

# **HERMIT HERALD**

## **ISSUE 117**

**JUNE 11, 2021**

### **QUOTE FOR THE DAY**

**“Things are not always what they seem.” From, “The Phaedrus”, Plato**

### **FOLLOW THE SCIENCE**

**That’s what Dr. Fauci says in defending his actions and policies over the course of the pandemic. And, you know what? I believe him. The problem is the science continues to evolve.**

**Remember that guy, Galileo? He was under the threat of death by the Catholic church for insisting that the earth rotated around the sun, (heliocentrism), because the church insisted the earth was the center of the universe. In 1543, prior to Galileo even having been born (1564), Copernicus had submitted proof of heliocentrism, but when people don’t like**

**messing around with, “established facts”, it can take a long time for the new, true facts, to be accepted. In the case of heliocentrism, it took nearly 100 years for it to be widely accepted.**

**Well, fortunately, the science has evolved much more quickly with regard to the pandemic. Initially, Dr. Fauci didn't think masks were important. Now they are mandatory. Initially, he gave little credence to the possibility that the Covid 19 virus that has killed 3.7 million worldwide, over 600,000 in the U.S. and has infected more than 10% of the adult U.S. population, might have come from the Wuhan virology lab. Now he thinks it highly likely. Due to Chinese lack of cooperation, it is going to be difficult to absolutely hold that lab responsible. As we learned, however, in issue 116, scientists have demonstrated that the Covid 19 virus structure that has ravaged the world does not exist in nature. That is to say, the virus that has devastated so many has to have been reengineered by human hands in a laboratory setting. So let's see – three workers at Wuhan lab get sick in November, 2019; first major outbreak is in Wuhan; Wuhan lab is**

**specifically working on Covid 19 virus. Did they purposefully or accidentally create a, “gain of function”, more aggressive, virus?**

**If it walks like a duck, quacks like a duck – well you get the idea.**

**And, finally, as just reported, the much denigrated hydroxychloroquine has now been proven to dramatically improve the survival rate for seriously ill covid patients. In the interest of full media disclosure, the reader must be reminded that president Trump was excoriated for espousing his belief in hydroxychloroquine and his suspicion that the Wuhan lab might be the source of the plague. Yes, science evolves. Should Dr. Fauci have done more or acted differently? I don’t know. We’ll let the pandemic review team answer that question.**

**1665-LONDON-YEAR OF THE PLAGUE AND FIRE.**

**2020- USA- YEAR OF THE PLAGUE AND IRE**

**When your scribe started this publication, just days after the first alarms went off, the sole**

**focus was to create a journal/diary of the course of the pandemic, how it was affecting our lives and the curious/interesting things that were part of our lives.**

**Arizona State University (ASU) initiated a tracking program, and was joined by forty other colleges and universities, to collect every type of media to record for posterity how the world got through this period (covid-19archive.org). They have been very nice in receiving and cataloguing all the HH issues which are available on-line.**

**Unexpectedly, the pandemic had to start sharing headlines with the year of IRE, best defined by the death of George Floyd at the hands of the police in May, 2020. Out of that came the civil unrest and protest movements that shook the country along with even more blacks dying at the hands of police. It got to the point where the facts behind some of these deaths didn't matter any longer; the outrage just continued to grow – Minneapolis, Portland, Chicago, Richmond, Denver, Seattle – and on and on – reporters standing in front of burning police precincts, burning government**

**buildings and burning retail stores calmly explaining, “Well, there is some violence, but otherwise it’s a peaceful protest.”**

**Black Lives Matter (BLM) had been started a couple of years prior to May, 2020, but its support grew dramatically with the killing of George Floyd. Nationwide support stood at 67% in June, 2020.**

**Since then, while racial turmoil has gone from a full boil to a simmer, BLM has lost a great deal of support. One of the organization’s great mistakes was to throw its full weight behind the “defund the police” program. USA**

**Today/IPSOS survey shows a shocking graph from March of 2021. Nationwide trust for BLM has fallen since June, 2020 from 67% to 50%, while trust in police has gone from 56% to 69%. Further weakening support for BLM has been due to continuing riots, statue tumbings, cancel culture, Critical Race Theory and inane targets of “wokefulness”, (the latest being apple pie. Raj Patel writes, “The apple pie is as American as stolen land, wealth and labor. We live with its consequences today.”) Rightly or wrongly, a lot of the silliness and violent**

**activities have been a blow back on perceptions of BLM.**

**The reader might say, however, “But look at those numbers. Americans are still behind BLM 50%.” Breaking down the statistics tells a different story. White support for BLM peaked in 6/20 at 43%. By 4/10/21 it was 37%. Black support for BLM was 80% at 6/20 and 85% at 4/10/21. Those statistics tell me that the simmering pot, to which I referred above, can come to a full boil again at any moment.**

**So here we are, sixteen months after the start of the pandemic, and just barely more than a year after George Floyd’s death. The ire has been put on simmer, but a lot of issues remain to be addressed.**

**Covid 19, in the U.S., is on the wane and your scribe has to ponder, should the Hermit Herald just fade with Covid 19, or, like Covid 19, never go totally away? Will ponder that question in coming weeks.**

**This has been a very interesting endeavor. The sixty-three of you who are on the circulation**

**list are all friends or family, but through the ASU project and many copies that are forwarded to others, the circulation is much broader. I have greatly appreciated the positive comments I have received, but have probably (hopefully, only slightly) damaged my image with all of you. My Republican friends think I'm too liberal and my Democrat friends think I'm too conservative.**

**Fox news fans eat only one type of red meat, and the same for CNN fans. I don't hesitate to put a stick in Trump's eye or Biden's either, although, since the latter is now in the catbird's seat, he's an easier target. My big issue is, I don't like politicians very much. That's not an absolute, as there are quite a number of good ones, but I would remind the reader of a 2019 Moneywise.com poll I reported on last year – a survey of 27 professions rating trustworthiness, found congress/politicians ranked 27<sup>th</sup>, two places behind used car salespeople.**

**IT'S THE BORDER AGAIN**

**Our readers may not recall, but during the Democratic presidential debates, Ms. Harris so savagely attacked candidate Biden that his wife, Jill, was quoted as saying what Ms. Harris should do to herself, but in much more explicit terms. Nevertheless, kindly Joe Biden was willing to forgive and forget, as his advisors told him about the additional vote draw a black woman would be on the ticket.**

**With the border continuing to be in crisis – more than 170,000 illegals a month for three straight months – a cynic could conjure up Jill whispering in the president’s ear that he should give Kamala responsibility for defusing the problem – not a very good pathway to becoming the first female president. In any event, nothing I have read, whether in the liberal or conservative media, would lead you to the conclusion that, in her 80 days with that assignment, she has been anything other than unimpressive.**

## **NOTES FROM THE ROAD**

**Your hermit scribe and frau have just returned north, making a five day driving trip that**



**included two night stops in Savannah and Hot Springs – a few observations:**

**It's our first day, June second and we're starving as we approach Daytona Beach. We both hate fast food places and look for restaurants instead. In addition to which, we just like to take a break from the road for a full hour. Actually, in the interest of full disclosure, I have to admit that I love a big mac with cheese and big fries – but they're so bad for you. Anyway, we find ourselves at a Red Lobster – never been to one – food quite good, but the thing that got our attention; a big sign in the lobby seeking employees: servers, bartenders, dish washers, line cooks, prep cooks and hospitality assistants – more than 10 openings just for one restaurant – those unemployment benefits are keeping people away in droves according to the manager.**

**We arrive in Savannah late afternoon and check into our old favorite, The Ballastone Inn, in the heart of the historic district. Then, off to dinner at the legendary, Olde Pink House. The hostess is wearing a mask, but, except for that, in all of Savannah, you'd never guess there had**

**been a pandemic. I've eaten chicken pot pie all over – none better than at the Pink House.**

**The day following- a relaxing one in Savannah, albeit a rainy one. For a true southern city, nice to see how seemingly close and friendly blacks and whites are together – not an inkling of the problems we are told that pervade the country. Passing through the newly developed Power Plant tourist area, I am struck by the number of men wearing flip flops, numbered sports jerseys, baseball caps on backwards and cargo pants, and, the women - the short shorts – oh my God!! – OK, I'm an old fuddy duddy who had to wear a jacket and tie going to classes in college. That night – dinner at the upscale “45 Bistro” and more evidence of the employment crisis, as we witness the manager performing bus boy duties, taking trays of dirty dishes to the kitchen.**

**500 mile day on the 6/4 as we drive to the Homestead in Hot Springs. Avoiding the fast food trap again we find an Applebees near the highway – have to sit at the bar because there are not enough servers for the tables. Manager tells us they are short at least 12 people.**

**In a little town about 20 miles from Hot Springs, GPS has us making several unusual turns and we find ourselves on a mountain road, barely wider than the car with more switch backs per hundred yards than Lombard Street in San Francisco. Twelve miles of this crazy driving and we don't encounter a single other vehicle. On arriving at the Homestead we asked what that route was all about – the answer. “Oh, that happens a lot. GPS sends you that way because it's eight miles shorter, but 35 minutes longer.”**

**The Homestead – quite a place – oldest resort in the country, dating to 1766. General Washington gave Charles Bullit a 300 acre land grant for his service in the French- Indian war. With the help of area homesteaders he built an 18 room lodge, hence the name, The Homestead. Unfortunately Mr. Bullit caught a bullet in the Revolutionary War and died. Some years later the family sold the property. Over the 250 year period, a number of investors came and went, including J.P.Morgan. The most important developers/owners have been the Ingalls family of rail- road fame.**

**Today, located in the most beautiful bucolic Virginia setting, the Homestead has grown to 480 rooms. The main building shows some signs of wear, but the overall impression – golf courses, water activities, equestrian, etc, etc is just so impressive. Twenty-three U.S. presidents have stayed there and their portraits hang in the lobby bar. There are three requirements for a portrait to be hung. The president must have requested the reservation (presidents are never solicited); he must be the current president and, he must have resided at the resort at least one night.**

**After two wonderful nights it's off for a final evening in cicada infested McLean, VA. Once again the GPS does its weird thing, but this time we are put on back- country roads traversing some of the most beautiful forest land and open fields. For 26 miles the only cars we see are those parked on scattered rural farm properties – a landscape of which it can be said, “where God lost his wallet.”**

**That's really it for the trip, except for one more Applebees lunch and guess what? – also looking for at least 10 employees. Imagine,**

**three restaurants looking to hire over 30 people. U.S. Gov, keep those extra unemployment checks coming. You're supressing the economy, but everyone is having a great summer.**

## **MEGAN & HARRY – NYET**

**At least according to columnist Maureen Callahan. Seems, “ after H & M dissed the royal family with Harry claiming the family inflicted him with decades of, ‘genetic pain’ – these two go and name their daughter after the 95 year old Evil Queen. And they didn't just choose her birth name- no they hijacked the very specific childhood nickname used by only the queen's closest and most beloved: Lilebet. Of course, Harry and Megan said they cleared this with the queen personally, and in advance. Plot twist: the palace denies this... Naming their daughter after the woman they deride as the epitome of racism, colonialism and, by extension, mean mommydom is odd, right?” So there you have Ms. Callahan's views what say you, H & M fans, and what say you, Royalists?**

**Your faithful scribe, PB**

