

# **HERMIT HERALD**

## **ISSUE 116**

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### **QUOTE FOR THE DAY**

**“To double your gains you have to triple your efforts.” Anonymous**

### **NOT ACCORDING TO THESE FOLKS**

**Citrix Systems just completed a survey that has shocked the corporate sector. Polling 750 Gen Z people (born after 1997) and 1,250 millennials (born after 1981) it was found that 90% of them don't want to go back to the office to work and want to continue working from home. That may be fine for those who work exclusively in the digital sector, but such workers are a small percentage of that 90%.**

**The surprising thing is that in opting for an easier, less stressful career path, there is no diminution of their expectations for material**

**rewards. They still expect to have their 5 series BMWs, take expensive vacations and live the good life – no jingoistic work ethic mantras for them.**

## **RANSOMWARE MADE EASY**

**The recent ransomware attack on the Colonial pipeline was and is of major concern, but most believe it was due to the sophisticated work of brilliant hackers like DarkSide, and that is true. “But, what if you knew that virtually anyone can obtain ransomware off the shelf and load it into a compromised computer system using tricks picked up from U Tube tutorials or with the help of groups like DarkSide?”**

**According to Sergei Pavlovich, a former hacker, “Any doofus can be a cyber criminal now. The intellectual barrier to entry has gotten extremely low.” What makes this all possible? Why, cyber currencies of course. The ransoms paid with BitCoin and the like are untraceable. If cyber currencies didn’t exist there would still be ransomware attempts, but such ransoms invariably leave a paper trail,**

**with there being a much higher likelihood of catching the hackers and a commensurate lessening of attempts. A 40% chance of getting caught has a much greater restraining effect than a virtually zero percent chance.**

**The reason most cyber attacks have come from Russia to date is due to the, “high ethical” standards of the Russian hackers, i.e. “don’t do it in your own back yard.” The hackers stay clear of violating any Russian laws. When asked about hackers from Russia creating havoc throughout the world, Mr. Putin said, “If they do not break Russian law, there is nothing to prosecute them for in Russia. You must finally realize that people in Russia live by Russian laws, not American laws.” Thanks for your candid opinion, Vladimir, but as seen above, the ease with which ransomware can now be employed will ensure that Russian hackers will soon lose their predominant role. cyber currencies certainly have their advocates, but if they continue to be a conduit for increasing ransomware criminal activity, a day of reckoning will surely come.**

**BIDEN DECISIONS – HAPPY REPUBLICANS**

**ITEM#1: Immigration- an unmitigated disaster, with 57% of Americans disapproving of Biden's handling. In addition to a twenty year high of illegal immigrants coming across our borders it was recently leaked that, in February, 61,316 were released within the U.S. with instructions to stay in contact with authorities- good luck with that. All at the same time as the president has just announced a new initiative to bring even more immigrants into the country, while at the same time watering down entrance requirements.**

**ITEM#2: The U.S. tells Russia it will not rejoin the "Open Skies Treaty." This was a 30 year old treaty that provided for surveillance aircraft from both countries to monitor certain territories. Trump thought it useless and pulled out, for which he was harshly criticized by candidate Biden. Now, Biden has come to see the wisdom of Trump's decision.**

**ITEM#3: IRAN. Trump pulled out of the nuclear deal because it was of too short a time frame, did nothing to limit Iran's fast growing missile**

**technology and brought no pressure on Iran to curtail their bellicose activities through support of their military proxies in the region. So, now the Biden administration wants back in the deal, EXCEPT, they want a longer term, a cessation on missile development and an agreement to pull back from encouraging their military proxies in the region.**

**ITEM#4: Nordisk Pipeline. This pipeline was to run from Russia to Germany under the sea. Trump objected strenuously saying it would make Germany and a number of other E.U. countries economically too dependent on Russia. The Biden administration caved and released the sanctions that were holding up completion of the pipeline because the Germans really wanted it. In the process, Ukraine, the other major supplier got thrown under the bus, the E.U. does become more economically dependent on Russia and Biden is giving, "Killer" ( his words), Putin better treatment than Trump did. As a lame follow on, an Administration spokesperson said, "Well the pipeline was almost complete anyway."**

**ITEM#5: Wuhan Lab: The media excoriated, belittled and used every other negative description of Trump having opined that he thought covid-19 might have originated in the Wuhan Virology lab. Whoops!! Not so fast- all of a sudden a 180 degree change, as the same critics now write thousands of lines a day as to why they think there is a great likelihood the virus came from the lab.**

**One of the most intriguing points is that three workers in the lab became ill in November of 2019. BUT, the Chinese have never let anyone see medical reports as to the exact cause of the illnesses. Highly suspicious- yes, but conclusive proof- no.**

**Enter British professor Angus Dalglish and Norwegian scientist Birger Sorensen who contend that they have primary evidence of, “retro-engineering in China.” OK, but what does that mean?**

**According to the article’s author, Eileen Connelly, “ the researchers came across, ‘unique fingerprints’ indicating that the virus didn’t come from nature. The telltale clue: a**

**rare finding in the COVID-carrying virus of a row of four amino acids, which give off a positive charge and bond to negative human cells. According to Dalglish, ‘The laws of physics means that you can’t have four positively charged amino acids in a row. The only way you can get this is if you artificially manufacture it.’”**

**The article goes on to point out that the Chinese have done a lot of research involving, “gain of function” which entails manipulating natural viruses in a lab to make them more infectious, allowing scientists to study their potential effect on humans. Guess what virus had been under special research at the Wuhan Lab? COVID- 19.**

## **SIX TRILLION DOLLAR TEN YEAR BUDGET**

**As laudable as many of these programs sound, the president does not have the political muscle of FDR or LBJ to get it done. Is this going to hurt the Republicans in 2022 or 2024 for fighting the budget? Hard to say – these programs have to be paid for. You can’t just enact them because they sound good. At the**

**end of the day a much watered down version will get passed, or, nothing at all. Does that get the president more votes for trying, or less, for his advocacy of unattainable goals?**

## **PRESIDENTS PAST**

**Oh, those tourists: When Thomas Jefferson and John Adams visited Shakespeare's home in England, they broke off a piece of a chair to keep as a souvenir.**

**On his inauguration day, a very large president Taft got stuck in his bath tub.**

**Ulysses S. Grant smoked 20 cigars a day- died of throat cancer in 1885.**

**Abraham Lincoln was a licensed bartender who, at one time, owned a saloon.**

**Dwight Eisenhower played over 800 rounds of golf while he was president.**

**Your faithful scribe,  
PB**



