

# **HERMIT HERALD**

**VOL. 1 ISSUE 17**

**APRIL 19, 2020**

## **QUOTE FOR THE DAY:**

**“All is infection, mother... We shall sit quietly in this room, and I think we’ll be spared.”**

**Rita Dove, ‘Fiammeta Breaks her peace’.**

**Apparently not a whole lot of folks agreeing with that philosophy today (Minnesota, Michigan, Texas, Virginia, Colorado) – don’t know how many more today, but a lot of people convinced the lock downs are just too extreme.**

**Going back about a week, Texas Lt. Governor, Dan Patrick had this to say, “ No one reached out to me and said, ‘As a senior citizen are you willing to take a chance on your survival in exchange for keeping the America that all America loves for your children and grandchildren?’” The 69 year old Patrick said, “And, if that’s the exchange, I’m all in.”**

**I come upon this somewhat troublesome attitude in a recent column by Frank Cerabino entitled, “ How low can we go? Killing grandma as an act of patriotism?” He goes on to quote Glenn Beck saying people his age should think of the big picture. “Even if we all get sick, I would rather die than kill the country.” Wow! conjures up the picture of lemmings running off the cliff, yes?**

**But, wait a minute, I think there’s a whole different way to look at this situation. It’s called “Free will”.**

**Come to find out that Covid- 19 is killing about 1,800 people a day since April 7<sup>th</sup>, while heart disease takes 1,774 and cancer, 1,641. With similar mortality rates, we’re not all locked down by fear of heart disease and cancer. Maybe it’s a function of what we think we control and what we can’t control – a bit like driving our cars where we are in control – what could go wrong? – compared to flying, where we have no control and a higher level of anxiety – of course, willingly, refusing to recognize that driving is much more dangerous than flying.**

**So it is that even though cancer is very random, those who are concerned with their longevity think they have a good amount of control over susceptibility to cancer and heart disease through life style choices, but absolutely no control over the coronavirus, therefore being willing to experience lockdown – a security blanket that gives us a sense of our ability to control our lives.**

**As we continue in this restricted mode, there are very rapidly growing adverse things happening to our health, physical and mental. We learn from “Axios AM Deep Dive” by Mike Allen –( just an excellent daily publication, thanks, Joe Knoll) that by the end of March, “57% of mothers and 32% of fathers of children under the age of 18 reported worsening mental health.”**

**Loneliness, domestic violence, financial stress created by the loss of employment all contribute to this toxic stew.**

**Other cautionary words include a prominent Doctor saying, “People need to realize that it’s not safe to play poker wearing bandanas.” And,**

**From Dr Frieden, former head of the CDC, “We need to reopen the faucet gradually, not allow the floodgates to reopen”**

**I concur. So let’s start gradually opening the faucet and this is where “Free will” comes in. It’s not a question of throwing grandma under the bus as Mr. Cerabino seems to suggest. Rather, it presents older citizens and those with preexisting conditions an opportunity to make their own decisions. If restaurants were to reopen, but with 50% occupancy restrictions, there are several I would go to – taking a risk? Yes – but a risk I would consider acceptable. Am I going to a 50,000 seat stadium to watch a football game? No way.**

**We are probably heading into a very surreal world where, through testing, we have a good segment of the country declared immune and the rest of us at risk. Those who are immune can do anything and everything.**

**I made the analogy in another issue of Russian roulette with a six shooter. Let’s say, instead it’s a twelve shooter. Some wouldn’t go out if**

**even one chamber contained a bullet. Others would venture forth if there were two or three. “Free will”, Aux Choix – we’ve got to start opening up.**

### **SHUN THE EXTREMISTS:**

**Echoing a point I made in an earlier issue, I’m hoping that all of us totally reject the people on the extreme left and extreme right.**

**The latest target is Bill Gates who gave a speech in 2015 where he cited that an infectious virus could threaten the lives of millions. Anti vaccinators have recently resurfaced this speech resulting in 25 million hits on You Tube. Their contention is that Gates planned to use the pandemic to wrest control of the global health system. From February to April conspiracy theories involving Gates and the virus were mentioned 1.2 million times in social media and TV – 33% more than the next highest conspiracy theory involving 5G waves. On top of it we learn that the Gates/virus theory is being promulgated by Robert F. Kennedy, son of the late Senator. These folks are right up there with the people**

**who think Sandy Hook was a hoax and about as well educated as the more than ten percent of the population who think Judge Judy is on the Supreme Court (true)**

**Bill Gates has committed \$250,000,000 to slow the spread of Covid- 19.**

**TAKE ME ALONG IF YOU LOVA ME:**

**In fact, take the entire family. Domestic airfare is down 41 percent from 2019. I mentioned recently that 10,500 planes are mothballed. A recent Southwest flight from Tampa to NY had a crew of six and one passenger. Hello!! They should have given him a five year pass, cancelled the flight and saved tens of thousands of dollars.**

**Last Tuesday the TSA screened 87,534 passengers nationwide, down from 2.21 million a year before. At La Guardia, a major center for Delta, they are down to 15 flights a day from 150 and, at Newark, United is down to 15 flights from 140. Very, very tough times ahead for the airlines, but the topic brings me back to the above title.**

**For you oldsters – remember when that was the jingle in 1967 for United Airlines? Well “take me along if you love me” was a promotion where the airline thought it would be good marketing to offer businessmen an opportunity to take their wives along on their business trips, at a substantial discount – brilliant!! The airline made big bucks on the concept. Then some genius in marketing came up with the idea that to increase brand loyalty it would be cool to send letters to the wives asking how their experiences had been. I don’t even have to tell you the results. Not too many wives were passengers on those flights. Don’t know the final tally, but hundreds, if not thousands, of divorces ensued.**

### **BERNIE FOR PRESIDENT:**

**No, no, not that Bernie, I’m talking about Bernhard Langer, a prime advocate for reopening America’s golf courses. I was thinking of suing him for plagiarism as I had already articulated all of his points in one of my early HH issues But, essentially, where could you find a better example of**

**social distancing than golf, being inside a Walmart?**

**BMW i4**

**Great excitement over the new i4, both from a performance and a musical standpoint. Musical? Yes, you've probably read that electric vehicles, of which the i4 is one, have been faulted because they make no noise and pedestrians are stepping in front of moving electrics all the time. The EU has mandated that all electrics have some sound making devices installed by 2021. So BMW hires the Film composer, Hans Zimmer, to come up with some form of music that would emanate from the car as it moved along, something like the theme from jaws perhaps? Anyway, Hans is working hard on this project. Personally, I'd vote for the jingling sound made by the Good Humor truck. I'll have an orange creamsicle**

**AND FINALLY:**

**The economy is so bad that:**

**Exxon- Mobil had to lay off 25 congressmen**

**Your faithful scribe, PB**



**Your faithful scribe**  
**PB**