

#1167
1.28.2019

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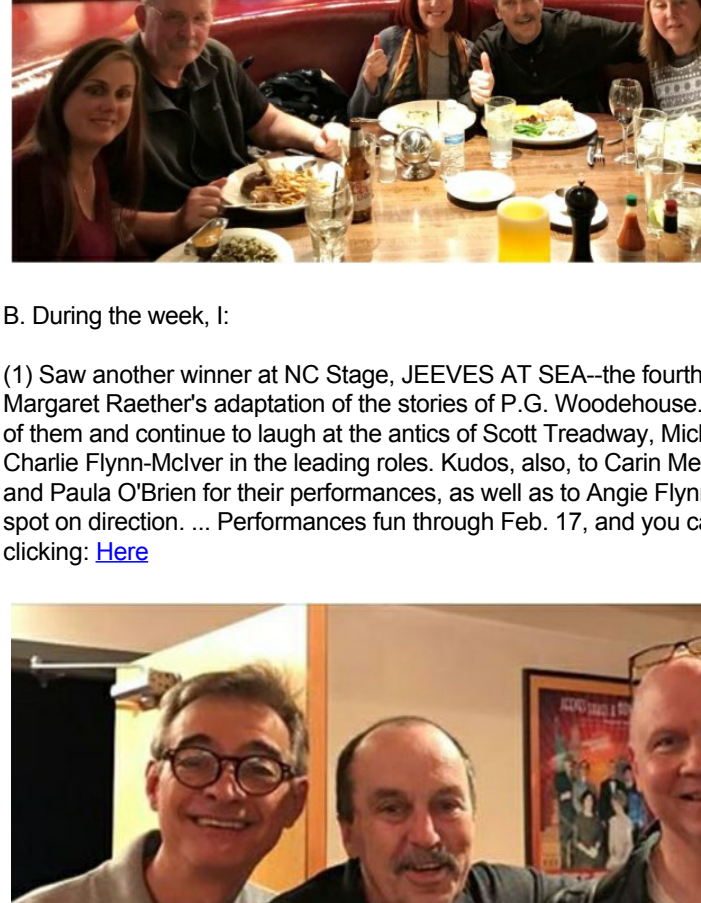
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1. Reflections

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: bjnbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

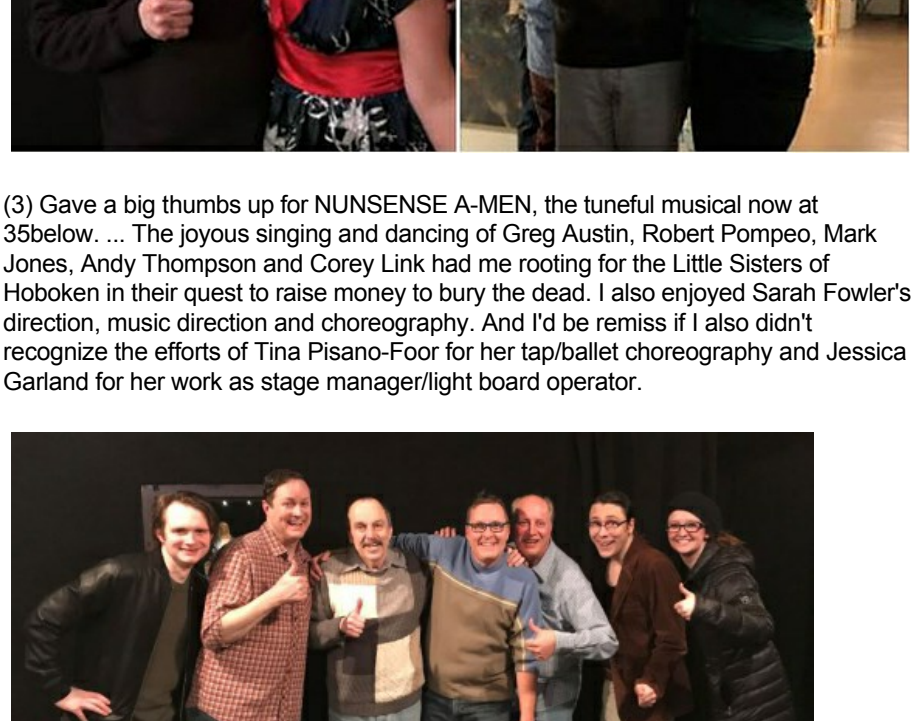
- (1) Finally got to go to Rise 'n Shine together for a tasty lunch at Rise 'n Shine. As you may have noticed, I go there often--and Cynthia has gone there, too--but this is the first time we were able to go at the same time.



(2) Joined our friends Tracy and Ed Hackett (left) and Ginny Plaisted and Grant Randall (right) for a delicious dinner at 131 Main where Kristin provided us with fine service.



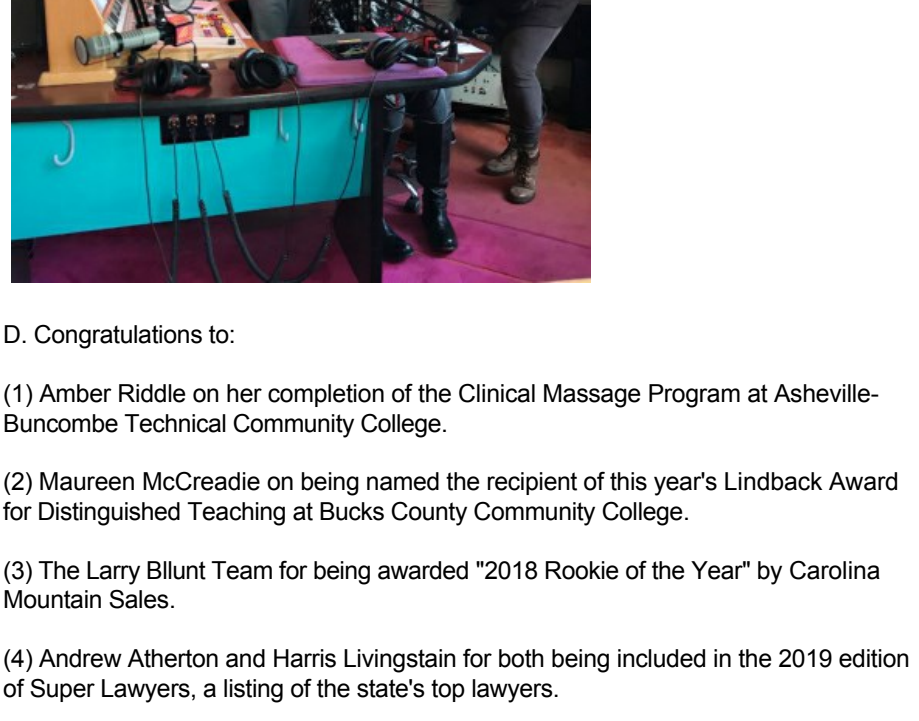
- B. During the week, I:
- (1) Saw another winner at NC Stage, JEEVES AT SEA--the fourth installment in Margaret Raether's adaptation of the stories of P.G. Woodhouse. ... I've now seen all of them and continue to laugh at the antics of Scott Treadway, Michael MacCauley and Charlie Flynn-McIver in the leading roles. Kudos, also, to Carrin Metzger, Ryan Mitchell and Paula O'Brien for their performances, as well as to Angie Flynn-McIver for her spot on direction. ... Performances fun through Feb. 17, and you can get tickets by clicking: [Here](#)



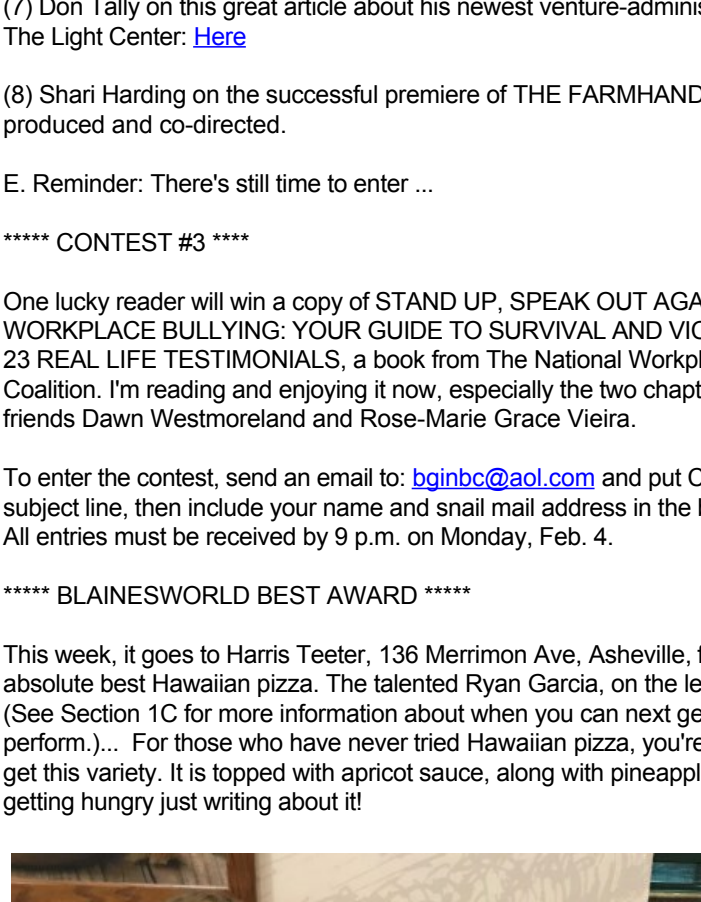
(2) Enjoyed the Asheville Fringe's performance of IT DIDN'T HAPPEN, a darkly comic piece about relationships with the women in Judy Calabrese's life. Kudos to Judy (pictured on the left). She wrote and directed the play, and she was also terrific in the leading role. I also liked the performance of Tasha Papi (right), Missy Bell and Leanna Campagna. ... And Philippe Andre Coquet's direction was spot on.



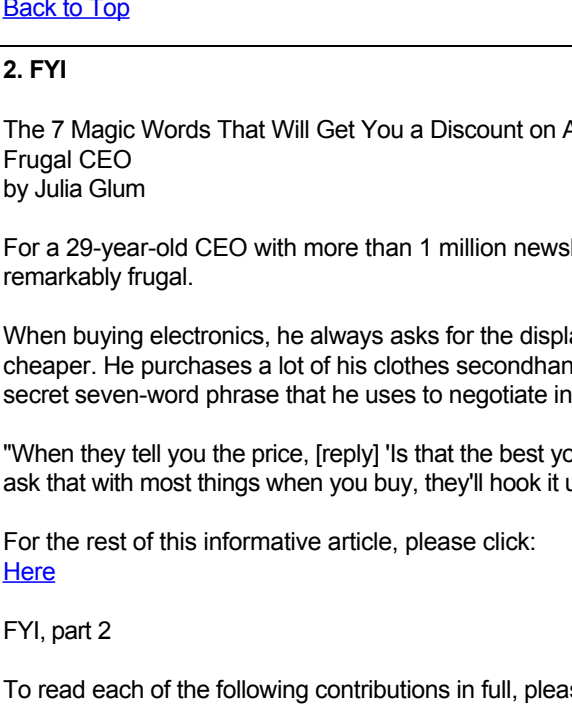
(3) Gave a big thumbs up for NUNSENSE A-MEN, the tuneful musical now at 35below. ... The joyous singing and dancing of Greg Austin, Robert Pompeo, Mark Jones, Andy Thompson and Corey Link had me rooting for the Little Sisters of Hoboken in their quest to raise money to bury the dead. I also enjoyed Sarah Fowler's direction, music direction and choreography. And I'd be remiss if I also didn't recognize the efforts of Tina Pisano-Four for her tap/ballet choreography and Jessica Garland for her work as stage manager/light board operator.



(4) Attended a SCORE committee meeting, at which we solved all the problems of the world. Special thanks to Brent Russell for hosting us--and for feeding us, too.



C. WPVM/FM invites you to listen to the BLAINESWORLD show from Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019. ... The guests were members of the Happy Together troupe, discussing a performance to be held at Alice Sall Theatre on Feb. 8 & 9. Pictured, in Blaine Greenfield, Richard Shulman Carol Duermi, Ryan Garcia and Ellen Pappas. ... For more information and/or to purchase tickets: [Here](#) ... to listen to the broadcast, click: [Here](#) ... to view it via Facebook Live, click: [Here](#)



D. Congratulations to:

- (1) Amber Riddle on her completion of the Clinical Massage Program at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College.
- (2) Maureen McCreadie on being named the recipient of this year's Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching at Bucks County Community College.
- (3) The Larry Blunt Team for being awarded "2018 Rookie of the Year" by Carolina Mountain Sales.
- (4) Andrew Atherton and Harris Livingston for both being included in the 2019 edition of Super Lawyers, a listing of the state's top lawyers.
- (5) Amy Baker on her new job as Principal, Client Relations & Business Development at DiGroupArchitecture.
- (6) Amber Moore on for promoted to Business and Commercial Treasury Management Sales at First Citizens Bank.
- (7) Don Tally on this great article about his newest venture--administrative director of The Light Center: [Here](#)
- (8) Shari Harding on the successful premiere of THE FARMHAND, a film she both produced and co-directed.

E. Reminder: There's still time to enter ...

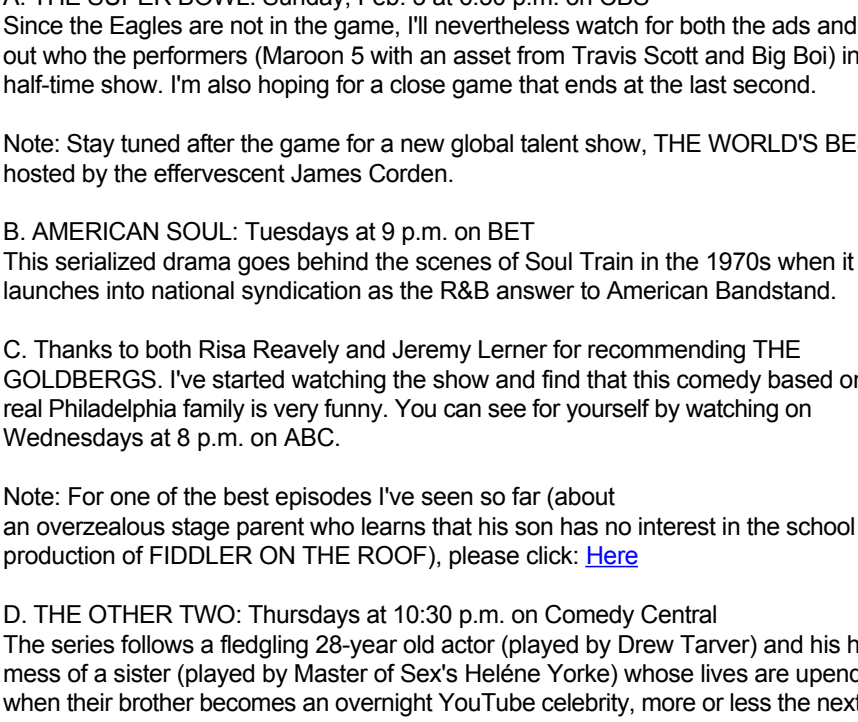
***** CONTEST #3 ****

One lucky reader will win a copy of STAND UP, SPEAK OUT AGAINST WORKPLACE BULLYING: YOUR GUIDE TO SURVIVAL AND VICTORY THROUGH 23 REAL LIFE TESTIMONIALS, a book from The National Workplace Bullying Coalition. I'm reading and enjoying it now, especially the two chapters written by my friends Dawn Westmoreland and Rose-Marie Grace Vieira.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bjnbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #3 in the subject line, then include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email. ... All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 4.

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

This week, it goes to Harris Teeter, 136 Merrimon Ave, Asheville, for having the absolute best Hawaiian pizza. The talented Ryan Garcia, on the left, agrees with me. (See Section 1C for more information about when you can next get to see Ryan perform ...) For those who have never tried Hawaiian pizza, you're in for a treat if you get this variety. It is topped with apricot sauce, along with pineapple and ham. I'm getting hungry just writing about it!



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2. FYI

The 7 Magic Words That Will Get You a Discount on Almost Anything, According to a Frugal CEO
by Julia Glum

For a 29-year-old CEO with more than 1 million newsletter subscribers, Sam Parr is remarkably frugal.

When buying electronics, he always asks for the display model because it's usually cheaper. He purchases a lot of his clothes secondhand on grailed.com. And he's got a secret seven-word phrase that he uses to negotiate in almost every situation.

"When they tell you the price, [reply] 'Is that the best you can do?'" Parr says. "If you ask that with most things when you buy, they'll hook it up."

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

FYI, part 2

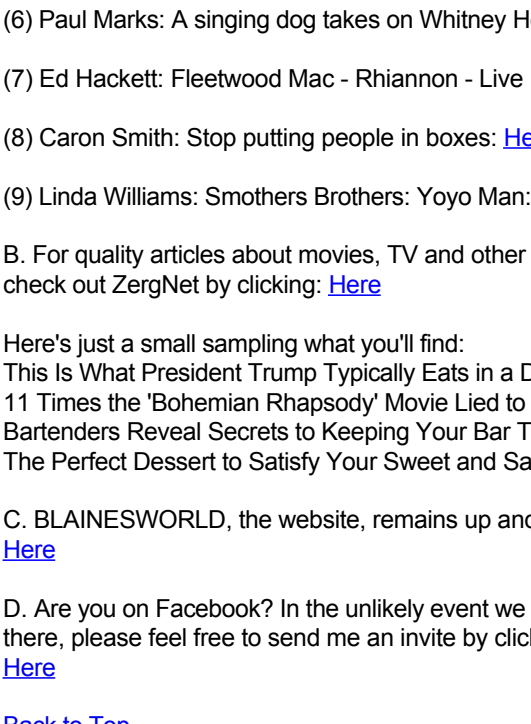
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: [Here](#)

- (1) Marilynne Herbert: Are restaurants getting too loud? (2) Makes the Guardian of Grammar Who Wants to Help You Be a Better Writer. (3) How to Avoid Frostbit and Hypothermia in Extreme Cold Weather. (4) Do Floppy-Eared Dogs Look Friendlier? The T.S.A. Thinks So. (5) Dementia May Never Improve, but Patients Still Can Learn.

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3. Joke 1

If you're like me and celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way), HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY!



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4. Reviews

- A. Saw THE UPSIDE, a dramedy inspired by a true story about a recently paroled ex-convict (Kevin Hart) who strikes up an unusual and unlikely friendship with a paralyzed billionaire (Bryan Cranston). It was fair, at best, and definitely not something you should rush out to see. It just wasn't very funny, nor was there much chemistry between Hart and Cranston. Rated PG-13.

Note: You'll do much better finding the hit French film that was based on: THE UPSIDE. This one is on my list of all-time favorites. If you'd like to get a copy of this list, send an email to: bjnbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

B. Read HOW TO READ FOR AN AUDIENCE: A WRITER'S GUIDE (This book 5 Miles Guides) by James Navé and Allegra Huston. To quote the authors, "This twice contains "the stuff nobody teaches you." ... Too often, writers can manage to come up with something that's interesting to read, but they need to then get the word out--and often fail because they lack the techniques that can be found in HOW TO READ.

Among the useful tidbits to cite just a few:
* Staying within your allotted time is one of the most professional moves that you can make. Less is more. If you have 5 minutes, prepare for 3 minutes. If you have 10 minutes, prepare for 8 minutes. If you have 20 minutes, prepare for 16 minutes. The extra time allows for introductory remarks, pauses, off-the-cuff comments and audience response. If you finish under time, your audience will want more, your fellow readers will appreciate you and your host will ask you to come back.

* What if only two people show up? It happens. Don't complain! It ruins the evening for everyone. Be grateful that these two people made the effort to come and hear you. Show them your gratitude by asking them as seriously as you would a larger audience. ... Make your entrance, read, talk, take questions, exactly as you'd do if there were 20 people, or 200.

And this one that I find is too often not done:
* In most venues, people will ask questions from their seats without a microphone. Always repeat the question. Even if you could hear it perfectly, that might not be true for the people sitting behind the questioner.

If you are a novelist, memoirist, poet, storyteller, speech-maker, bookstore owner or open mic participant, this is a book you should read. My only regret is that I didn't have the opportunity to read it when I first began speaking.

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5. TV alert

A. THE SUPER BOWL: Sunday, Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. on CBS
Since the Eagles are not in the game, I'll nevertheless watch for both the ads and find out who the performers (Maroon 5 with an asset from Travis Scott and Big Boi) in the half-time show. I'm also hoping for a close game that ends at the last second.

Note: Stay tuned after the game for a new global talent show, THE WORLD'S BEST, hosted by the offscreen James Corden.

B. AMERICAN SOUL: Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on BET
This serialized drama goes behind the scenes of Soul Train in the 1970s when it launches into national syndication as the R&B answer to American Bandstand.

C. Thanks to both Risa Reavely and Jeremy Lerner for recommending THE GOLDBERGS. I've started watching the show and find that this comedy based on a real Philadelphia family is funny. You can see for yourself by watching on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on ABC.

Note: For one of the best episodes I've seen so far (about an overzealous stage parent who learns that his son has no interest in the school production of FIDDLER ON THE ROOF), please click: [Here](#)

D. THE OTHER TWO: Thursdays at 10:30 p.m. on Comedy Central
The series follows a fledgling 28-year old actor (played by Drew Tarver) and his hot mess of a sister (played by Master of Sex's Heléne Yorke) whose lives are upended when their brother becomes an overnight YouTube celebrity, more or less the next Justin Bieber. According to Chris Longo at Den of Geek, "This looks like it could be Comedy Central's next breakout hit, with some promising new faces, welcome old ones, and a slew of top notch guest stars."

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6. Joke 2

The things you learn online! (Thanks, Channah Mohler, for posting.)

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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

- (1) Steven Shulman: Promo Video for Press Release: [Here](#)

Note: After you see this promo, get the book that's mentioned in it. You'll find Steven's story to be riveting! To purchase a copy, please click: [Here](#)

- (2) Majo John Madden: Majo Affirmative Poetry. (2) Corey Hamash: Save the Date!!! 6th Annual Asheville Food Truck Showdown. (3) David Hopes: Need some art? Reminder that my show PERIMETERS is open in the UNCA Library. (4) Bob Strain: Hello, Asheville friends. I'm excited to be featured guest performer Monday, Feb. 4, on jazz night at One World Brewing West.

B. PANJ event

Cathy Leary: Stop the Elcon Waste Incinerator!

PS: Make it a wonderful week!

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8. Technology tip

Mark Bennett: Images are not coming through in the last newsletters. Under jokes, blank box with a small question mark in the middle.

Response: This sometimes happens when using your phone. Try using your PC or laptop. ... Another option: Open and view with a different browser.

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9. Joke 3

Two guys along with one of them at a traffic light in their car when a bunch of rowdy drunks pull up alongside of sitting. "Hey, show us your tits, we bloody penguins!" shouts one of the drunks. ... The Mother Superior turns to Sister Margaret and says, "I don't think they know who we are. Show them your cross." ... So Sister Margaret rolls down her window and shouts, "Screw off ye little fookin' wankers before I come over there and rip yer nuts off!" ... Sister Margaret then looks back at the Mother Superior and asks, "Did that sounds cross enough?" (Thanks, Ginger Heskett, for sharing.)

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10. A quote I like

"Success is peace of mind, which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming." --John Wooden (1910-2010), American basketball player and head coach at the University of California, Los Angeles. Nicknamed the "Wizard of Westwood," he won ten NCAA national championships in a 12-year period as head coach at UCLA, including a record seven in a row.

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11. Thought for the day

Soooo true ...

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12. Advance planning department

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

[Here](#)

A. NC events

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