

“Nobody knows anything.”

- The opening line from *Adventures in the Screen Trade* by William Goldman.

**On the back** of last week’s commentary by way of lines from John Carpenter’s *The Thing*, this week’s commentary is comprised, more or less entirely, of movie quotes.

Q: Just what on earth happened in Wuhan, China ?

A: “There were problems and a.. a few deaths were involved.” [*Aliens.*]

Q: So now the economy has been put into a medically-induced coma, and millions of furloughed workers are being paid to sit at home, doing nothing. How have these workers shown solidarity with our political leaders at this difficult time ?

A: “Show me the money !” [*Jerry Maguire.*]

Q: How best to describe the likely monetary and fiscal stimulus to come ?

A: “To infinity and beyond !” [*Toy Story 2.*]

Q: If Warren Buffett’s [recent presentation](#) to shareholders of Berkshire Hathaway is any guide, we may be in the early stages of a generational bear market for stocks. Is now a suitable time to be looking for opportunities in distressed companies, or trying to pick the bottom ?

A: “Why, you crazy — the *fall*’ll probably kill ya !” [*Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.*]

Q: The German Federal Constitutional Court on 5<sup>th</sup> May accused the European Court of Justice and the European Central Bank of acting *ultra vires* and not “safeguarding the principle of democracy” by expanding the ECB’s balance sheet as part of the Public Sector Purchase Programme. What would you say to those who still believe in the EU project ?

A: “Fasten your seatbelts; it’s going to be a bumpy night !” [*All About Eve.*]

Q: Journalist Robert Peston issued a plea to the British public on 7<sup>th</sup> May, asking people to support an “important campaign aimed at celebrating the role of journalists from all sectors” during the pandemic. What would your response to Robert Peston be ?

A: “You are nothing ! If you were in my toilet I wouldn't bother flushing it. My bathmat means more to me than you.” [*Swimming With Sharks.*]

Q: There has been a rising groundswell of scepticism at the government’s response to the Coronavirus pandemic, at the economic damage inflicted on the economy, and the continued suppression of free movement and basic human rights.

A: “You ain’t heard nothing yet.” [*The Jazz Singer.*]

Q: Is there a possibility that ‘Professor Cockdown’, Neil Ferguson, and his ‘esoteric’ computer modelling were given undue respect at the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), given his [long history](#) of wildly overblown forecasts of pandemic death tolls ?

A: “A good man always knows his limitations.” [*Magnum Force.*]

Q: After Professor Neil Ferguson resigned from SAGE following a much publicised breaking of lockdown rules with a fruity left-wing campaigner, a group of scientists collectively wrote [in defence](#) of the government’s lockdown policy. They included Dr Thibaut Jombart of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Dr Stefan Flasche of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Dr Marc Baguelin of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Professor Julia Gog of the University of Cambridge, Dr Sebastian Funk of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Dr Adam Kucharski of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Professor Mark Jit of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Professor John Edmunds of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Dr Petra Klepac of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Dr Louise Dyson of the University of Warwick, Dr Paul Birrell of Public Health England, Dr Andre Charlett of Public Health England, Dr Edwin van Leeuwen of Public Health England, Professor Daniela De Angelis of the University of Cambridge, Professor Matt Keeling of the University of Warwick, Dr Leon Danon of the University of Exeter, Dr Rosalind Eggo of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Dr Michael Tildesley of the University of Warwick, Dr Edward Hill of the University of Warwick, Dr Ellen Brooks Pollock of the University of Bristol, Dr

Thomas Finnie of Public Health England, Dr Lorenzo Pellis of the University of Manchester, Professor Karl Friston of University College London, Dr Chris Jewell of Lancaster University, Dr Thomas House of the University of Manchester and Dr Nick Gent of Public Health England. What should we make of the pronouncements from such an august body ?

A: "Opinions are like assholes. Everybody has one." [*Dirty Harry.*]

Q: What has been a universal criticism of the mainstream media since the start of the crisis ?

A: "You can't handle the truth !" [*A Few Good Men.*]

Q: What is your attitude towards a continued lockdown of the entire country despite only the flimsiest scientific justification ?

A: "I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore !" [*Network.*]

Q: Given the policy mis-steps taken to date, most notably over the lockdown, what should the government now honestly say to the people of Britain ?

A: "You f\*\*ked up ! You trusted us !" [*Animal House.*]

Q: If the Coronavirus could speak, what would it likely be saying now ?

A: "I'll be back." [*The Terminator.*]

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