

# **HERMIT HERALD**

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## **QUOTE FOR THE DAY:**

**“Aaargh !!!” Charlie Brown’s cry of angst as Lucy once again pulls the football away.**

## **THE CRUELTY OF IT ALL:**

**Such excitement over monoclonal antibodies. Regeneron’s version is attributed to the president’s miraculous recovery, although, I’ve not seen any analysis that measures or gives credit to Remdesivir or dexamethasone, two other strong medications, which the president took at the same time.**

**But. Let’s focus on monoclonal antibodies. The truth is this technology is very exciting, having the seeming potential to morph from a therapeutic to a cure, and is viewed as better than the also promising plasma treatments.**

**Last year in the Congo, monoclonal antibody cocktails proved 90 % effective at saving Ebola victims from death. “Early testing in animals and humans suggests that a dose a fraction of the size the president received can protect an unaffected person against the virus. If that finding holds up, the antibodies could be used like a fast acting vaccine, lasting just a month or two, but providing a crucial bridge to the arrival of new vaccines.” And, what’s the latest on that?**

**Dr Moncef Slaoui, head of Operation Warp Speed (OWS) now expects at least two of the vaccines in final trials will have 75-90 % efficacy and win approval by early January. Vaccine production will not be a big problem. By early in the year, factories under contract will have produced enough vaccine for 30 – 40 million people, and then another 80 to 90 million people every month thereafter.**

**But, back to the “miracle” of the monoclonal antibody treatments between now and three to four months from now. The president’s well intentioned and politically beneficial**

**announcement that these treatments would be available for free for everyone is just not going to happen, as Lucy pulls the ball away.**

**Regeneron's product and that of another highly respected producer, Prometheus, have very little production capacity, "likely to keep monoclonal antibodies out of reach for most people." And, it's not just a capacity issue. Monoclonal antibodies are much more difficult to produce than vaccines. "Even dozens of companies could not produce just the minimum estimate of 25 million doses needed for Covid- 19 (CV) patients and high-risk people in the United States alone."**

**Then, there's the expense. "Some antibodies cost up to \$200,000, even the cheapest cost \$15,000 per year of treatment. Quoting Dr. Kokai-Kum, a monoclonal expert, "I don't see monoclonal antibodies being at large scale use in the public. They're just too complicated to make and too expensive to really be effective in that regard." Thank you Lucy - Aaargh !!! Sorry, Mr. President, but too much enthusiasm on this one.**

**All is not gloom as can be deduced from Dr. Slaoui's prediction above. Further, there is another good omen on the coming winter flu season. The fear had been that a bad winter flu season would send thousands to hospitals, "all competing for ventilators and medical attention, a 'twindemic' of CV and the flu."**

**Here's a statement I've never heard, but would like to find out is a proven truth. "Flu is seeded in the United States each year by travellers from the Southern Hemisphere after the winter there ends." The writer, Donald McNeil, goes on to say, " But this year their flu season was almost non existent because they were socially distancing and, in some countries, wearing masks. And, in this country, flu shots became available earlier than usual. So many Americans are rushing to get inoculated that spot-shortages are developing. If flu does arrive, those shots and masks should blunt it."**

**Thinking I was leaving this topic on an uptick, I'm suddenly reading, as of this past Thursday, "The new case trend line is up in 39 states. In the past 14 days , new cases have risen in New York, 52%; New Jersey, 44% and,**

**Pennsylvania, 40%. On Thursday, new cases in the U.S. numbered 65,000 and, on Friday, 69,000. Folks, we are into a serious third high infection period I thought we wouldn't see until mid December. In our various communities I think we all are feeling a little too safe and confident. We went to one of our favorite restaurants early last week, thinking that on a Tuesday it wouldn't be crowded inside. Proper spacing notwithstanding, we were suddenly having dinner with 27 other diners. Rolling our eyes at each other, we couldn't wait to get out. Cuidado Amigos.**

### **THE SCREW TURNS:**

**Just as I have felt compelled to call out the president on his constant optimistic reporting about the status of Covid 19 (CV), I certainly can't ignore the elephant in the room, although Twitter, Facebook and the NY Times can. The elephant being my prescient discussion of currying favor in issue 66.**

**Enter stage left, Hunter Biden and former Vice President, Joe Biden. Now, to all my Blue friends, don't get agitated. The Blues and the**

**Reds in the congress, the senate and all their adherents are so locked into their beliefs, perceptions and convictions that nothing is going to change what happens on November third. Of course I'm referring to the recent stories in the NY Post. Twitter and Facebook wouldn't even let you know they existed until forced to reverse course yesterday, and coverage by the NY Times was so scant it gave not a hint of the seriousness of the Biden affairs.**

**So, for those of you who are not from the NY area or who would never deign to buy a copy of the NY Post, here is a synopsis of events to reject and ridicule or accept and ponder the consequences- votre choix.**

**First, the phantasmagorical background to L'affaire Biden. In April of 2019 a man entered a computer repair shop in Delaware and dropped off a computer to be repaired that had been water damaged. While the computer had a sticker on it from the Beau Biden Foundation, the shop owner claims he doesn't know who dropped off the computer and then never came to pick it up. "Hold it right there",**

**you and I both say. When I go to the computer store they want my name, address, email and phone. What's going on here? Then, months later, the shop owner downloads the hard drive and sees what he believes is some very sensitive information. He notifies the FBI and , in December 2019 they "seize" the computer. No one knows anything about what the FBI subsequently did with the computer- has anyone even asked? Before turning the computer over, the owner made a copy of the hard drive. It is voluminous and obviously Hunter Biden's or his doppelganger – thousands of photos and personal information that could only come from Hunter Biden.**

**Now the story takes an even stranger twist. At some point between last December and last week, the shop owner makes contact with one Robert Costello. Who's that? Well, Rudy Giuliani's attorney, of course. What? How does this guy know to contact Giuliani's attorney? And, the timing of the release, you don't have to guess about that.**

**Everything you've just read leaves you incredulous, except – except for the very real**

**hard drive, which, among other things, contains a lot of salacious stuff about Hunter Biden, not further disclosed. What is disclosed, in great detail are his business dealings in Ukraine and China.**

**Right here my antenna goes up. Would it be possible for someone getting ahold of this hard drive to insert email correspondence that reflects badly on Hunter Biden and his father, perhaps to the point of criminality? To read the ten plus pages of NY Post coverage over the ensuing days I really think I'm reading the real thing and not being sucked in by a massive disinformation program.**

**Dating back to April 2014, Hunter Biden (HB) was asked to join the board of Burisma, a huge and widely known, corrupt energy company. As vice President, Joe Biden had been given responsibility for the U.S. relationship with Ukraine and China. Although Hunter Biden is a lawyer he knows nothing of Ukraine law and, even though Joe Biden says he never discusses his son's business dealings, it is so obvious that at one million dollars plus, per year, HB has been hired for his family connections.**



**Back in 2014, Burisma was feeling the heat from Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin and Burisma's number three ranking executive, Vadym Pozharskyi,(VP) asked HB if he might be able to use his influence on the company's behalf.**

**Joe Biden (JB) and his staff have denied that JB ever met with Pozharskyi, but on April 17,2015 Pozharskyi wrote to HB, as revealed on the hard drive, thanking him for the introduction and meeting with JB. Now JB's staff is saying there was nothing like that on the VEEP's official schedule, rather than the blanket denial originally issued.**

**Prior to the JB- Pozharskyi meeting, an email from VP to HB read, in part, "We urgently need your advice on how you could use your influence to convey a message/ signal etc. to stop what we consider to be politically motivated actions."**

**The NY Post goes on to report, "Less than eight months after Pozharskyi thanked HB for the introduction to his dad, the then vice-president admittedly pressured then-**

**Ukrainian president, Petro Poroshenko and Prime Minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk into getting rid of prosecutor Shokin by threatening to withhold a \$1 billion loan guarantee during a December, 2015 trip to Kiev.”**

**Then, there’s the China connection. In 2009, HB started a joint venture private equity firm (RSP) with Christopher Heinz, Former Secretary of State, John Kerry’s stepson. Again leveraging off JB’s prestigious position, HB flew with his father on Air Force Two to China in December, 2013 and, with his father, met Chinese investors. The Post reports, “Ten days later HB’s company inked a deal with the state owned Bank of China, creating a \$1Billion investment fund (BHR).” Further, a spokesman for the Biden family denied any wrongdoing or that there was a connection between the vice-president’s visit and BHR’s fundraising success.” Lastly, “Over the next seven years as both Joe Biden and John Kerry negotiated sensitive and high stakes deals with foreign governments,(RSP)secured a series of exclusive deals, often with those same foreign governments.”**

**So now it's back to that nefarious hard drive and an email sent to HB on 5/13/2017 which included details of "remuneration packages" for six people involved in an unspecified business venture in China. The percentage shares were listed by each of the names "H" was for Hunter. The last was for 10% with the notation, "held by H for the big guy." Fox news reported yesterday that one of the email's recipients had come forward, identified the email as accurate and advised, "the big guy" was none other than the then Vice President, Joe Biden.**

**So, there you have it folks - more of the same, with more of the same to come. Don't know where this whole thing is going, but, as noted earlier, highly unlikely to have any impact on the election.**

**The Biden family piggy banks are full to overflowing. Joe Biden failed to follow the counsel of his boss, president Obama when he said, "Don't do stupid stuff." Failure to heed Obama's advice appears to have hurt Joe Biden not at all.**

**Your faithful scribe, PB**

