

BOHEMIAN





A FLYING HORSE? OF COURSE, OF COURSE

In an alternate universe, there's a beatnik Harry Hamlin on a celluloid street corner pushing "Pegasus"—horse pills that get you "flying sky-high, daddy-o." Of course, the *Clash of the Titans* star instead heroically roped himself a winged steed by the same name, but that doesn't mean it couldn't have happened. Depending on your brand of quantum physics, all manner of parallel possibilities can and will occur—like, for example, a pandemic resulting from the so-called novel coronavirus. Who would've thunk?

It doesn't seem real, does it? To find ourselves in what sounds on the surface like another B-movie plot so soon after the recent spate of fires. It's tantamount to proof that we're living in, as Will Byers would say, *The Upside Down*. And yet, despite the quarantines, "social distancing" and the looming threat of contagion, there is an

unbridled resilience baked into the heart of every resident of our beloved counties.

Sure, it may seem the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse are strutting their stuff down Main Street like Clydesdales in an End Times Budweiser commercial, but hovering above them is this edition's mascot—Pegasus. When the notion was first presented to me, I thought using a cast reject of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* seemed a bit twee. Now, I see it as a profound symbol of spiritual energy. As poet and scholar Michael Aaron Kamins observed, WWII British paratroopers wore a Pegasus emblem on their sleeves:

"In 1944 during the Normandy invasion," he writes, "a division of these paratroopers captured and held a crucial bridge over the Caen Canal near Ouistreham, which has ever since been known as the 'Pegasus Bridge' to memorialize their accomplishment."

It's in this spirit that we've adopted Pegasus for our annual "Best Of" edition—every one of our winners is building their own Pegasus Bridge from these troubled times to a brighter future just over the horizon. "Hope" is probably the last four-letter word many of us are muttering right now but if we could ask anything, it would be that you read these pages and celebrate the people, organizations and businesses herein with the steadfast *hope* of seeing them soar again.

This edition's brilliant contributors include Will Carruthers, Evan Davis, Mark Fernquest, Kary Hess, Chelsea Rose Kurnick, Michiko Suarez-McDonald, Charlie Swanson and Jonah Raskin.

And with that, I have to see a man about a flying horse. Yippy kai yay!

-Daedalus Howell, Interim Editor





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