



Issues and Programs List  
Quarterly Report

**April – May - June, 2020**  
**2nd Quarter**

**Radio**

**Top 5 Issues Addressed:**

1. Health
2. Politics
3. Economy / Jobs
4. Race / Civil Rights
5. Law Enforcement

## Representative Programs That Addressed Issues:

### 1. Health

#### **Live News Conferences from the Governor**

April 1, 2020, 4pm. April 8, 2020, 4pm. April 13, 2020, 4pm. April 20, 2020, 4pm. April 27, 2020, 4:25pm. May 4, 2020, 3:30pm. May 12, 2020, 3:59pm. May 21, 2020, 4:32pm. May 28, 2020, 4:04pm. June 2, 2020, 4pm.

As the Covid-19 pandemic continued to dominate the news in Georgia, GPB Radio provided statewide coverage of ten news conferences from Georgia Governor Brian Kemp as he addressed the status of the state's handling of the crisis and the measures being taken to contain it.

#### **Political Rewind**

**GPB**

April 3, 2020. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's program, health was the major topic as we were joined by senior researcher and professor of Emory University Dr. Carlos del Rio for an in-depth conversation on the unfolding stories surrounding coronavirus public health. Host Bill Nigut and panelists Jim Galloway of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Patricia Murphy from GPB T-V's *Lawmakers* program and Virginia Prescott, host of GPB Radio's *On Second Thought*, discussed the use of masks by the public and the governor's recently-announced shelter-in-place order. They also talked about the tenfold increased in applications for unemployment benefits in a one-week period as recently reported by the Georgia Labor Department.

#### **Political Rewind**

**GPB**

May 28, 2020. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today's program gathered journalists and health researchers to discuss how the health policy of Georgia officials is impacting the spread of Covid-19 in the state. Dr. Harry Heiman, a doctor and professor of health management and policy at Georgia State University, and Dr. Mark McKinlay, director of the Center for Vaccine Equity at the Task Force for Global Health, joined Atlanta Journal-Constitution editor Kevin Riley to talk about the latest coronavirus developments and the state's response so far.

#### **On Second Thought**

**GPB**

April 17, 2020, 11am. Repeated April 18, 2020 at 7am and April 19, 2020 at 11am.

In medical situations, it weighs heavily on doctors and nurses when they are unable to save a life. So, what happens when the decision is not what treatment to give, but who gets treatment at all? Associate Director of the Emory University Center for Ethics and Director of the Center's Program in

Health Sciences and Ethics, Kathy Kinlaw, and Assistant Professor of Bioethics at New York University's Langone Health, Brendan Parent, joined host Virginia Prescott to explain the ethical considerations of triage decisions — and the emotional impact they can have on medical staff.

Meanwhile, recovery researchers and specialists urge people trying to recover from alcohol and drug abuse disorders to avoid isolation, which leave those who depend on 12-step meetings especially vulnerable under shelter-at-home guidelines.

The Georgia Council on Substance Abuse estimates that some 800,000 Georgians are in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction. Jeff Breedlove, chief of communications and policy for the Council, joined *On Second Thought* to talk about his concerns for people trying to stay sober through social distancing, and how to best support them.

### **Political Rewind**

**GPB**

April 29, 2020. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today's program focused on the mental health implications of the Covid-19 pandemic. Host Bill Nigut was joined by Dr. Raymond Kotwicki, the chief medical officer at Skyland Trail, one of the premiere nonprofit mental health treatment centers in the Southeast, to discuss emotional and mental health in crisis and how Kotwicki and his team are dealing with those issues right now.

## **2. Politics**

### **Political Rewind**

**GPB**

April 17, 2020. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut was joined by political writer Jim Galloway and political reporter Greg Bluestein of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Republican strategist Edward Lindsey and Democratic State Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver to discuss Georgia's primary which has been postponed until June 9th so officials can protect poll workers and voters during the coronavirus pandemic. However, political campaigns for state and congressional positions on the ballot have not stopped, so how are candidates campaigning under these challenging circumstances? And, how will elected officials like President Trump, congressional leaders, Gov. Brian Kemp and others be judged by voters for their performance in responding to the health emergency?

### **Political Rewind**

**GPB**

April 17, 2020. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today's *Political Rewind* focused on the challenges of holding elections amidst a public health crisis. Host Bill Nigut invited the current and a former Georgia Secretary of State who joined us to talk about managing this year's elections amid the dangers of coronavirus. Current Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger was joined by former Secretary of State Cathy Cox, Chatham County Commission Chairman Al Scott and *Savannah Morning News* Executive Editor Susan Catron for a lively discussion of the best way to handle voting during a challenging pandemic.

### **Political Rewind**

**GPB**

June 10, 2020. 2pm

In the wake of a chaotic Election Day in Georgia, *Political Rewind* host Bill Nigut had a special live afternoon edition of *Political Rewind* to discuss what went wrong with Georgia Speaker of the House David Ralston. They were joined by Jim Galloway, lead political writer for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and Patricia Murphy, Capital Correspondent for GPB T-V's *Lawmakers*. They discussed the problems dealing with social distancing, a reduction in polling places, and inexperienced poll workers dealing with a brand-new voting system. They also discussed the early results and the status of hate crime legislation following new attention to the subject.

### **3. Economy / Jobs**

#### **Political Rewind**

**GPB**

April 21, 2020. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's *Political Rewind*, we discussed Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp's decision allowing gyms, salons, bowling alleys and other specific indoor facilities to reopen later this week, with restaurants and theaters able to reopen next week. These businesses must comply with social distancing and other safety requirements. The move has drawn sharp criticism from elected leaders and commentators who say the move comes too soon and is not backed by enough data. Host Bill Nigut was joined by the Governor's Press Secretary, Cody Hall, along with Tamar Hallerman, senior reporter with the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and Stan Deaton, historian with the Georgia Historical Society. The group discussed the importance of re-opening Georgia businesses in a pandemic and looked back at another pandemic, the Spanish Flu of 1918 to look at the parallels and stark differences to today's crisis.

#### **On Second Thought**

**GPB**

May 8, 2020, 11am. Repeated May 9, 2020 at 7am and May 10, 2020 at 11am.

Compared to the lockdowns and shuttered businesses in countries across the world, Sweden is an outlier. Swedish officials have advised citizens to work from home and avoid travel, but most schools and businesses have remained open. This relaxed approach aims to minimize impact on the economy and slow the spread of the virus through what is known as "herd immunity." But striving for herd immunity without a controlled vaccine in place can also prove risky.

Now, as the U.S. weighs further spreading the disease against the impact of a tanked economy, some Americans — particularly conservatives — are looking toward Sweden's model as an option. Tina Nguyen, White House reporter for *Politico*, says that it's an attractive approach because it would help get the economy back in gear.

"Conservatives have primarily been focused on making sure the economy stays healthy, and for fairly good reason," she explained. "We've just hit maybe about 30 million people filing for unemployment in the past several weeks alone, which is the highest since the Great Depression. So, looking at Sweden as an exemplar of that, they're like, 'Hey, look, here's a country that's trying to make it work. And sure, their economy is contracting, but it's going to be at a higher level of economic functioning than the rest of the world if a vaccine doesn't come for a year, two years.'"

Nguyen joined *On Second Thought* host Virginia Prescott along with Dr. Felipe Lobelo of Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, to unpack the merits, risks and overall strategy behind Sweden's approach.

#### **Political Rewind**

**GPB**

June 11, 2020. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

As Georgia and the nation continue to try to recover from the coronavirus pandemic, today's *Political Rewind*, welcomed Georgia Commissioner of Labor, Mark Butler, to discuss how unemployment remains a serious issue across the country and the state of Georgia. Host Bill Nigut and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* editor Kevin Riley discussed the uncertain future for workers with Butler.

## **4. Race / Civil Rights**

### **Political Rewind**

**GPB**

April 15, 2020. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

The coronavirus pandemic has revealed fault lines of unequal access in our society. Health care and community leaders are highlighting a disproportionate impact of the public health crisis on black and African American communities. On today's Political Rewind, host Bill Nigut was joined by Dr. Anastasia Brown Alvarado, Specialist of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Dr. Sandra Ford, DeKalb County Board of Health District Health Director, Dr. Andra Gillespie, Professor of Political Science at Emory University and DeKalb County C.E.O. Michael Thurmond to look at the contributing factors in Georgia and across the country.

### **On Second Thought**

**GPB**

May 22, 2020, 11am. Repeated May 23, 2020 at 7am and May 24, 2020 at 11am.

The last 35 seconds of Ahmaud Arbery's life have been viewed, studied, dissected and discussed all over the world. That's because of a video that went viral, showing his final moments before he was shot on a shady street in Satilla Shores, Georgia on February 23rd. And while his death has made international headlines, the people of his community remember Arbery for how he lived.

His mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, is one of them. She shared that her son was well-mannered and respectful, a young man who loved running, video games and writing lyrics for raps. "He loved me, and I loved him," she said. "Ahmaud was good."

Cooper-Jones joined *On Second Thought* host Virginia Prescott, along with Arbery's close friends Akeem Baker and Demetris Frazier and his former football coach Jason Vaughn – to reflect on Ahmaud Arbery's life and death, and the injustices that followed. Jim Barger Jr., who wrote an article for *The Bitter Southerner* about the history and response of the community, also joined the conversation.

"He was one of those friends who did not tell me things I wanted to hear, but things I needed to hear," Baker recalled. "He was that type of friend – never the friend to steer me in the wrong direction. And if I did fall astray or go on the wrong track, he was the type of friend to just [say], 'Hey man, you could do better; this is not you. Stay true to who you are.'"

After Arbery's death, Cooper-Jones says police told her that her son was involved in a burglary, that there was a tussle over the firearm and, as a result, he had been shot and killed. That news came as a shock to his mother.

"I was just numb. I was feeling nothing," Cooper-Jones explained. "To be honest, I can't really describe the feeling because I never felt anything like it before. [The story of what happened] didn't sound right, but at the moment, I had to deal with [the fact that] I had lost my baby boy."

The incongruities between the police’s story, the news reports, and how Arbery’s friends and family knew him began to raise suspicions.

“For [Arbery to be killed], it definitely took a toll on everybody. It hurts bad,” Frazier said. “But at the same time, we knew it just didn’t seem right. So, we got together and told ourselves that we will make a promise to ourselves to try to find out the truth.”

### **Political Rewind**

**GPB**

June 29, 2020. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Confederate monuments across America have become a flash point during ongoing protests over police brutality and systemic racism. Central to the issue is a disagreement about what monuments to the Confederacy represent: history or mythology? Statues have been brought down by local government or protesters in North Carolina, Virginia and Georgia.

On today’s Political Rewind, host Bill Nigut was joined by Jim Galloway, lead political writer for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution; Sheffield Hale, President and C.E.O. of the Atlanta History Center, Democratic State Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver and DeKalb County C.E.O. Michael Thurmond to discuss those issues and more.

## **5. Law Enforcement**

### **Political Rewind**

**GPB**

June 4, 2020. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

In the wake of civil unrest following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the hands of law enforcement, today’s *Political Rewind* featured a conversation with a Georgia police chief who says police departments need a culture change that values human life. Host Bill Nigut welcomed LaGrange Police Chief Louis Dekmar. Plus a roundtable of journalists to discuss their experiences covering the ongoing demonstrations against police violence across Georgia. Those journalists included Ellen Eldridge, Digital Manager and reporter for GPB News, Jonathan Serrie, a correspondent for Fox News, plus reporter Ernie Suggs and editor Kevin Riley both from the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

### **On Second Thought**

**GPB**

June 12, 2020, 11am. Repeated June 13, 2020 at 7am and June 14, 2020 at 11am.

In the weeks since protests against police brutality began in Minneapolis, calls to reform, defund or abolish the police have been escalating. Demands for reform or cuts to police budgets aren’t new among activists, but a pledge by the Minneapolis City Council to “dismantle” the police department is unprecedented. The mayors of Los Angeles and New York City have also announced that they would both divert city funds from police departments to social service budgets.

Practically speaking, what would it mean to “defund” the police? *On Second Thought* host Virginia Prescott sat down with Cedric Alexander, former police chief of DeKalb County, and Michael Leo Owens, associate professor of political science at Emory University, to dissect the history and meaning behind the language of the protest movement.

## **On Second Thought**

**GPB**

June 26, 2020, 11am. Repeated June 27, 2020 at 7am and June 28, 2020 at 11am.

For generations, “The Talk” has been a mainstay in African American families. At some point, Black children all get warnings from elders about how to avoid – and survive – police encounters. It’s a rite that cuts across region, socioeconomic status and profession – even for members of law enforcement.

*On Second Thought* host Virginia Prescott spoke with four men about how they remember “The Talk,” and how they’ve navigated passing those lessons along to the next generation.

We heard stories from:

- Terence Lester, founder and CEO of Love Beyond Walls
- Jerald Nuness, a case manager for a personal injury law firm
- Dr. Andre Brock, associate professor at Georgia Tech
- Roy Minter, chief of police at the Savannah Police Department