

HERMIT HERALD

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For all you naysayers who thought this august, Mind bending publication would only survive one issue, your faithful scribe is back to disappoint you.

To begin on a less heavy topic, if you recall from issue 1, I extolled my good fortune in finding a restaurant that was exceedingly clean, had very few customers and excellent food. Unfortunately, one of my readers who had received a complimentary copy sent it on to Florida Governor De Santis. He was so upset that such a place could be found, and therefore make it perhaps alright to go out for dinner that, within twelve hours he ordered all restaurants in the state to be closed, all thanks to the Judas among us- a full investigation is under way.

Now, on to more weighty topics. In issue 1 the reader was informed of a little known possible treatment for covid 19, hydroxychloroquine. In the past few days it has gone from being simply an anecdotal tale of a drug that seemed to be of help to a few people to actual clinical trials with people. It has been reported that in conjunction with azithromycin it has great promise. Yesterday, the major net works were reporting on it and it was discussed on the president's virus briefing. Dr Fauci, remains reserved about it, but encouraging about seeing more data.

If the combination of drugs is proven beneficial- what a blessing- could be deployed very quickly unlike the time needed to develop a vaccine. The word "quickly" does not mean overnight as the producers need time to ramp up. Problem is, because the word is getting out, people are clamoring to get the drug and it's like searching for the last roll of TP in the store. This, in turn, is creating major problems for people with Lupus who rely on the drug to stay healthy.

FORCE MAJEURE: Unforeseeable Circumstances. I don't care on what side of the political aisle you sit, but, in my mind, the press doesn't know what the term means or chooses to ignore it to push a political agenda and sell papers. Let's look at two issues:

Health care/hospitals: Oh, the press is on this in a big way. How could the country be so unprepared? They actually can't come at this target with all their artillery because they would have to partially blame previous administrations as well, but blame the country's unpreparedness is the name of the game. Hello, Press- Force Majeure!! There is no way hospitals could be prepared for this.

Hospitals, from a profitability stand point are like grocery stores where a 1-2 percent bottom line is good performance. In fact, many of them are consistently underwater. The press would have you believe that they should have hundreds of unused beds ready for such events and enormous stockpiles of \$25,000 ventilators. Ah, but it sells newspapers- gets the public worked up. One of the worst aspects is the way unsubstantiated stories get propagated. No innocent parties here- done on

both sides of the political spectrum. But in this instance we have the news story of how the current administration dramatically decreased the scope of the U.S. anti pandemic work. Well that just made everyone indignant, right? Guess what? The story was wrong. Go to Factcheck.org."False claim about CDC's Global anti-pandemic work" by D'angelo Gore.

Economy: like it or not this administration has done much to move the economy forward, perhaps highlighted by the highest stock markets ever. Oh, but wait a minute, isn't that just for the benefit of the rich people? Dead wrong. More than 50% of American adults have an interest in the markets mainly through various types of retirement accounts and direct investments.

So yesterday's papers were somberly Announcing that, not only is the market dramatically down, it is even below the level it was when the current administration took office. Hey dummies, it's Force Majeure. It wouldn't be any different had it been Bush, Obama, Bloomberg or Howdy Doody.

Padre Island/ "Youth will be served"
Remember that phrase- used to be a lame apologia for the crazy stuff everyone does in their youth. That phrase is non operative in my book going forward. I'm so disgusted with a lot of, but by no means all, young people who chose to totally disregard the CDC warnings about group gatherings. The photos of the thousands of closely clustered people at Padre Island and many other spring break locations was astonishing. What a bunch of hedonistic lotus eaters. "I can't really get sick from Covid 19, but I sure can take it back home and infect Gramps and Granny. Gee, maybe they're going to leave me something in their will". I'm guessing these are the same folks who want student loan forgiveness and free college for all. The agenda- Me, Me, Me.!!!

Taliban vs Afghan Government: Tell me again how this is supposed to work. We make peace with the Taliban. We don't shoot at them anymore and they don't shoot at us. At the same time they continue to blow the crap out of their own countrymen, the Afghans. So now the effort is to have the Taliban negotiate with the Afghans to find a peaceful way to share

power- not!! This whole thing seems absurd to me. My crystal ball tells me that the Taliban will somehow find a way to sign a deal with the Afghans (with their fingers crossed behind their back) plus, "Of course the girls can go to school". We lower the flag as the last of our 12,000 troops leave and, BAM, within six months the Taliban control the country. Our response, "Oh, but we thought all sides were reconciled, we can't be the world's policeman and, 14, or is it 19, years is enough already." Don't misunderstand me- I do think we should be out of there, but it's not going to be a pretty ending.

Tom Brady: arguably the best quarterback ever. Question, Patriots: at \$14MM he was only the 24th highest paid player in the NFL. Say Wha? Oh, yea, yea- salary cap and all that, but come on- this move had to take place? I am not a big football buff, but I've always liked Brady so when I read he is going to the Bucs who went 7-9 this past season and haven't been in the playoffs for 12 years, I shuddered. OMG, he is going to get murdered at QB. Instead of having 5-8 seconds to get off a pass in the pocket, he'll have a nano second

before getting crushed. Not good for his health at age 40. Curious, I did a little research: In the NFL the Bucs are #1 in passing yardage (how bad could the existing QB be?); #1 in defense against the run; #2 in pass protection for the QB.;#7 rating for the offensive line and, OOPS, #25 in pass defense. Seems like the Bucs need to invest a few million in defensive secondary. Anyway, sorry to see Tom leave one of my favorite cities.

Your faithful scribe,

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