

**From:** [David Kraemer](#)  
**To:** [Covid Affiliate Archives](#)  
**Subject:** FW: One Person's Response to Communal Fear 4.29.20  
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**From:** Morris Allen <mojo210al@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 9:33 AM  
**To:** MOJO210AL <MOJO210AL@aol.com>  
**Subject:** One Person's Response to Communal Fear 4.29.20

WAGON WHEEL CENSUS 5 Trucks 4 Cars 0 Walkers 1 Dog Walker 1 ISD197# School Bus # 1916 (with the friendly wave from the bus driver)

In a world in which there are no coincidences, I couldn't figure out why Phyllis was watching "Bull Durham" late into [Saturday night until Sunday morning](#). It was then that I realized that non-consciously, she was aware of the death of Steve Dalkowski. Dalkowski was the individual who inspired the making of that box office hit. In real life, Dalkowski regularly threw the baseball at 100MPH and some said even at 110MPH. Ted Williams, the legendary hitter, once remarked after hitting against him in Spring Training game, that he had never hit against a pitcher with a faster and stronger pitch. So why did Dalkowski never become a household name? Simply because he had no ability to control his pitches. He could throw a heater down the middle into the catcher's glove on one pitch and was just as likely to throw the next one high and over the backstop. With all of his skill, he either didn't have the inclination or desire or perhaps the ability to learn how to control his pitching. He didn't or couldn't learn to take the skills he had and transform them into a successful career.

There are many people gifted with great skills or brain power. And yet, with all their talent or smarts, they cannot make it work inside the world in which we live. The object lesson of my youth was a man named Gene W. He was one of my father's best friends growing up and then went to college with my father. They were frat brothers and my father and he remained friendly during my years in Denver. Almost every time after we left a gathering where Gene was present (and probably holding a drink in his hand), my father would say Gene was the smartest person he ever knew. He would tell me the same story: "Gene never went to classes in college, played bridge all day and made money while doing it. When it came time for a test, he walked into the exam and passed it with flying colors." With all that talent, my father told me that story because he would then say, "it doesn't matter how smart you are, it matters how disciplined you are with those smarts." My dad's object lesson was an attempt to teach 2 things. One, that unless you learn to control your pitches or discipline your smarts—all the gifts that you possess are meaningless. The corollary is also true, just because you are the most talented or the smartest, you may not be the most successful. The great equalizer in life is that people who learn to control their pitches—even they are not the fastest, or the person who learns to utilize the smarts he has—even they are not "1600 SAT smarts", will undoubtedly be the more successful and happier individual throughout their life. There are way too many examples out there right now in the world to have to belabor this point. Just imagine if POTUS learned how to control his unbounded anger and his terrifying narcissism during this pandemic and

took full advantage of the bully pulpit which he was given. Had he done that; I imagine his numbers in MNCD2 would mirror those of Gov. Walz. But I digress....

Learning to control what you can control is the most important lesson that can be learned during these days and weeks of isolation. All of us have wants about what we would like to have happening in the world. It is sad that baseball has been reduced to late night movies. Unfortunate that I haven't seen and been face to face with my colleagues since March 12. Concerned about the inability of people to follow the science and instead be engaging in activities that are detrimental to stopping the spread of Covid-19. Filled with despair about the number of people suffering with the disease and who have succumbed to its curse. But I cannot control either the virulence of the disease or the decision as to when society begins to return to a new normal. I can only control my response. I can give into fear or I can choose to live as fully as possible with the limited options provided to me. I have chosen the latter and it has proven to be a pretty good choice. While really concerned about the world, fear is not evident in my daily life. We only get a limited amount of time on this ride called life. Squandering it with worries about things outside our control seems counter-intuitive at best. Steve Dalkowski or Gene W. were truly gifted with talents and wisdom. They simply squandered the talents they were given and lost out on the possibility of the success which was within their grasp. They are not alone, but rather models for all too many. In the world in which we are living, the greatest talent we can all possess or the greatest lesson we can all learn is this. Imagine an intersection in life between the things we can control and the things that truly matter to us. Learning how to control the slight overlap between those two circles will lead one to a much more satisfying life than living with the empty spaces of things that matter over which we have no control or trying to control things that do not matter. Morris

(An important PS—Today is Yom Ha'atzmaut -- The 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. It is the greatest gift of living in this moment of Jewish history. While we may be greatly disappointed with the political leadership of its government, we can all rightly proud of Israel's presence inside the world of nations and our peoples restoration to nationhood. To honor my desire for greater understanding and appreciation for every minority population in whatever country they live, I share this wonderful video that has gone viral inside of Israel — <https://youtu.be/pUTiENldjLM>.)

Sent by my iPad