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QUOTE FOR THE DAY

“We have faith in the future. We’re building it every day the only way we know how, by being Portland. Come see for yourself. Love, PORTLAND”

REALLY??

The above comes from a full- page ad in the NY Times costing \$125,000, touting the city of Portland. After setting the record for the most consecutive nights of violent demonstrations last year (over 100), the reader conjures up an image: the downtown walking tour of the scores of burned out store fronts and graffiti scared government buildings - ah, yes - Portland the beautiful. Would love to know what return on investment that full-pager generates.

POT POURI

That ad, which elicited unhappy memories, caused your scribe to reflect on several other recent happenings, which I pass on – without comment, except to observe that, as noted in the last issue, the pot is simmering – using another metaphor, the waves now have teeth

**Portland, 82% YOY increase in homicides
Minneapolis, 72% YOY increase in homicides
Chicago, 5/19-5/20, 2885 shot, 521 deaths
Chicago, 5/20-5/21, 4,582 shot, 818 deaths.
Just a small sampling.**

TV report: 45% of high school students have a bad view of the USA.

Evanston, Illinois. Fourth wealthiest city in the Midwest cancels this year's fourth of July parade citing Covid fears, but has parades celebrating Gay Pride and Juneteenth.

WAPO has released a video as part of its, "New Normal" series encouraging white people to "understand your whiteness". Trauma counselor, Ilyse Kennedy says, "Whites need a period of deep shame for being white and for

acknowledging the harm that our ancestors have caused.”

Randolph, NJ Board of Education voted to take names off of all school holidays – massive parental protests. Board decides reinstating names would be a nice idea.

Charges dropped against hundreds of May, 2020 New York City rioters and looters.

Major recall effort underway to remove L.A. DA George Gascon for his liberal policies and failure to enforce the law. His critics contend, “He cares more for Criminals’ rights than for victims’ rights.”

Loudon County, Virginia school system parents are in an uproar over the teaching of Critical Race Theory in protests similar to those at top flight NYC schools like Dalton, Spence and Brearly.

Yeonmi Park, age 27, and her family were able to flee North Korea a number of years ago and she was eventually able to get into Columbia University. “She was immediately struck by

what she viewed as anti-Western sentiment in the classroom and a focus on political correctness that had her thinking, ‘Even North Korea isn’t this nuts.’”

Ms. Park couldn’t believe she would be asked to do, “this much censoring of myself at a university in the United States. I literally crossed the Gobi Desert to be free and I realized I’m not free. America’s not free.”

“Going to Columbia, the first thing I learned was, ‘safe space’ Every problem they explained us, is because of white men.”

EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION

Your scribe has been beating that drum from the earliest HH issues. I’m a supporter of president Biden’s infrastructure initiatives, but not in the same stratospheric dollar range and not with the same priority focus. On the physical infrastructure side – ok- bridges and tunnels get first priority, but after that Societal infrastructure comes next. We are at a tipping point with what happens to the country from a societal standpoint. Health, education, housing

and recreational opportunities in our poorer communities have to come before all the other infrastructure initiatives.

Our inner city schools are just terrible. It's not the students who are being taught - a long discredited hypothesis. It is the resources, physical facilities and quality of teaching that needs improvement.

Throughout the five boroughs of New York City parents are disheartened by the education their children receive, resulting in a clamoring for more Charter Schools. 63% of blacks support more Charter Schools, 65% of Hispanics and 69% of all voters with school age children. Only 44% of households with public school teachers in the household voice support for expanded Charter School education- wonder why?

As mentioned in an earlier issue, there are school districts that have done away with algebra for upper middle school students and calculus for high school students - just too challenging and not "equitable". At the same time those schools have eliminated,

“advanced” or “gifted” programs forcing all students into a regimen based on the lowest common denominator.

Saul Cohen, aged 95, passed away last week. As president of City University of New York (CUNY) he singlehandedly saved the university’s reputation. Considered by many the Harvard of public education, CUNY has had no fewer than 13 Nobel prize winners. In 1999 Dr. Cohen he was able to put an end to the “largely discredited open admissions policy” which guaranteed any NYC high school graduates with admission to CUNY. With a diploma that was worthless, reflecting an 8th grade math level and a 9th grade English level, CUNY’s academic reputation fell in the dumpster. CUNY was not required to keep failing students, but, even for one semester, it was a huge drain. Dr. Cohen put in place the requirement that if students did not have prerequisite math and English college entry levels, they would have to go to community college or other tutoring until they achieved the required academic credentials. He was a great savior for a great university, whose example is, unfortunately, not being followed

today, as public school systems around the country opt for the lowest common denominator.

Isn't it interesting that, in the wake of this past year's social problems U.S. companies have pledged \$65 Billion towards racial equality, but only \$500 million have been spent thus far. How can public companies hire people who are unhireable due to educational deficiencies?

President Biden, your heart is in the right place, but your priorities are out of line: bridges and tunnels, followed by health care, education, housing and recreation for those who need it most – all essential to help reduce the other conflicts enumerated above and to move towards a more equitable society.

THE SUPREME COURT SOME OF YOU FEARED

Hasn't turned out that way so far. OK- all of them have been appointed by presidents who, by virtue of their party, have a political agenda. Supreme court candidates, however, all testify in their hearings that they are

impartial and will follow the letter of the law and the constitution. So far they're doing pretty well on a court that Democrats fear is occupied by six "conservative" justices. Prior to the installation of the newest three justices, even Chief Justice Roberts has been known to disappoint conservatives with some of his votes.

So here you have Justice Kavanaugh having voted with the majority in 87% of the divided cases, the highest rate of any justice since 1953. Justice Barrett has voted with the majority 82% of the time, and justice Gorsuch, 80%. What does that all mean? The so-called, "divided" cases ? 64% of them lean to the left. Looks like Supreme Court justices are able to follow the law and think for themselves, political sponsors (presidents) notwithstanding.

VICTORIA'S NOT SO SECRET

Now, this is a tough one for your scribe, never having been blessed with siblings, or, most importantly, a sister. So I hope some of our lady readers will jump in with opinions on this

one and not eviscerate your scribe for his uninformed views. So- what does Victoria's Secret go and do? They are totally rebranding the product. Gone are the "angels" Heidi Klum and Gisele Bundchen, their posters hidden in closets or shredded. The idea being that the new Victoria's wants to appeal more to the average woman. After all, you can't all be Heidis and the guys can't all be George Clooneys. So you take a business that had a nice \$7 billion revenue base and you refocus it on the non-glamorous. So- here's where I get in trouble. What's wrong with, I'll call it - "aspirational glamour"? We all like to picture ourselves as prettier, more handsome, more fit - whatever. A survey from a decade ago found that 80% of people- that's all of us - think we look better than our classmates when we go back for high school/college reunions. Yes, mathematically impossible, but true, and a great tribute to the indomitability of the human psyche. I vote for "aspirational glamour". What say you?

**Your faithful scribe,
PB**

