



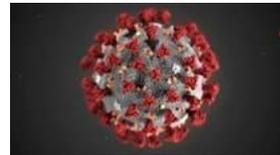
"From Where I Sit ..."

JAWS (Life Imitating Art)

Loosely quoting online sources, the 1975 summer blockbuster movie **Jaws** was an American thriller film directed by Steven Spielberg. In the film, it is a hot summer on Amity Island, a small community whose main business is its beaches. When a man-eating great white shark attacks beachgoers, new police chief Martin Brody is prompted to hunt it with the help of a marine biologist and a professional shark hunter. When Chief Brody strongly suggests closing the beaches to swimmers, it does not sit well with the Mayor and local businessmen who reject his suggestion. With several subsequent shark attacks, the rest becomes theatrical history.



In the literary community, books and films have often been produced on historical subjects, persons, or events. However, when current events seem to mirror literary accounts, the phrase that is often applied is "life imitating art." And such may be an apt description of the current events of our experience with the Covid-19 Pandemic.



At this writing, Covid-19 cases in the United States have just passed 3 million with over 130,000 deaths. The thrust of officials appears directed on fully reopening businesses (including schools) while many areas hesitate to impose mask and social distancing requirements. Like Jaws, the emphasis seems to be more focused on the profits of businesses than the protection of the lives and health of the citizenry. Especially, the lives and health of minorities, seniors, and people of color.

Due to the severity of this Pandemic and its potential to attack any person at any age, coupled with the projection of a vaccine not being widely available for up to 12 or more months, what additional steps should we take to be better prepared for the possible consequences of this virus? It may sound morbid, but now more than ever we should review and, where necessary, update our beneficiaries for all retirement accounts and life insurance policies. Also, it would not hurt and would likely be most beneficial to our family members, if we have 1) prepared our obituaries, 2) planned a draft funeral order of service, and 3) proposed where and how we wish to be buried.

"Life imitating art" is a common phrase but another common phrase is "those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it." And if that is so then be reminded that there were three sequels to **Jaws**. Hopefully, we will contain this virus and there will be no sequel(s).

Without attempting to assign actual roles to the theatrical location of Amity Island, or characters such as the police chief, the mayor or the business leaders, it is quite clear to me that the man-eating great white shark is this Covid-19 virus and we are the people or citizenry at risk of attack. *Or at least that's the way it looks to me ...*

"From Where I Sit"

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(Copies of earlier articles may be found on the

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