

Thoughts On President Trump's Coronavirus Diagnosis

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR



Lily Cabibi-Wilkin is a junior music composition major from Hot Springs.

President Donald Trump tested positive for coronavirus last Thursday. He spent three nights in Walter Reed National Military Medical Center before returning to the White House. At least 14 people close to President Trump also have tested positive, including Melania Trump, Hope Hicks, Kellyanne Conway and Chris Christie. I have multiple thoughts about this, which I will separate below.

Is it moral to celebrate President Trump testing positive?

I certainly don't think it's immoral to be happy that someone who has caused so many others harm is facing at least slight

repercussions for his actions. Trump's response to the virus has led to the death of over 210,000 Americans, and I think we should be allowed to appreciate the irony of him testing positive for a disease he has ignored and downplayed for so long. Anyone who says otherwise is speaking over those who have been affected.

President Trump has had a vastly better experience

Trump's political position and wealth have allowed him to have a better experience with the virus than the majority of Americans who have tested positive for it. Upon testing positive, Trump was flown to a private hospital suite and was constantly monitored and given medicine. Many Americans have struggled in every facet of coronavirus, from being tested to paying for medical care to finding space in a hospital. Some have died in their homes, unable to access even basic medical care, while Trump was immediately able to access top medical care, and even experimental drug treatments not yet approved by the FDA.

President Trump underestimates the virus

On Sunday, four days after testing positive for coronavirus, Trump left his hospital to show himself off to his supporters, riding in the back of a

hermetically sealed Presidential SUV with two Secret Service officers. On Monday, he returned to the White House, removing his mask and stuffing it into his pocket. "Feeling really good!" he tweeted. "Don't be afraid of Covid. Don't let it dominate your life...I feel better than I did 20 years ago!"

Over 210,000 Americans have died from coronavirus. Despite this, it does not seem like Trump is treating coronavirus with the caution it deserves. The way he talks about it makes it sound like he came down with a minor cold, not a disease that Americans continue to die from every day.

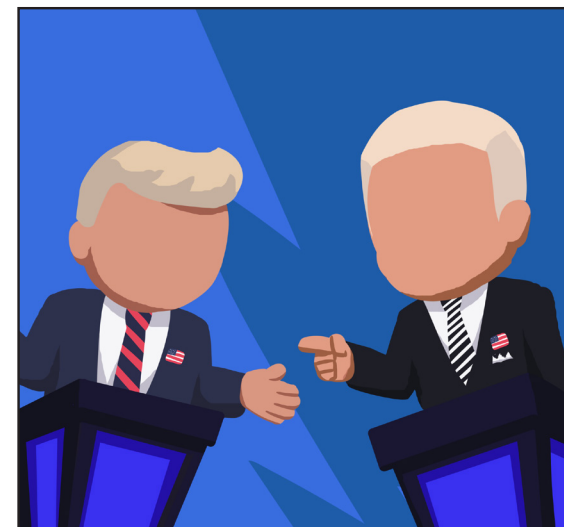
Things are not over yet

White House employees have arranged a temporary suite of offices next to the White House medical suite so that Trump can continue to be monitored and cared for. According to CNN, "Trump's working space was adjusted both in the interest of constantly monitoring the still-convalescing President and in the hopes of keeping him out of the West Wing, where staffers are contending with a growing coronavirus outbreak." The way things are going, I think they will get worse before they get better, and I don't think President Trump's attitude is

going to help matters at all.

Conclusion

Trump's flippant attitude in response to testing positive for coronavirus has put him, his family, and his coworkers in danger. He continues to downplay the virus, even after having it, and I think this will harm his supporters, who will continue to believe that the coronavirus is a hoax or a minor illness. His privilege of having access to proper medical care also affects his already limited ability to empathize with the American people. After all of that I think we should be able to laugh at the irony of his diagnosis -- after all, laughter is the best medicine most of us can afford.



Art by Think Vu | Content Creator

What's Your Opinion?

Last week, we asked students What their favorite part of the fall season is.

Out of 40 responses, here are the results:

- Weather -- 17
- Holidays -- 9
- Seasonal Foods -- 7
- Fashion/Clothing -- 7



Weather Holidays Seasonal Foods Fashion/Clothing

Next Week's Poll:

Flu or Fiction

Have you gotten a flu shot this year?

When I was growing up, I would often laugh at adults who scorned technology. "Phones are tracking our every move," they claimed. "They're keeping our kids from developing! Soon kids won't even know how to read books anymore because of their phones!" It's become a Gen Z joke that an unrelated ailment, when brought up to a parent, will be met with "it's because of that phone/computer/video game!"

Of course, when I was growing up, technology was just starting to take off. Products like Facebook, YouTube and even Android and iPhone devices came about before I was even 10 years old. The internet was used for chatting with friends and making cat memes. How could it be dangerous?

But as technology became more advanced and complicated, so too did the need to protect it. You wouldn't want someone to break into your house and steal the new phone you'd just spent \$100 on. Security systems became more advanced, in a bid to protect people's homes.

The Ring doorbell system uses motion-detecting cameras to capture footage from your porch. Through the

Ring Always Home Cam: Privacy vs. Comfort

use of the Neighbors app, you can view video from the camera, be notified when your doorbell rings, and communicate with visitors through the doorbell's microphone and speaker. It can record footage whenever the doorbell rings, or whenever the motion-detecting cameras are set up.

Ring, a company owned by Amazon, recently announced a drone camera, the Ring Always Home Cam. The drone sits in a charging dock, occasionally leaving and flying around your home and recording footage. It also can be connected to the doorbell, so whenever you're away and the doorbell detects activity, the drone will fly around your home to record any footage of a possible break-in.

If this doesn't sound suspicious to you, let me remind you that Ring has partnered with law enforcement before. According to an article by CNet, "Police departments across the country...have offered free or discounted Ring doorbells to citizens, sometimes using taxpayer funds to pay for Amazon's products. While Ring owners are supposed to have a choice on providing police footage, in some giveaways, police require recipients to turn over footage when requested." According to the article, police can watch footage taken on Ring cameras through the Neighbors app, though there have

been circumstances where police have gone to the homes of owners of Ring doorbells to ask for their footage.

With the motion-activated camera, the Ring doorbell can capture motion on the streets. If enough people have a Ring doorbell, their neighborhood becomes a highly surveilled space. But by inviting the Ring drone into your home and allowing it to fly around, you are making your home into a surveilled space. While Ring promises that the drone is loud enough to announce its presence, that doesn't change the fact that it will be recording you in your home.

"Amazon stores recordings of every interaction you've had with Alexa."
- Phys.org

An article from IEEE Spectrum points out that a mobile camera can't be avoided. It posits that the drone could "permit an abuser to check in on their partner wherever they are." While the drone moves on a route customized by the owner, it still means that any area of your house the drone enters will be monitored.

If police can access footage from a Ring doorbell, they certainly could access

the footage from a Ring drone. While this is good if your house is broken into, it's bad if the police have any reason to want to watch your activity.

There is also the issue of your data being tracked by Amazon and used to sell products. Many online retailers and organizations track your data in order to better promote products to you. For example, Facebook will look at groups you join or things you post to recommend more pages, or YouTube will look at the videos you've watched to give you ads more relevant to what it thinks you will like.

Amazon, however, has multiple ways of getting your information, depending on how many of its products you have. If you have a smart home decked out with all the Ring and Alexa products, then Amazon can see who comes to your home, what you sound like, and what you buy, and will use this data to sell you things. According to an article by Phys.org, "Amazon stores recordings of every interaction you've had with Alexa."

As we move further and further into the digital age, it's always important to keep track of how much information you're allowing companies like Amazon to take from you. As nice and convenient as products like Alexa and Ring are, they are a tradeoff between privacy and comfort.

THE HERALD

KRISHNAN COLLINS: EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
krishnan.collins@smail.astate.edu

TRISTAN BENNETT: NEWS EDITOR
heraldnews1921@gmail.com

BRADLEY BREWER: SPORTS EDITOR
heraldsports1921@gmail.com

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN: OPINION EDITOR
heraldopinion1921@gmail.com

ALEX CLARK: LIFE EDITOR
heraldlife1921@gmail.com

HANNAH RISKER: PHOTO EDITOR
heraldphoto1921@gmail.com

DREW MORGAN: ONLINE EDITOR
heraldonline1921@gmail.com

SANDRA L. COMBS: ADVISER; ADVERTISEMENT SALES
scombs@astate.edu
astateherald@gmail.com

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