

February 1, 2026 at 11:59 PM CST

Please repeat that...Treacherous driving conditions... Protester protection... There is no business like show business... West Wing – the series... If you really want to keep a secret...

All, I may have mentioned a telephone conversation that I had with Ciara several months ago. Couple of times I asked her to repeat what was just said because I didn't catch it. The third time this happened she asked if I had checked the batteries in my hearing aids. I responded by saying that I didn't have any hearing aids. Ciara's insightful response was, "Ken, I think I was hinting at something."

Ciara's hint prompted me to make an appointment to get my hearing checked at the Mayo Clinic. The appointment was scheduled for February 2nd, tomorrow. I was looking forward to it because I'm quite certain there's nothing the matter with my hearing and I was looking forward to telling Ciara. That's not going to happen.

Treacherous driving conditions...

Although we seem to be going through a heat wave at the moment (21°F as I write this) the forecast for snow and icy conditions is iffy. Consequently I canceled the appointment. Didn't want to but I really don't look forward to sliding all the way to Rochester with the possibility of coming back in a snowstorm. Once I might've liked to do that. Now I am a realist. To clarify, I don't really like being a realist. Boring.

Protestor protection...

Trump is quite distressed over the actions taken against protesters in Iran. The distress has resulted in the threat of military action to protect the protesters in Iran. Trump's concern reminds me of a line in Hamlet. To quote:

"Methinks thou protest too much." This phrase is used to suggest that someone denying something too strongly is likely concealing the truth and/or their motivation.

I'm really puzzled about Trump's concern over protesters in Iran alongside indifference to protesters in Minneapolis. I guess it's okay for Iranians to object to their government; however, it's not such a good idea for Americans to do so via protest. I am overwhelmed by the irony.

There is no business like show business...

However, if you happen to plan on performing at the Kennedy Center, you may be out of luck. Trump announced that the Kennedy Center is going to be closed for two years for renovations/remodeling/upgrades. No specifics were given. The only thing that might be certain is that you can count on lots of gold and a very nouveau riche feeling to the place. [Note: I'm not going to devote any space to the 250-foot-tall arch that Trump wants to erect on the mall. Why?]

West Wing – the series...

This morning I saw the final episode of West Wing. I was sorry to see it end because it gave a welcome respite from what the news of today. I think a lot of people miss what was versus what is.

If you really want to keep a secret...

I never know what sort of gem fact I'm going to find as I scroll through the web. Clicking on www.buzzfeed.com provided me with an astounding fact. I hope that it will not offend anyone. [Note: Be certain that there are more offensive historical facts.] Here it is:

MI6 (British Intelligence) used semen as invisible ink in WWI. A diary entry belonging to a senior member of the British Secret Intelligence Service revealed that during the First World War, it was discovered that semen could act as an effective invisible ink. In June 1915, Walter Kirke, deputy head of military intelligence at GHQ France, wrote in his diary that Mansfield Cumming, the first chief (or "C") of the British SIS, was inquiring about invisible inks at the University of London. In October, he noted that he had heard from Cumming that the best invisible ink was semen, because it did not react to the main methods of detection and was readily available.

As I said, possibly some of the APT Group might be offended by this this. Yet, I am sure that others of us will wonder what was used for a fountain pen.

First yawn...

Until tomorrow...

Ken

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Seriously? If you want more: www.artisandwatts.com