

# **HERMIT HERALD**

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### **QUOTE FOR THE DAY**

**“There’s nothing good or bad, but thinking makes it so.” Shakespeare- Hamlet**

### **MEDIA COVERAGE OF COVID- 19**

**As mentioned previously, your scribe uses many sources from both sides of the aisle. If you’re a Democrat, enough bad things can’t be said about president Trump, and, if you are a Republican, what a hatchet job the press has done on the president for four years.**

**Covid 19 is exhibit A. The consensus is that president Trump made mistakes early on by not taking the virus seriously enough and essentially doubled down by not advocating the wearing of masks for many months. Many Republicans and Democrats think these are valid criticisms, but, at the same time, the administration could envision that which had**

**no focus from the medical community – what was to be the economic impact of shutting down the economy to curtail the virus? – not just the economics of it- closed businesses, loss of jobs and loss of state tax revenues, essential to maintain resident services, but the damage to the mental and physical health (non covid-19) of the U.S. citizenry.**

**In retrospect, there have been mistakes all around – change of advice and protocols by CDC, WHO and our own highly respected, Dr. Fauci. Who remembers that several months ago, the only reason to wear a mask was said to be to keep from spreading the virus if you had it? Well, that wasn't much of an incentive if you felt well. But, at a certain moment there was a major change in the protocol as it was determined that wearing a mask not only helped those who had the virus to keep from spreading it, but also helped those wearing the masks to keep from contracting the virus. Seriously, how many remember that?**

**Much of the press would have readers believe that the problems with covid 19 can all be blamed on the president. Every article would**

**have you believe that every bad piece of news is due to Trump's actions or inactions- that the infection rate and death rates would have been much lower if Trump had done this, that or the other thing. Any article covering new adverse information mentions Trump, Trump, Trump.**

**Then we come to "operation warp speed", the most successful therapeutic and vaccine development program in the history of the world. How many times do you see Trump's name mentioned as the facilitator, originator of this program? Few and none.**

**The media has its readers and viewers believing that, for developed countries, the U.S. is the worst of the worst.**

**I wish I could present the chart – it's visually very impressive, but the figures are no less so. Why do you have to go to the newspaper, Der Spiegel, to get information like this? The U.S. is doing quite well in the Covid -19 fight vis a vis major developed countries.**

**The chart is dated October 30<sup>th</sup> and covers the previous seven day average of Covid 19 infections per million citizens:**

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Belgium</b>        | <b>1,250</b> |
| <b>Czech Republic</b> | <b>1,200</b> |
| <b>Switzerland</b>    | <b>750</b>   |
| <b>Netherlands</b>    | <b>650</b>   |
| <b>France</b>         | <b>625</b>   |
| <b>Spain</b>          | <b>400</b>   |
| <b>Italy</b>          | <b>350</b>   |
| <b>UK</b>             | <b>350</b>   |
| <b>U.S.</b>           | <b>225</b>   |
| <b>Germany</b>        | <b>175</b>   |
| <b>Sweden</b>         | <b>175</b>   |

**New York Times, where were you on covering that one? Managed news. How can the U.S. public come to conclusions about what is happening with this awful virus, and how well or poorly our elected officials are handling it, when we are fed information so selectively.**

**Democrats and Republicans alike are fed a daily diet of unidimensional “facts” from their preferred sources, whether it be CNN, FOX or countless others – to what end? To the end of keeping viewership and readership at**

**historical highs and Democrats and Republicans at each other's throats. An abridged version of Shakespeare's quote that would be more reflective of our times would read, "There's nothing true or false, but thinking makes it so."**

## **AN ILLEGITIMATE ELECTION**

**Definitely an illegitimate election!! - no that's not president Trump, that's Hillary Clinton in 2016, "Trump knows he's an illegitimate president." She was immediately echoed by her close supporter Neera Tanden (who is Biden's pick for heading up Office of Management and Budget - OMB). Numerous others joined in similar protestations. Ms. Tanden may be superbly qualified for the job, but if the Republicans hold the Senate, (political memories are long), she will have a sticky wicket to navigate.**

**But now we come to 2020, and it's president Trump claiming an illegitimate election. He's had his chances to prove it to no avail. Just yesterday Attorney General Barr decreed, "The Justice Department has uncovered no voter**

**fraud on a scale that could have effected a different outcome in the election.” This fight is over Mr. President – time to call Rudy back home. As we await the vote of the Electoral College anointing Mr. Biden as the 46<sup>th</sup> president it is interesting to see how Republicans are reacting. In a NY Times article, Emily Badger observes, “Since the election surveys have consistently found that about 70 to 80% of Republicans don’t buy the results. They don’t agree that Joe Biden won fair and square. They say the election was rigged. And, they say enough fraud occurred to tip the outcome.” And still, even at this point, “49% said they expected Mr. Trump to be inaugurated on January 20<sup>th</sup>.” Wow!! I mean we’re talking about those percentages being applied to the 74,000,000 people who voted for Trump. How can so many millions of people be hanging on in the presence of such a dearth of evidence? Perhaps, further confirmation of the fact that all of us perceive what we want to perceive.**

**As noted in the previous issue, soon to be, Citizen Trump has definitely decided to remain on center stage for the next four years.**

**Get this figure – Since the election date, Mr. Trump has raked in \$170,000,000. He has even spoken of kicking off his campaign for president in 2024 during Mr. Biden’s inauguration week in January. As CNN commentator, Michael Smerconish, commented recently, he hoped Mr. Trump would show more class than the hundreds of elected Democrats who stayed away from the 2016 inauguration, attend the inauguration with Mr. Biden and go out with his head held high.**

### **TRIFECTA- MALFECTA**

**Six of our loyal HH readers share three things in common. They all have residences in or near D.C. OK- not so bad – with Washington officialdom coming and going all the time, they’re pretty used to it – you learn how to avoid the congestions. But, these same six also have residences in Palm Beach and guess what? Soon to be, Citizen Trump is now a Florida resident – address Mar a Lago – plus he gets Secret Service protection for the rest of his life. We’ve already seen what a mess that can lead to with traffic – not a pretty scenario.**

**But, then comes the third leg of the trifecta. Guess what? President elect Biden's favorite place for R&R is his home in Rehoboth Beach where our friends also have homes. A word of advice, when you're waiting in line for fifteen minutes for the president's convoy to come through, please shut off your engines.**

### **A SERIOUS GUINNESS RECORD- SERIOUSLY**

**Dylan Sorensen is the track coach at the University of North Carolina, but obviously a fine runner himself. Can't quite figure out why anyone would want to do this, but the test is to see how fast you can run a mile while dribbling a basket ball. Dylan set a Guinness World record running and dribbling the one mile in 4 minutes 33.7 seconds – pretty amazing when you consider that a sub four minute mile without the basketball is considered world class caliber.**

**Your faithful scribe**

**PB**