

# **HERMIT HERALD**

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### **QUOTE FOR THE DAY:**

**“I have let myself go and am less strict with myself.” Leo Tolstoy, Diary -me too, anyone else?**

### **CRITICAL STUFF FIRST:**

**Most of you have probably picked up on this, but if not – it has now been determined that the number one predictor of Covid 19 (CV) is the loss of smell and taste. Previously, it was thought these were follow- on symptoms. Persistent cough, fatigue and acute muscle pain had been considered the precursors.**

**Also, in terms of person to person spreading, the dangers of sneezing and coughing have been known from day one, but now it has been scientifically demonstrated that there is heightened risk in just talking. “Talking can launch thousands of tiny droplets which can**

**remain suspended in the air for 8 to 14 minutes.” So much for 6 foot social distancing unless you are wearing a mask.**

## **UNEMPLOYMENT AND COMPENSATION:**

**You may recall from issue 27, I attempted to help envision what 23 million unemployed look like – 230 Ohio State stadiums lined up in rows and columns. Now its up to 360 – 100,000 seat stadiums.**

**Who knows where all of this is going. Some economists estimate that close to 80% of those laid off will get their old jobs back, but, obviously, not overnight. If restaurants are only operating at 25% or 50% capacity, that’s what percentage of the laid off workers get rehired. In addition it is estimated that one quarter of all restaurants will not reopen at all.**

**Unemployment compensation presents an enigma. In Florida, the base is \$275 per week, plus the CARES act gives an additional \$600 per week for the next several months. It’s said to be very likely that will be extended. That comes out to \$45,500 per year. In Florida, the**

**basic survival income for an individual is \$20,712 and for a family of four it is \$55,164. Until that \$600 goes away, it's easy to understand why many low wage earners, either as individuals or couples without children, might not be in a rush to get back in the work force.**

**I DON'T KNOW - YOU TELL ME:**

**In New York City, Mayor DeBlasio is once again calling on Dr Mitchell Katz to take a prominent role in New York's battle against CV. Back in March, Dr. Katz opined that there was, "no proof that closures will help stop the spread." He believed that cancelling large events would hurt the economy and sow fear. On March 10<sup>th</sup> Dr. Katz said, "We have to accept that unless a vaccine is rapidly developed, large numbers of people will get infected. The good thing is greater than 99% will recover without harm. Once people recover they will have immunity. The immunity will protect the herd." We'll let DeBlasio and Cuomo fight it out, but Katz's earlier statements are more than troublesome to me.**

## **THE VACCINE WARS:**

**Many of you have heard of Dr. Judy Mikovits who has a degree in biology from UVA and a Ph.D in molecular biology from George Washington University. To shorten a long story, notwithstanding a strong academic background, she has become a naysayer in the battle against vaccination supporters. The history of vaccines is great testimony to their efficacy. A real problem occurs when someone with her background joins in with the other anti vaccinators, many of whom are in fringe groups, dispensing such misinformation as 5G cell towers or Bill Gates being responsible for Covid 19. In any event, Dr. Mikovits put together a 25 minute UTube interview in which she articulates how dangerous vaccinations can be. I watched it before UTube pulled it off the air. For those predisposed to be suspicious of vaccinations, Dr. Mikovits found a welcoming audience and, I'm certain, many new converts.**

**The anti vaccinators are by no means all fringe people. They are extremely well organized and just plain don't accept scientific facts. They**

**know how to market their views to diverse groups, whereas the pro vaccine people utilize a plain vanilla program, in essence saying, “Vaccination has been proven to be safe and does what it is designed to do.” A group called, Reopen America, has had over 8 million hits on their anti vaccination postings and Dr. Mikovits’ following is off the charts.**

**The problem with all of this is that Covid 19 cannot be eradicated because it has an animal host and, like the bubonic plague, will always be around. That’s where the vaccine comes in – to make certain people don’t get the disease. With a good percentage of the population unvaccinated, we can expect round after round of infections. Here is the real shocker, a 2019 Harris poll (granted, only 2,000 people, but supposedly representative of the country as a whole) found that 45% say that one thing or another caused them to doubt vaccine safety. At the end of the day, that doesn’t mean they are all anti vaccinators, but it can be assumed a large percentage of them are.**

**NURSING HOME FIASCO IN NY STATE:**

**More than 5,300 NY State nursing home residents have died from the virus – more than 35,000 nationally. In a heavily lobbied bill by the nursing home industry, a provision was tucked into page 347 of New York’s budget bill. (I say tucked away, because many legislators missed it). That provision shielded nursing homes from lawsuits over “their failure to protect residents from death or sickness caused by CV.” The immunity supposedly does not protect the homes from, “intentional criminal misconduct or gross negligence.” Oh, great, just try to prove that in a lawsuit.**

**Richard Gottfried, Chairman of the NY Assembly’s Health Committee, missed that provision in the bill and said, “there’s a very long history of abuse and neglect of nursing home residents. And, to add to that a reduction in the ability of patients and family member to seek relief in courts is very scary.”**

**Historically, there have been three safeguards against bad homes. “family members who frequently visit; regular inspections by government regulators; and, as a last resort, lawsuits that can hold negligent homes**

**accountable. But families can no longer visit. Regulators have largely stopped inspecting. All the systems there to protect people are gone.” Reminds me of Nathan Detroit in, Guys and Dolls. “Sue me, sue me, what can you do me...”**

### **A FRIGHTENING ANALOGY:**

**From earlier issues, you may recall I have railed against wet markets – live animals, freshly killed bats, snakes, dogs, civets, pangolins and many other types of bush meat. (the source of Covid 19) From what I have read, the WHO has given permission for China to reopen them. Have you thought what just one bat or civet has wrought on the world? Think of this terrible comparison: if an atom bomb had been dropped on Chicago with casualties similar to Hiroshima, 150,000 people would have died, but the rest of the country would have been able to keep going while working through our grief. In our current situation, we are probably going to experience 150,000 deaths from Covid 19 along with the destruction of our economy and way of life, as well as that of many other**

**countries – not because of one atom bomb, but one little creature – just mind boggling!**

### **MOVING TO GREENER FIELDS, BASEBALL:**

**Huge debate going on between owners and players. Players had agreed to prorate their salaries for a season shortened schedule, but owners are looking for additional give backs as they are facing a \$4 Billion loss. Players don't want to budge an inch, also citing the health CV issues they will confront. 2018 Cy Young Award winner, Blake Snell, who is under a 5 year, \$50 Million contract at Tampa, has this to say. Paranthetically, when you're making \$10 million a year, no one has to speak the king's English, but here goes. "I'm not splitting no revenue. I want all mine. Bro, y'all gotta understand too, because y'all going to be like: "Bro Blake play for the love of the game! Man, what's wrong with you Bro? Money should not be a thing.' Bro, I'm risking my life. What do you mean it should not be a thing? It 100% should be a thing." Send a self addressed envelope for a full translation.**

**Your faithful scribe, PB**



