continent to five countries — and two of them appear to have snuffed out the disease.

Officials credit tighter border controls, good patient-tracking and other medical practices, and just plain luck with keeping Ebola confined mostly to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea since the outbreak was first identified in March.

Senegal did so well in finding and isolating a man with Ebola who had slipped across the border from Guinea in August that the World Health Organization on Friday will declare the end of the disease in Senegal if no new cases surface.

Nigeria is another success story. It had 20 cases and eight deaths after the virus was brought by a Liberian-American who flew from Liberia to Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital of 21 million people, in July. Nearly 900 people were potentially exposed to the virus by the traveler, who died, and the disease could have wreaked havoc in Africa's most populous nation. Instead, Ebola appears to have been beaten, in large part through aggressive tracking of Ebola contacts, with no new cases since Aug. 31.

WHO, the U.N. health agency, called it "a piece of world-class epidemiological detective work." The organization is set to declare an end to the outbreak in Nigeria on Monday.

Nigeria had a head start compared with other West African countries: Officials were able to use an emergency command center that had been built by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to combat polio.

Border closings may also be helping halt the spread of Ebola.

Ivory Coast, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal, all of which share borders with at least one of the three most affected countries, have closed those borders.

The disease continues to ravage Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, overwhelming their health systems.

And some observers warn that border closings can have limited effect in a region with highly porous boundaries and few resources to patrol them. Border posts are sometimes easily skirted.

There is also concern that travel restrictions will make things worse in the affected countries by creating what amounts to an economic embargo. "We have been isolated," said Kaifala Marah, Sierra Leone's finance and economic development minister. "It really is killing our economies." Authorities in some African countries imposed tight air travel restrictions, tougher than those contemplated by the U.S. or British governments. South Africa and Zambia slapped travel and entry restrictions on Ebola-stricken countries. Kenya Airways, the country's main airline, stopped flying to the affected lands.

In Zimbabwe, all travelers from West Africa are put under 21-day surveillance. Health officials regularly visit those travelers to check their condition. Nigeria initially banned flights from countries with Ebola but relaxed the restriction once it felt that airlines were competent to take travelers' temperatures and follow other measures to prevent people with Ebola from flying. Nigeria has teams taking the temperature of travelers at airports and seaports.

In Ethiopia, the main international airport in Addis Ababa screens all arriving passengers — including those from Europe and the U.S. — for fever using body scans.

South Africa has tested 14 people for Ebola, all of whom proved negative.

"To tell you the truth, we were testing them just to settle your nerves," Aaron Motsoaledi, South Africa's health minister, told reporters. "Clinically speaking, most of them did not fit criteria for testing."

Another factor is luck. All it takes is one infected person to slip around guards at a border post or get aboard a plane.

"God has been merciful we haven't reported a case in Kenya, but we really need to up our disaster preparedness," said Dr. Nelly Bosire, an official with Kenya's main medical union.

"The fact we stopped doing the West African flights had an impact. On that part I think we got it right. But it still has more to do with luck."

National Journal

Naked Politics: The Ebola Czar Has No Clothes

Why Obama flipped and chose Ron Klain to oversee the political crisis.

by Ron Fournier

1. We shouldn't need an Ebola czar.
2. We already put somebody in charge of corralling federal bureaucracies and coordinating local responses to national emergencies. His name is Barack Obama.

3. He has a chief of staff, the nation's chief operating officer, Denis McDonough; a homeland security adviser, Lisa Monaco; a national security adviser, Susan Rice; a director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and a Cabinet full of secretaries.

4. That should be enough.

5. If it isn't—if all the president's men and women can't coordinate among themselves, if McDonough isn't strong enough to ride herd, maybe a massive shakeup is in order. But I repeat myself ([here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)).

6. So now the president wants a czar. He flipped. What type of person should he choose? He could turn to a respected and passionate medical professional with management experience, but such people already run the CDC and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

7. He could turn to a dynamic leader outside the medical world, somebody who has succeeded under pressure and amid change. Maybe a retired general. But such a person might get eaten alive inside the unfamiliar bureaucracies that spin out of the West Wing.

8. He could choose a political insider, somebody who knows how bureaucracies work and why they don't—a head-cracking infighter empowered to galvanize a dysfunctional administration. He could choose somebody like Ron Klain, which is what he did.

9. Klain is a veteran Democratic operative and former chief of staff to two vice presidents. He's now a bigwig at the tech-orientated venture-capital firm Revolution.

10. (Klain was portrayed by Kevin Spacey in an HBO film about the 2000 campaign recount. Spacey takes a call from a reporter named Fournier. That was not my voice, and that particular conversation never occurred, although I did talk to Klain and countless other Gore aides that endless night.)

11. The choice makes sense if Obama's main concern is a) the incompetence of his team, or; b) midterm politics. My strong hunch is it's "b". The Obama White House is not self-aware. It is nakedly political. The uneven response to Ebola threatens to be a toxic issue for Democrats, and the president is under pressure from his party's desperate candidates to do *something*.

12. Klain will report to Rice and Monaco. That makes no sense. Even if you think a czar is needed, and believe that the czar should be a Democratic operative steeped in White House politics, this reporting structure is a mistake. He should report directly to Obama.

13. Klain can't be a disruptively productive force without autonomy. I have to ask: How many senior White House officials, including the president, have ever created an organization chart? Anybody with a rudimentary understanding of management would know that you don't untangle a chain of command by injecting a new figure haphazardly *into it*. The answer is to put somebody *atop it*. Which brings me back to my first sentence, and the real problem here.

14. We shouldn't need an Ebola czar. The president needs to do his job better.

Pajamas Media

Ten Things the Ebola Crisis Tells Us About the Obama Administration

by Michael Walsh

What a shock: faced with a crisis that could demolish the Democrats in the coming midterm elections and permanently cripple his post-election plans to continue “fundamental transformation,” President Obama has done [the only thing](#) he knows how to do — seek a political solution to get him past Nov. 4, in the hopes that he can fool the American public one last time.



The announcement of [Ron Klain](#) as the new Ebola “czar” checks all the boxes: Harvard Law, longtime Democrat party op, veteran of the Clinton, Al Gore and John Kerry campaigns. The problem is, it checks all the wrong boxes. The Progressive myth is that we ought to have a government of experts — top men! — to handle the nation’s problems in a calm, deliberative manner. The reality is that we have a nation of unscrupulous lawyers, amoral apparatchiks and political hacks whose only area of expertise is manipulating the electoral and governmental systems and getting rich by doing so.

I mean, does this make you feel confident?

After learning this week that an infected nurse had traveled by air, Mr. Obama scrapped most of his schedule in favor of meetings with top national security and public health officials. While praising their work to date on Ebola, the president said they had full plates — including the fight against the Islamic State and the onset of flu season — and another person might be needed “just to make sure that we are crossing all the t’s and dotting all the i’s going forward.”

Mr. Klain will report directly to Lisa Monaco, Mr. Obama’s homeland security adviser, and Susan E. Rice, his national security adviser, the official said.

Islamic State, the flu season, a lethal virus hitherto confined to Africa — just another day at the office for President Golf n’ Fund-raise. What this appointment — made only under duress, and

purely for political reasons, since there is absolutely nothing Ron Klain personally can do to stop the spread of the Ebola virus now that the barn doors at our borders and airports have been left wide open for ideological reasons — tells us is this:



Not Ron Klain, left; but Spacey did play him in a movie

1. If a retread [party hack](#) like [Klain](#) is the best Obama can do, then the Democrat talent pool is incredibly shallow. Naturally, though, Obama wouldn't think of going outside it.
2. The President considers Ebola a political/messaging problem, not a medical problem. Klain is an insider process guy, not an expert in the field.
3. The fact that we need a “Czar” to cut across federal agency red-tape and make things happen expeditiously is an indictment of the federal agencies themselves, although no Democrat would ever dare to suggest such a thing. The choice signals that, as Ronald Reagan said, government itself is the problem, not the solution.
4. The reason they won't dare is that the federal agencies — unelected hives of beetling bureaucrats, scurrying beneath the media surface — are the sources of their power. You don't alienate or fire your most ardent union voters and financial supporters.
5. This is a government devoted to process, not results. Its most deeply held belief — a by-product of its quasi-Marxist belief in the “labor theory of value” — is that putting in hours and hitting “metrics” is the job itself, not whatever it ostensibly happens to be about; hey, even if you die, they get paid. In this sense, bureaucrats are similar to the education majors who teach our children in the public schools, with no particular expertise in anything but theory. And the results speak for themselves.
6. With theory ascendant over common sense, the government's adamant refusal so far to ban travel to and from West Africa and its affected nations proves conclusively that Leftists are perfectly willing to have you die for their ideological beliefs.
7. The longer this goes on, the more the panic will spread — look what happened at the [Pentagon](#) earlier today, or on this [cruise ship](#). If you haven't started to panic yet, then [read this](#).
8. Regarding the open borders and open airports, a larger issue: why is the Left so adamantly opposed to the people's right to defend themselves? There is nothing “racist” about closing the country to travelers from certain countries in west Africa — heck, the Africans have already [done it themselves](#).

9. In twice electing Barack Obama president Americans made a choice: professional politicians over men of integrity. Symbolism over substance (hello, Nobel Peace Prize). Potential over accomplishment. Guilt over responsibility.
10. If the naked malevolence of the Leftist project for America isn't visible to you now, then you're beyond help.

But hey, not to worry — Kevin Spacey played [Ron Klain in a movie](#). So it's all good.

IBD

Late Night Humor

by Andrew Malcolm

Fallon: A new study says the reading level of presidential speeches has dropped sharply over the past 200 years. Or as Americans put it, "Why dat?"

Conan: A new viral video is out showing a brawl among a group of Where's Waldo impersonators. Now, they're on the run and police can't find them.

Fallon: New York state is spending \$750 million on a solar plant in Buffalo. Thousands of jobs, most of them getting snow off the solar panels. Seriously? Buffalo?

Conan: JetBlue's CEO announces he will step down in February. Of course, it being JetBlue, his actual departure may be delayed until March.

Meyers: Florida police are searching for the people who stole 18 tons of Crisco. Police have failed to apprehend the suspects despite catching them several times.

Fallon: A new study says only 3.4% of Americans will vote in the midterm elections. On the bright side, 100% will still complain about the results.

Conan: A Columbus Day fun fact, ladies and gentlemen. Christopher Columbus died a bitter and penniless man. Ironically, he lost everything at an Indian casino.

Meyers: Facebook plans to let users send money using the site's messaging feature. Said moms, "Oh, so *NOW* you're happy I'm on Facebook."

Conan: Dozens of NFL players will be appearing in a series of PSA's about domestic violence. No word yet on whether they're for or against.

Meyers: The Bravo Network is under fire after it let go 16 editors on the show 'Shahs of Sunset' when they tried to unionize. Said the editors, who've had to watch every episode of Shahs of Sunset, "No no! We said we wanted to be euthanized."

Meyers: The Obama White House wants to require police officers to wear body cameras at all times. A great way for fans to keep up with their favorite NFL players.

Conan: Croatian archaeologists have discovered a city believed to be 7,000 years old. You can tell it's ancient because it had a Blockbuster Video.

Meyers: A 114-year-old woman had to lie about her age when she joined Facebook this week because she was born five years before the oldest year available on the site. But then she had to close down her account because her mom joined.

Meyers: North Korea's dictator Kim Jong Un missed the 69th anniversary of the country his grandfather declared. It's especially strange because Kim knew there would be cake there.

Fallon: North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un was sighted for the first time in over 40 days. But since he saw his shadow, that means 60 more years of nuclear winter.

Conan: Rumors out that in the new Star Wars movie, Luke Skywalker returns to Yoda's home world. At which point Yoda tells Luke, "Skype, we could have."

Meyers: Ben Affleck confirms he appears naked in his new movie. And by naked, he means without Matt Damon.

Conan: There's now an app that connects people who want to cuddle. It's a great way for married women to connect with other married women.

Meyers: Kim Kardashian finally took the Ice Bucket Challenge. She said she was more than happy to help raise awareness of Kim Kardashian.

Meyers: The husband of one 'Real Housewives of New Jersey' got 41 months in prison. He's disappointed but says 41 months away from his wife is better than nothing.

Conan: A Japanese zoo was unable to breed two spotted hyenas. Then it realized both were male. The two male hyenas are no longer forced to mate, but can go antiquing together.

Conan: A Mexico City man has the world's largest collection of "Harry Potter" memorabilia. You can see it at his home, "La Casa De No Sexo."

Conan: There are now more than one billion websites in the world. And four of them are not devoted to porn.

Conan: The new FIFA video-game is the most realistic soccer simulation ever. It's all due to a new, high-speed processor capable of calculating scores as high as "4."

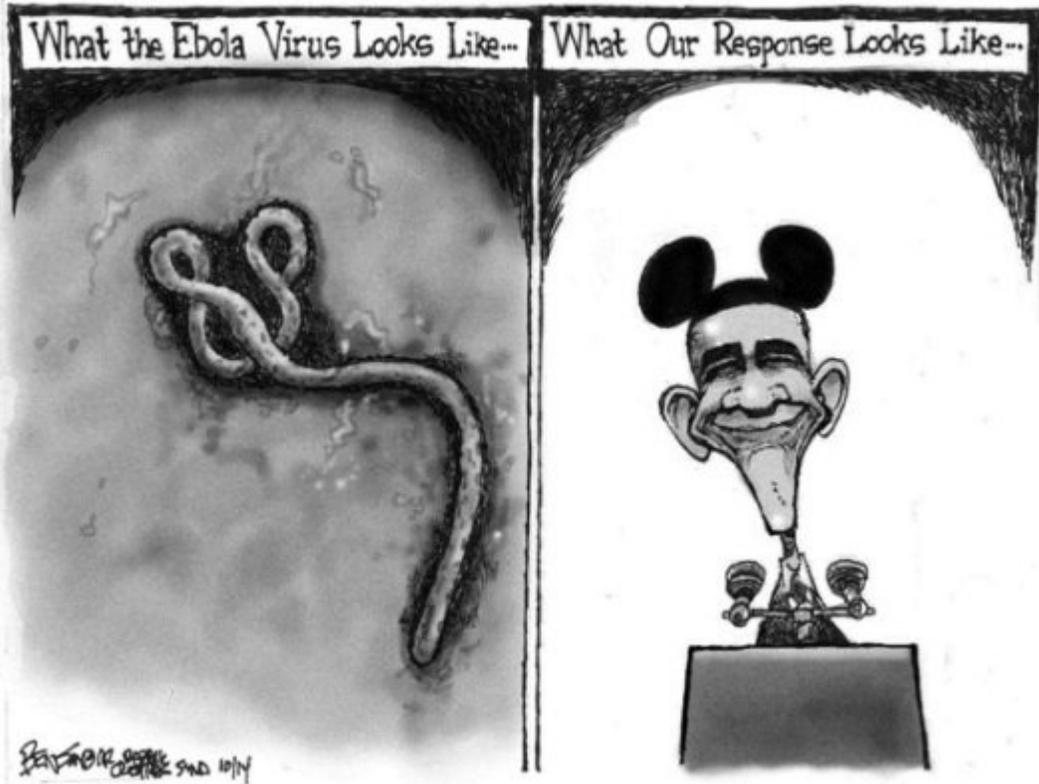
Conan: Pizza Hut is testing a new lower calorie pizza. To which the average American said, "Great, now I can eat five."

Conan: "60 Minutes" has aired an investigation on how to live past 90. The study was conducted by investigating people who've hosted "60 Minutes."

Fallon: Sad news from the reality TV world. Mama June and Sugar Bear from "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo" are splitting up. Their lawyers cite unintelligible differences.

Conan: A Louisiana restaurant is offering 10% off to all armed patrons. When you think about it, everyone with a gun gets a discount. That's how robbery works.

Conan: Amazon.com plans to open its first physical store. The Amazon store manager said his plan is to do OK for about a year, then be put out of business by Amazon.com.



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DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

**March – Ebola outbreak revealed
Oct. – U.S. response still chaotic**



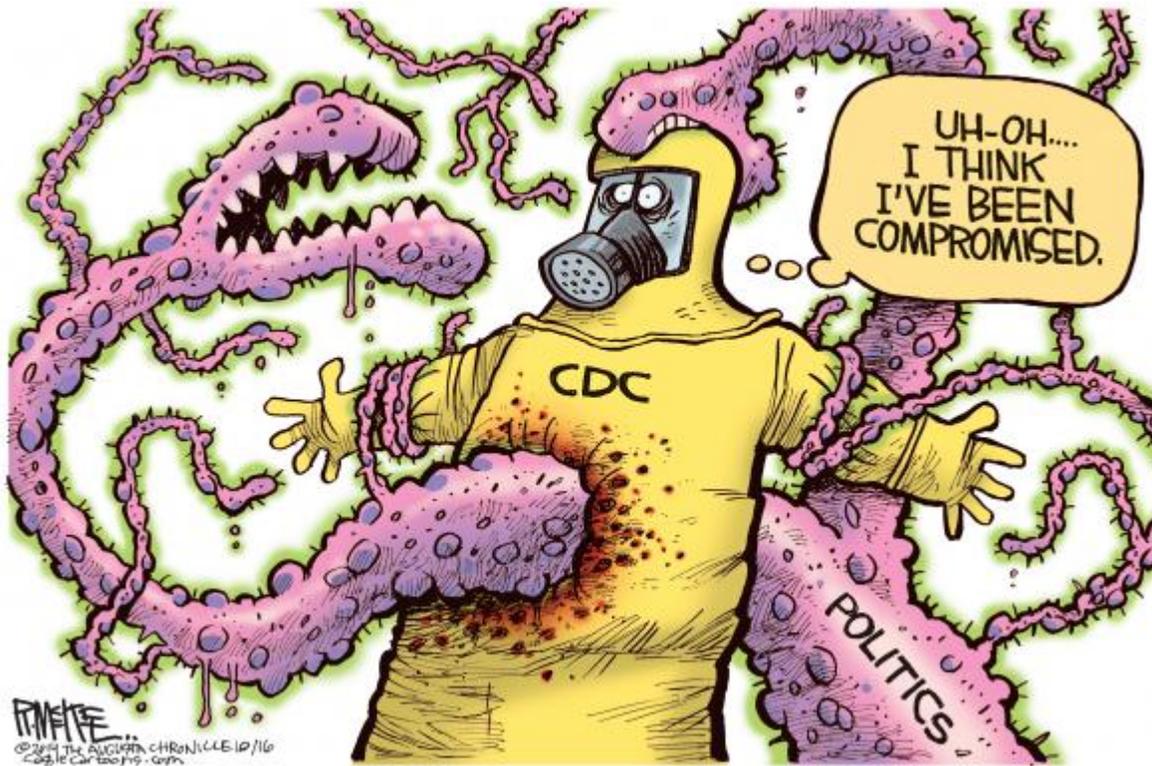
FOR GOD'S SAKE, GET A GRIP



MORE THAN half a year after the first 83 cases of Ebola in Africa were revealed, President Obama shockingly conceded Wednesday that the U.S. and the Centers for Disease Control — led by Director Tom Frieden (inset) — must get “more aggressive” in fighting the deadly virus.

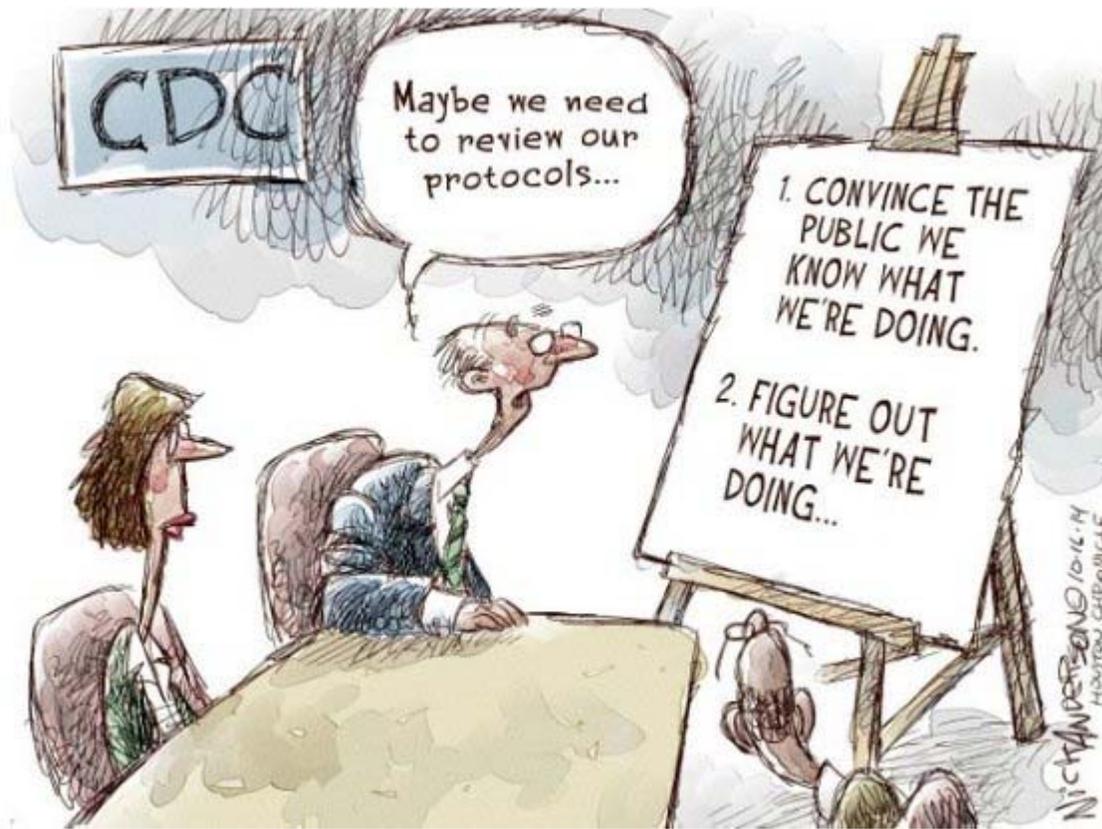
PAGES 2,3,4,5,6

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HASTON/AP



"MY FELLOW AMERICANS, THERE'S NO NEED TO PANIC... OBAMACARE COVERS EBOLA."





**It seems to me we'd solve
an awful lot of problems**

