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QUOTE FOR THE DAY:

**“Everyone is stupid about something”-
paraphrase, Will Rogers.**

RED PILL:

**OK! This is my 11th proven instance of
stupidity (ha, ha). But, exactly, what is it with
this red pill thing? From what I am reading
today, everyone in the world is clued in except
moi. Well, not perhaps everyone, so here goes
with an update.**

**It appears I missed this 1999 sci fi film,
“Matrix”, wherein the hero is given a chance to
take a pill that will enable him to see the truth.
He has a choice between a blue pill and a red
pill. The blue pill would enable him to
continue living in an, “ignorant , but blissful
lie.” While, if he selected the red pill, he would**

be, “launched into an arduous journey through a brutal, but fulfilling reality.”

Little did the producers know, but that their red pill/blue pill choice would become a metaphor for idealogues on the left and right.

On the right, the red pill came to mean, “waking up to society’s grand lies.” The adherents thought that for a male to not take the red pill was a sign of weakness. Supporting forums were created, frequently filled with misogynistic and racist diatribes.

So, who enters the red pill/blue pill controversy but Elon Musk – ouch!! Elon, a total genius behind Tesla and Space X has his stupidity incidents as well.

Tesla has become an expensive, environmentally favorite of many, but a huge percentage of whom are liberal. It’s as if there is a certain cache when you drive a tesla that says, “I’m an environmentalist” and, almost by definition, “a liberal as well.”

I guess you might call this identity branding. “My Harley, My Tesla, My Gucci all say a lot about me.” So, now Elon comes out last Friday and exorts his 34 million Twitter followers to, “take the red pill.” OMG! His board is freaking out. “Elon shut the F up. You’re killing the brand image. How can any Tesla owner get in his car again without being thought of as a red instead of blue pill popper?”(my quotes). I’m glad I missed “Matrix” and am quite content regarding my stupidity on red and blue pills.

ALIEN BABY:

But, let’s not leave Elon so quickly. Word reaches your scribe that his girl friend, Claire Boucher, has just given birth to a beautiful little boy and named him, “ X AE A-12”. From a pronunciation standpoint, I think his future teachers would prefer, “Chrysanthrumen.”

HORSE RACING:

Not a huge fan, but I usually get to Saratoga once a year and always watch the big three. Understandably, the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness have been rescheduled for the Fall,

but the Belmont will be run on June 20th, TV only. Here's the interesting thing, while the traditional line up (KY, Preakness and Belmont) have been changed a few times in the past, the Belmont has always been the last. The Derby is 1 and ¼ miles, the Preakness, 1 & 3/16 miles and the Belmont 1 & ½ miles. Derby and Preakness, negligible difference, but that additional ¼ mile at Belmont is huge. It's always been considered the ultimate test of a three year old who can run well in the shorter races, but who can then show he/she has the stamina at the longer Belmont distance.

Racing officials are concerned that putting the Belmont at it's traditional distance of one and a half miles at the start of the race for the Triple Crown, could be injurious to the horses, so the race will be at one and 1/8th mile, the shortest of all three races. – a good call, I'm sure. But, in the race for this year's Triple Crown, will there forever be an asterisk behind the name, should there be a Triple Crown winner, for a horse that was superb in the shorter distances, but unproven in the

endurance challenge of the traditional Belmont?

PETER BRANCAZIO:

The death, due to the CV of Peter Brancazio caught my eye today. He was 81 and was a noted physicist. His avocation was sports, but sports as they relate to physics.

Starting with basketball, we all remember Michael Jordan and seeing how he would seem to be airborne just inside the key to make one of his incredible baskets. Fans estimated his hang time to be between 6 and 10 seconds. In a somewhat unfair apples to oranges comparison, Mr. Brancazio determined that Jordan's hang time on slam dunks was only 0.9 seconds, with it being noted that a 36 inch leap would equate to a 0.87 second hang time and a four foot vertical leap would equate to one second. Well, that was interesting, kinda, but the thing that impressed me was Mr. Brancazio's debunking the concept of a rising fastball.

Mr. Brancazio's research revealed, in his words, "The rising fastball is an illusion... It's really just not dropping as fast as a typical fastball."

He went on to point out that no one can throw hard enough to overcome gravity.

A fastball thrown at 90 miles an hour would drop three feet by the time it reached home plate. A "rising fastball" is thrown with even more backspin and falls only two and a half feet thereby, in comparison to the plain vanilla fastball, seems to be rising.

CHEERLEADERS:

Now you folks probably think I'm losing it a bit, delving into Jordan's hang time and rising fastballs, but cheerleaders? C'mon.

You can back off that line of thinking. At major universities this is a really big deal and all these men and women are incredible athletes. They don't carry the ball and perform other gridiron heroics, but most are as athletic as any of the players on the field.

The really big part of gymnastic teams' lives is not in the football stadium or the basketball court, but at the cheerleading national championships. The University of Kentucky cheerleading team has won the national championship 24 of the past 35 years.

So, when you wake up and find that the entire coaching staff has been fired, it's serious sports news. What happened? Turns out the team was on a retreat at Lake Cumberland and there was drinking involved- what college students drinking? Some of the cheerleaders were hurled into the water in various stages of dress and undress, while engaged in the gymnastic routine known as basket tosses – sounds like fun to me –team building perhaps?

In the not nice category, several cheerleaders over imbibed and needed help, but a review of the retreat activities was generated by a parent complaint. The review culminated with the finding that there had been no evidence of sexual assault or sexual misconduct. The review committee declared however, that the coaching staff showed poor judgement and a lack of oversight.

Charles Welte, a junior on the team, summed it up this way, "I will assert that we should stand up for those we are certain are class act selfless individuals. It's discouraging to see people removed from their dedicated positions despite rehearsing admirable principles that were instilled among countless student athletes."

Really a sad thing for these four professional coaches to lose their jobs and careers, I think a suspension would have been more appropriate – doubt that Kentucky will be in the finals again anytime soon.

AND FINALLY:

So nice to not report on Covid 19 for a change.

Your faithful scribe,

PB