

THOSE WERE THE DAYS



I'm looking forward to the day when I can walk into a bank and be shot by the tellers and account reps because I'm wearing a mask, like back in the pre-COVID world, when bankers fondled their guns and *wished* for someone with a mask to walk in and try something. When that murderous instinct returns, we'll know things are getting back to normal.

I don't like wearing a mask, but I do. It's part of the "we're all in this together" theme that ran through the lockdown and seems to be breaking down into "you play by your rules, I'll play by mine." But masks are a good way to ensure that you don't take your family and friends with you when you die from COVID. It's the right thing to do.

Unless, of course, you're one of those idiots who thinks your freedoms are being Nazified by common sense. Hopefully, COVID will take most of these slugs to a place of eternal quiet where they will do much better at being fertilizer than they were at being decent human beings.

But then, maybe they're just people with beautiful lips that draw your attention away from their ugly eyes. With masks, all that's left are the ugly eyes.

Naw, they're just stupid.

What bugs me is when people treat masks the same way they treat Tim Hortons's cups and empty beer cans: another way to litter and pollute. Just the other day, I was in a mall parking lot weaving around mounds of discarded and lost masks...a veritable obstacle course of dangerous materials in piles so deep that I had to pull two children out before the piles sucked them into the bowels of the earth.

However, I may have exaggerated that.

Every day I read accounts of highway pileups caused by anti-maskers gathering on pedestrian bridges and showering the pavement below with reams of masks...masks that have never been near a human mouth or nose. Good for the mask, bad for traffic.

OK, I exaggerated. But it *would* be bad for traffic.

Masks are clogging our sewers and rivers...not that there's much difference these days. They're creating COVID beaver dams without the beavers...changing water courses and flooding entire cities long before the seas are slated to wash them away and reclaim the land.

I heard that parks out West are requiring bears to wear masks so that they don't infect the people they're eating. I'm not sure how this alleviates the COVID crisis but I think it's really swell that the bears are into the "we're in this together" thing even if they're just in it for the snacks.

Bears, eh?

I read on the internet (so it must be true) that the highest death rates on Mount Everest are coming from people reaching the top, slipping on a lost mask, and falling off the mountain. Guides are demanding to be paid in advance and will only allow the Sherpa-approved mask. (Just another mask, but it costs more.)

But let's get down to the really serious things, like shopping. If I had a crypto penny for every time I licked the inside of my mask when I was trying to open one of those plastic bags in the produce section I'd be able to fly into space with the billionaires. It's a natural reflex that seems to be in COVID denial.

And all those eyes when you're shopping, staring out from the top of the mask. And you know there can't be anything good behind those eyes.

And then...the ones who don't wash their masks at night. You can tell them by the black mold growing around their eyes and ears and the stench of rotting mucous spoiling the air around them. Sometimes you can tell when they drop dead right in front of you at the checkout line from some obscure fungal death and all they needed was a little soap and water.

But I might be exaggerating. Again.

Next year things might be different. We might live in a world covered by vast wastelands of lost and discarded masks. Masks may replace plastic as the main ingredient in ocean water.

I have a solution for this: The Mask Return Depot. Yep, just go to your nearest MRD and turn in all your ready-to-be-discarded masks for cash. Throw in the money factor and you'll see lone figures in the night with bags and trash pickers scouring the sidewalks, roads and fields gathering other people's responsibility for small bucks.

I'm not sure what the MRDs would do with the masks...maybe put them in rockets and shoot them into the sun? I don't think we've polluted there yet.

Hopefully, we won't have to wear masks forever. I'm getting tired of not being able to show my beard off in public places. I used to get ooo's and aahh's from people and comments like, "Gee whiz, Biff, you have one hell of a fine beard," and "We are not worthy of your magnificent beard."

Those were the days.