

# **HERMIT HERALD**

## **ISSUE 143**

**JULY 20, 2022**

### **QUOTE FOR THE DAY**

**“Show me a good loser and I’ll show you a loser.” Vince Lombardi.**

### **TWO GUYS WHO AREN’T GOOD LOSERS**

**You already guessed; our current and immediate past presidents.**

**President Biden insists and reiterates time and again that he will run for re-election in 2024 notwithstanding a recent Quinnipiac poll that shows him with a dismal approval rating of 33%. Only 18% of Americans think he should run again, but Mr. Biden is determined not to go out as a loser. Unfortunately not even his handlers can keep him out of trouble ( more on this later). The poor man can’t even manage the teleprompter any longer. At the end of a**

**recent teleprompter read out he was to stop speaking, instead he kept reading aloud the eyes-only instructions, as he intoned, “End of the quote. Repeat the line.” Cheesh!!**

**Then we have Mr. Trump. 59% of Americans say he shouldn’t run again. Only 28% think he should. Plus, 52% of Americans think he committed a crime in trying to overturn the 2020 election results.**

**Not that Mr. Trump hasn’t changed his mind or prevaricated previously, but on July 14<sup>th</sup> he ended the suspense regarding whether he will run again saying that the only decision remaining is whether he will announce his candidacy before or after midterm elections.**

**Some wag has suggested that Mr. Trump, like Mr. Netanyahu and his legal problems, wants the oval office again to protect himself from multiple law suits and possible criminal prosecution, calling to mind his famous quote, “I could stand in the middle of fifth avenue and shoot somebody, and I wouldn’t lose any voters.”**

**President Biden's response to a possible Trump rematch is, "bring it on." Even though the president has weak support among Democrats to run again (35%), 92% of them say they would vote for Biden again if his opponent were Trump.**

**Is Mr. Trump in trouble with his own constituency? There have been rumblings that many Republicans would prefer another candidate. That appears not to be a serious threat, at least at this juncture, as a NY Times poll shows Mr. Trump with 49% Republican support to Ron DeSantis at 25%, with all other potential candidates in single digits. As GOP veteran, Ed Rollins says, "If Trump wants the nomination, it's his."**

**So there you have it, dear readers, while America seems to want new candidates, it appears we are in for a rerun. Are the gamblers any better at scoping this whole thing out than pollsters? You would suspect they might be, as they have their money behind their bets. Currently, Vegas Insider has Trump leading the odds at +275 while**

**DeSantis is at +350, with Biden in third place at +550. It's a long time til post time.**

## **CURRENT POLITICAL SYSTEM IN TROUBLE**

**Reid Epstein reports in the NY Times, "A majority of Americans across all demographics and ideologies believe their system of government does not work, with 58% of those responding to a NY Times poll saying that our democracy needs major reforms, or a complete overhaul."**

**Columnist, David Brooks, writing on the same topic says, "Far more Americans consider themselves independents than consider themselves either Democrats or Republicans.... 62% of Americans believe a third party is needed."**

## **MIDTERMS, NOT SUCH A SURE THING**

**Republicans have been experiencing a bad case of PE (premature elation). Historically, the party out of power experiences electoral successes at the midterms. November 2022 was expected to be especially favorable to the**

**Republicans given voter dissatisfaction with inflation, gas prices, wokeness- attributed to liberal Democrats and a host of other issues. But, then, along comes the highly unpopular Roe v Wade decision and Republican failure to establish tighter gun laws and, guess what? The latest Siena College poll reflects that in the race to win congress this fall, the Democrats lead among registered voters by 1%. Many a slip twixt the cup and the lip.**

## **SOME PEOPLE NEVER GET THE WORD**

**What do the Pentagon, China and a large segment of the American public know that apparently president Biden doesn't?**

**David Ochmanek runs war games for the Pentagon at the Rand Corp Think Tank. 15 different war- time scenarios have been researched as to what the outcome might be if the U.S. became directly militarily engaged in the defense of Taiwan against China. The score? China 15, U.S. zero.**

**So president Biden blithely states and reiterates to a reporter recently that the**

**United States would militarily defend Taiwan. And, no, he wasn't talking about sending in a few howitzers and javelin anti tank weapons, he was talking about boots on the ground. Once again, his poor beleaguered staff had to walk back the careless rhetoric.**

## **THE SUMMIT PLUMMET**

**The U.S. was to host a three- day summit for Latin American leaders in June, but the Administration didn't really mean that, they only wanted to invite countries that kiss our ring and do our bidding. As a result, Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela were not invited to attend at the insistence of Mr. Biden. According to columnist Michael Shear, this was seen in many Latin American capitals, "as a sign of U.S. imperialism and an unwillingness to address in an honest way the complex issues of the region."**

**Notwithstanding assurances from VP Kamala Harris about the relationships she had developed with leaders in the region, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Mexico all of which are critical with regard to the**

**immigration problems, signaled their displeasure by refusing to send their heads of state to the summit, all while president Biden was planning for his July trip to the mid east where he would be photographed fist bumping the bone saw dispenser, prince, Mohammed bin Salman, while pleading for more oil for the U.S., which could have been oil independent. Not a pretty picture.**

## **UKRAINE**

**As discussed in issue 142, the U.S. did not exhaust all diplomatic efforts to avoid this war and now that we are in it, are the goals of the U.S., our allies and the Ukraine government in synch with reality? We have already committed 54 billion? Are we going to commit another 50 billion? I don't think so. Zelensky says he won't give up an inch of Ukraine to the Russians. Is that realistic?**

**A broad poll of 10 European countries, according to the NY Times in late June, " showed that a majority of Europeans wanted Ukraine to make peace with Russia**

**immediately, even if that meant losing territory.”**

**Separately, Thomas Friedman reports, “A predictable outcome regarding Ukraine is that as the costs rise there will be rising dissent- either in America or among our European allies- arguing that our interests and values have gotten out of balance in Ukraine. We can neither afford to support Ukraine to the point of total victory, nor strategically go for total victory because, faced with total defeat, Putin could unleash a nuclear weapon.”**

**I don’t know that I agree with the last part of that statement. That of which I am certain is that Putin is not going to see Russia lose a second proxy war to the United States. Many have forgotten that decades previously, the U.S., by providing the Mujahedeen in Afghanistan with shoulder mounted stinger missiles, they were able to neutralize the Russian air war in that country, ultimately forcing the Russians to retreat in defeat. Not going to happen again.**



**Fast forward to July 19<sup>th</sup> – Iran and Turkey now allied with Russia in regards to Ukraine. India and China, refusing to honor sanctions and more in the Russian camp than not. Too many being killed and wounded. Too much harm to the global economy. Time to sit down and negotiate a settlement.**

**As the reader may have surmised, your scribe has major problems with our foreign policy, while having lauded a number of the administration's domestic initiatives.**

**Internationally, from the Afghanistan withdrawal debacle, poor judgement on Ukraine, bungled Latin American summit, militarily combative posture toward China on Taiwan and totally failed immigration policy, this administration is a disaster. Biden and Blinken appear as two "hail fellows well met" as they meet and hug members of NATO, G 7 &, G 20 and all the other Gs, along with the gushing greeting just received in Israel, in reflection of the break through success orchestrated in the mid east by the Trump administration. This is not a political view on your scribe's part, but based on my own views**

**of what I see to be an over-proud, over-arching sense of our own importance in the international arena.**

### **MURDER SHE WROTE, ER COMMITTED**

**Where was Colombo when we needed him? So, Nancy Brophy is an author of detective, romance, murder stories. She additionally wrote a 2011 blog, “How to Murder Your Husband.”**

**Seven years later, her husband of many years was found shot to death in his office. Of course, the widow Brophy was overwhelmed and distraught. She related that she had been home in bed the morning her husband left for work and had not been out of the house. Being interviewed by the police she voluntarily turned over her 9mm for comparison to the bullets that had killed her husband.**

**Unfortunately for Mrs. Brophy, there were a number of security cameras in the vicinity of her husband’s office, which showed her car in the vicinity at the time of the murder- oops!**

**Not to be deterred, Mrs Brophy approached the detective on the case asking him to sign a letter that she was not a suspect in order that she might collect on her husband's life insurance.**

**Here's where Colombo comes in as he turns to leave, as was his custom, "Oh, Mrs. Brophy, just one more question, I note that your gun was ordered by mail." Mrs Brophy, "Oh you are right Mr. Colombo, I ordered it to do more research on my murder novel." Colombo, "well that's totally understandable, Mrs. Brophy, but we find from the internet purchase order that you ordered a second slide and barrel assembly for the gun (different barrel different markings on the bullet), might we have a look at that other barrel?" Mrs. Brophy, "Oh Mr. Colombo, I just bought it for research and threw it away." Colombo, "I can fully understand that Mrs. Brophy, You just have a wonderful day."**

**Not a happy ending for Nancy as she was convicted on circumstantial evidence being described as, "a duplicitous wife who spent**

**months quietly plotting the perfect (not so perfect) murder.**

## **MINORITY PROFICIENCY IN SCHOOLING**

**Percentage of 4<sup>th</sup> graders reading below basic level in U.S. : All 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 34%; Hispanic 4<sup>TH</sup> graders, 45%; Black 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 52%.**

**Percentage of reading proficient students in NYC: NYC public schools: Hispanics, 37%; Blacks, 35%. NYC Charter schools: Hispanics, 53%; Blacks, 58%. Any questions?**

## **POT POURRI**

**The city of Kent, Washington is paying more than \$1.5 million to force an assistant police chief to resign after he was disciplined for displaying a Nazi insignia on his office door. Say wha??**

**In one of the worst photos of the year, one of the less than heroic officers who stood in the hallway for 77 minutes while a gunman murdered kids in Uvalde is seen using a hand sanitizer to clean his hands.**

**The poorest juxtapositioning, insentive, ad occurs on pages 10 and 11 of June 12<sup>th</sup>, NY Times. On page 11, we see a full page ad for a beautifully coiffed thirty something model sporting dangling earrings, Gucci sunglasses and wearing some fashion house's haute creation, while poised on a balcony. In front of her is the sterling silver cloche, presumably keeping her quiche warm. – all for the purpose of attracting you to the desirability of moving to the Mandarin Oriental Residences on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.**

**On the page opposite, we read of children dying of hunger and thirst as a fierce drought ravages Somalia where up to 20 million people face starvation. Quite a contrast – sickening, really.**

**SAY IT ISN'T SO**

**Another great myth unraveled. Who among us who have been fortunate enough to drive through Burgundy, France have not marveled at the beautiful yellow fields of Mutard, ensuring happy memories every time the Dijon**

**Grey Poupon mustard arrives on your dinner table. Horror of horrors as we learn that Dijon mustard is fast disappearing off the shelves. But how can that be? Turns out that Dijon mustard is made with brown mustard seed and not yellow mustard seed, and eighty percent of brown mustard seed is imported to the Dijon region from Alberta and Saskatchewan where a heat wave has slashed production by 50%. Somehow all the charm has gone from that great line, “ Please pass the Grey Poupon.”**

## **FACTOID OR FATOID**

**68% of all U.S. households always have ice cream in the freezer. 66% of people in the U.S. are either over weight or obese. Could there be a correlation?**

**Your faithful scribe,**

**PB**