



## CONNECT SELECT

*A selection of interesting stories – rip ‘em & read ‘em before they go viral!*  
**FOR WEDNESDAY, May 20th, 2020**

### TODAY IS...

- NATIONAL BE A MILLIONAIRE DAY – *Do one thing that makes you feel like a million bucks. Buy something extravagant, make a donation, or pay off some bills. Heck, maybe even wear a top hat! (Millionaires still wear those, right?)*
- NATIONAL RESCUE DOG DAY – *Looking for a canine companion or a four-legged friend? Consider stopping by a shelter and adopt, volunteer, or make a donation.*
- WORLD BEE DAY - *It's 'World Bee Day.' The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has urged countries and individuals to do more to protect bees and other pollinators or risk a sharp drop in food diversity. Bees are under great threat from the combined effects of climate change, intensive agriculture, pesticides, biodiversity loss and pollution.*

### BIRTHDAYS:

- CHER, 74: *The one-name wonder makes us want to 'Turn Back Time.'*
- TIMOTHY OLYPHANT, 52: *Go ahead and call today's birthday blowout 'Justified.'*
- BUSTA RHYMES, 48: *Fun fact, Public Enemy's Chuck D gave this birthday boy his stage name after NFL and CFL wide receiver George "Buster" Rhymes.*
- TONY GOLDWYN, 60: *The hunky president from 'Scandal' celebrates the big 6-0 today.*
- RACHEL PLATTEN, 39: *Think she can shelf her 'Fight Song' today!*
- JACK GLEESON, 28: *Have you ever hated a character more than his Joffrey Baratheon on 'Game of Thrones'? Us either.*

### TRENDING/ODD

#### BALTIMORE BAR INVENTS SOCIAL DISTANCING 'BUMPER' TABLES (0:18)

A company in Baltimore has invented what it calls 'bumper tables' to help with social distancing at events and bars. The tables look kinda like giant donuts that you have to climb into through a hole in the middle. The entire thing is on wheels, so you can mingle in it, but I doubt it'll fit in the bathroom.

## WALL STREET BOSS SLAMS EMPLOYEES FOR NOT ANSWERING 3AM EMAIL (0:24)

Think your boss sucks? A Wall Street jerk blasted his employees for not answering work emails...at 3 in the morning! The email thread has gone viral after someone posted it to Instagram, including the boss blasting his junior staff for not immediately responding to a 3-a.m. email. The boss steamed on, saying he only sleeps 5 hours or less and if they can't answer his email at 3 a.m., then don't bother showing up for work.

## MUSIC STREAMS SUFFER IN QUARANTINE (0:15)

So what's your quarantine soundtrack? There's new streaming data (from Alpha Data) that suggests most of us have gone more ...acoustic. Country, soft rock, and bluegrass music streaming is up big time (double digit gains), while Pop and Hip Hop streams fell 15 percent, and Dance music dropped about 10 percent.

## WAS MICHAEL JORDAN POISONED? (0:23)

Michael Jordan now admits that infamous 'flu game' during the finals in 1997, wasn't the flu. It was actually food poisoning. MJ says he ordered a pizza the night before game 5 against the Jazz in Utah and thought it was weird that 5 dudes showed up to deliver it. He says he woke up a few hours later shaking and throwing up with what he says was food poisoning. He still managed to score the game winner.

## DAD TURNS HOUSE INTO GIANT BALL PIT (0:24)

A dad in the UK did what we all wanted as kids. He turned the entire house into a giant ball pit. One problem: dad didn't tell mom before he did it. Dad is a cinematographer who likes recording pranks he does on his daughters, so he did THIS ONE for the 'gram, too. He didn't show how he managed to get 250-thousand plastic balls delivered to his house when most of us have to wait 3 months for paper towels and mouthwash.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSxspw1FZ3K4bhdHhhibhqw/videos>

## TRENDING: COUPLES NOW WEARING MATCHING FACE MASKS (0:16)

Now there's something even worse than a couple with matching athleisure-wear? Matching face masks. More couples are doing it, flaunting identical prints and colors. Even celeb couples are doing it now, displaying matching masks as a sign of affection - when we're not allowed to touch each other.

## CORONAVIRUS HITS REMOTE AMAZON TRIBE (0:18)

Maybe Social Distancing doesn't *always* work. Just look at the remote tribe living deep in Ecuador's Amazon jungle. Even though they live in isolation, one of their tribe members has become the first to test positive for the coronavirus. That tribe has about 140 members and they have no clue how one of them got it.

## WY STRIP CLUB REOPENS WITH GIRLS IN MASKS (0:22)

It's about getting life back to normal, even at a strip club in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The Den is one of the first strip clubs to reopen in the country. Dancers wear masks but not much else. One of the ladies admits the masks can make it hard to see where you're walking in 8 inch heels on stage. They kicked off their reopening with a "Masks On Clothes Off" party. Hand sanitizer required.

## CRIME

### WHOPPING FINES IN UAE OVER FACE MASKS (0:14)

How much is too much for a fine if you're caught NOT wearing a mask? In the United Arab Emirates it's 800-bucks if you're without a mask while driving with passengers. If you're busted at a party it's more than a thousand bucks. And you thought we had it bad!

### HOME SECURITY HACKED BY ADT TECH IN DALLAS AREA (0:20)

Security cameras on when your panties are off? Now ADT faces a couple of class action lawsuits in Texas. ADT says a technician added his email to hundreds of customer accounts during service visits. He had access to security cameras and could see folks in their most intimate moments. The security company says they now flag and notify customers of any account changes.

### WOMAN BLAMES "NUTRITIONAL" COMPANY FOR VIRUS (0:27)

A co-worker coughing next to you means so much more now doesn't it? For one woman in Utah, she's "lawyered" up after getting COVID-19 at the nutritional supplement company she works for. In her lawsuit, she says she emailed H-R at Built Bar about the number of people on the production line who were sick and too close together. A week later she was diagnosed with the coronavirus. In the suit she says the company recklessly exposed employees by not properly sanitizing facilities.

### MELON HEADS ROB CONVENIENCE STORE (0:16)

Going viral are two buddies posing for a photo wearing carved out watermelons on their heads. Problem is they also stole alcohol while in disguise at a convenience store. Police in Louisa, Virginia caught one of them. He's underage so you can tack that onto his theft charges too.

## HEALTH/SCIENCE & TECH

### SAMSUNG DEVELOPS FAKE WINDOW WITH FAKE SUNLIGHT (0:24)

Samsung has just [developed](#) an artificial window that mimics the look, and benefits, of daylight. The window can hang on a wall, and shines full-spectrum light to help fight depression and keep your bones from turning into dust. It even changes angles throughout the day, just like the real thing. They say the UVB light is safe and gets your body to produce Vitamin D faster than if you were sitting in actual daylight (which is good, since a lot of us aren't going outside right now)

### COULD COUGHING INTO YOUR PHONE DETECT CORONAVIRUS? (0:25)

An engineering professor at the University of Utah is developing a way to test for coronavirus just by coughing into your phone. It's a sensor that plugs into the charging port of your phone and scans for coronavirus proteins when you breathe on it. The test takes about 60 seconds, and you can do it all day, if you want, 'cause the sensor disinfects itself automatically. It doesn't work ...yet, but they're hoping it will, by about the end of July.

### QUARANTINE CAUSES GLOBAL CARBON EMISSIONS TO PLUNGE (0:23)

Sure, everything sucks right now, but at least the air is getting super clean! A new study says global carbon emissions are down a staggering 17 percent since the start of the lockdowns. And that's the world-wide average. India cut their emissions by more than 25 percent last month. But don't get too excited... China just lifted its restrictions and has already exceeded its pre-lockdown pollution levels.

## **BALDNESS STUDY: HAIR RE-GROWTH CREAM WITHOUT THE SIDE EFFECTS (0:18)**

Guys with hair around the sink, this one's for you. A new study on baldness finds there may be a new solution without all the E-D (erectile dysfunction) problems. Scientists are working on a cream you can slather on your head that's made of fat and growth hormones from stem cells. In a small trial they found it worked to bring back hair growth and follicle size.

## **PEOPLE WHO TRACK STD's TOO BUSY TRACKING COVID-19 (0:20)**

Here's a scary thought. The people who normally track sexually transmitted diseases are now busy tracking COVID-19. That means the information gathering and testing they normally do for STDs, including HIV is not happening. They're known as "contact tracers" and their worry? Not getting tested means not getting treated and it could mean other diseases are spreading.

## **YOUR MONEY/SHOPPING**

### **PIER 1 CLOSING (0:20)**

Pier 1 Imports is closing all 540 stores. The furniture chain is calling it quits now that wicker barstools and papasan chairs aren't really in style anymore. Pier 1 has had a hard time competing with online retailers. They've been around for 58 years and have served as a place for people to drag their spouses to when they'd rather be watching sports.

### **HAS 'CHUCK E CHEESE' CHANGED ITS NAME? (0:19)**

Is Chuck E Cheese dead? The famous mascot has been missing and now the chain has started going by 'Pasqually's Pizza & Wings' on some of those delivery apps. The company says it's not making any changes (yet) and some people think the Italian-sounding name-change is just a way to trick people into ordering pizza from Chuck E Cheese.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=58&v=EdKLSomLbtY&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=58&v=EdKLSomLbtY&feature=emb_logo)

### **US/CANADA BORDER STAYING CLOSED FOR NOW (0:13)**

The US-Canada border is gonna stay closed for all non-essential travel for at least another 30 days. The border was first closed to tourists and 'day-shoppers' back in March. It's still open for cross border business.

### **CORONAVIRUS: FLIGHTS WILL BE LESS BOOKED ON PURPOSE (0:18)**

It'll be a new world of flying. Gone are the days of overbooked flights. Reports say Delta will keep planes no more than 60-percent full thru at least July, and will add more flights to accommodate for more space. Delta's CEO says what passengers think of safety and comfort will be key for air travel's comeback.

### **WALMART HAVING A BIG MOMENT IN ONLINE SALES (0:10)**

Walmart is reporting online sales up close to 75 percent in the first part of the year. The coronavirus had a lot of us buying from home. Store sales were up 10 percent too.

### **KOHL'S SALES SLUMP (0:16)**

The commercial may say, "Get to Kohls" but with shopping at a minimum, it shows on the department store's bottom line. Sales dropped more than 40-percent the first part of 2020. Most Kohls stores closed at the start of the coronavirus crisis. The company says about half have reopened.

## LIFE/FAMILY

### SINGLES ADD ANTIBODY TEST RESULTS TO DATING PROFILES (0:20)

It's not just eye color and measurements that people are putting on their dating profiles these days. A lot of them are now including their COVID antibody test results to help snag a date. Some matchmakers are even suggesting it as a way to beat out any competition, since positive antibody tests could mean immunity and a low risk of transmitting the virus.

### STUDY: HOW MANY EXCUSES THE AVERAGE AMERICAN MAKES PER DAY (0:23)

I was gonna tell you about this new study, that says how many excuses the average American makes in a day, but I'm kinda tired and I think I would do a better job tomorrow. Seriously: a new poll finds - every day - we make about 6 excuses for not doing stuff. 'I'm too tired' was the most popular one. We mostly make excuses for not exercising (check), eating healthy (yup), and running errands (I'm just too tired). Excuses, excuses!

### POLL: AMERICANS SAY THEY'LL TRAVEL MORE THIS SUMMER (0:27)

Screw coronavirus. Americans are still planning to go on summer road trips. A poll by a rest-stop operator finds two-thirds of us actually plan to travel MORE over the summer. Almost 9-in-10 of us have at least one trip planned already. And more than half of Americans say that being cooped up for months has made 'em more likely to book something 'outdoorsy', like camping or hiking. Oh, and two-thirds of us admit - we really need a break from everyone we've been quarantined with (sorry, fam)

### TOP OF THE CLASS TWINS RECEIVE A MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS (0:21)

Twin sisters out of Milwaukee are graduating at the top of their class. Between the two of them, they were accepted at 37 colleges and are receiving a million bucks in scholarships. Arielle and Arianna Williams aren't going far, both will study nursing together at Marquette University in Milwaukee. Arianna says with the pandemic she sees how much nurses are really needed.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### THE ACTOR WHO ALMOST PLAYED 'JAY PRICHARD' ON "MODERN FAMILY" (0:29)

Now that 'Modern Family' has aired its final episode, a lot of inside dirt is getting out. Like how actor Craig T. Nelson was offered the roll of 'Jay Prichard'. A new [book](#) about the series says the producers couldn't decide between the 'Coach' star and Ed O'Neill. So they tossed a coin and Nelson won. But then he started demanding huge money so they went with the other guy and the rest is TV history. Ed O'Neill helped turn the show into a hit, eventually got the big, juicy paycheck and a few Emmy nominations, too.

### NASCAR GETS TENTATIVE OK FROM PA GOV (0:15)

More NASCAR? Yes please! Pennsylvania's governor says races can happen at Pocono Raceway in late June if coronavirus numbers come down. Races may have to go without fans. It's what the Cup Series did last weekend in Darlington, South Carolina. Drivers saw empty stands.

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