**Togetherness**

**Fox News President Jay Wallace sent a memo to network anchors who are cheering on the anti-lockdown protests in several states, urging them to remind protesters to practice social distancing . The network is heavily covering the protests, often showing demonstrators without masks huddled together, talking and shouting slogans. *(NPR.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 8, 2020)***

**African-Americans may be dying from Covid-19 at higher rates than whites because they ride mass transit more, a pair of new economic studies suggests. Black workers take public transit to work at roughly three times the rate of whites, which might help explain why blacks are 3.5 times more likely to die of Covid than whites. (*The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 10/July 17, 2020)***

**President Trump's campaign rallies have been the source of more than 30,000 coronavirus infections and 700 deaths, a new study estimates. Stanford University researchers examined Covid-19 data in 18 locales where Trump held rallies without distancing or many masks, and compared it with similar counties. There was a consistent, higher surge of new cases in the areas where the rallies took place. *(CNBC.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 13, 2020))***

**Almost 1,900 of the 4,000 inmates at San Quentin Prison in California (in addition to more than 200 staff members) have tested positive for Covid-19. Nine inmates have died, including at least five of the 670 prisoners on the facility's death row*. (San Francisco Chronicle, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 24, 2020)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Pennsylvania’s Lancaster County is so widely known for its Amish that it’s said tourists thereabouts with cameras in hand often outnumber the Amish by at least 350 to 1. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Cuddling? My dear, you don’t know the meaning of the word “cuddling.” At night, miles of columns of South American soldier ants roll up in one big ball to sleep. Now that is “cuddling.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**As winter sets in and lakes and ponds freeze, geese, ducks and other waterfowl can be seen standing on the ice, yet their feet never freeze. Why? Close veins: The arteries and veins in their feet lie against each other so the cold returning blood of the veins is warmed by the arterial blood. *(Audubon Society's Encyclopedia of North American Birds)***

**If half the people in the United States were to move to Wisconsin, that state would be fairly comparable in size and population to Bangladesh. (L. M. Boyd)**

**There's only one thing worse than camping, and that's camping with other people. *(William Skidelsky, author)***

**According to some experts, what really did away with family “togetherness” was central heating. No longer did everybody have to gather in one room to stay warm. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Do those in your household routinely eat their meals with one another? About half the people say no to that one. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**E-mail is like coming home at night after a long day and finding 70 people in your kitchen. *(John O’Donohue)***

**Historians saw fit to examine the marriage registers of England for the year 1841. Half the women and a third of the men signed with X’s. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The perils of indoor air: Every breath you draw in a crowded office, classroom, or other indoor space could be making you dumber, ScienceNews.org reports. Researchers from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory tested the reasoning skills of volunteers while exposing them to different levels of carbon dioxide. They found that as CO2 levels increased, the volunteers’ strategic and leadership abilities worsened to a degree “so astonishing that it was almost hard to believe,” says epidemiologist Mark Mendell. The highest levels of CO2 that researchers measured, 2,500 parts per million, could easily be found in buildings – including schools – that are “fully compliant with current standards” for ventilation, says Roger Hedrick of Architectural Energy Corp. Surprisingly, Hedrick says, even 1,000 ppm of carbon dioxide – a level that “used to be considered a benchmark of good ventilation,” though far above outdoor concentrations of less than 400 ppm –**

**caused a significant dip in performance among study participants. Researchers have long thought that moderately elevated CO2 levels had no effect on people’s health or performance, Mendell says, which is “why these findings are so startling.” They suggest that efforts to make buildings more energy-efficient shouldn’t lock in the biggest source of indoor CO2 – human exhalation. *(The Week magazine, November 2, 2012)***

**Huddling together for mutual warmth, utilizing their specially developed dense feathers, they could survive hurricane-force winds that few other creatures could endure. That night the temperature went down to 40 degrees below zero and the penguins formed themselves into long, oval-shaped masses. The big emperor and his mate were packed in among thousands of other birds. The winds raged all night, but they were warm together. *(Franklin Russell, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Seventy percent of the population nationwide lives on 1 percent of the land. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 170)***

**Observe the Redwoods of California. Their roots are the shallowest of all trees. If they stood alone, they would fall, but together their roots intertwine, and they grow to be the strongest and tallest of all. Stand together in Unity and you shall not fall. *(Robert Wood, in Along The Path, p.109)***

**Sea otters live where there are very strong currents. A family of otters will spend every night resting in a kelp bed. To prevent themselves from floating away from one another, they twist themselves around in the seaweed until they are tied in. The kelp bed may be carried away by the current during the night, but the otter family will still be together. *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 126)***

**There are some fifty different species of sea snakes, and all of them are poisonous. They thrive in abundance along the coast from the Persian Gulf to Japan and around Australia and Melanesia. Their venom is ten times as virulent as that of the cobra. Humans bitten by them have died within 2.5 hours. In 1932 a "continuous mass" of sea snakes ten feet wide and seventy miles long was observed in the Straits of Malacca*. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts)***

**South Dakota has seen a 456 percent increase in Covid cases in the three weeks since the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally drew hundreds of thousands of people to the small city of Sturgis. The state reported 3,655 active cases on August 25, and its test positivity rate shot up from 10 percent to nearly 39 percent. *(CBSNews.com, (The Week magazine, September 10 / September 17, 2021)***

**One fellow we know becomes irate when he hears this era referred to as the space age. He says that may be true for moonshots, but it becomes a different matter when it is parking space, living space, breathing space and room for argument. (Hugh Allen, in Knoxville News-Sentinel)**

**The trouble with the public is that there is too much of it. (Don Marquis)**

**We may not have it all together, but together we have it all. (What on Earth)**

**Half the world’s population lives in temperate zones, which make up 7% of Earth’s land area. (Uncle John’s Unstoppable Bathroom Reader, p. 130)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***