

# **HERMIT HERALD**

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### **QUOTE FOR THE DAY**

**“You don’t have Nixon to kick around anymore, because, gentlemen, this is my last press conference.” Richard Nixon.**

### **BET- FEW KNOW THE BACKGROUND**

**Most believe this is a quote from Nixon as he left the White House in disgrace – not at all. He said this on Nov. 7, 1962 to a group of 100 reporters as he conceded his loss to Pat Brown in the California gubernatorial election. The comment was considered in such poor form that the pundits proclaimed that Nixon’s political career was finished – hardly.**

**Why speak of this now? Well, first of all to dispel any thoughts that president Trump may depart in a similar fashion. In fact, it’s already been published, but not confirmed, that he has said he will absolutely run for president in**

**2024. Whether that happens or not, he will live a life as a former president unlike any other. The typical model has been for the former presidents to write their memoirs, paint portraits, play golf, plan their libraries, etc.**

**Mr. Trump will certainly not neglect his golf, but it can be expected that he will be a gadfly, constantly going after the new administration and constantly making certain his base knows he is alive and well.**

**While such activities will not be welcomed by the Biden administration, they will probably save countless jobs in journalism and the media. Without Mr. Trump, the disdainment/entertainment factor dries up. Readership and viewership will drop like a rock as the Trump hating press will starve, deprived of their steady diet of red meat.**

## **CHINA - LESE MAJESTE REDUX**

**Much has been written of late about the unrest in Thailand and the power of the King over the populace due to the archaic rule of lese**

**majeste, where speaking ill of the King can land you in jail for up to fifteen years.**

**President Xi Jinping has taken lese majeste a step further. Step out of line and criticize China or Xi and you'll get squashed like a bug. The two governments, one country concept for Hong Kong has evolved in the direction to which the Chinese always intended - it's their show. It's amazing how the disappearance of a few democracy advocates can put a chill on the efforts to maintain the ways of the old Hong Kong - a romantic ideal for many, but there's no going back.**

**Then, there's Australia. Australia's major "sin" is that they have had the temerity to ask for a probe into the origin of the coronavirus. Such a probe, of course, points an accusatory finger at China. Xi's response: as China is one of Australia's largest importers, let's try this - a 212 % tariff on Australian wines rendering them unsellable in China, and stopped or reduced imports of beef, coal, barley, seafood, sugar and timber - take that - all because of this legitimate inquiry, which flies in the face**

**of China's contention, insisting the coronavirus came from abroad.**

**In further reflection of China's growing belligerence and muscle flexing we must add to the mix, illegal developments in the South China Sea, Seizure of land and development of a whole new city in Bhutan and turf battles on a shared border with India.**

**Not so much from the barrel of a gun, but more like a python crushing its prey, Xi is doing it his way and we can be assured China will be a big problem for the new Biden administration.**

## **IRAN ASSASSINATION**

**It hasn't been officially declared yet, but it is so obvious that the Mossad (Israel's spy service) took out Iran's chief nuclear bomb developer, Moshen Fakhirzadeh, with or without the counsel and consent of the U.S. It is known that several weeks ago president Trump inquired of his top military advisers if it might not be a good idea to militarily take out the Natanz nuclear development facility. Fearing a larger conflict would ensue, the president's advisers**

**dissuaded him. Some may view the assassination as a trade off for attacking Natanz; if you will, a farewell gift from Bibi Netanyahu to his good friend president Trump.**

**Into the fray steps former CIA head, Brennan. Saying this, “is a criminal act and highly reckless.” Going on to say Fakhrizadeh was a civilian and not a terrorist and therefore cannot be attacked. Mr. Brennan, please advise the difference between he who carries the bomb and he who makes it. But then, Brennan voices concern as if to say, “Oh, gee we’ve made them mad, they might do something bad to us.” What clap trap! The Iranians are always up to something. On the very same page in the paper we are informed of the start of a trial of an Iranian diplomat and three other Iranians accused of a failed Bomb plot in 2018 against an Iranian opposition group in Villepinte, France. Attendees and potential victims included former house speaker, Newt Gingrich, Rudy Giuliani, former FBI head, Louis Freeh, Gov. Bill Richardson and former Prime Minister of Canada, Stephen Harper. Many of those just named would have been killed if it were not for the efforts, again, of Mossad.**

**One thing is certain, it will be more difficult to revive the moribund nuclear freeze deal with Iran, if that is an objective of the new Biden administration.**

## **STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS**

**Another issue facing the new administration. President elect Biden has said he would favor legislation that would forgive the first \$10,000 of anyone's student debt. Chuck Schumer and Elizabeth Warren have a more ambitious plan of forgiving up to \$50,000. Total outstanding student debt today is \$1.7 trillion.**

**According to Kevin Carey's article, "What happens if we forgive student loans without changing the system that produced them in the first place?" Further, "The American higher education system is a gigantic debt producing machine with no one at the controls. Any student attending almost any accredited college can take out a Federal loan and the government does not regulate what the colleges can charge for tuition... So, if nothing else changed, the day after any kind of mass**

**loan forgiveness went into effect, the tide of debt would begin rising again.”**

**It’s a real conundrum and your scribe would like to know what our readers think. While many support the goal of assisting anyone who wants to go to college, there are, however, many who do not need to in order to have happy and financially secure lives. The country desperately needs more electricians, welders, plumbers – tradesmen of every sort. Their training comes about primarily through apprenticeships, essentially, on the job training. Many of these folks go on to make as much or more than those with Junior college or four year college degrees.**

## **ANOTHER GUINNESS WORLD RECORD**

**We’ve probably all witnessed the incredible sight of a man or woman walking through a bed of flaming coals. The modern update on that has its genesis in the pain experienced when, getting up in the middle of the night, one steps on one of his/her’s children’s lego bricks.**

**Five young moms in Florida noted that a survival record, of sorts, had been established at Guinness for walking through a path strewn with lego bricks. A supervised 32 foot path of lego bricks was set up and the five women, in relay fashion, traversed the path bare foot travelling 2.04 miles in one hour for a new record. In addition to their Guinness certificates they were all given \$1,000 citations for failure to wear face masks- ha, ha.**

## **STAG HUNTING IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

**Cenek was out hunting with his dogs when one of them flushed out a huge stag. Confused, instead of running away, the stag ran right at the hunter who didn't have time to lift his rifle. The stag's horns ripped Cenek's sleeve and, in the process, the sling of his rifle and the rifle itself wound up attached in the stag's antlers. An hour later, another hunter saw the stag still, "carrying", code for travelling with a loaded weapon. Remainder of details not clearly known, but it's possible the second hunter's response to the question, "Why didn't you shoot? Was, "I was afraid of return fire."  
Your faithful scribe, PB**



