

#1270

1,18.2021

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Continued to hunker down in Week 44 of the corona pandemic. Fortunately, that didn't prevent us from each taking a deer ride in our neighborhood.



(2) We also went to French Fryz for some excellent takeout hamburgers. Yet the favorite part of our meal were the waffle fryz. We'll definitely be back for them.



(3) And we did takeout pizza from Favilla's New York Pizza. Our pizza, as always, was top notch, as was the friendly, masked service.



B. Catch this week's BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM by clicking: [Here](#). ... Guests: (first half) Kyle Wilken, landscape contractor and owner of Prestige Property Improvements; and (second half) Barrie Barton, speaking coach, facilitator and trainer, Stand and Deliver Asheville.



C. Congratulations to:

(1) Aaron Ybarra and Ana-Alicia Carroll on being named an up-and-coming performers by the MOUNTAIN XPRESS. To read more about these two talented folks, please click: [Here](#).

(2) Tom Giraldi and family on the birth of grandson Thomas Anthony Mottola.

D. Reminders:

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

***** **CONTEST #2 (of 2021)** *****

One lucky reader will win his or her very own personalized romance novel from J.S. Fletcher and Kathy Newbern, founders of [YourNovel.com](#). Imagine you and your sweetheart starring in a book featuring the two of you as an unusual and romantic gift, especially with Valentine's Day on the way.

I've gotten two of these novels, the first written by my friend Marcy Gallagher and the other by her husband Tom. They were both fantastic.

To enter this contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #2 in the subject line. In the body of your email, include both your name and email address. All entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 25.

(2) You're invited to join Cynthia either or both of the virtual courses she'll be teaching for Arms Around ASD this week: Meditation on Monday and Move Your Body on Wednesday. To attend this and/or any of the others (that are open to the public), scroll down to Calendar when you click: [Here](#).

E. It's my pleasure to announced the winners of this week's ...

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

They are President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris (pictured below).

To help you remember their election , I encourage you to click any and/or all of the of the following links:

(1) Joe Biden's speech at the inauguration: [Here](#).

It was even praised by several Republicans: [Here](#).

(2) Amanda Gormans' poem at the inauguration: [Here](#).

(2) Lady Gaga's performance of the National Anthem: [Here](#).

(4) Katy Perry performs "Firework": [Here](#).

Note: Even if you're not a fan of President ... or I should say not yet a fan ... I urge you to at least give him a chance. And my request is that you please also read this article: [Here](#).



2. FYI

Several years ago, I started reading about people using closed captioning when they were watching TV. I thought it was an interesting idea, but never acted on it.

Then my friend Brian Biro told me that he used it when watching LITTLE DORRIT, a 2008 mini-series that he really liked. He also said it was good to use for many of the British programs.

So just the other night, Cynthia and I were enjoying LAST TANGO IN HALIFAX, a British dramedy about two 70-something widowed people. But in doing so, we found ourselves missing much of the dialogue.

It was at that point in time that we turned on closed captioning. And let me tell you, we'll be using it quite often in the future. It was fantastic and greatly enhanced our viewing pleasure.

Mr. Curious here: Do you use closed captioning when you watch TV? And if so, do you use it for all programs?

Note: For more information on his subject, please click: [Here](#).

FYI, part 2

For more information about the following items, please click: [Here](#).

A. Jean Ryersbach: Thank you for Brian's letter in your 1269th BLAINESWORLD. B. Marcy Gallagher: Thank you, Blaine, for having the contest for a personalized romance novel! C. Brian Hoffman: I always enjoy your notes. D. Betty Tsai: Thanks Blaine, very informative as always. E. Ken Greenfield: I thought you didn't make political comments. F. Kristi Mizen: I just now listened to your interview with Bob [Hinkle].

3. Joke 1

Weather can be oh-so-fickle ... (top) This past Wednesday in the morning; and (bottom) the same day a few hours later.

Y'all dress warm today. It's going to be minus (-) 45.



Just after noon, the sun came out. And it is now 46!



4. Reviews

A. Revisited JAY AND SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK, a crude but funny comedy about what happens when the slackers learn that a "Bluntman and Chronic" film is being made featuring their comic book counterparts. But then they learn that there won't be any royalties coming their way, they do what they can to ruin the film at all cost. Jason Mewes and Kevin Smith head the cast that features others from Smith-directed efforts. Rated R.

B. Also revisited WHITE HEAT, a 1949 crime drama about a gang leader who lives for his mother. James Cagney is outstanding in the lead role, and I also liked the work of Edmond O'Brien who plays the undercover agent planted to bring Cagney in. Not rated at the time, but would get an R now because there's a good deal of violence.

C. Herb Spiegel: Highly recommend ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI.

5. TV alert

A. TO TELL THE TRUTH: Season premiere on Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 8 p.m. on ABC

I used to love this as a kid. Though I somehow missed Seasons 1-5 of this reboot, I might just give it a try this year. Anthony Anderson hosts with his mom Doris.

B. SNOWKISSED: Movie premiere on Saturday, Jan. 30, at 9 p.m. on Hallmark Channel

A journalist chases her dream assignment in Canada and inspires a B&B owner to follow his passion--playing a tour guide.

C. SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE: Saturday, Jan. 30, at 11:30 p.m. on NBC

Alex Moffat officially begins his term as President Joe Biden.

D. THE 63RD ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS: Sunday, Jan. 31, at 8 p.m. on CBS

Trevor Noah emcees this year's live broadcast.

6. Joke 2

This won't work ... women develop superhuman powers when they sleep, so those bricks would soon wind up on the guy's head!



7. Clips/Websites

A. The Turtles are arguably the greatest rock group of all time!

(1) As mentioned previously, this section will feature music by The Turtles--either their recordings and/or covers of their music by others.

I'd especially love to see any recording you may have done of "Happy Together."

Send it to: bginbc@aol.com and put THE TURTLES in the subject line.

Note: Even if you did not do a recording, I welcome anything done by others--not only of "Happy Together," but any other Turtles' song.

(2) For this week, please view this guitar version version from 2017--and they're still sounding as great as ever: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week (see below for the third paragraph)

Thanks, Phil Spector (1939-2021), for your prolific career as a record producer, musician and songwriter that resulted in your being named in both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame ... "Unfortunately," to quote Ronnie Bennett, lead singer of the Ronettes and his second wife, "

Phil was not able to live and function outside of the recording studio. Darkness set in, many lives were damaged." ... And things got worse in 2019 when he was convicted of second-degree murder. He received a sentence of 19 years to life, which he was serving at the time of his death. ... For more information, please click: [Here](#).

Note: Regardless of how your feelings about Spector and his volatile, erratic, gun-toting behavior, you have to admire his influence on pop history. To learn more about this for yourself, click the following link to listen to 15 of his most distinctive songs:

https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/18/arts/music/phil-spector-songs.html?referringSource=articleShare&fbclid=IwAR1AVn-yg54SeoJPjh43fTIOScSefUd-Es8_JvGRZzMMwMsZLnhKvLSMKxl.

“I felt obligated to change music to art, the same way that Galileo proved the Earth was round to the world, and that the Sun did not stand still.”--Phil Spector



C. And also check out these other clips at your convenience:

- (1) Karen Akers, "Unusual Way," one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).
- (2) Jonathan Berg: Lockdown options: [Here](#).
- (3) ALL of Brandon Leake's Poetry Performances on Season 15 of America's Got Talent 2020: [Here](#).
- (4) Howard Smith on piano: 1.24.21: [Here](#).
- (5) Aaron Ybarra: Digital Church: [Here](#).

D. Here's a website that you might want to check out: Cracked: <https://www.cracked.com/>.

Cracked is famous for its timeless list posts. Not all are funny. But the ones that are will have you laughing, including:

- 5 Weird Things About Owning Records, Tapes, and CDs Future Humans Won't Experience
- 55 Of The Weirdest Things To Happen In The Courtroom
- 5 Surreal News Stories You Might've Missed

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

F. 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: <https://www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield/>.

8. Technology tip

Which Virtual Assistant Tells the Best Jokes?
by Brandon Specktor

If futurists have their math right, robots could be as smart as humans by 2040. No less a mind than Stephen Hawking says this means a world with technology “outsmarting financial markets, out-inventing human researchers, out-manipulating human leaders, and developing weapons we cannot even understand.”

We can handle that. But the big question is: Can the robots tell a joke?

For the rest of this informative article, please click: [Here](#).

Note: I just tried Siri, and she told me this one:

Who said, "Coming are British the."

A: Paul Reverse.

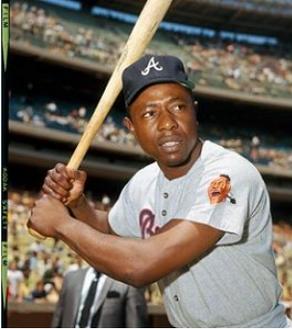
9. Joke 3

**I started a
new job
today. See
below for
details.**

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has finally affected me financially. In order to offset the increased costs for food, electricity, etc., I have a need to make some extra money on the side. ... So I am now proud to announce that I am selling ADULT PRODUCTS. I hope no one will feel embarrassed to ask for them. I have all kinds, sizes and styles according to your needs. Discretion is guaranteed! ... Ask for yours anytime. Here's just a partial listing of my product line: Walkers, Wheelchairs, Oxygen tanks, Canes, Disposable diapers, Teeth glue, Heating pads and more. (Thanks, Rose-Marie Grace Vieira, for sharing.)

10. Two quotes I like

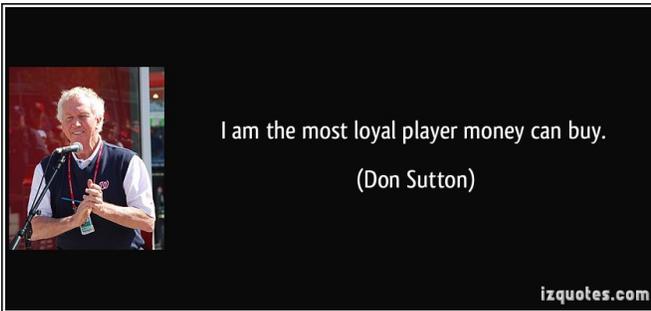
A. Thanks, Hank Aaron (1934-2021), for your Hall of Fame baseball career spent mostly with the Milwaukee/Atlanta Braves. I'll most remember you for chasing and then surpassing Babe Ruth's total home record of 714--and the fact that you did so in spite of both death threats and hate mail. For more information about his life, please click: [Here](#)



"My motto was always to keep swinging. Whether I was in a slump or feeling badly or having trouble off the field, the only thing to do was keep swinging."

Hank Aaron

B. Thanks, Don Sutton (1945-2021), for your 23-year Hall of Fame baseball career as pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers and four other teams, as well as for your 28-year career as a broadcaster for the Atlanta Brave. For more information about his life, please click: [Here](#)



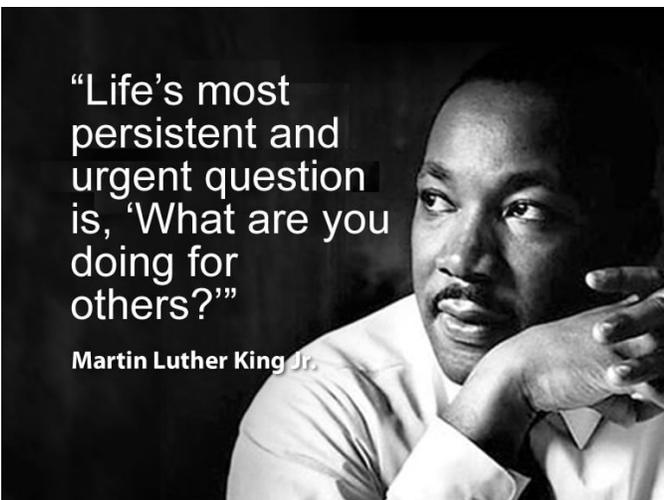
I am the most loyal player money can buy.

(Don Sutton)

izquotes.com

11. Thought for the day

Please join me on January 18 (and every day) in celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day by putting your answer into practice.



“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

Martin Luther King Jr.

12. Advance planning department

For more information about the following events, please click: [Here](#).

A. Rebecca and the Reckoning at ISIS. B. Larry Parr: HI-HATTIE on Valentine's Day. C. Kathleen Mitchell at The Magnetic Theatre.

PS. Make it a great week!
