

HERMIT HERALD

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READER REFERRALS/COMMENTS:

Dear readers, I'm loving these. Please keep them coming.

Bill Polk forwarded an amazing film clip of a German couple performing a circus trapeze act, but it is also hilarious. Guaranteed it will be the best eight minutes of your day. Go to Google, then [HTTP://vimeo.com/30014163](http://vimeo.com/30014163).

Suzanne Farmer forwards an article, "The Roots of our Partisan Divide", by Christopher Caldwell, February 2020 -very interesting, but rather lengthy. Again, easy to source on Google.

Jeff Small rightly questions my gloomy outlook in issue 9 about how long some of us may have to "stay in place" vis a vis the virus, pointing to the hope that some preventative or cure may come along. We certainly all pray for that.

Recall though, that I did make note of some very hopeful developments.

President Trump and Dr Fauci are getting a bit testy with each other over Hydroxychloroquine (H). Dr Fauci want more evidence as to its efficacy, while across the country the supplies are being gobbled up. New York City is using it very heavily. The President's view is, "It can't hurt." H is being touted as both a prophylactic and a cure. So, if you believe the claims, as many thousands of people do, there's your ticket out of jail.

I also made mention in issue 9 of the great excitement in Australia and the testing going on with the vaccine BCG, which has been around for 100 years. If the tests show what the researchers think they will, there will be almost immediate availability.

Also great things going on with plasma testing, using plasma from people who have been cured of Covid-19 to build up immunity in those who have not yet been infected.

So, yes, there are some things that could happen that could get us back on the street in 60 or 90 days, but in order to maintain some sanity, best to think we're in this for the long haul.

In a lighter vein, Mary Tynes writes to inquire if I saw the article on kalsarikannit, that's right, kalsarkannit. Indeed I had, and was saving commentary for this issue. That impossible to pronounce word is Finnish and the best English translation is, "pantsdrunk".

Kalsarkannit has been practiced in Finland for as long as anyone can remember. It has two integral parts. Part one is the beverage and part two is the uniform. The beverage can be vodka, gin or anything you want to get hammered on. The uniform is no uniform. You sit around drinking in your boxer shorts or briefs. Well, I guess you can wear a sweater as the winters are long and cold in Finland.

Apparently, the "pantsdrunk" appeal is growing in the U.S as more and more people

are self isolating at home and, as might be expected, drinking quite a bit more.

From my extensive research, not even the Finns can tell you the origin of this tradition. Your scribe, however, thinks he has the answer. It's easier and quicker getting into bed if you're half trashed and not wearing pants.

WOODY ALLEN REDUX:

OK, you may remember, in issue 7 I discussed Allen's new book, "Apropos of Nothing" Well, really not, I discussed the excellent review and suggested that our readers not read the book due to Allen's unsavory reputation.

Along comes a lengthy interview with Larry David, the father of, " Seinfeld" and, "Curb your enthusiasm". – possibly one of the best comic minds on the planet. Of Allen's book Larry says, "Yeah, it's pretty great, it's a fantastic book, so funny. You feel like you're in a room with him and, yeah, it's just a great book, and it's hard to walk away after reading that book thinking that this guy did anything wrong." Au choix!!

CAN'T HELP BUT MARVEL:

**Tiger at The Bronx Zoo: It has coronavirus.
Who had the job to get the nasal swab?**

Gun Sales: I expressed concern in an earlier issue about the spike in gun sales, mostly to first time buyers without experience or training. Requests for background checks closely parallel actual gun sales. In the state of Florida, in February, there were 89,495 requests, in March there were 161,634. Nationally, in February there were 2.8 million requests and in March 3.74 million. YIKES!!!

Flights from China: Since the Wuhan disclosure, 430,000 people have flown from China to the U.S. I Don't have stats for all months, but in February 60% of passengers were non American. Say wha?

**"Just trying to pay for my kids' education".
There are the N95 protective masks, which are pretty simple and usually sell for 50 cents. There has been a bump in these prices, but not ridiculously so. The better quality masks are**

the “surgical masks” which historically sell for \$2.28. Now, in their efforts to help the country, these hoarder bastards are offering them for \$70.

TELEMEDICINE:

Pretty soon we’ll be getting, “Go Fund Me” appeals from our medical professionals. “Mr. Bundy, this is Dr. Hacker’s office”. (Unfortunate name for a dermatologist).”The doctor is now seeing only patients with emergencies.” So, ok, I’ll wear a burqa for the rest of the year.

“Mr and Mrs Bundy, this is your dentist’s office. Your dental hygiene appointment has been cancelled.” Hey, in fairness, can’t blame them. Dental hygienists are said to be just about the most, at risk, health providers in the country. So, ok, I’ll stop eating sweets and promise to brush my teeth three times a day.

“Mr. Bundy, this is your urologist’s office. Your appointment has been cancelled.” Fantastic! I’m going to go have a drink. I get to miss my “wave” My male compatriots will appreciate.

Anyway, quite a change, especially in a state where going to the waiting rooms packed with twenty people is, for many, a weekly ritual.

Some doctors have become quite creative. You call from your cell when you are in the parking lot and then the office calls you when the doctor is ready to see you, and you pass through an empty waiting room. Then, some doctors are actually going out to meet their patients in their cars- very cool- he can hop in and ride with you to the hospital if necessary.

SHAME ON THE AIR LINE INDUSTRY:

For fifteen years the U.S. government has been pushing the industry to create full contact information on all passengers. The industry and their lobbyists (Airlines for America-trade association) have fought this hammer and tong saying it was too expensive and would take too much time. What total BS! When have the airlines not gotten paid for what they do. Fuel prices go up, ticket prices go up. Security costs go up, ticket prices go up. You get the idea, yes? The airlines only have contact information on about 50% of their

passengers- those who book directly through the airline. Travelocity and Expedia are also guilty parties as they don't want to divulge passenger information lest a competitor steal their customers.

You can only imagine what happens when it is discovered that the passenger in seat 10 D was found to have Covid- 19 and the airline can only contact one half the people within 8 rows of him. The effort to force the airlines to capture this information began with SARS in 2005 and then another big push with EBOLA in 2014.

The Trump administration made a concerted effort to force the airlines to comply, but, incredibly, notwithstanding the airlines getting tens of billions of dollars from the stimulus package, they were still able to dodge the bullet. A small band- aid was put on the issue when the Health and Human Services Department enacted a bill to require the airlines to comply until the Covid 19 crisis ends. Too little- too late and no protection against any pandemics to come.

AND FINALLY:

With thanks to Suzanne Farmer:

“8PM. Removed my day pajamas and put on my night pajamas.”

“Struck up a conversation with a spider. Seems nice. He’s a web designer.”

“I put liquor bottles in every room. Tonight I’m getting all dressed up and going Bar Hopping.”

Your faithful scribe,

PB