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QUOTE FOR THE DAY:

“Statues of Jesus Christ are a form of white supremacy and should be torn down.” Shaun King, American writer and civil rights activist. After this pronouncement he complained of receiving death threats. Really? -hard to believe.

GEORGE, WATCH YOUR BACK:

The statue tumblers are at it again. Teddy Roosevelt in front of the American Museum of Natural History has got to go. Actually, I can see this one. Sitting astride his horse, he towers over an American Indian on his right and a black man on his left. As one critic says, “clearly a narrative of white racial superiority and domination.” It appears, however, the statue is not enough. There are several halls, rotundas within the museum named after Roosevelt, and those are also under attack.

Interestingly, Roosevelt's father was a founding member of the institution. The museum honors President Roosevelt primarily for his role as a pioneering conservationist. He is further criticized for having shown an interest in Eugenics, a popular topic in his era. However, critics would be wise to steer clear of calling him racist.

When Roosevelt was Governor of New York he had frequent black visitors for dinner, sometimes including sleep overs. Then, as president, he had the famous African-American spokesman Booker T. Washington to the White House to dine with the family in 1901. Southern politicians and the press condemned that so heavily that it would be almost thirty years before another black would be invited to the White House. So, ok, this statue has to go, but I suspect the attacks on Roosevelt's legacy will continue.

Then, of course, there was the toppling of the statue of Thomas Jefferson in Portland, Oregon on 6/15. On 6/19 the statue of General Grant was defaced and toppled in San Francisco and on 6/22, the defacing and attempted

destruction of the statue of Andrew Jackson in D.C.

Gosh, there are still so many Confederate statues left to go after, it seems the teardown folks are going outside the agreed upon playing field, and so I would say to our Founding Father; George, be watching your back, because no one else is.

P.S. Oops! Sorry, George. I see those fun loving folks were at it again in Portland, Oregon. George Washington's statue torn down. Attack on America by anarchists!!

PANDEMIC UPDATE:

About a month ago I read that Covid-19 (CV), while highly infectious, had one trait that was favorable to its victims – it was said to be a very slow mutating virus. Sorry folks, that's old news. Researchers at Scripps- Jupiter point out that it is the barbs on the virus cells that are responsible for invading healthy cells. A new study shows that a mutation in CV increases the working barbs/spikes by four or five times therefore making them better at invading

cells, i.e. an even more potent mutated virus. More testing has to be done to prove this is the case, but just one more unsettling piece of news.

Tired of the same old food? Do I have a treat for you. Field rats are a favored food in Vietnam and adjoining countries. Problem is the percentage of them that test positive for at least one of six types of corona viruses. A study that was done in 2014 before the current CV showed the danger of the viruses being passed from animal to animal. When first caught, the viruses appeared in 20% of the rats. By the time the rats were packed together and shipped to the large, “wet”, markets 30% of the rats were infected. Then, by the time the rats were sold in restaurants, 55% of them tested positive. The Vietnamese field rat trade is estimated to be 3,500 tons (yes, tons) a year of live rats- yum! Bats, another dining delicacy, come in at a 74% infection rate. The wet/bush meat markets continue to thrive throughout the Asian countries. The Director General of the WHO reports that, globally, it took three months to infect the first million people. It has only taken 8 days to infect the most recent

million. Closer to home, new infections in the U.S. reported as of last Sunday, reflected that the U.S. accounted for 20% of global infections, while being home to only 4.3% of the world's population. To think that one improperly cooked rat, pangolin or bat has brought the world to this point is beyond comprehension.

And this, just in. It appears the EU is set to ban travel by U.S. citizens to any of the member countries due to our failure to control the CV. Interestingly, in a pole just out, 65% of Americans would rather return to lockdown if CV cases spike. In the age group 55+, its 76%.

Also breaking news: Biotec Group, out of Beijing has just received approval to start Phase three trials of its vaccine making it the first company to move to this phase. Live testing will take place in the U.A.E., selected because a vaccine has to be tested where there are currently a lot of CV patients, which is the case in the U.A.E.

NORDIC NEIGHBORS NOT SO NEIGHBORLY:

While Denmark, Norway and Finland were locking down and sheltering in place, the Swedes thought they had a better plan and kept schools, restaurants, bars and beauty salons going, but wow, what a price. Sweden wound up having twice as many infections and five times the number of deaths as the other three countries combined.

With a continuing high infection rate, the neighborly interaction with Norway, Denmark and Finland has come to a grinding halt resulting in Swedes being denied entry to any of those countries.

“The travel restrictions imposed by their neighbors have exposed resentments and differences that are usually obscured by a Scandinavian sense of mutual identity and niceness.” Swedish critics point out that, “Sweden is given to a certain arrogance and exceptionalism that can be grating.”

A Swedish journalist bitterly complained, “We are supposed to sit here in our corner of shame, and the worst part is that you’re

savoring it.” Seems like the CV may go away before the bad feelings.

A BRIEF NOTE FOR ANGLOPHILE READERS:

Royal author, Robert Lacey, has just come out with a new book, “Battle of the Brothers- the friendship and the feuds” which promises, “astonishing” insights to the relationship between Prince William and Harry (the heir and the spare). Unrelated to the book, word reaches the British tabloid press from inside Buckingham Palace that Megan Markle was highly disliked by the staff, being referred to by nicknames, “Me gain” and “The Dutchess of Difficult”. Of course, the press initially loved Megan. That lasted until she lambasted the press in 2019 – seems that Megan forgot, or never knew, the prime rule by which the Royal Family operates. “Never complain, never explain.”

AMY RUNS ON HER SWORD:

So Amy Klobuchar announced last Thursday that she was withdrawing her name as a possible Biden running mate because she felt a

woman of color should join the ticket. How noble – not really. Senator Kamala Harris was already the most popular pick among the Dems. On top of that her previous history as a zealous prosecutor in Minnesota was a terrible fit timing wise. But when asked if her past record would have made it difficult for her to function as Mr. Biden’s running mate, she said it was not a factor in her decision. Really? In any event, if Biden were to win, she could probably lay claim to the Attorney General spot as a reward for her team player altruism.

IT COIN’T BE TRUE:

But it is. The coronavirus has caused a nationwide coin shortage according to the Federal Reserve. Say wha? “With the partial closedown of the economy, the flow of funds has stopped.” Too much change sitting in coin jars at home. Well, maybe this is the time to get rid of those vilified Jefferson head nickels.

Your faithful scribe

PB

