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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) Extend kudos to Dave Bates for writing, directing and producing SEVEN SINGERS SINGING: A MUSICAL REVUE that recently played to three sold-out performances at The Magnetic Theatre. All those in attendance were treated to 30 original songs that deserve to be heard over and over again. Plaudits, also, to the talented performers who made the show the success that it was: Richard Blue, Mandy Bean, Nana Hosmer Griffin, Alex Guazzo, Tasha Pepl, Matt Wade and Hannah Williams. Hopefully, this production will be soon be restaged. If that happens, don't miss it!



Afterward, we went with Dave Bates, Tom Gallagher, Marcy Gallagher and Barbara Walk to Fresh Wood Fired Pizza for some terrific food, and we also liked watching the pizza-tossing talents of the two cooks.



B. On another night, we went to O'Charley's for some tasty hamburgers and friendly service from another Cynthia.



C. In case you missed my BLAINESWORLD radio shows on WPVM initially, here's your chance to catch up on them.

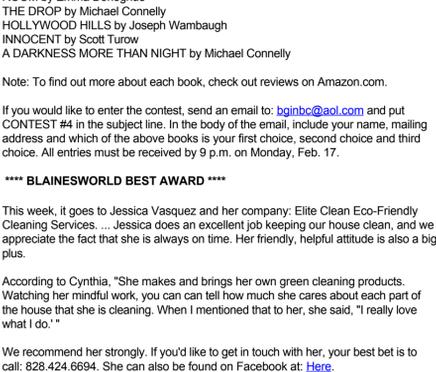
Note: Special thanks to Grail Moviehouse for sponsorship of the above. To find out what's currently playing, please click: [Here](#).

(1) BLAINESWORLD show: 2.5.2020: Guests: (first half) Scott Burnette and Kelley Klope, both with the Asheville Fire Department; and (second half) Kay Galvin, actor. To view it, please click: [Here](#).

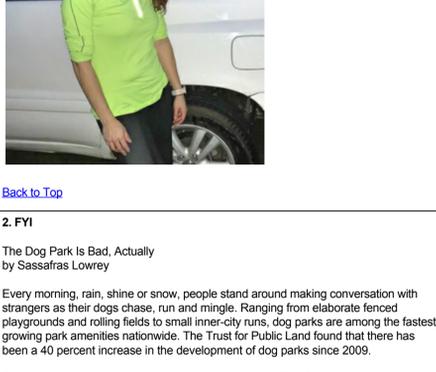


(2) BLAINESWORLD: 2.5.2020 (special extra show): Guests: Members of the Land of the Sky Men's Chorus, discussing--and singing about--next week's Singing Valentine Delivery. Guests, L-R: Pete Kirchner, Steve Anderson, Randy Hagan and CJ Wilson. To view it, please click: [Here](#).

Note: If you'd like to get your own Singing Valentine Delivery, you can arrange it by clicking: [Here](#).



(3) BLAINESWORLD: 2.3.2020 (on the road). Guest: Doug Savitt. To view it, please click: [Here](#).



(4) BLAINESWORLD show: 2.7.2020 (on the road): Guest: Mike Martinelli, movie fan extraordinaire, discussing the 2020 Oscars. To view it, please click: [Here](#).



D. Condolences to:

(1) Dave Earhardt and family on the passing of Eugene Earhardt, Dave's father. To read the obituary, please click: [Here](#).

(2) Jennie Diaz and family on the passing of Rose Marie Giardine, Jennie's mother. To read the obituary, please click: [Here](#).

E. Congratulations to:

(1) Barb Fiedler on being named a Top Producer by Preferred Properties.

(2) Bill Hemmig on having his short story, "Head On," featured in the current issue of the journal Philadelphia Stories. To read it, please go to page 12 when you click: [Here](#).

(3) Daphne Carson, winner of Contest #3: a copy of my amazing friend Brian Bir's book: BEYOND SUCCESS: THE 15 SECRETS TO EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND LIFE BASED ON LEGENDARY COACH JOHN WOODEN'S PYRAMID OF SUCCESS. All told, there were five entries, and that reminds me it is now time to introduce ...

****** CONTEST #4 ******

If you like listening to books on CD, this is the contest for you to enter. There will be five winners, each of whom will win one of the following books on CD:
ROOM by Emma Donoghue
THE DROP by Michael Connelly
HOLLYWOOD HILLS by Joseph Wambaugh
INNOCENT by Scott Turow
A DARKNESS MORE THAN NIGHT by Michael Connelly

Note: To find out more about each book, check out reviews on Amazon.com.

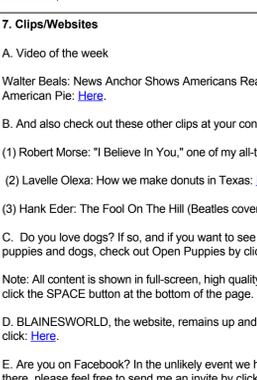
If you would like to enter the contest, send an email to: bjnbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #4 in the subject line. In the body of the email, include your name, mailing address and which of the above books is your first choice, second choice and third choice. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 17.

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

This week, it goes to Jessica Vasquez and her company: Elite Clean Eco-Friendly Cleaning Services. ... Jessica does an excellent job keeping our house clean, and we appreciate the fact that she is always on time. Her friendly, helpful attitude is also a big plus.

According to Cynthia, "She makes and brings her own green cleaning products. Watching her mindful work, you can tell how much she cares about each part of the house that she is cleaning. When I mentioned that to her, she said, "I really love what I do. "

We recommend her strongly. If you'd like to get in touch with her, your best bet is to call: 828-424-6694. She can also be found on Facebook at: [Here](#).



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2. FYI

The Dog Park is Bad, Actually
by Sassafraas Lowrey

Every morning, rain, shine or snow, people stand around making conversation with strangers as their dogs chase, run and mingle. Ranging from elaborate fenced playgrounds and rolling fields to small inner-city runs, dog parks are among the fastest growing park amenities nationwide. The Trust for Public Land found that there has been a 40 percent increase in the development of dog parks since 2009.

The first dog park in the United States was the Ohlone Dog Park, which was founded by Martha Scott Benedict and Doris Richards in 1979 in Berkeley, Calif. Since then, dog parks have become standard amenities in developing city and suburban neighborhoods across the country, but are they actually good for dogs? Surprisingly, canine behavior experts aren't so sure.

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

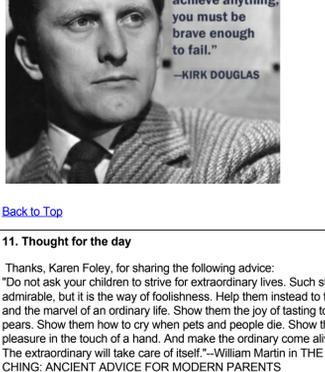
FYI, part 2

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

(1) Karen Foley: Afternoon Naps are a Sign of Healthiness, Not Laziness. (2) Why you should give money directly and unconditionally to homeless people. (3) Mandy Bean: The Importance of Dancing Like an Idiot. (4) Rebecca Quinn: Best Friends Build Their Own Tiny Town So They Can Retire and Grow Old Together. (5) Trissa King: Stop Saying "I'm Sorry for Your Loss."

3. Joke 1

Soooo cute! If only problem ... it now has me humming these words when I hear the original song! If you want to join me, click: [Here](#). (Thanks, Vera Brown, for sharing.)



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4. Reviews

A. Saw PARASITE, a South Korean black comedy about two families whose lives intersect. It is both brilliant and violent (perhaps too much so for some). Kudos to Bong Joon-Ho for both writing and directing this film. Rated R.

B. Here's what my friend Mike Martinelli had to say about the above:
By far the best picture of 2019. It will definitely win best international film (formerly best foreign film), and it should be the first foreign film to win best picture. Will the Academy actually do it? Hey, they awarded MOONLIGHT, an all-black gay film best picture, so it is possible.

His rating: ****

C. Read FOUL BALL: MY LIFE AND TIMES TRYING TO SAVE AN OLD BALLPARK (RosettaBooks) by Jim Bouton, an absorbing account of the author's efforts to save Waconah Park--one of the oldest stadiums in the United States. Although this would have cost the town nothing and 98% of the residents loved the idea, it eventually did not come to fruition because of opposition from Mayor, the Mayor's hand-picked Parks Commissioners, a majority of the City Council, the only daily newspaper, the city's largest bank, it's most powerful law firm and a guy from General Electric. What a shame!

Note: I liked this, but give an even stronger recommendation to Bouton's first book: BALL FOUJR. If you've never read that one, I encourage you to do so. It is listed in TIME MAGAZINE's 100 greatest non-fiction books of all time.

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5. TV alert

A. THE 92ND ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS: Sunday, Feb. 9, at 8 p.m. on ABC I'll be watching, though I miss the fact that there won't be an emcee for the second consecutive year.

B. AMERICA'S GOT TALENT: THE CHAMPIONS: Monday, Feb. 10, at 8 p.m. on NBC
The Top 10 finalists perform. Right now, I'm pulling for Alexa Laubenberger and her dog act. For more information about what's in store, please click: [Here](#).

C. THE CONNORS: Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 8 p.m. on ABC
The working-class clan goes live twice (once for each coast) with up-to-the minute results of the New Hampshire primary and a reminder about the importance of voting.

D. FOR LIFE: Series premiere on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 10 p.m. on ABC
According to TV GUIDE, [This is an] "earnestly compelling legal drama about a jailhouse lawyer working to secure his own and other inmates' freedom."

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6. Joke 2

The pope, after finishing a meeting in the United States, is being driven to the airport. Since he has never driven a limo, he asks the chauffeur if he could drive for a while.

The reluctant chauffeur pulls over along the roadside, climbs into the back of the limo and lets the pope take the wheel. The pope then merges onto the highway and accelerates to over 90 mph to see what the limo could do. ... The limo is soon stopped by a cop. The cop takes one look at the situation and radios to headquarters. He tells the chief he's got a pretty important person on his hands. ... The chief asks, "Is he more important than the mayor?" ... Cop says, "Yes." ... Chief asks, "Is he more important than the governor?" ... Cop says, "Yes." ... Chief asks, "Is he more important than the President?" ... Cop says, "Yes." Chief asks, "How important can he be?" ... Cop says, "I don't know, but he's got the pope for a driver." (Thanks, BJ Leiderman, for sharing.)

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7. Clips/Websites

A. Video of the week

Walter Beals: News Anchor Shows Americans Real Size of Wealth Gap-Using American Pie. [Here](#).

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

(1) Robert Morse: "I Believe In You," one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Lavelle Olexa: How we make donuts in Texas: [Here](#).

(3) Hank Eder: The Fool On The Hill (Beatles cover): [Here](#).

C. Do you love dogs? If so, and if you want to see GIFs and small videos of adorable puppies and dogs, check out Open Puppies by clicking: [Here](#).

Note: All content is shown in full-screen, high quality mode. To see the next picture, just click the SPACE button at the bottom of the page.

D. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click: [Here](#).

E. 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

How to Take Control of Your Notifications
by J.D. Biersdorfer

Notifications on your phone and computer are great for keeping up to date with breaking news, weather and traffic updates. But those real-time alerts popping up can also drive you nuts with the frequent interruptions bombarding your screen - not to mention the battery burn on your device from all the activity.

Between a presidential election, the Olympics and the usual swirl of current events, 2020 promises to be an especially busy year. If you're already feeling the information overload and want to dial down the notifications, or just need a little peace and quiet, here's a guide to managing your alerts so you get the most useful updates.

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

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9. Joke 3

I was talking in my sleep last night. I kept saying marshmallow, graham cracker and chocolate bar--over and over again. This morning, my wife told me "You kept me up all night with your s'moring!" (Thanks, Bill Lewis, for sharing.)

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10. A quote I like

Thanks, Kirk Douglas (1916-2020), for your memorable performance in more than 90 films, including such classics as CHAMPION, LUST FOR LIFE, PATHS OF GLORY and SEVEN DAYS IN MAY. ... I'll remember you best, though, for SPARTACUS--not only for your acting but also for the fact that you gave full credit to the screenwriter, Dalton Trumbo, who was on the Hollywood blacklist at the time. And in doing , you helped end it ... For more information about his life, please click: [Here](#).

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11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Karen Foley, for sharing the following advice:
"Do not ask your children to strive for extraordinary lives. Such striving may seem admirable, but it is the way of foolishness. Help them instead to find the wonder and the marvel of an ordinary life. Show them the joy of tasting tomatoes, apples and pears. Show them how to cry when pets and people die. Show them the infinite pleasure in the touch of a hand. And make the ordinary come alive for them. The extraordinary will take care of itself."--William Martin in THE PARENT'S TAO TE CHING: ANCIENT ADVICE FOR MODERN PARENTS

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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) WNC Needs Census Takers. (2) Dawn Westmoreland: Now accepting applications for the Asheville Fire Department's Citizens Fire Academy. (3) Hendersonville Community Theatre: A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM. (4) Melton Weddick: CORIOLANUS 2020.

B. PAVNI event

Kelsey Theatre: LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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