

# **HERMIT HERALD**

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## **QUOTE FOR THE DAY:**

**“All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players....” Shakespeare.**

## **BUT, WE’RE JUST ATTENDING THE PLAY:**

**Do you ever reflect on how you are personally reacting to the events of the day? You feel like you’re in the audience watching this incredible drama unfold before you. But, it’s one of those interactive theater experiences, where intermittently the spotlight goes on the audience and this time settles on you in row three. “Hi there, in the third row. Come on up here.” And, in an instant, you go from being a spectator to one of 7.7 million people afflicted with the virus. Bad dream, yes? Let’s all try to keep it in the realm of dreams.**

**Another thought- as we have all settled into very different lives since mid March, how**

**would your life change if the virus were vanquished tomorrow? It's April, 2021 and we've all had our Covid-19 (CV) vaccine shots, including the follow up test that shows we have all the necessary antibodies, indicating immunity. You get your notification e-mail at five in the afternoon. What do you do?**

**Assuming wife, husband or significant other gets their notification at the same time – wow! What a relief – maybe a quick stop at church to give a prayer of thanks and then off to your favorite and long absent steak or sushi house for celebratory drinks and a long worry free dinner. But, what happens the next day?**

**I picture the story we see from time to time. A man has been wrongly convicted and has been in jail for 18 years. The warden comes and says, "New DNA evidence shows you are innocent. Get your clothes, you're going home tomorrow." So, there we are – free to go – depart from the daily repetition of "Ground hog's day." Are you ready for that, how do you handle it?**

**I envy the HH younger readers and older ones, as well, who have remained fully employed throughout the crisis. For you folks it should be an easy transition. For those of us who are retired or not working, maybe not so easy.**

**Yesterday it was coffee, multiple newspapers, morning TV and then think about lunch – take out, or a can of tuna. Come afternoon, perhaps another seventy-five pages of that favorite, but not really, book. Whoops, did I see someone nodding off for a few minutes? Feeling a bit lethargic? Time to get out the tenni runners and hit the neighborhood streets for a twenty minute speed walk. Then, it's cocktail and news time with Brett, Wolf or Lester, followed by take out Italian, either elegantly consumed at the kitchen table, accompanied by lively chatter with your mate, or, in total silence, on TV trays, as the blue monster continues to flicker messages from the stage to which you hope you will never be called.**

**The evening hours blend together as you transition into that fabulous seven season streaming Net Flix drama. Four segments later, you can barely pry yourself off the couch,**

**crawl under the cool covers and await the same day tomorrow.**

**But, that was yesterday. Now you're free. How do you break that rhythm which, while confining, has also become comfortable? This could be a re entry problem for some, but one I'm certain we will all eagerly embrace.**

### **PACKING THE COURT:**

**Candidate Biden has said voters, "don't deserve" to know his stance on expanding the Supreme Court. Wow! And the president is accused of acting in an authoritarian manner. Biden's statement rolls in together authoritarian language with contempt for the voters. Who is he to say, "You don't deserve" to know?**

**In his refusal to answer the question, why are all the pundits and media wondering what his real position will be if (and it's looking highly likely) Mr. Biden wins the presidency?**

**Come on folks. I don't think this takes a crystal ball. It's a simple equation: If (A) then (B). That**

**is; if the Senate confirms Justice Barrett (A) and the Democrats take the White House, then, (B) the Democrats will seek to expand the court. Now, if you're the candidate you don't want to say that up front. Why? Well, when it comes to voting, the blues are blue and the reds are red, but don't forget there are a ton of independents out there. If you're an independent and prefer the Democratic candidate, but at the same time like the checks and balances of a more conservative Supreme Court, you're not going to be happy hearing that the candidate is in favor of adding to the court.**

**Another reason for candidate Biden to be quiet about his views is because he knows there will be a furious battle when and if he tries to add to the court, which will only further exacerbate the nation's divide early in his new presidency.**

**Packing the court has only been attempted once before. President Franklin Roosevelt established the Judicial Procedures Reform Bill in 1937 hoping that by adding seats to the Supreme Court he would have an easier time in getting portions of his New Deal legislation**

**enacted. Not so fast, FDR. In the midst of a battle royale, the bill was held in committee for 165 days before being defeated.**

**By the way, a lot of people think the constitution set the size of the Supreme Court. Not so. The Congressional Judiciary Act of 1869 established that the Supreme Court would consist of 8 Associate Justices and 1 Chief Justice. So, ok, it isn't part of the Constitution, but having been exclusively adhered to for 150 years might be considered a rather strong precedent.**

**Now we come to candidate Biden's major misstatement (you would think his legal scholars would pull him back from the brink.) Mr. Biden contends that for the president to nominate and the Senate to confirm a new Justice at this point in an election year is, "Unconstitutional." Just not the case, Mr. Biden.**

**Article 11, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, known as The Appointments Clause, "empowers the president to nominate and with the confirmation (advice and consent) of**

**the U.S. Senate to appoint public officials, including Justices of the Supreme Court.”**  
**If there is significant precedence (150 years) in the composition of the Supreme Court, there is equal, if not longer precedence in the president nominating a Justice to fill an open seat on the Supreme Court in a presidential election year. Before president Trump, 22 out of 44 presidents have been confronted with the same decision and all 22 made the decision to send up a nomination whether or not they had the votes in the Senate.**

### **THE PERFECT PASS:**

**To demonstrate to our readers that we are not mired in the election year political muck of blue and red insults, charges and counter charges, I thought everyone would be delighted to know the physics behind the perfect 50 yard spiral pass.**

**Tim Gay is a professor of physics at U. of Nebraska. A former big time collegiate player himself, he has always been fascinated by the physics of the game. “The start of a football pass exhibits the properties of ‘angular**

**momentum'. Once launched, it spins away, nose upward, maintaining much of its rotation,, but then, after reaching its apex, it falls into the hands of a receiver, nose down, still spinning, still symmetrical."**

**The laws of physics dictate that at a certain point in trajectory, after passing the apex, the ball should start tumbling counter clockwise. Gravity alone couldn't explain why a pass could begin as a perfect spiral and end as one.**

**Working with two other physicists, Gay published, "The Paradox of the tight spiral pass in American football." You'll be fascinated by the conclusion. "The paradox is simply resolved by focusing on the gyroscopic precession driven by the torque that results from the ball's nonzero angle of attack and by the interaction of that torque with the ball's angular momentum." Got it?**

**HAPPY COLUMBUS DAY:**

**May be the last one. From now on, "Indigenous American's Day" - Geez!!**

**Your faithful scribe, PB**



