



ABC CLARION

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The Repercussions of Zika in the US by Alena Zhang

With over 15,000 confirmed Zika cases in the US, government officials in the southeast have entered a state of panic. Although New York recently surpassed Florida as the state with the highest number of travel-related Zika reports, the disease continues to spread north from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

In mid-June, congressional Republicans drafted a Senate bill that would allocate \$1.1 billion to combat the disease. However, the vote failed 52 to 48, with sixty votes needed to advance the legislation. In 2014, Obama asked Congress to approve a \$6 billion funding initiative aimed at fighting the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. Since then, the White House has reportedly spent over \$700 million of that money to tackle Zika.

Senate Democrats argued that the bill would unfairly obstruct access to contraception and weaken environmental restrictions regarding pesticide use. It would also use funds originally apportioned for President Obama's Affordable Care Act. Republicans did acknowledge

that some of the bill's provisions favored their policy positions.

Partisan disputes should not take precedence when there is a chaotic public health emergency at hand. Instead, congressional officials should focus on the safety and health of the American people. But even after a long seven-week Congressional recess, the vote still remains deadlocked.

In South Carolina, some progress has been made to prevent the transmission of Zika -- but not without dire consequences. On August 28, beekeepers across Summerville County awoke to apiaries full of dead bees. That morning, the district had used an aerial insecticide spray called Naled to kill mosquitoes in the area.

District officials claimed that they had notified beekeepers of the spraying two days in advance. However, an investigation showed that dozens of farms were missing from their records. Although county representatives plan to revise their practices for the future, this massive bee extermination is an irreversible tragedy.

Pollinators contribute \$29 billion to farm income across the United States -- if other districts make the same fumble that Summerville did, this vital agricultural market could potentially be destroyed. On September 9, Florida began using aerial sprays on Miami Beach, which is the second site that has been declared as an active zone of Zika transmission on the U.S. mainland.

Pesticides often impair unintended targets because the chemical solutions are simply not specialized enough. High winds could easily move the spray off-target, and a 2015 Florida International University Study even found that Naled application was dangerous to butterflies. In high enough doses, it could cause harm to other arthropods and mammals. Despite this, experts at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) claim that Naled is far safer than other chemicals. It breaks down quickly, and in the low doses at which it is prescribed, it poses no threat to

humans.

We don't know the long-term implications for the ecosystems that we're affecting. If we use mass pesticides, we're open to the risk of changing the mosquito species over time. Just as ticks and bacteria have gained resistance to the chemicals and antibiotics that

were once fatal to them, mosquitoes could potentially evolve to gain pesticide immunity. The biggest steps toward Zika prevention are mosquito nets and bug spray -- and it should be the people's responsibility to protect themselves.

Confucius by Winston Huang

Chinese history goes as far back as the books will remember. Its pages and its traditions passed from generation to generation. Today, one of the most remembered philosophers is known as Confucius. He was a teacher who would educate anyone who had the desire to learn and pay stipend with food. Accordingly, the Chinese created a tradition that reveres and honors the great teacher. This inspired the ritual known as Pa I Wu which means Eight Feather Dance. The dancers are separated into three groups. Each group of dancers move in unison. Each dancer holds two sticks: one has a dragon as the head and the other holds the first stick. The dance involves these two sticks as well as the dancers' feet to move in certain patterns. This dance is performed in yellow traditional Chinese clothing. The performer

also needs to wear a hat with two black strips that go down to the wearer's shoulders. The cap resembles a bowl with gold coins which represent gold, wealth, and good fortune. This dance symbolizes the peace and respect that Confucius taught to the world in his time. It has bows, kneels, and other forms of respect that one would show to elders as they left the room or when they were in one's presence. Any respected authority would be shown these signs of veneration. Confucius created the fundamentals of modern day respect and philosophy, and he gave out these ideas while asking for little in return. His noble and respectable intentions were recognized and the dance known today will forever remind us of his nobility.

A Waltz through the Maze

by Oscar Chen

Mazes have always captured our imaginations. Ever since we were children, running through empty spaces without encountering dead ends was exciting, even if you were just using a pencil (and eraser, for most of us). The fascination with mazes persists into adulthood, as many kings had garden mazes constructed on their extravagant grounds.

Humans admire mazes for the beauty of a good puzzle and the sense of achievement they enjoy by going from start to finish. Mazes also draw a striking parallel with our everyday lives, which always seem to carry on without any direction toward a final destination. In fact, we are so eager to avoid obstacles that we forget our purpose and get frustrated easily when our line gets cut short.

Of course erasing our tracks is harder than flipping a pencil over and rubbing the paper to get rid of the marks. The trail is more like a scar than a scratch, since life's maze is guaranteed to pummel us until the destination of death. Most of us choose to struggle onwards anyway, partially because our ambitions force us to continue unless we are too injured to oblige.

But if the finish line of the maze is ultimately death, why are we rushing at it with a full head of steam? If tryharding is equivalent to stressful maze solving, we should stop being obsessed puzzle geeks and take our time to figure a simple path out. After all, there are no shortcuts we can take moving forward. We are not wizards or witches that can simply apparate from point A to point B.

We are not lab mice racing through a maze to reach cheese.

In the grand scheme of life, there's no point in rushing if the journey can be savored.

Here are reasons why you should gracefully waltz your way to end of the road instead:

1. The definition of paradise isn't exactly a graveyard or cremation urn. If you believe in reincarnation, that may be a different story. But our current maze has lots of wonders hidden inside it, even if we often focus solely on the obstacles. Perhaps it is wise to discover the gems we can cherish before we join the army for the zombie apocalypse.

2. So you don't trip and fall on your face (we've all been there). Imagining ourselves as superheroes and epically whipping out parkour moves doesn't

apply to real life. Remember that any maze will have plenty of dead ends waiting for us. So your backflip may just end with you flipped on your back. Watching where you go before you move is important because life is not forgiving.

3. There's a better chance of hitting a home run than grounding out. Technically no one can strike out in life unless he or she absolutely gives on reaching the finish line in style. But goals are like batting averages. Sometimes you have to judge what the pitcher of fate is willing to offer you. Rushing into the hit could mean an easy out at first base. Test life's patience and there'll be that pitch over the plate that you crush out of the park.

4. We can understand how to make the right decisions in life.

Our greatest regrets in life come from not enjoying time when it is still within our grasp. A slow waltz may not get you any farther than break dancing, but this isn't a race. It is a matter of being lost or not. Ironically one can make more progress through life's maze by analyzing and making a slow choice rather than springing into action. Time and logic always prevail.

5. Happiness on the death bed is achieved. Even though not everyone is fortunate enough to die peacefully, it's up to each individual whether or not they die happily. It's nearly impossible to smile when you're screaming in pain, but it is the legacy that prevents us from dying in vain. As long as your time was spent well on doing something you love, you'll solve the difficult maze of life before you go up above.

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