

#958

2.2.2015

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1. Reflections

Note: See Section 1 ("Special Invitation") if you were displeased with the outcome of the Super Bowl.

Also, if you're reading this via Facebook and/or in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, you can make sure you don't miss an issue (and you get it earlier, too) by clicking:

<http://tinyurl.com/ozgmxgs>

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I enjoyed meeting my brother Ken Greenfield and his wife Lavelle Olexa for lunch at Zeppelin's Pasta House in Clayton, GA.



(2) I:

A. Had a blast at our Biltmore Lake community's Super Bowl party. Pictured (left photo) I'm with Brian and Caron Smith, organizers of the event who helped make it the success that it was; and (right photo) Gil and Virginia Curl. Gil predicted the exact score of the game, and Virginia guessed that New England would score first by a touchdown.



For more pictures from the evening, please click:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153025420414757.1073741854.519364756&type=1&l=45888de64d>

Special thanks to the following individuals who graciously donated prizes that went to Gil, Virginia and several others:

Sam Walker with Navitat

<http://www.navitat.com/>

Deborah Scannell with Deborah Scannell Photography

<http://www.deborahscannellphotography.com/>

Brian DeWine with the Asheville Tourists

<http://asheville.tourists.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t573>

Dean Barlas with Stone Ridge Tavern

<http://thestoneridgetavern.com/>

***** SPECIAL INVITATION TO BLAINESWORLD READERS *****

If you were displeased with the outcome of the game, there's still hope for you . . . just click the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=My6v8Oe2TkY>

(2) Saw ANNAPURNA at NC Stage. This is a funny, touching play that stars Michael MacCauley and Callan White (pictured below) in marvelous performances. Kudos, also, to Charlie Flynn-McIver for his spot on direction.



Good news: The show runs through Sunday, Feb. 22, so you can still get tickets by clicking:

<http://www.ncstage.org/productions/annapurna/>

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Trevor Rayshay Perry on making it into the Top 7 of SING FOR YOUR LIFE at the Jungle. To see one of his performances, please click:

Trevor Perry - Ain't Nobody by Chaka Khan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDNZXzSyg3Qgg>

(2) Fred Weiss on being recognized at a Community Partnership Award Luncheon for his good work with Patient Airlift Services.

(3) Tebbe Davis on having his artwork displayed on the wall at FILO, a fine Patisserie and Cafe in the East side of Asheville. In addition, his artwork is on display at Edward Jones Financial Advisors in Westgate on Regents Park in West Asheville.

(4) Michael Trayford on being featured in a great write up in the MOUNTAIN XPRESS. To read it, please click:

<http://mountainx.com/living/neurofeedback-and-other-brain-training-exercises-are-yoga-for-the-brain/>

(5) Christine Hagedorn on her appearance on Comcast Newsmakers. To view it, please click:

<http://comcastnewsmakers.com/2015/02/06/college-credits-2/?embed>

(6) Forty Fingers & a Missing Tooth, the amazing juggling troupe, on having won one of three coveted "Phil" awards for "Most Jaw Dropping" performance at The Atlanta Groundhog Juggling Festival. Pictured, l-r: Keith Campbell, Walter Beals, Ingrid Johnson and Britt Tyler with their trophy.



Note: To find out more about Forty Fingers & a Missing Tooth, please click:

[http://www.fortyfingersjuggling.com/?](http://www.fortyfingersjuggling.com/?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=About)

[utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=About](http://www.fortyfingersjuggling.com/?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=About)

(6) Marie V. in NJ, winner of Contest #3, an autographed copy of Zuzu Welsh's great debut CD: THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED.

All told, there were 7 entries. And that reminds me that it's now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #4 *****

One lucky reader will win an autographed copy of Jeff Thompson's fantastic CD: SO FAR, SO STRANGE.



To listen to a song from it, please click:

<http://www.jeffthompsonmusic.com/>

To enter the contest: Put "CONTEST #4" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name AND snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 16, 2015.

D. Condolences to:

- (1) Angela Salmon and family on the passing of Angela's mother.
- (2) Ken McArthur and family on the passing of Ken's father.

***** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD *****

This week, it goes to Dollie Smith-Feldmeth--the first person in Western NC to attain Certified Divorce Analyst Designation.

To quote Dollie, a Financial Advisor and Certified Financial Planner at DHG Wealth Advisors, "I thought this designation would be a great way to share my knowledge and experience with our clients, particularly women. As a financial planner, I've found that often women are not as knowledgeable regarding personal and family finances. So in a divorce, she needs someone who will help her navigate her own financial path. At the end of the day, this designation is all about helping the client--that's why I earned it.

"My goal is to be a true resource and offer thoughtful guidance as my clients navigate life changes of any kind--including divorce."

I've also known Dollie as a result of her fantastic service to Asheville SCORE clients. She founded the Women's Roundtable and ran that group for many successful years.

In addition, she is a member of the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce, the

Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, the Children of Family Resource Center, and she has served as President of the North Carolina Apple Festival.

If you would like Dollie's advice, she can be reached at 828.393.1311; email: dollie.smith-feldmeth@dugwa.com.

Pictured (below): Dollie with yours truly, celebrating her achievement over a great lunch at Chef's Apron Neighborhood Trattoria.



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2. FYI

If you order something online that you reorder (e.g., vitamins), tape the packing slip to the last bottle. That will remind you that it is time to reorder. In addition, you have in a handy location the company where you last purchased the item--saving you the time and effort of having to try to find this information.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Herb S. in NJ: Councilman Greenfield Denounces Anti-Semitic Outburst in NYC Council Chamber

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpGPzoaNVCU>

(2) Steven S. in FL: The Peeing Blind Man

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzhJrCt416Y>

(3) Kelli M. in NC: Weird Things All Dog Owners Do

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Y_Ldy5avWM

(4) Video from a driver's dashboard camera captured the moment a Taiwanese TransAsia Airways plane with 58 people on board crashed into a Taipei river
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/05/world/asia/small-passenger-plane-crashes-into-river-in-taiwan.html>

(5) Marvin S. in NC: Cat burglar video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qSLvkskXFA>

(6) Corinne G. in PA: Senior moments
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/Xv1tMioGgXI?rel=0>

(7) Nelson S. in NC: 39 cents - SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEb_epsuLqA

B. Other

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1OP>

(1) \$3 Tip on a \$4 Cup of Coffee? (2) Michelle M. in NC: Social Science Says Lasting Relationships Come Down To 2 Basic Traits. (3) Bill L. in PA: Just curious. (4) The Amazing Village in The Netherlands Just for People with Dementia. (5) Natalie K. in PA: I couldn't remember the name of the movie you told me about.

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3. Joke 1

Tissue alert: Be forewarned before you read the following sweet tale ...

A TRUE LOVE STORY



This 89 year old woman was arrested for shop lifting.

When she went before the judge in Cincinnati he asked her, "What did you steal?" She replied, "A can of peaches."

The judge asked her why she had stolen the can of peaches and she replied that she was hungry. Then the judge asked her how many peaches were in the can. She replied 6.

The judge said, "Then I will give you 6 days in jail."

Before the judge could actually pronounce the punishment, the woman's husband spoke up and asked, the judge if he could say something on his wifes behalf. The judge said, "What is it?"

The husband said, "She also stole a can of peas."

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4. Reviews

A. Saw BLACK OR WHITE, a story based on real events about a grandfather who suddenly has to take care of his beloved granddaughter. He must also deal with the fact that the paternal grandmother wants custody of the child. I really got into this film, and I thought the acting from Kevin Costner (in his best work in years) was excellent. In addition, Octavia Spender shined--as did Andre Holland and Paula Newsome, an Oprah Winfrey lookalike, in smaller roles. Rated PG-13.

B. MEMPHIS THE MUSICAL is out on DVD, but you might have to dig some to find it. Please do. This taping of The Tony Award-winning musical about the birth of modern rock 'n' roll features the original Broadway cast. It is both tuneful and moving, and there are fantastic performances from all--and especially Chad Kimball and Montego Glover in the two leading roles. The story is based on real-life DJ Harry Calhoun. Unrated, but methinks appropriate for anybody over 12.

C. Read ACT LIKE A SUCCESS, THINK LIKE A SUCCESS: DISCOVERING YOUR GIFT AND THE WAY TO LIFE'S RICHES (Amistad) by Steve Harvey with Jeffrey Johnson.

This latest book from the talented comedian, television host and radio personality is his best ever.

What I liked best about it were the many stories from his own life. They inspired me, particularly this one that described the limitation that his sixth grade teacher tried to put on his life when he told her that he wanted to be on TV:

She delivered her final blow when she said, "Stevie, you can't be on TV. You take this paper home and then bring it back tomorrow."

Fortunately, his father was around that same night:

And then he told me to do something that changed my life forever. He said, "Steve, take out that first paper you wrote, put it in your top drawer, and every morning before you go to school and every night before you go to sleep, you read that paper and you believe that one day you will be on TV."

In addition, I liked the many "Success Actions" throughout the book--including this one: I want you to take a few minutes and think about all the excuses you've made in the last week. ... Below your Top 3 Excuses, write down three expectations to replace these excuses. ... Need help in defining the two? Here are my definitions: Excuses, Why I can't; Expectations, Why I will.

D. Heard HOW NOT TO MAKE A SHORT FILM: SECRETS FROM A SUNDANCE PROGRAMMER (Hachette Audio) by Roberta Marie Munroe.

The author, aside from having screened short film submissions at Sundance for five years, is an award-winning short filmmaker in her own right.

She covers everything you'll need to know from the first draft of your script to casting, production, editing and distribution.

I enjoyed her interviews with many of today's most talented writers, producers and directors, as well as the many stories of her own experiences.

I also gained a greater appreciation of the fact making a short film is not something that can be thrown together in a weekend with some friends and, also, that it requires money for such things as insurance that you ordinarily might not think about.

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5. TV alert

A. 57TH ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS: Sunday, Feb. 8, at 8 p.m. on CBS
Sla, Taylor Switt, Meghan Trainor, Iggy Azelea and Sam Smith compete for Record of the Year.

B. 30 FOR 30: OF MIRACLES AND MEN: Sunday, Feb. 8, on ESPN
An exploration of the American hockey team's defeat of the USSR at the 1980 Winter Olympics--aka "The Miracle on Ice"--from the Soviet perspective.

C. THE JINX: THE LIFE AND DEATHS OF ROBERT DURST: Monday, Feb. 9, at 9 p.m. on HBO

Part 1 of a 6-part documentary series about a man-- the son of New York real estate mogul Seymour Durst--arrested for murder.

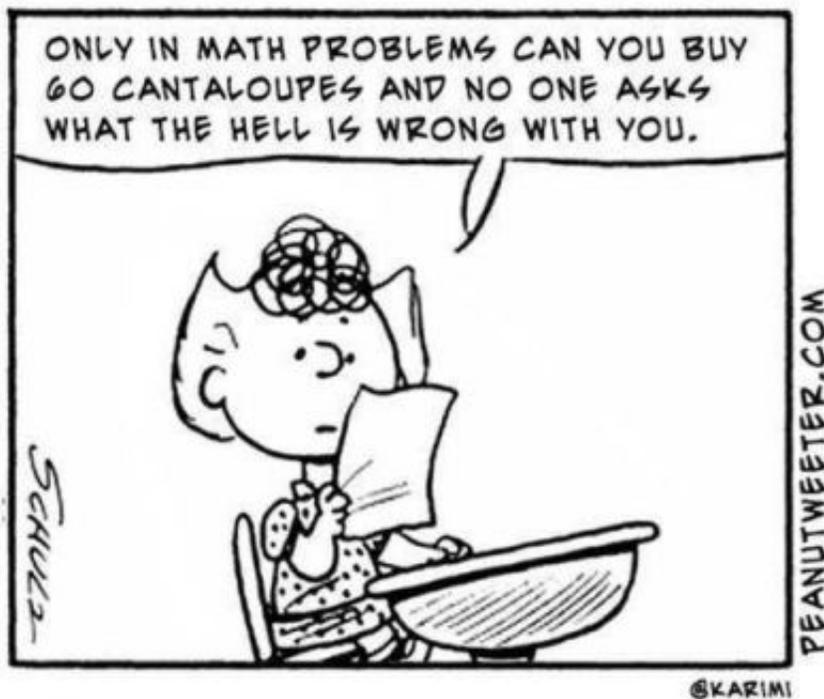
D. MOARGAN SPURLOCK; THE INSIDE MAN: Thursday, Feb. 12, at 9 p.m. on CNN.

The documentarian explores the world of online dating apps such as Grinder to determine if these tools really lead to true love.

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6. Joke 2

I don't understand this, either--especially because I never liked cantaloupes! Now if we were talking about Snickers, then the question might have made sense to me, and I might well have become a Math professor.



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7. Websites

A. Learning From Animal Friendships

To read a fascinating article from THE NEW YORK TIMES, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/27/science/so-happy-together.html#>

Doing so will also enable you to see several equally fascinating video clips: Unlikely friends, Aggressive turtle plays ball with a dog and Snake befriends hamster. And you'll also get to see some beautiful photos of animals as friends.

B. Nancy C. in NC: If you love music, watch this. Hamlisch was a mensch, a prodigy, funny as hell, and talented beyond belief. His only noticeable fault? He died way too early!

Marvin Hamlisch: What He Did For Love

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/marvin-hamlisch/film-marvin-hamlisch-what-he-did-for-love/2664/>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net/>

If you ever miss an issue, just go to "Newsletters" on the left and then "Past Issues."
You can also just skim the Archives

Sometimes, you might find it fun to just skim a past issue if you're in the mood for a joke--such as this one from BLAINESWORLD #601:

The psychology instructor had just finished a lecture on mental health and was giving an oral exam.

Speaking specifically about manic depression, she asked, "How would you diagnose a patient who walks back and forth screaming at the top of his lungs one minute, then sits in a chair weeping uncontrollably the next?"

A young man in the rear raised his hand and answered, "A basketball coach?"

D. Are you on Facebook? In the unlikely event we have not yet connected as friends there, please feel free to send me an invite by clicking: www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield



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8. Technology tip

If you use Verizon for your cellphone service, please read the following--and also share it with anybody you know who uses Verizon ...

Wireless price war continues: Verizon data plan price cuts will save you \$120
by Zach Epstein in VGR NEWS

Verizon Wireless is about to slash the prices of nearly every More Everything plan in its portfolio, and once again you have T-Mobile to thank. The "Uncarrier" shook things up with CEO John Legere's antics backed up by industry-shifting initiatives, and the shockwaves continue to be felt throughout the wireless industry. T-Mobile is adding new subscribers at a shocking pace, and larger rivals have no choice but to respond.

Now, this latest response will end up saving some Verizon Wireless subscribers a good amount of money.

For the rest of this money-saving article, please click:
<https://www.yahoo.com/tech/s/wireless-price-war-continues-verizon-data-plan-price-133551085.html>

Note: The new plans will become available on Thursday, Feb. 5, but discounts won't be automatically applied to existing plans. So if you want to save at least \$120 on your wireless service, you MUST call Verizon customer care!

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9. Joke 3

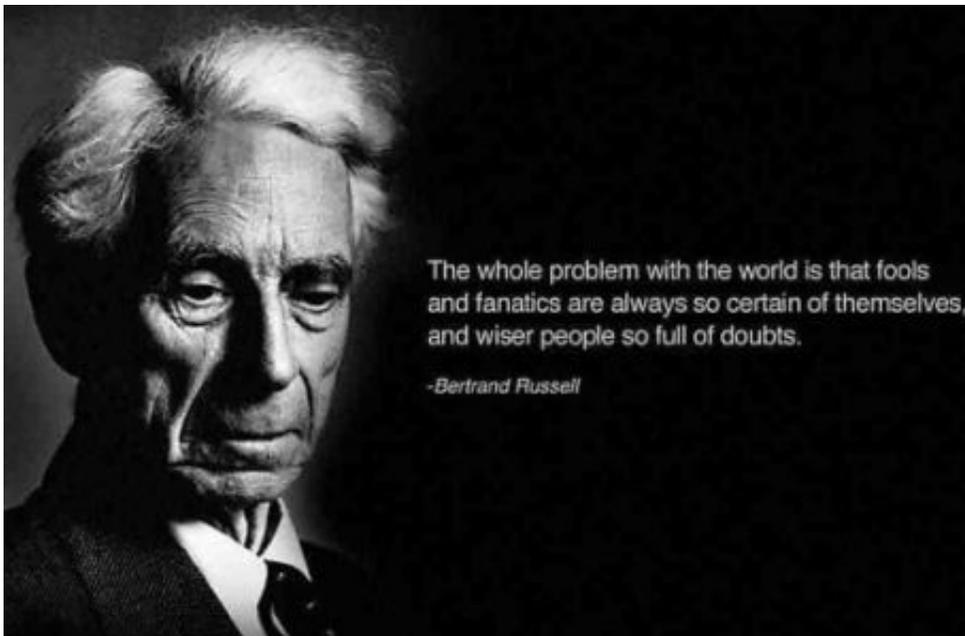
I can't believe that this picture of me is now all over the Internet!



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10. A quote I like

Bertrand Russell (1872-1970) was a British philosopher, logician, mathematician, historian, writer, social critic and political activist.



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11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Arlene D. in PA, for the following Facebook post that profiled an amazing teacher named Martha Cothren.



In September of 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a History teacher at Valley Heights High School in Port Rowan, Ontario, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks in her classroom. When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks. "Ms. Cothren, where are our desks?"

She replied, "You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk."

They thought, "Well, maybe it's our grades." "No," she said.

"Maybe it's our behavior." She told them, "No, it's not even your behavior."

And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom. Kids called their parents to tell them what was happening and by early afternoon television news crews had started gathering at the school to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the desk-less classroom. Martha Cothren said, "Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he or she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you."

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty-seven (27) Veterans, all in uniform, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the

final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.

Martha said, "You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. They went halfway around the world, giving up their education and interrupting their careers and families so you could have the freedom you have. Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it."

By the way, this is a true story. And this teacher was awarded Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year in 2006. She is the daughter of a WWII POW.

Note: Unlike some stuff that you'll see forwarded on Facebook, I verified the above by checking Snopes. To read more, as well as the original speech that was the basis for this information, please click:

www.snopes.com/glurge/nodesks.asp#lkV0JdajiZauCdz7.99

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12. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following events in full, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1OP>

A. NC events

(1) Rarely Theatre presents SEMINAR. (2) A CHORUS LINE. (3) TABLE 6.

PS. GROUNDHOG DAY RESULTS (in case you missed them) ... according to Punxsutawney Phil, we're in for six more weeks of winter ... for more information, please click:

www.groundhog.org/

And whatever you do, ask yourself the following question before you go to bed ...



Also, make it a wonderful week!

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