# BLAINESWORLD

#1023
5.2.2016

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**1. Reflections**

Note: See Section 10 for information on one thing that's no so great about living in NC!

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.

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A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Got to pose with this friendly guy at Mellow Mushroom--a place we frequent when in the mood for some great pizza.

(2) Had an excellent dinner at Pacific Pagoda with our friends Marcy and Tom Gallagher.

(3) Tried CharBar No. 7 for the first time. We enjoyed our dinners, as well as the service from Sven. My only disappointment: I tried a peanut butter and jelly with bacon burger (I kid you not!) that's unfortunately being taken off the menu. It was quite good, though true confession: I actually saved the burger for a later meal.

B. During the week, I:

(1) Saw an excellent production of DEATH OF A SALESMAN at The Magnetic Theatre. It starred Steven Samuels (top photo), Jane Hallstrom, Erik Moellering and Allen Law (on the right in the bottom left photo) and featured a fine cast that also included Caleb Owolabi (bottom right photo), Cody Magourick, Dana Gillihan, David Mycoff, Elliot Winder, Travis Kelley, Bri Tureff and Emily Crock. Special kudos to Henry Willimamson III (in the middle in the bottom left photo.

The good news is that you can still see the show through May 28. For tickets, please click:
Here

B. Had the pleasure of hearing an informative talk from David Gantt, the hard-working chairman of our Buncombe County Board of Commissioners. Special thanks to Thanks to Steve Pohl, chair of the Biltmore Lake Democrats, for making the arrangements for this talk.

C. Reminders:

(1) Please join me in seeing seeing Cynthia in the following performance:
My Intimate Companion ~ My Body: A Movement Theater Performance

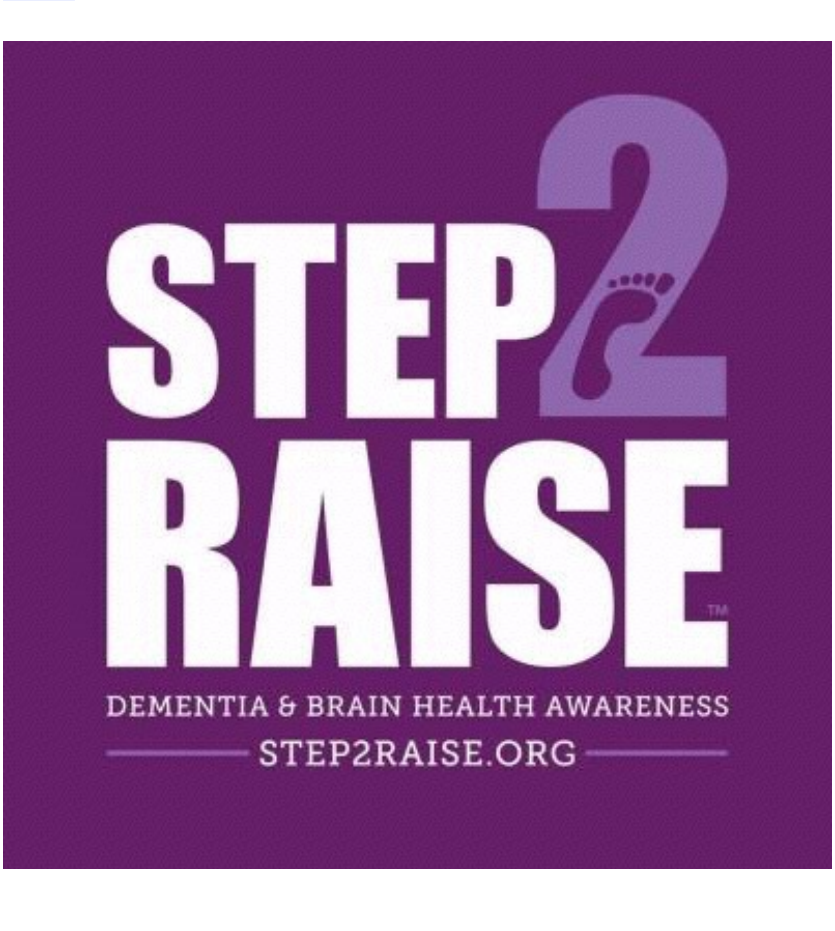
Sunday, May 15
5:30-7 p.m.
at Jubilee! Community Church

Asheville-based Community Choreography Projects debuts "My Intimate Companion, My Body", a movement theater presentation directed by Barrie Barton. Described as "authentic theater," the performance interweaves personal story, movement and multimedia, creating a montage of human experiences that are both personal and universal.

Tickets are available at the door for $10. The performance begins at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact Barrie Barton at:
barrie@communitychoreography.com

(2) Kindly 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



(3) I'm heading to the PA/NJ area from May 16-21. If you're around during that time and would like to try to get together, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put MAY VISIT in subject line. Or send me a message via Facebook.

(4) There's still time to enter:

***** 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.

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Ezekiel Christopoulos and Trish Hickling Beckman for their appearance on this video calling for the end of HB2:
Here

(2) Jim Freeman on receiving the Bucks County Poet Laureate MUSE AWARD for having enriched the life of poetry in Bucks County.

(3) Dr. Beth Baughman DuPree on being named to Philadelphia Magazines TOP DOCS list for 2016 in category of Surgery.

(4) The David Gantt Law Office for having been named to U.S. News - Best Lawyers in America "2016 Best Law Firms." For more information, please click:
Here

(5) Tom Hughes (aka Professor Whizzpop) on the coverage he received for his upcoming show at The Hop. To read it, please click:
Here

(6) Patricia Diesel for having her article published in THE CONNECTIONS MAGAZINE. To read it, please click:
Here

(7) Mike Yow on the fact that his book, The Savage East: Campaign Setting Expansion Book for the Savage Kingdoms RPG (Volume 2). The paperback, is now available via amazon.com. To order your copy, please click:
Here

(8) Patty Dno on passing her Massage & Bodywork Licensing Examination.

(9) Rachel Litchman Shanken on being featured in this year's Jewish Family Service Agency Innovators Lunch video because of her important work on food security.

(10) Sally Burke Butcher on her engagement to Tom Poole.

(11) Eric Everett on his marriage to Sharon Szucs.

(12) Jennifer Ann Gatti for earning her Summa Cum Laude degree from the University of North Carolina.

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

This week, it goes to the following three individuals: Robin Scott, receptionist, Donna Stratton, assistant office manager; and Debbie Young, office manager at Weaverville Eye Associates in Weaverville, NC.

Whenever I got there for a regular checkup and/or for my glasses, they brighten my day. They are all helpful and friendly, as well as knowledgeable about what they're doing.

I would be remiss if I didn't also mention that optometrist I see there, Dr. Doug Hauschild. He is the best!

For more information about this practice, please click:
Here

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**2. FYI**

Regardless of how your political persuasion, I think you'll get a kick out of the following:
Obama Needles Clinton and G.O.P. Field at Correspondents' Dinner
by Michael D. Shear

WASHINGTON - President Obama poked fun at Hillary Clinton's lack of appeal among young people Saturday night, joking at the annual White House press corps dinner that Mrs. Clinton was like an aging relative who cannot figure out how to use Facebook.

"Did you get my poke? Is it on my wall?" he said, imagining Mrs. Clinton trying to use the popular social media site. "I'm not sure I'm using this right. Love, Aunt Hillary."

For the rest of this fun article, please click:
Here

But best of all, read it for links to the following video clips that you won't want to miss:
Best of Obama's Correspondents' Dinner Speech
How Will Obama Spend His Retirement?

FYI, part 2

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

(1) Fraying at the edges: Her fight to live with Alzheimer's. (2) Len E. in NC: Best bagels in the area Joey's New York Bagels in Hendersonville. (3) The Science of Fat: After 'The Biggest Loser,' Their Bodies Fought to Regain Weight. (4) Dylan, Rolling Stones and McCartney to Play New Desert Trip Festival. (5) Short answers to hard questions about weight loss. (6) 30 Tips on how to get rid of uninvited house guests. (7) (7) Just How Much Power Do Your Electronics Use When They Are 'Off'? (8) Is your pet lonely and bored?

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**3. Joke 1**

Do I care which horse wins the Kentucky Derby? Neigh.

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4. Reviews

A. saw A HOLOGRAM FOR THE KING, a drama about an American businessman who is sent to Saudi Arabia to close what he hopes will be biggest deal of his life. It meanders, but nevertheless kept my interest. I also liked the relationship that developed between Tom Hanks and Sarita Choudhury. Don't rush out to see it, but when it comes out on DVR, give it a shot. Rated R.

B. JOY is now out on DVD ... my review from BLAINESWORLD #1007 follows:
Saw JOY, a fact-based drama about a woman who invents a miracle mop and becomes a business success despite many obstacles. Jennifer Lawrence is excellent in the leading role, and I enjoyed the film--especially the scenes in the QVC studio. I do think it would have been even better had there been a tighter job of editing. The last 20 minutes or so dragged a bit. Rated PG-13.

C. Read HOW TO MAKE YOUR MONEY LAST: THE INDISPENSABLE RETIREMENT GUIDE (Simon & Schuster) by Jane Bryant Quinn.

The author, long one of my favorite financial commentators, has written the book that I only wish had been available many years earlier when I had just started thinking about retirement.

She covers in an easy-to-understand style such topics as how to almost double your social security income, getting the most from your health insurance, whether you should buy yourself a pension and living on your life insurance, among other topics.

Toward the end of the book, she presents a "Retirement Checklist" that is almost worth the entire purchase price. In particular, I liked this reminder:
Check every one of the beneficiary forms you ever signed to be sure the right person will get the money when you die. Individual retirement accounts are usually paid to the named beneficiary no matter what it says in your will. Your ex-spouse might inherit if you forgot to take him or her off the form. Also check the forms at your mutual fund company and brokerage firm and the beneficiaries named on your life insurance. If you get married or divorced, do the forms all over again. Immediately.

I actually know folks who did not do the above--and they lived to regret that fact.

D. Heard HAMILTON: THE REVOLUTION (Hachette Audio), written by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter and read by the authors, along with Mariska Hargitay.

Miranda, the person responsible for the groundbreaking musical HAMILTON, teamed-up with McCarter, a cultural critic, to present this fascinating behind-the-scenes look at what it took to bring the show to Broadway.

Though the process took six years to accomplish, it flew by when listening. I especially enjoyed the accompanying 300 footnotes from the award-winning libretto. They were both funny and revealing.

In addition, I appreciated the fact that there was a PDF on the final disc that featured vibrant photos, as well as exclusive looks at notebooks and emails.

The only thing that could have made this better would be for the authors to have also included some tickets to the show!

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**5. TV alert**

A. FIRST IMPRESSIONS: Series premiere on Tues., May 10, at 10:30 p.m. on USA
This new competition has amateur impressionists face off in improvisational challenges developed by SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE's Dana Carvey. Freddie Prinze Jr. hosts.

B. THE BIG BANG THEORY: Thurs., May 12, at 8 p.m. on CBS
TV's top-rated comedy ends its ninth season with a parental invasion of Judd Hirsch, Christine Baranski and Laurie Metcalf.

C. BILLY BUDD: Fri., May 13, at 8 p.m. on TCM
Adaptation of Herman Melville's classic novel about a good-hearted British sailor who is court-martialed for murdering his sadistic master-at-arms. It was the first time I ever saw Terence Stamp in a movie, and I remember saying to myself: "Self, this guy is going to be a star."

D. A TIME TO DANCE: Sun. May 15, at 8 p.m. on HALLMARK MOVIES & MYSTERIES
A writer, Jennie Garth, postpones divorcing her high school sweetheart in order to plan their daughter's wedding.

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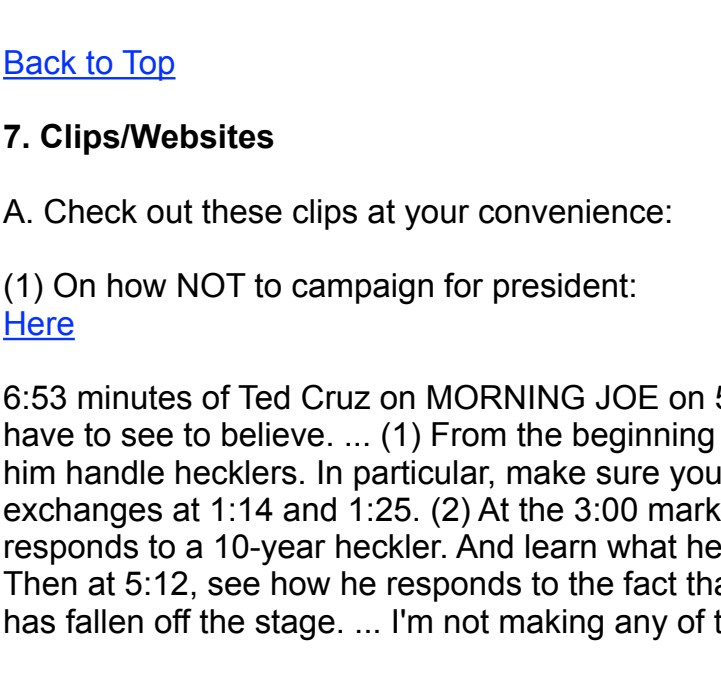
**6. Joke 2**

This won't be me 'cause I would be there arguing for The Turtles, arguably the greatest rock group of all time! I believe this is the cartoon's original version that was drawn by an Austrian artist named Haderer that was run in the German weekly STERN. Others have since changed the cartoon to reflect such other names as Deep Purple, Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin, The Clash, Hendrix and ACDC.


Rust!
STONES!
BEATLES!
STONES!
BEATLES!

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**7. Clips/Websites**

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) On how NOT to campaign for president:
Here

6:53 minutes of Ted Cruz on MORNING JOE on 5.3.16 that you have to see to believe. ... (1) From the beginning until 3:00, see him handle hecklers. In particular, make sure you watch the exchanges at 1:14 and 1:25. (2) At the 3:00 mark, watch how he responds to a 10-year heckler. And learn what he would do. (3) Then at 5:12, see how he responds to the fact that his VP choice has fallen off the stage. ... I'm not making any of this up, folks!

Note: He announced he was stepping down as a candidate later that day.

(2) And one more Cruz clip ... this time when he announced that he was stepping down. Notice how he handles his wife.
Here

(3) Berta D. in NJ: It's Never Too Late- Inspirational Video
Here

(4) Gwen Stefani Carpool Karaoke (w/ Surprise Guests)
Here

(5) Pitbull vs. Cat | Real Love Real Fights--the Sequel
Here

B. WonderHowTo has how-to guides on everything from how to decorate your tights to tracking smartphone data usage. Today, there are more than 170,000 how-to videos & articles from more than 17,000 specialized creators, spanning 35 vertical categories and 424 sub-categories. To view the site, please click:
Here

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**

Do the following to launch the Media Player: 1. Click the Windows key (between Ctrl and Alt) + Alt + Enter. 2. You can then watch movies and play music.

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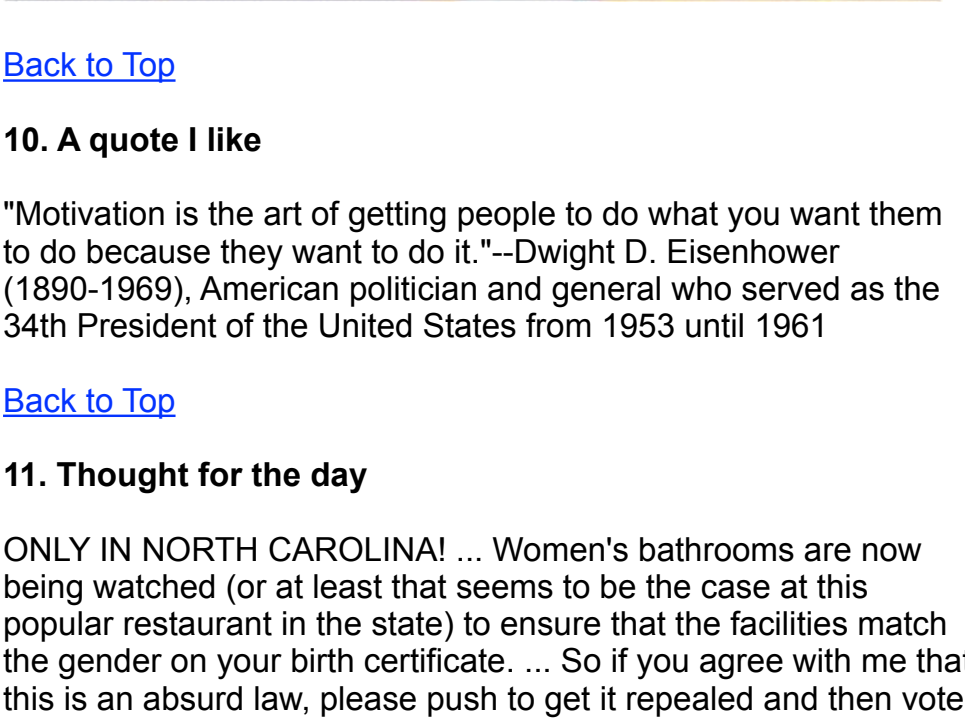
**9. Joke 3**

A husband takes the wife to a night club. There's a guy on the dance floor, going all out. Break dancing, moon walking, back flips, the works. . . . The wife turns to her husband and says, "See that guy? 25 years ago he proposed to me, and I turned him down." . . . The husband says, "Looks to me like he's still celebrating!"



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**10. A quote I like**

"Motivation is the art of getting people to do what you want them to do because they want to do it."--Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969), American politician and general who served as the 34th President of the United States from 1953 until 1961

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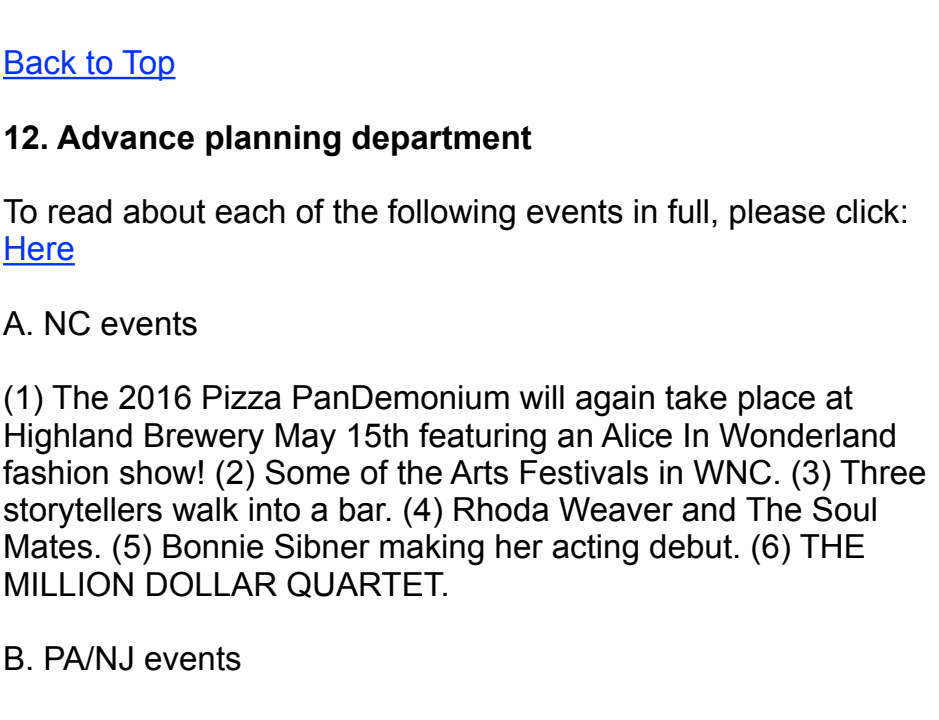
**11. Thought for the day**

ONLY IN NORTH CAROLINA! ... Women's bathrooms are now being watched (or at least that seems to be the case at this popular restaurant in the state) to ensure that the facilities match the gender on your birth certificate. ... So if you agree with me that this is an absurd law, please push to get it repealed and then vote out all the politicians who put it into effect.



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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) The 2016 Pizza PanDemonium will again take place at Highland Brewery May 15th featuring an Alice In Wonderland fashion show! (2) Some of the Arts Festivals in WNC. (3) Three storytellers walk into a bar. (4) Rhoda Weaver and The Soul Mates. (5) Bonnie Sibner making her acting debut. (6) THE MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET.

B. PA/NJ events

Upcoming at the Bucks County Cabaret.

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**PS.** My Mom did all these jobs ... and a lot more! ...HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to all mothers ... past, present and future.

Mom, we've hired a few people to fill-in for you while you relax on Mother's Day.
TAXI
Reynolds

And make it a wonderful week!

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