BLAINESWORLD

#1036
8.1.2016

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1. Reflections

Note: Please see Section 11 for Michael Hennessey's moving tribute to his brother.

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) Loved Brevard Little Theatre's production of GODSPELL, starring l-r: (bottom row) Beth Norris, Brandon Gash and Karen Covington-Yow; and (top row) Bob Pompeo, Elly Leidner, Christine Johnson, Colby Coren, Blaine Greenfield and Cynthia Greenfield. Not pictured: Andy Thompson, Lauren Howell and Mark Thompson.

Kudos to Sarah Fowler (below in the center), musical director, as well as to Heather Fender Denton for her spot on direction.

(2) For there, we went to the Mills River Restaurant--the closet thing we have found to a New Jersey diner. The food was good, and there's even a salad bar that has both rice pudding and bread pudding on it. Eric did a fine job as our server.

MILLS RIVER

(3) We met our friend Mike Spremulli, mindreader extraordinarie, for lunch at East Village Grille where we had great sandwiches and service from Mandy. As can be seen, they also had Baklava--a dessert that never made its way into the packaging that can be seen.

(4) In addition, we tried a new restaurant: Patton Public House. We liked the food there, and we will be back. Maci was our friendly server.

7/29/16
Blaine
+
Cynthia

B. During the week:

(1) I had pleasure of seeing my friend Keith Challenger present his "Magical History Tour" of how John and Paul teamed to produce so many of the Beatles' hits. What a great show!

(2) Met my Lawrence High School classmate, Lawrence Poster, and his wife Amy for a tasty breakfast at Corner Kitchen. Holly did a fine job as our server.

CORNER
KITCHEN

(3) Joined my friend Paul Marks for lunch at King Daddy's Chicken and Waffle. As can be seen, the food got a thumbs up.

C. Condolences to:

(1) The family of Dr. Daniel Eglinton who passed recently in his sleep. Dr. Eglinton was the surgeon who operated on Cynthia's knees. He will be missed. For more information, please click:
Here

(2) Frances Davis and family on the passing of Frances' father.

(3) Christie Richardson Spielmann and family on the passing of her sister Chelsie Richardson.

(4) Della Striker and family on the passing of Della's Aunt Jean.

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Bill McMannis on attaining his Professional Community Association Manager certification.

(2) Emily Shaules on the completion of her demo role. To see it for yourself, please click:
Here

(3) Fred Liebehnaut for completing and posting the great video remembering of his brother Steven. To view it, please click:
Here

(4) Greg and Ashley Garrison on the birth of their daughter, Lily Jane Garrison.

(5) Suzanne Smith Wright on her retirement from being a realtor in Asheville. (She sold us our home here, and for that, we'll always be grateful.) She will be moving to the Pacific Northwest.

(6) Rachel Rose Pearlstein on becoming an Israeli citizen.

(7) Skyler Goff and Ashleigh Millett on their wedding.

(8) Kai Elijah Hamilton on having his play, BLACKBERRY WINTER, be named winner in the "Best Video Diary Short Film" category in the Strawberry One Act Festival.

E. Correction: Last week's issue mentioned a tasty meal we had at Bogart's in Waynesville. I put down the wrong name of our excellent server. Her name is Lois, not Lucy. Sorry 'bout that!

F. Invitations:

(1) There's still time to enter ...

***** CONTEST #16 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of THE FOUR-FOOT GIANT AND THE VANISHING WHEELCHAIR by T.J. Shimeld.

This is the biography of magician, magic shop owner and motivational speaker Ricky D. Boone who lives in Asheville who also autographed the copy that will be given out as a prize. I reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #949 and liked it.

To enter: Send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #16 in the subject line. In the body of the email, please include snail mail address. All entries must be received on or before Monday, Aug. 8, at 9 p.m.

(2) Come see me at ...

Blaine's Annual Trek Up North

Sunday, Aug. 28, from 3:59-6:59
Sycamore Grill, 255 N. Sycamore St., Newtown, PA

Stop by to say "hello," greet old friends and meet new ones. There will be plenty of great food and drink that will be available on a cash basis.

In addition, there will be entertainment that will be announced.

If you'd like to perform (music, poetry, comedy, etc.), message me via Facebook or send me an email at: bginbc@aol.com and put AUGUST 28 in the subject line.

There's also the possibility that you will get to see the recent short play that was written about me: MR. POSITIVITY.

Note: If the above date doesn't work for you and/or you'd like to get together some other time, I will be in the area from August 22-29. I'm looking to possibly see a play at Langhorne Players on Aug. 26 or 27, some other play, a comedy show, get to eat at some diners and other places I miss in Bucks County, etc. Let me know via either of the aforementioned methods.

(3) See Biltmore Lake resident Reed Atherton and others talk about HOW I BECAME A PIRATE at the Biltmore Lake clubhouse on Tuesday, Aug. 9, from 6-7 p.m.

Note: If you're not a Biltmore Lake resident and would like to attend, contact Blaine about coming as his guest. Send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put AUGUST 9 in the subject line. In the body of the email, put down your name and contact information and,also, how many you will be bringing.

To get tickets for the show, which runs from Aug. 4-14 at the Magnetic Theatre, please click:
Here

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

This week, it goes to Mountain Physical Therapy in Asheville, NC.

I went there at the suggestion of a good friend, Sunny Ruble, a physical therapist. She had noticed that I was developing a slouch and suggested that I contact this practice.

My first visit was with Amira Ranney, Mountain Physical Therapy's owner/director. She made an assessment and also suggested that I get a height-adjustable vertical desk. I took her advice and very quickly noticed some positive changes.

She then had me work with Michael Abbas, a physical therapy assistant. He worked with me on my posture while both sitting and driving. In addition, he showed me one simple exercise that I'm continuing to use.

I was very impressed with the fact that I needed only three helpful visits to Mountain Physical Therapy, and I was most impressed with the work of both Amira and Michael.

For more information, please click:
Here

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2. FYI

Before you are scheduled to meet somebody, make sure that person has your number, and you have his or her number. That way, if either one of you is delayed, you can contact the other person. ... When I've failed to do this, I have almost always regretted not having done so.

FYI, part 2

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

(1) What Babies Know About Physics and Foreign Languages. (2) Ivan W. in PA: The Complaint Fast is also featured in the book The Power of Receiving by Amanda Owen. (3) Annmarie B. in NC: Thanks...great as usual! (4) Bonnie R. in PA: I have to say, I look forward to receiving your blog's every week. (5) Amy S. in NC: 50 ways to meet new people. (6) William R. in PA: Saw the "new" Ghost-busters movie today. (7) Feeling guilty about not flossing? Maybe there's no need. (8) Emily S. in NC: Two great films - what do they have in common? (9) Why useless surgery is still popular. (10) Putting Your Baby to Sleep: Some Advice and Good News. (11) Meta C. in NC: Healing group seeks able, conscious assistant. (12) Read books, live longer? (13) The secret to good toast? It's your freezer. (14) (14) Edie W. in PA: Please go to our newly launched website and sign up to be involved in this positively life changing epic event: Hugs Across America. (15) Chuck F. in NC: Beautiful N. Asheville home for sale by owner.(16) Do your friends actually like you?

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3. Joke 1

Six-year-old Annie returns home from school and says that today she had her first family planning lesson at school. Her mother, very interested, asks: "Oh, How did it go" ... "I nearly died of shame!" she answers. "Sam from down the street says the stork brings babies. Sally next door said you can buy babies at the orphanage. Pete in my class says you can buy babies at the hospital." ... Her mother answers laughingly, "But that's no reason to be ashamed." ... "No, but I can't tell them that we were so poor that you and daddy had to make me yourselves!"

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4. Reviews

A. Saw CAPTAIN FANTASTIC, an engrossing family drama about a devoted father who devotes his life to helping his six children become extraordinary adults. But when a tragedy strikes, he must change his plans. Viggo Mortenson is outstanding in the leading role, as is George MacKay as the eldest son. Rated R, largely because of some nudity and profanity, and that's a shame because this would be a fine film for any teenager to watch.

B. Out on VD is EYE IN THE SKY. My review from BLAINESWORLD #1026 follows:
Saw EYE IN THE SKY, a wartime thriller about a top secret drone operation being utilized to capture terrorists in Kenya. Helen Mirren as the military officer in command is watchable, as always, but I'd recommend the film because it also was Alan Rickman's final on-screen performance. Rated R, though methinks appropriate for any mature teenager.

C. Read PERSONAL SUCCESS, one of the books in THE BRIAN TRACY SUCCESS LIBRARY (AMACOM) by Brian Tracy.

The author, chairman and CEO of Brian Tracy International, a company specializing in the training and development of individuals and organizations,has discovered that even small adjustments in outlook and behavior can lead to enormous differences in results.

In this slim, but powerful book, he shares numerous techniques for anybody wanting to more successful. For example:
I tell them that all of business success can be summarized in two letters: DR. To be successful in business, you have to make your customers happy. Everyone knows that. But to be really successful, you have to make them happier. You have to serve them faster, better, cheaper, and to make it easier for them to do business than with anyone else.

Tracy then concludes each chapter with action exercises that drive home the points he is trying to make. In the above instance, he suggested the following: Decide on at least one thing that you can do to immediately make your most important customer happier with your work and service than with that of anyone else.

PERSONAL SUCCESS is the perfect book for any recent or upcoming college graduate, but also, those would be appreciated by those already working.

D. Heard NATASHA: THE BIOGRAPHY OF NATALIE WOOD (Brilliance Audio), written by Suzanne Finstead and read by Lana Wood, Natalie's sister.

I always admired the work of Natalie Wood, but didn't know very much about her life. Now I do, having listened to this biography that kept my interest from her beginnings as a child actress.

Much of the book might be considered as gossip, but in large part, that's what makes it so interesting.

I also found the last part fascinating, in which the suspicious origins behind her death are investigated.

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5. TV alert

A. HITCHCOCK/TRUFFAUT: Monday, Aug. 8, at 9 p.m. on HBO
In 1962, Francois Truffaut conducted a weeklong series of interviews with Alfred Hitchcock. This documentary includes rarely heard audio excerpts and dissections of sequences from classics including VERTIGO and PSYCHO.

B. AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: Begins on Monday, Aug. 8, at 9 p.m. on PBS
and runs over the next two weeks (Monday through Thursday)
The show replays six of its great presidential biographies, starting with JFK on Monday and Tuesday, followed by LBJ on Wednesday and Nixon on Thursday.

C. YOUTH: Tuesday, Aug. 9, at 11:30 p.m. on HBO
Michael Caine, Harvey Keitel and Jane Fonda star in a film about septuagenarians stewing over their curtain calls.

D. THE GET DOWN: Series premiere on NETFLIX, beginning on Friday, Aug. 12, via streaming on NETFLIX
TV GUIDE summarizes it as follows: "Blaz Luhrmann's fabulous tale of hip-hop revolt and disco dreams" set in 1977.

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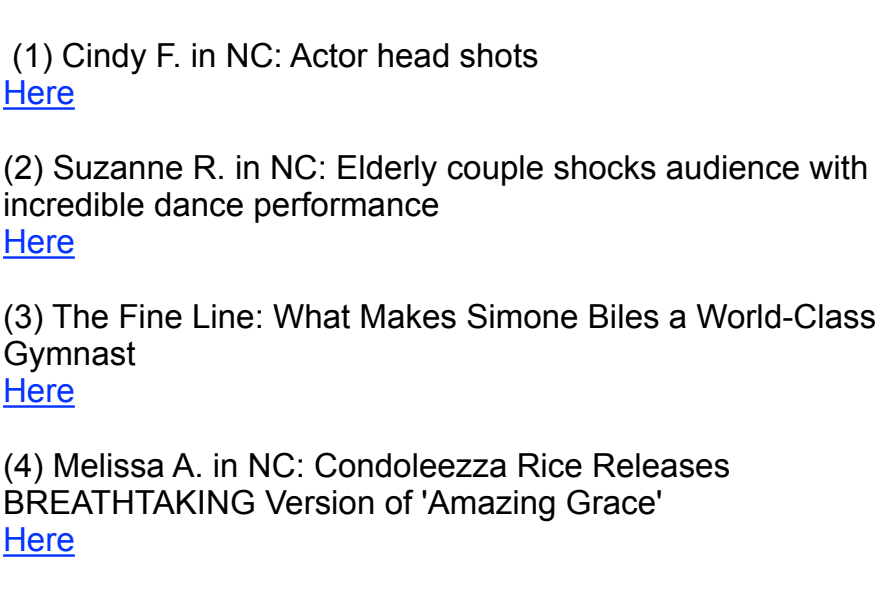
6. Joke 2

A guy stuck his head into a barber shop and asked, "How long before a haircut?" The barber looked around the shop full of customers and said, "About 2 hours." The guy left. . . . A few days later, the same guy stuck his head in the door and asked, "How long before a haircut?" The barber looked around and said, "About 3 hours." The guy left.. . . The barber turned to a friend and said, "Hey, Ed, do me a favor. Follow that guy and see where he goes. He keeps asking how long he has to wait for a haircut, but then doesn't return ". . . A little while later, Ed returned and was grilled, "So where does that guy go?" . . . Ed looked up, laughing hysterically, and replied, "Your house!"



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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Cindy F. in NC: Actor head shots
Here

(2) Suzanne R. in NC: Elderly couple shocks audience with incredible dance performance
Here

(3) The Fine Line: What Makes Simone Biles a World-Class Gymnast
Here

(4) Melissa A. in NC: Condoleezza Rice Releases BREATHTAKING Version of 'Amazing Grace'
Here

B. Project Alexandria is the Pandora of Books. If you still don't understand the reference, this website is basically a recommendation tool for book lovers. Enter the book title or your favorite author name to get up to five recommendations based on Books similar to it.

If you're a book lover, check out Project Alexandria,

Enter a book title or your favorite author name, then get up to five recommendations based on books similar to do it. To see how this works, please click:
Here

Note: I tried the above with four of my favorite authors: Malcom Gladwell, A. Scott Berg, James Hilton and Ayn Rand. The results look promising; i.e., I might want to check some of the recommendations.

This website reminds me of what I do when using Netflix. I give a ranking to all the films I see, then often get back other recommendations that have proven to be quite relevant to my likes.

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

I received a Facebook message from a friend in Israel, Avi D. ... it was a bit strange, in that nothing else was included with it .. but I decided to click the link anyway ... I then received a message, asking me to sign-in to Facebook again ... I didn't because I was already online with Facebook. I then wrote my friend about it, and he wrote back:
I was hacked. Sorry. Have changed all my passwords. Don't open.

To note:
1. Ask friends to put some sort introductory message on stuff they send you, so that you know it is from them; e.g., Blaine, I thought you'd get a kick out of this.
2. Do NOT give your log-in to Facebook or any other site if you're already logged in.
3. And see below for the site to NOT click in case you get it from anybody else:
https://apps.facebook.com/remkawaii/?app=5d41402abc4b2a76b9719d911017e592/fcb/en/?i=1486&i=XXXX

In case you didn't follow my instructions, you'll see that the last four numbers have been eliminated to make sure you didn't click them on by mistake.

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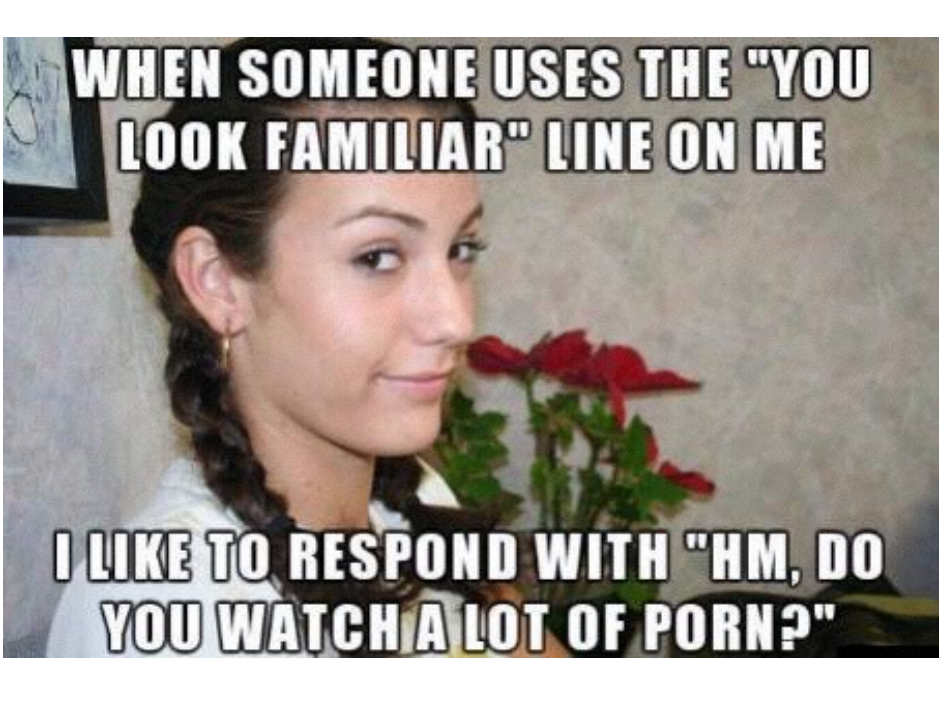
9. Joke 3

This has me writing a note to myself: "Self, consider using this response the next time somebody uses that line." I might just have to change from what I usually say: "Indeed, I'm the guy you owe money to!"


WHEN SOMEONE USES THE "YOU LOOK FAMILIAR" LINE ON ME
I LIKE TO RESPOND WITH "HM, DO YOU WATCH A LOT OF PORN?"

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10. A quote I like

"Defeat is not the worst of failures. Not to have tried is the true failure."--George Edward Woodberry ((1855-1930), American literary critic and poet

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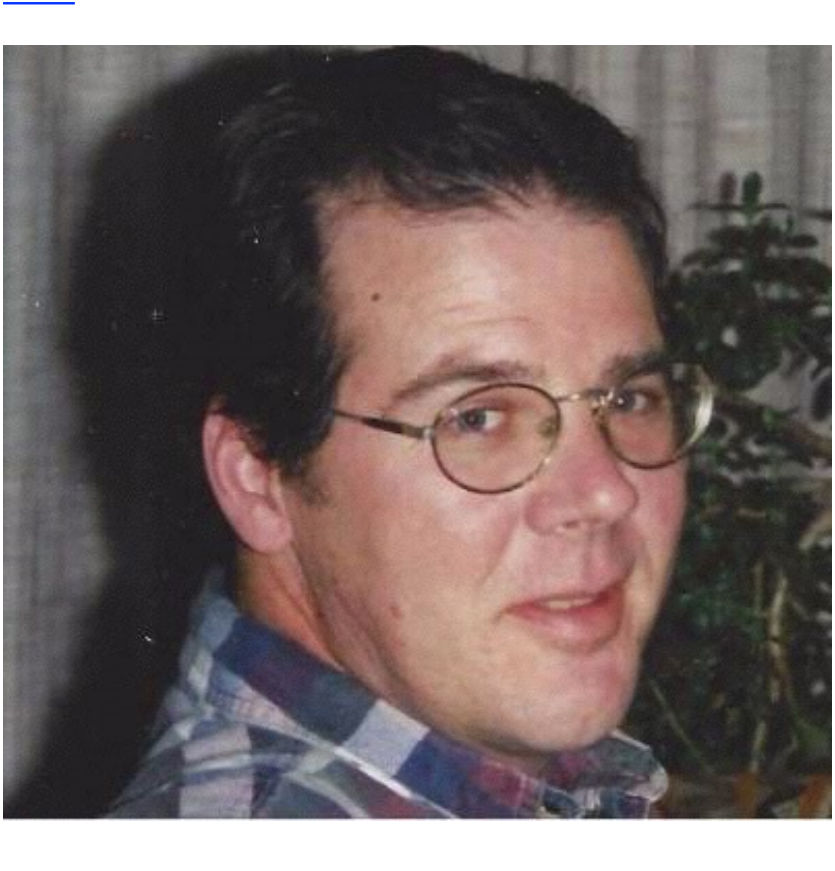
11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Michael Henneseey in PA, for allowing me to run this moving tribute about your brother that you recently posted on Facebook:
The Wheel and the Music: Reflecting on My Brother Tom's Last Show

It's been a tough summer. My big brother Tommy died on June 20th around 11 p.m. Due to his Multiple Sclerosis, this was long anticipated, but the end came so suddenly it felt like a heavy weight punch to the stomach. Many of you know the back story, but for those who don't, and because writing this out helps me embrace the grief, here is part of our story.

Tom was the first born in our family, March 6, 1959, my older brother by 13 months. Naturally, I looked up to him and tried to emulate his fine examples, first as an avid reader, then as a dedicated student, and later as a baseball and football player. I have no doubt my successes in those areas resulted from my desire to be as good as Tommy. With another brother followed by 2 sisters, we were 5 growing up in an often stressful household.

For the rest of this tribute, please go to Section 11 when you click:
Here



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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) 9 TO 5 at Flat Rock Playhouse. (2) INSIDE PEACE screening at Grail Moviehouse. (3) Helping Others, In Honor of Uncle Steve Nyou. (4) West Virginia Storyteller, Adam Booth, will be featured at Buffalo Nickel. (5) Workshop by Adam Booth. ((6) TRINKETS, TREASURES OR TIME TO LET GO. (7) MUSIC AROUND THE WORLD.

B. PA/NJ event

(1) 2016 Kelsey Awards.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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