

# **HERMIT HERALD**

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## **QUOTE FOR THE DAY:**

**“If you’re lonely when you’re alone, you’re in bad company.” Jean-Paul Sartre**

## **REFERRALS/COMMENTS FROM READERS:**

**Two good ones today from Joe Knoll:**

**Axios AM- “Deep Dive” by Mike Allen 4/11/20. Interesting discussion on inequality (touched on in issue 12). Also discusses Darwinian Dynamics- the strongest survive, i.e. companies with strong connections and a fleet of lobbyists. Interesting notes about Gilead Pharmaceuticals and the “most promising” Covid 19 drug, Remdesivir. + many vaccines in late stage trials, but no approvals expected before 2021.**

**Second article is**

**[Suscribers@mauldineconomics.com](mailto:Suscribers@mauldineconomics.com), 4/12/20.**

**Mostly charts, but rather encouraging about virus trend line in both Europe and the U.S.**

### **COVID 19 UPDATE:**

**I know we all follow this closely, but picking here and there I find some interesting stats: U.S. deaths per 100,000 = 6 in Italy its 32. The unbelievable exponential growth in infected people in the U.S.- 2/26= 15 cases; 3/16= 4,226 cases; 4/11= 500,000 + cases + it is estimated another 100,000 to 200,000 cases of asymptomatic carriers. Nursing home deaths attributed to the virus have exploded to more than 3,300. This figure is likely much higher as many states, like Florida do not report nursing home deaths. And, lastly, the unfortunate prisoners in our jails across the country. Unlike the cruise ships where eventually everyone can disembark, not so with the prisons- Cook County Jail in Chicago- 492 cases (prisoners and staff) about 10 % of the population- tragic,**

### **DON'T CRY FOR ME ARGENTINA:**

**Or, actually, I meant to say, Panama, Liberia, Norway and Bermuda, home countries for the vast majority of Cruise Line companies which had all been hoping for goodies from the stimulus program. The reason of course for their foreign registry is huge tax savings and not having to pay wage scales that would be required if they were U.S. flag carriers. Examples: Carnival in 2019 paid \$71 million in U.S. taxes on \$20.8 Billion in revenues. Caribbean paid \$36 Million on almost \$11 Billion in revenues- a pittance. Further, the cruise sector has an abysmal environmental record- don't mean to tar every line with the same brush, but the dumping at sea of every imaginable type of refuse has been an ongoing problem. Lastly, and of course most importantly today, they have been unable to keep the ships from being breeding farms for Covid 19. Any questions as to why the cruise lines aren't beneficiaries of the Stimulus program?**

**WHERE WERE YOU APRIL 13, 1970?**

**Wow!! Just caught up with this article on Apollo 13. I had forgotten much of it and some of our readers may have never heard of it.**

**Apollo 13 was to have been our third mission to the moon. The crew was lunar module pilot, Fred Haise, Command module pilot, John Swigert and Mission commander, James Lovell. Having blasted off on April 11<sup>th</sup> all was going according to plan when suddenly there was an explosion followed by Swigert's famous and rather calm words, "Houston, we've had a problem here." Two of the three fuel cells were fatally damaged. James Lovell would later say, "Now it was strictly a case of survival." The crew might not be able to get home.**

**There ensued a number of serious issues, all of which they were able to overcome with the help of Houston. The two biggest issues, however, were still ahead of them. They quickly realized they would have to jettison the command module and that all three men would have to get in the lunar module, made to accommodate only two. Further, the lunar module (LEM) had life support for only 45 hours (the planned time to land on the moon**

**and get back to the command module. Now the LEM would have to be their “lifeboat” and for twice as long. The last and scariest part of the mission was that the LEM would circle the moon and benefit from gravitational forces that would propel it back toward earth. This was unbelievably dicey. If they came back toward the earth at too steep an angle they would burn up when they hit the atmosphere. If the angle were too thin, the LEM would bounce off the atmosphere and they would be lost in space forever. Miraculously, they made it. Trus American heroes. As they say, “The real deal.” Happy fiftieth. A movie was mad in 1995. You might want to check it out.**

### **THE CROZIER AFFAIR:**

**Back to the issue of Captain Crozier. An investigation continues, but it is being reported that Captain Crozier’s superiors were balking at his insistence that he had to evacuate the ship. With more and more of the crew getting ill, the Captain felt he had to release the letter which got leaked to the press. A number of the most senior officers on the ship asked to also be signatories on the**

**letter, but the Captain turned them down realizing the letter had the potential to damage careers. Today 584 crew members, including Captain Crozier, have the virus and one has died. 345,000 people have signed a petition to have Captain Crozier reinstated. Ex Acting Secretary Modly's 8,000 mile trip to diss the troops for having cheered Captain Crozier when he left the ship cost the tax payer \$243,000. Stay tuned.**

### **POTENTIAL PROBLEMS FOR JOE BIDEN:**

**Tara Reade, a staffer for Biden in 1992 has come forward with serious sexual molestation charges and she told others at the time of the incident, people who remember that she did so. This doesn't look like it is going to go away soon inasmuch as she has filed a police report. The issue is going to be especially delicate for Biden supporters with the world being in the Me Too era. Recall that Hillary Clinton excoriated Monica Lewinsky making her the perpetrator instead of the victim that she was. Biden's camp is going to have to walk on egg shells here to avoid the same mistake.**

## **TULIPS:**

**The corona virus is 100% lethal to tulips. This is the Dutch flower industry's strongest season. Its normal \$7.6 Billion season (\$30MM in flowers sold per day). It is dead, dead, dead. At the country's largest flower market in Aalsmeer prices stalled over and over again at zero and tulip growers are laying waste to this year's crop- all because of the virus**

**Making this reporting even a bit more awkward is the fact that on the very next page in the New York Times, Mr. Biden sets forth in an OpEd piece how he would get the country back on track, not too dissimilar from watching the report of a plane crash being followed by an ad for an airline.**