#1022
4.25.2016

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1. Reflections

Note: Please see Section 1C for a help request from yours truly.

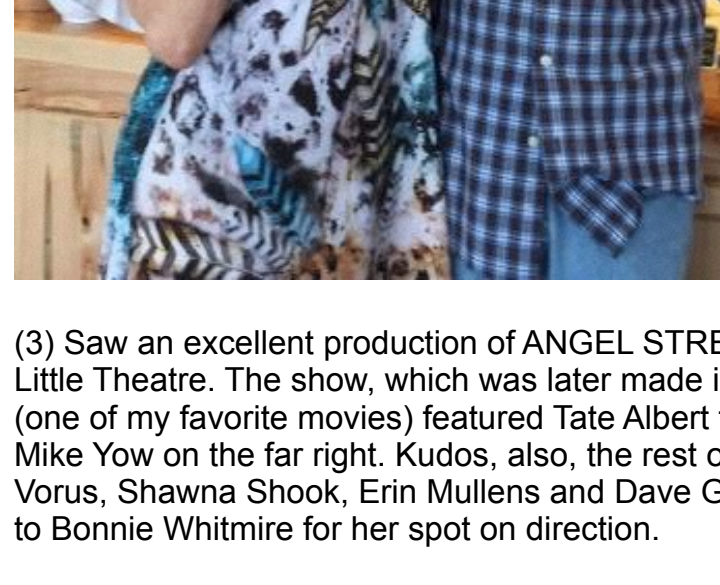
Also, if you're reading this via Facebook or Linkedin, please be advised that you will get it quicker if you get it via email. Another advantage: You'll never miss it that way because you may not have logged in for a day or two. And in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, all you need to do is send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Joined our new neighbors (and now friends) for a delicious dinner at Stone Ridge Tavern where we received excellent service from Tessa.

(2) Found a fantastic new place for baked goods: Great Harvest Bread Company of Asheville, located at 2838 Hendersonville Road. Thanks to a friendly employee by the name of Steven, we got to sample a bunch of them--and came away satiated.

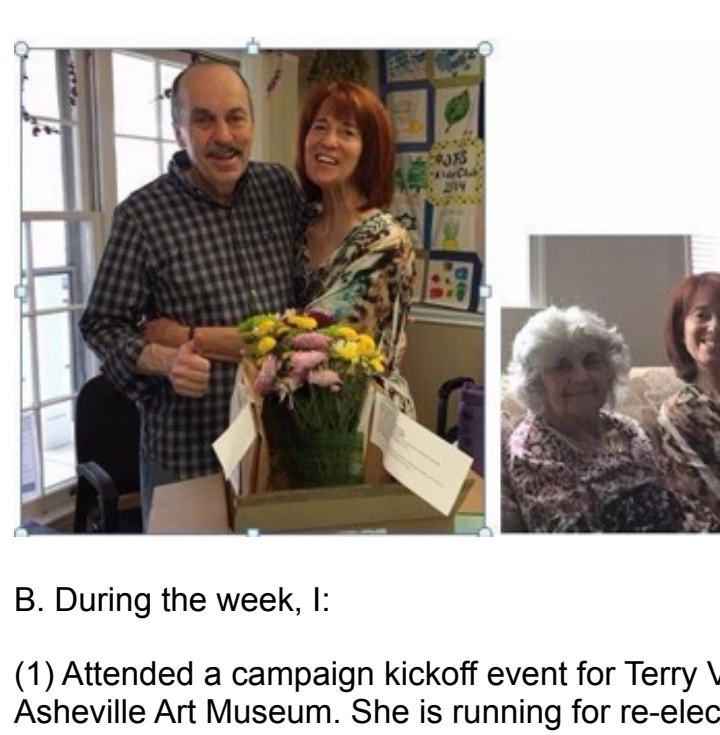
(3) Saw an excellent production of ANGEL STREET at Brevard Little Theatre. The show, which was later made into GASLIGHT (one of my favorite movies) featured Tate Albert to my right and Mike Yow on the far right. Kudos, also, the rest of the cast: Julie Vorus, Shawna Shook, Erin Mullens and Dave Gibbs, as well as to Bonnie Whitmire for her spot on direction.



(4) Had fun making Passover meal deliveries for Jewish Family Services. That's us on the right with Shirley Rappaport, one of the delightful folks we had the pleasure of meeting.

B. During the week, I:

(1) Attended a campaign kickoff event for Terry Van Duyn at the Asheville Art Museum. She is running for re-election to the NJ State Senate, and she certainly has my vote. I also bumped into such other friends as Bill Mance, Nancy Waldrop, Holly Jones, Marleen Allen Varner and Joel Mazelis. To see their pictures, please click:
Here



(2) Visited my friend Reed Bilbray (left photo) at the opening of his Zaniac Asheville campus. I also got to meet astronaut Dr. John Herrington (right photo).

For more information about Zaniac Asheville, a place where children can both learn and play, please click:
Here

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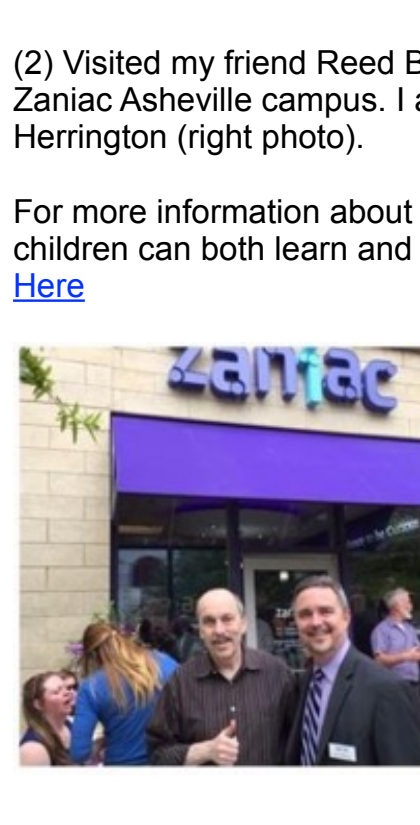
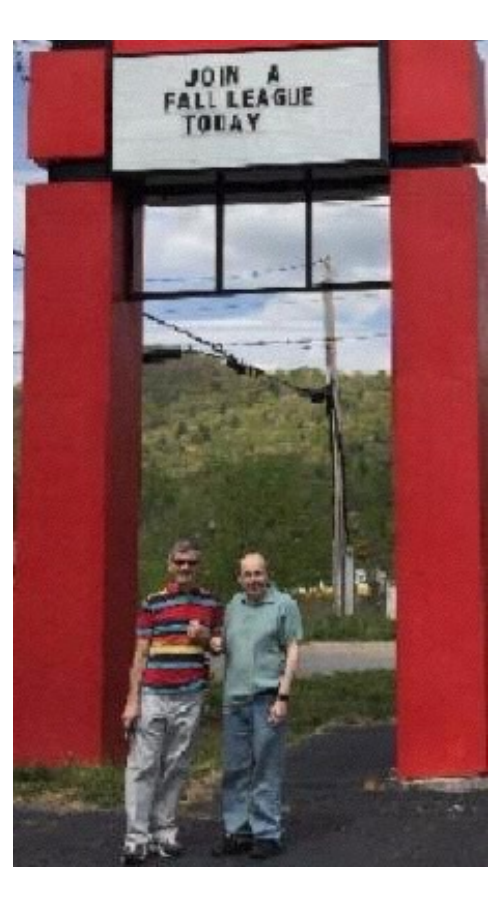
(3) Saw my friend Mike Martinelli bowl in the playoffs of his league. Though they didn't win the championship, his team finished in a very respectable second place. For more pictures and also a video clip of Mike bowling, please click:
Here



C. Please help: There's still time to vote in the Best of WNC competition. To do so, please click for more information:
Here

This blog is up for consideration in the Media category as Free Publication Other Than Xpress. (See below.) If you would vote for BLAINESWORLD in this category, I'd be most honored.

Note: The voting procedure is a bit more convoluted than it needs to be in my opinion--especially given the fact that you have to vote in a minimum of 30 categories. But if you need help and/or want suggestions, let me know. I can show you how the whole thing won't take you more than 5 minutes.



Sections

Media

Don't get overwhelmed! Vote your passion a

Local Radio Station (commercial)

Provide station call letters or frequency

Share this vote on Facebook Twitter

Local Radio Station (noncommercial)

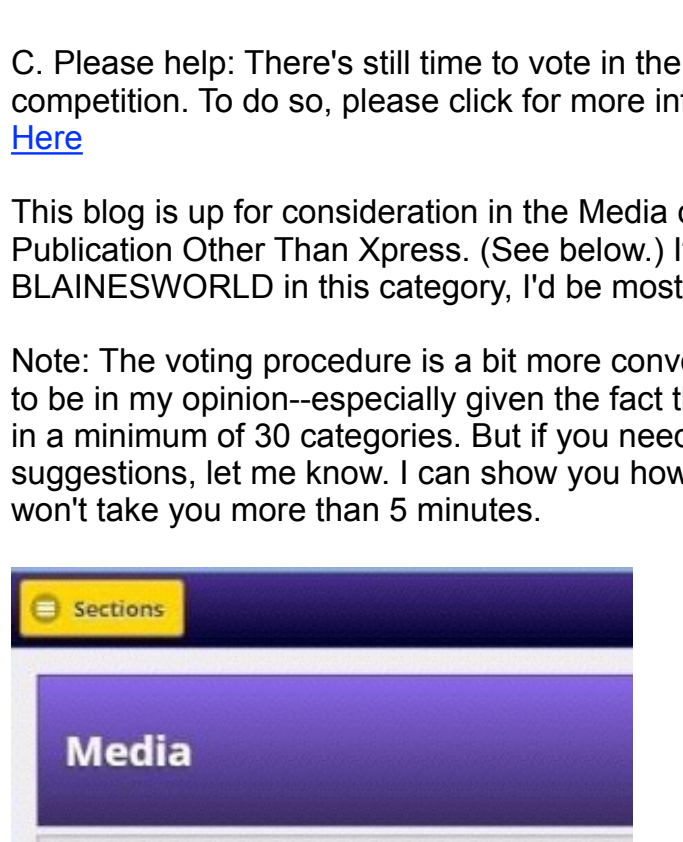
Share this vote on Facebook Twitter

Free Publication Other Than Xpress

BLAINESWORLD

D. Reminders:

(1) Please join me in seeing Cynthia and a bunch of her friends perform at the following event ...


Community Choreography Projects
Presents:
My Intimate Companion ~
My Body
A Movement Theater Performance
Sunday, May 15
Jubilee! Community
46 Wall Street, Asheville
Come witness the interweaving of Personal Stories, Movement and Multimedia into a montage of human experiences - personal and universal.
Join our community event and be prepared to discover your own body dynamics and delights!
Performance: 5:30 pm.
Tickets: $10.00 at the door
For More Information
www.communitychoreography.com
(828) 658-1217
Come & Join Us!

(2) There's still time to register to join the BLAINESWORLD team in the Walk a Mile event on May 7 in Asheville. Or if you can't make it, we'd love to have you as a sponsor. All you need to know can be found by clicking this link:
Here

(3) Please sign-up for Dementia Society of America's STEP2RAISE campaign. It won't cost you a cent, and you'll get in better shape by doing so. Just click:
Here

(4) Please do attend the next event of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum. (You don't need to be Jewish to do so.)
It will feature a presentation/tour of Deltec Homes.

Date: Monday, May 2

Time: 11:30 a.m., Registration and networking
12-1 p.m., Lunch and then presentation/tour
1-1:30 p.m., Additional discussion or networking

***** It is a brown bag lunch event, so bring your own lunch. ******

Location: 69 Bingham Road, Asheville, NC

To RSVP: Please RSVP by sending an email to ashevillejbf@aol.com and put MAY 2 in subject line. In the body of the email, just put down how many will be coming (in addition to yourself) and, also, your contact information in case we need to reach you.

E. Congratulations to:

(1) Kevin Jameson on being named as the commencement speaker at the Bucks County Community College graduation on May 19.

Note: Kevin is a former student, as well as a good friend. Consequently, I'll be coming up North to hear him speak. If you're around and want to get together with me sometime between May 16-20, please let me know.

(2) Marcy Gallagher and Ash Devine on being profiled in MOUNTAIN XPRESS about an exciting program offered to area schools by Kilwins. To read the article, please click:
Here

(3) Asheville for making the list of "Great Towns for Theater Lovers." For more information, see #9 below:
Here

(4) Mike Yow on the publication of his next book, SAVAGE KINGDOMS: HEROIC SWORDS AND SORCERY ROLEPLAYING, that's now available via the PDF version. You can get it via PayPal: actormikey@gmail.com. Look for the softcover and hardcover versions very soon.

(5) Brian Sneeden for having two of his poems published in SOUTHERN HUMANITIES REVIEW.

(6) Ryan Patrick and Tina Fallon on the birth of their baby Ryan.

(7) Bettina Yiannakourou on having performed five weddings in five hours as part of GOOD MORNING AMERICA'S 24-hour Wedding Marathon.

(8) Joshua Collier and Hilary Strasburger Collier on the birth of Liliana Simmons Collier (Lili), their daughter.

(9) Arlene D., in PA, winner of Contest #8: a copy of EAT PRAY LOVE MADE ME DO IT: LIFE JOURNEYS INSPIRED BY THE BESTSELLING MEMOIR by various authors--including Asheville's very own Emily Shaules (who autographed the copy). All told, there were 5 entries. And that reminds me that it's now time to introduce:

***** CONTEST #9 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of RAPID TEAMWORK; 5 STEPS TO TRANSFORM ANY GROUP INTO A GREAT TEAM by Sean Glaze.

The author shares the lessons he has learned in an engaging book that tells the story of a manager whose team has been underachieving and struggling with a few issues. To attempt to turn things around, he takes them on a rafting retreat. I reviewed it favorably in BLAINESWORLD #1019.

To enter: Send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #9 in the subject line. In the body of the email, please include your name and snail mail address. All entries must be received on or before Monday, May 9, at 9 p.m.

F. Condolences to:

(1) Lisa Zaglin and family on the passing of Daneen Pellizzeri, the wife of Lisa's uncle.

(2) Patti Kushner Amor and family on the passing of Patti's mom.

(3) And a correction from last week: Condolences to the Chadwick family on the passing of Mike's Aunt Jean. (I had incorrectly reported that she was Judy's aunt.)

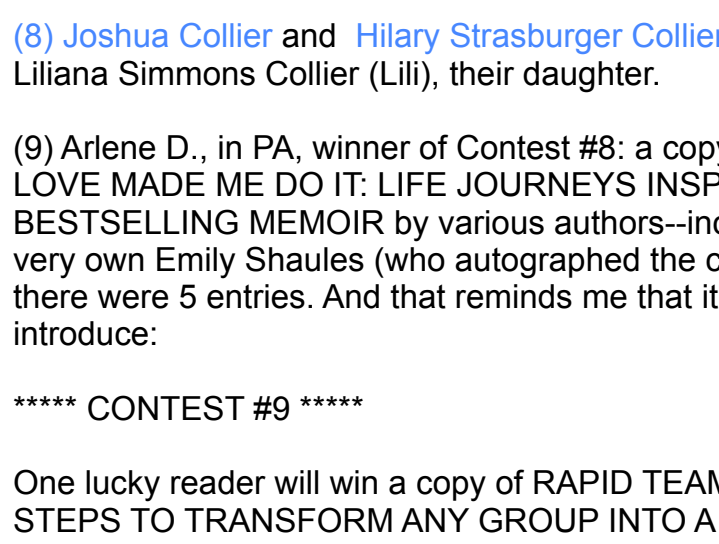
***** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD *****

This week, it goes to Nico d'Alelio-- ice cream scooper extraordinaire (and shift leader) at Kilwins in Asheville.

Nico, pictured below in the center next to store owner Marcy Gallagher, gives what is perhaps the most enthusiastic greeting I've ever seen when you enter the front door. He then serves you with a fantastic smile that is always on his face.

Eating the tasty ice cream from Kilwins is always a pleasure. Getting it scooped by Nico makes it even more so.

Kilwins should be proud to have such an excellent employee as Nico d'Alellio. If the store has an award for outstanding customer service,he should get it!



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2. FYI

Thanks, Lisa Z. in PA, for putting the following quiz on my radar screen:
Which presidential candidate do you side with?

I found it both interesting to complete and surprisingly on target with respect to whom I support. To take it, please click:
Here

FYI, part 2

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
Here

(1) Len E. in NC: It was quite a coincidence that you listed my recommendation to read Dark Money and Bill Maher's new rules about North Carolina. (2) Texting and Driving? Watch Out for the Textalyzer. (3) 1 Minute of All-Out Exercise May Have Benefits of 45 Minutes of Moderate Exertion. (4) Maria P. in PA: I just read the great article The Science of Making Friends by Elizabeth Bernstein. (5) Toni Feeback (with a REQUEST FOR HELP in the everyBODY Model Search Contest). (6) Lucille E. in VA: (with a GREAT OFFER): Frappuccino Happy Hour is back at Starbucks. (7) The Day Prince's Guitar Wept the Loudest (with an amazing video clip). (8) Better aging through practice. (9) America's best Jewish delis.

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3. Joke 1

One day, Edgar got home early from school and his mom asked, "Why are you home so early?" ... He answered, "Because I was the only one that answered a question in my class." ... She said, "Wow, my son is a genius. What was the question?" ... Edgar replied, "The question was 'Who threw the eraser at the principal's head?' "

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4. Reviews

A. Saw BARBERSHOP: THE NEXT CUT, a belated sequel to the first BARBERSHOP film. It picks up 10 years later and this time, involves women working in the shop and the fact that the neighborhood has changed for the worse. I just didn't find it very funny, and in particular, Cedric the Entertainer only had me laugh once--at the very end when the credits were rolling. Rated PG-13.

B. THE LADY IN THE VAN is now out on DVD ... my review from BLAINESWORLD #1018 follows:
Saw THE LADY IN THE VAN, a fact-based drama about the relationship between writer Alan Bennett and a woman who "temporarily" parked her van in his driveway and proceeded to live there for 15 years. I had seen the coming attractions, and that was one reason why I didn't like the film; i.e., I had already seen all the key parts. Also, Maggie Smith was OK in the leading role--but I've seen her play too many similar parts in seemingly the same way. Rated PG-13.

A much better film is PEOPLE PLACES THINGS, a quirky comedy about a single father trying to come to terms with dating in New York City. Jemaine Clement is quite good in the leading role. Rated R.

C. Read THE HAPPINESS PROJECT: OR, WHY I SPENT A YEAR TRYING TO SING IN THE MORNING, CLEAN MY CLOSETS, FIGHT RIGHT, READ ARISTOTLE, AND GENERALLY HAVE MORE FUN (Harper) by Gretchen Rubin.

Rubin, the author of several books, had an epiphany one day on a city bus. "The days are long, but the years are short," she realized. "Time is passing, and I'm not focusing enough on the things that matter." It was then that she decided to dedicate a year to what she called her happiness project, in which she would research and implement ideas about how to be happier.

As she notes in the last chapter:
The year is over, and I really am happier. After all my research, I found out what I knew all along. I could change my life without changing my life. When I made the effort to reach out for them, I found that the ruby slippers had been on my feet all along; the bluebird was singing outside my kitchen window.

I especially enjoyed the many tips that the author shared throughout the book; for example in dealing with her children, she wrote:
Don't say "no" or "stop." Instead, I give information that shows although I understand their desires, I have a reason for not granting it. "You'd like to stay, but we have to go home because Daddy forgot his keys." Studies show that 85 percent of adult messages to children are negative--"no," "stop," "don't"--so it's worth trying to keep that to a minimum. Instead of saying, "No, not until after lunch," I try to say, "Yes, as soon as we've finished lunch."

In addition, there's a great compilation of tips at the end of the book that cover such topics as maintaining a schedule of regular exercise, being a more light-hearted parent, getting your sweetheart to do chores without nagging and coping with the fact that you don't remember a person's name.

D. Heard ONE FOR THE RECORD; THE INSIDE STORY OF HANK AARON'S CHASE FOR THE HOME RUN RECORD (Hachette Audio), written by George Plimpton and read by Rick Anderson.

The author, long one of my favorites for his books about how he attempted various sports, turned his attention in this one to Aaron's attempt to beat the home record of Babe Ruth.

He interviewed many of the people who were there that night, and it made me feel like I was also there. In addition, though this happened back in 1974, it felt very current as I was listening to it.

ONE FOR THE RECORD is an enjoyable way to remember the chase. Or if you were not born then, you'll find it an interesting history lesson.

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5. TV alert

A. JANIS: LITTLE GIRL BLUE: Tues., May 3, on PBS at 8 p.m.
(Note: PBS dates and times often vary, so check local listings.)
This AMERICAN MASTERS documentary profiles the great rocker who died too soon of a heroin overdose at 27.

B. FURY: Tues., May 3, on TCM
A man is wrongfully arrested for kidnapping in one of Spencer Tracy's best films!

C. MARSEILLE: Season premiere via streaming on NETFLIX, beginning on Thurs., May 5
Gerard Depardieu stars in the French-language drama about a political powerhouse who vows revenge after he's undermined by a colleague.

D. THE GOOD WIFE: Series finale on Sun., May 8, on CBS at 9 p.m.
After seven years, the series ends. Will my Sunday nights ever be the same?

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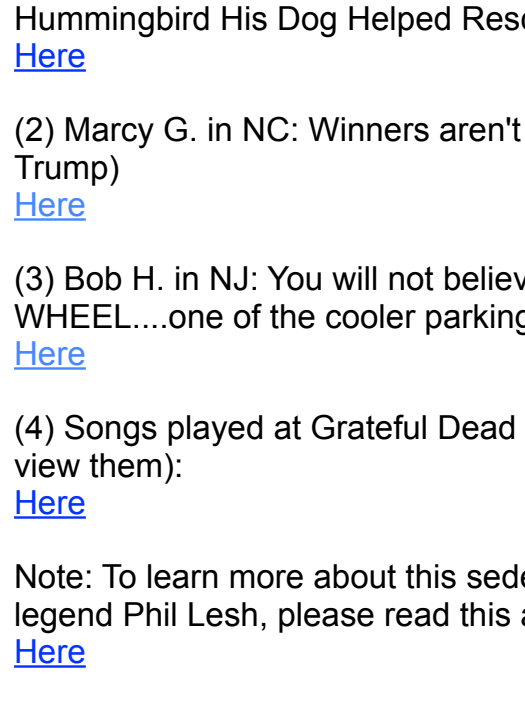
6. Joke 2

I'm switching parties before Election Day? Care to join me?



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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Emily S. in NC: Man Goes The Distance For Tiny Hummingbird His Dog Helped Rescue
Here

(2) Marcy G. in NC: Winners aren't losers (a new book by Donald Trump)
Here

(3) Bob H. in NJ: You will not believe this !!!! THE FIFTH WHEEL....one of the cooler parking ideas ever.
Here

(4) Songs played at Grateful Dead Passover seder (scroll down to view them):
Here

Note: To learn more about this seder that was hosted by rock legend Phil Lesh, please read this accompanying article:
Here

B. This website is a social/health site that celebrates you getting into a better shape without spelling out exactly what that shape has to be. It promises: "Real facts and doable steps for your happiest life."

To check it out , please click:
Here

You'll find such information as the following:
Why Swearing Really Can Kill Pain
The Best Way to Whiten Your Teeth
Why You Shouldn't Shave Your Public Hair
52 Brilliant Ways to Spice up Boring Tofu

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
Here

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:
Here

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8. Technology tip

Why are Internet petitions a bad idea?
by Leo Notenboom

Internet and on-line petitions seem like a quick and easy way to make a statement. Unfortunately at best they're ineffectual, and at worst they do real harm.

A mailing list I'm on encouraged all its readers to go to a web site and sign an Internet petition supporting some legislation we care about. I mentioned that to a friend of mine, and his opinion was that I'd been duped, and that it was a scam. Is he right? Are Internet petitions a scam?

Some are. Some aren't. But they do, in my opinion, share a common characteristic:
Most are ineffectual.

And that can actually cause more harm that good. To read why, please click:
Here

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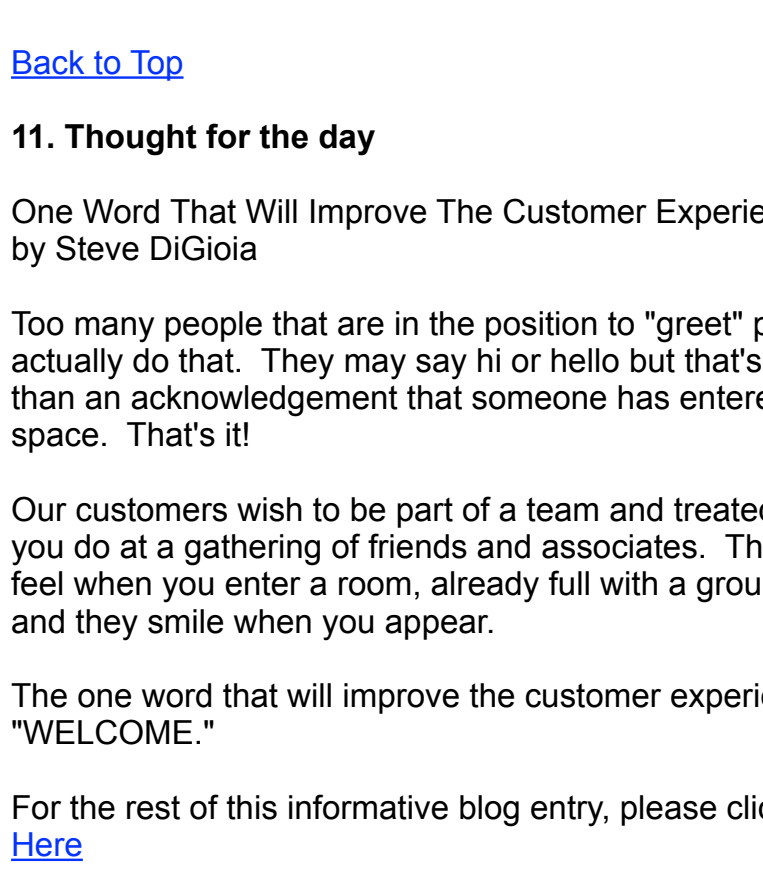
9. Joke 3

A guy goes into the Job Center in Jacksonville, Florida, and sees a post advertising for a Gynecologist's Assistant. Interested, he asks, "Can you give me some more details?" . . . The clerk replies, "The job entails getting the ladies ready for the doctor. You have to help them out of their underwear, lie them down and carefully wash their private regions, apply shaving foam and gently shave off the hair, then rub in soothing oils so that they're ready for the exam. The annual salary is $65,000, but you're going to have to go to Oxford, Mississippi. That's about 620 miles from here." . . . "Oh, is that where the job is?" . . . "No, sir. That's where the end of the line is."



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10. A quote I like

"A creative man is motivated by the desire to achieve, not by the desire to beat others."--Ayn Rand (1905-1982), Russian-born American, novelist, philosopher, playwright and screenwriter, best known for her two best-selling novels, THE FOUNTAINHEARD and ATLAS SHRUGGED

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11. Thought for the day

One Word That Will Improve The Customer Experience
by Steve DiGioia

Too many people that are in the position to "greet" people never actually do that. They may say hi or hello but that's nothing more than an acknowledgement that someone has entered your space. That's it!

Our customers wish to be part of a team and treated warmly like you do at a gathering of friends and associates. Think of how you feel when you enter a room, already full with a group of people, and they smile when you appear.

The one word that will improve the customer experience is "WELCOME."

For the rest of this informative blog entry, please click:
Here

Note: Thanks, Steve, for giving me permission to run this piece. If you'd also like to get Steve's insightful posts, along with his free eBook, 10 PHRASES THAT SHOULD NEVER BE USED IN THE CUSTOMER SERVICE BUSINESS, please see "Subscribe Here" option on the right of the above.

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12. Advance planning department

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

A. NC events

(1) Ricky Boone doing some table magic! (2) Leslie Lang in NC: My stepson Joshua Niven is one of the owners of this incredible new adventure in West Asheville. (3) DEATH OF A SALESMAN.

B. PA/NJ events

Note: if you're from Pennsylvania or New Jersey and want me to publicize something here, please send it to my email address: bginbc@aol.com and put "PA/NJ EVENT" in the subject line.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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