



#11711  
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**In this issue**

- [1. Reflections](#)
- [2. FYI](#)
- [3. Joke 1](#)
- [4. Reviews](#)
- [5. TV alert](#)
- [6. Joke 2](#)
- [7. Clips/Websites](#)
- [8. Technology tip](#)
- [9. Joke 3](#)
- [10. A quote I like](#)
- [11. Thought for the day](#)
- [12. Advance planning department](#)

**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: [blainbc@aol.com](mailto:blainbc@aol.com) and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Send kudos to all involved in the fabulous production of FOOTLOOSE at Asheville Community Theatre, including those pictured: Dillon Giles, Anne Lowell, Heather Bronson, John O'Neill, Jacob Wasas, Lynda Shuler, Mark Jones, Matthew Harper and Jerry Crouch. And also to my other Facebook friends, including: Adam Lentini, Emily McCurry, Karyn Panek, Marisa Noelle, Carina Lopez, Jill Summers, Tina Pisano-Foor Christine Eide and Melissa Stone. ... To see any of these pictures at full size, click: [Here](#).



(2) Afterward, we went with our theatre companion and friend Judy Ray for a delicious dinner at the Korean House where we received fine service from Cody..



B. During the week, I:

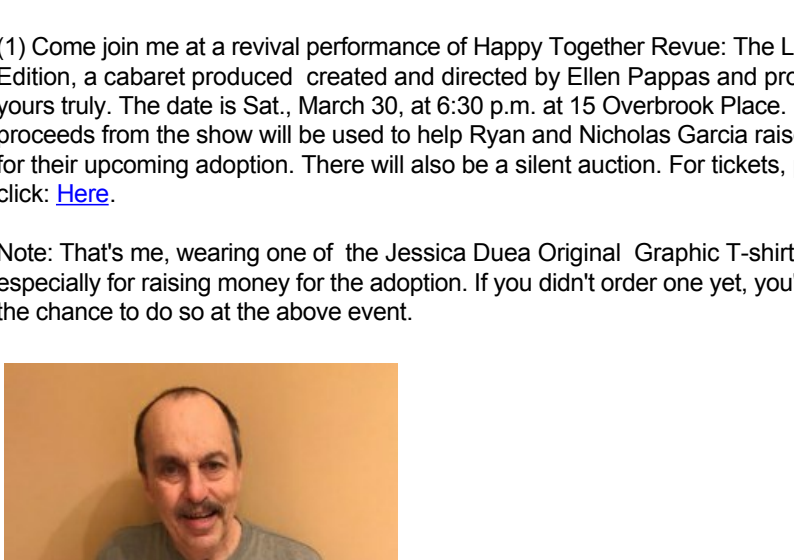
(1) Had fun at the Grand Opening of The Center for Art and Inspiration. To see these pictures at full size, click: [Here](#). ... When you do, you'll also see a YouTube link to an interview with Jimmy Ferraro, the Center's dynamic producer/director.



(2) Had the pleasure of seeing the world premiere production of JUST ANOTHER BIG DOG at Brevard Little Theatre, written and directed by Mark Thompson. ... This thriller about a trio of bank robbers who get snowed-in features stellar performances from all in the cast of seven: Tad Fogel, Joan Rinchisen, Sally Burnett, Heather Denton, Andy Thompson, John Adams and Doug Campen.



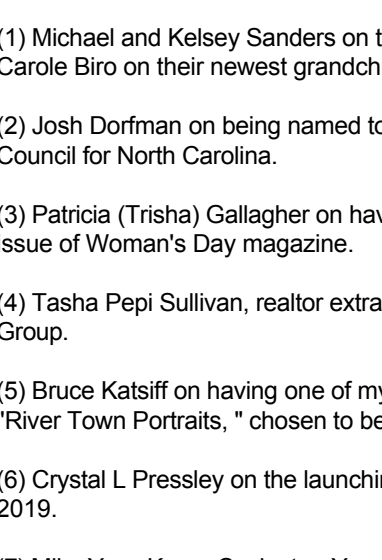
C. WPMVFM invites you to listen to the BLAINESWORLD show from Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019. ... The guests were: Susan Dobroski (front row left), Chief Play Officer of The Tobrany of Asheville, and Bailey Nickerson, Owner of CandyCapsule (front row right), in the first half; and Terry Crosby (rear row right), writer, coach/consultant, speaker in the second half. ... to listen to the broadcast, click: [Here](#).



**D. Invitations:**

(1) Come join me at a revival performance of Happy Together Revue: The Love Edition, a cabaret produced created and directed by Elias Pappas and produced by yours truly. The date is Sat., March 30, at 8:30p.m. at 15 Overbrook Place. ... All proceeds from the show will be used to help Ryan and Nicholas Garcia raise money for their upcoming adoption. There will also be a silent auction. For tickets, please click: [Here](#).

Note: That's me, wearing one of the Jessica Deua Original Graphic T-shirt designed especially for raising money for the adoption. If you didn't order one yet, you'll still have the chance to do so at the above event.



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

\*\*\*\* Contest #5 \*\*\*\*

One lucky reader will win a copy of a CD from LETTERS FROM HOME. To enter the contest, send an email to: [blainbc@aol.com](mailto:blainbc@aol.com) and put CONTEST #5 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, March 4.

Note: To view a song from the group, please click: [Here](#).

**E. Congratulations to:**

(1) Michael and Kelsey Sanders on the birth of their daughter, as well as to Brian and Carole Bero on their newest grandchild.

(2) Josh Dorfman on being named to Governor Roy Cooper's Entrepreneurship Council for North Carolina.

(3) Patricia (Trisha) Gallagher on having her Happy Flower Day Project in the March issue of Woman's Day magazine.

(4) Tasha Pepi Sullivan, realtor extraordinaire, on joining the Rouleau Real Estate Group.

(5) Bruce Katsliff on having one of my photographs, "Val and Melpia" from the series "River Town Portraits," chosen to be exhibited at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

(6) Crystal L. Pressley on the launching of North Carolina Bride Magazine in August of 2019.

(7) Mike Yow, Karen Covington-Yow, Miles Rice, Orez Ryan and others for being named BEST ENSEMBLE CAST at the 15 Minutes of Fame Film Festival in Cocoa Beach, Florida.

(8) Tom Orr on his upcoming return to the stage-and being featured in this excellent article by Jean Brenner: [Here](#).

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

This week, it goes to Murray Raphael--my longtime friend and marketing guru--who recently passed away.

Murray or as I told everybody, "my friend Murray," was a big influence on my life. I first met him in the 1980s as a result of a freelance job I had at the time, i.e., covering meetings for DIRECT MARKETING MAGAZINE. I had a prior comtech so I sent a student in my place. The student came back and told me that Murray was a terrific speaker. He also told me that Murray had given him a book for me to read (THE GREAT BRAIN ROBBERY).

I remember reading it and taking notes on virtually every page. Shortly thereafter, I wrote Murray a thank you note, and he immediately responded.

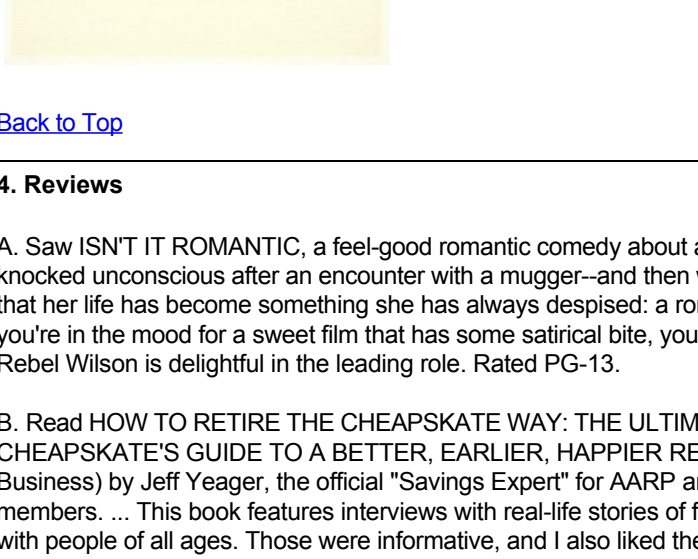
We continued writing back and forth and then Murray invited me to hear him speak in Atlantic City. Afterward, we had our first of a number of meals together.

I was fortunate to get to hear Murray speak several more times, and I was honored when he asked me to speak at a conference he organized. In addition, he heard me speak at another conference, and he gave me valuable feedback that I still remember.

For some 20 years, I used THE GREAT BRAIN ROBBERY as my text for the marketing classes that I taught at Bucks County Community College. When it became out of print, I switched to another brilliant book he wrote, UP THE LOYALTY LADDER.

Pictured (below) was me with Murray on the last time I got to see him when he was at The Memory Care Unit of Brandywine. That's his lovely wife Ruth on his left and Doty Mastroiolo, Invest Coordinator at The Memory Care Unit, on his right.

For more information about this remarkable guy, please click: [Here](#).



[Back to Top](#)

**2. FYI**

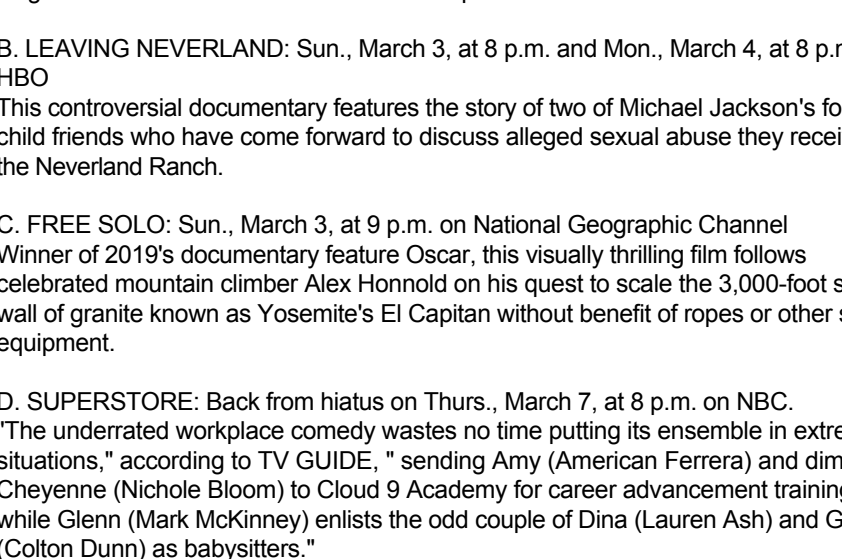
Thanks, Rhoda Weaver, for sharing this article:  
You Could Get Hired To Taste Chocolate For Cadbury by Marie Rossiter

You know the saying "find a job you love and you'll never work a day in your life?" Well, we think we may have found the perfect job to fit these words of wisdom: professional chocolate taster. Though the position may sound too good to be true, it actually exists - and Cadbury is hiring!

Mondelēz International, the company which owns popular brands such as Cadbury and Oreo, posted a job listing outlining the responsibilities of the job. According to the listing, Cadbury is looking for four people to join its tasting team.

To find out more, please click: [Here](#)

Note: My kind of job--and to think, I'd even get paid to do it! ... Has me packing for a move to England. ... And if you'd be willing to take one of the other three openings after I get hired, the good news is that you still have until March 8 to apply.



FYI, part 2

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

(1) William Brochinsky: NC actors sought. (2) Jason Scholder: Good stuff! (3) Michael Ginsberg: Your newsletter is great. (4) Eric Weisberger: Thank you for your newsletter. (5) Enabling the Stage With Technology. (6) Erik Dobell: Looks like you met my good friend Erim from "Let's say Happy Birthdays, Merry Christmas, etc. You don't have to call. (7) Vickie Gaddy: Please, Tell everyone. Urgent: free Christmas Cactus plants. (8) Wedding Venues That Are Cheap for a Reason.

[Back to Top](#)

**3. Joke 1**

Want to participate with me? (Thanks, Lyn Donley, for sharing.)



[Back to Top](#)

**4. Reviews**

A. Saw ISNT IT ROMANTIC, a feel-good romantic comedy about a woman who is knocked unconscious after an encounter with a mugger--and then wakes up to find that her life has become something she has always despised: a romantic comedy. If you're in the mood for a sweet film that has some satirical bite, you'll enjoy this one. Rebel Wilson is delightful in the leading role. Rated PG-13.

B. READ HOW TO RETIRE THE CHEAPSKATE WAY: THE ULTIMATE CHEAPSKATE'S GUIDE TO A BETTER, EARLIER, HAPPIER RETIREMENT (Crown Business) by Jeff Yeager, the official "Savings Expert" for AARP and its 40+ million members. ... This book features interviews with real-life stories of frugal retirees, along with people of all ages. Those were informative, and I also liked the author's breezy style of writing.

But what I enjoyed most the hundreds of retirement tips and savings, including: \* Reduce your dependency on money as much as possible, thereby reducing your need for greater cash flow. \* Consistently living below our means throughout your working years is one of the most important keys to retiring better, earlier, and happier. It allows you to save for retirement, conditions you to living on a fixed budget, and lets you avoid having to gamble on risky investments to make up for lost investing time. \* Volunteer at theater and concerts. Over the course of ten years Madeline has been ushering, she's saved at least \$12,000 in ticket costs, something she's all too happy to sing about.

And perhaps my favorite one was this: \*How would you like to have an extra \$600,000 saved for your retirement. According to a fascinating but shocking chart put together by the website [CreditLoan.com](#), titled "The Lifetime of Debt: The financial journal of the Average American" ..., that's how much the average American is now projected to pay in interest over the course of his or her lifetime. It makes me nauseous even thinking about it.

Don't feel you have to be retired or close to retirement age to enjoy this book. Methinks you'll benefit from it at almost age.

[Back to Top](#)

**5. TV alert**

A. LARRY CHARLES' DANGEROUS WORLD OF COMEDY: Now available via Netflix  
A four-episode Netflix documentary series about the twin elements of danger and laughter in one of the world's most turbulent places.

B. LEAVING NEVERLAND: Sun., March 3, at 8 p.m. and Mon., March 4, at 8 p.m. on HBO  
This controversial documentary features the story of two of Michael Jackson's former child friends who have come forward to discuss alleged sexual abuse they received at the Neverland Ranch.

C. FREE SOLO: Sun., March 3, at 9 p.m. on National Geographic Channel  
Winner of 2019's documentary feature Oscar, this visually thrilling film follows celebrated mountain climber Alex Honnold on his quest to scale the 3,000-foot sheer wall of granite known as Yosemite's El Capitan without benefit of ropes or other safety equipment.

D. SUPERSTORE: Back from hiatus on Thurs. March 7, at 8 p.m. on NBC.  
The understated workplace comedy wastes no time putting its ensemble in extreme situations," according to TV GUIDE: "sending Amy (American Ferrera) and dim-bulb Cheyenne (Nichole Bloom) to Cloud 9 Academy for career advancement training, while Glenn (Mark McKinney) enlists the odd couple of Dina (Lauren Ash) and Garrett (Colton Dunn) as babysitters."

[Back to Top](#)

**6. Joke 2**

A mother invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her 6-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" ... "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. ... "Just say what you hear Mommy say," she answered. ... The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"



[Back to Top](#)

**7. Clips/Websites**

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

- (1) Roberta Gurwood: Thief caught in action: [Here](#).
- (2) Paul Marks: Something to do if you visit China: [Here](#).
- (3) The Swingle Singers: Flight of the Bumblebee: [Here](#).
- (4) Little Big Shots: 11-year-old Kaylee Slays "Hallelujah" with Pentatonix: [Here](#).

B. Want to find out the truth about quotations? If so, check out the investigatory work of Garson O'Toole at Quote Investigator by clicking: [Here](#).

I did so when I wanted to to find out more about one of my favorite quotes: "Always go to other people's funerals, otherwise they won't come to yours." It has long been attributed to Yogi Berra, but the reality is that it first appeared in an 1876 novel by J. F. Shaw Kennedy. For more information, 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](#).

[Back to Top](#)

**8. Technology tip**

Gary James: 15 unwritten rules of communicating in the digital age, according to people on Twitter

1. Don't randomly FaceTime people. If you want to Facetime, shoot them a text or call first.
2. One word texts like OK and LOL are conversation killers. Don't respond with one word, unless you don't want to talk anymore.
3. If someone you know comments on a photo or video you posted, you should respond.
4. If someone communicates to you using a certain form of communication, e.g. e-mail, then you are expected to respond using the same form of communication.
5. Don't like your own posts. People see that, and it makes you look weird.
6. Don't ask for likes, comments or shares.
7. Don't take hours to respond without an excuse.
8. If you don't actually have to leave a voice message.
9. If someone asks you multiple questions via text, don't just reply to part of the message.
10. Don't post dozens of photos of cheesy quotes back to back.
11. It's OK to text Happy Birthdays, Merry Christmas, etc. You don't have to call.
12. Don't have one-on-one's in the group-chat, better yet, rarely send group chats. They're mostly annoying and usually avoidable.
13. Try not to deliver bad news via text. Don't deliver bad news via DMs.
14. If you don't get a response, you don't have to get angry. It's not always that big of a deal.
15. If you have time to post on Snapchat, you have time to respond to text messages.

Source: "Don't call me before you text": The new rules of communicating in the digital era" by Darwin Brown. To read the whole article, please click: [Here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

**9. Joke 3**

A 95-year-old man's golf game was hampered by poor eyesight. He could hit the ball well but he couldn't see where it went. He went to his doctor--also a golfer at the same course--for advice. His doctor had a great idea: He teamed him up with another 95-year-old man who had perfect eyesight and was willing to go along to serve as a spotter. ... The first 95-year-old man hit the first ball and asked his companion if he saw where it landed. "Yes," said the spotter with great confidence. ... "OK," said the golfer impatiently, "Where did it go?" ... After a pause, the second 95-year old replied, "I don't remember."



[Back to Top](#)

**10. A quote I like**

Thanks, Stanley Donen (1924-2019), for your direction and/or choreography of such great films as SINCING IN THE RAIN, ON THE TOWN, CHARADE and DAMN YANKEES! For more information about his life, please click: [Here](#).



[Back to Top](#)

**11. Thought for the day**

Seven Tips for Maximal Leadership by Dawn Westmoreland

1. When possible, bring in trainers or consultants to educate all employees on discrimination, harassment, and bystander training. An Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) task force shared that residential training is more effective than computer training.[1] It also allows employees to engage and ask questions.
2. Many employees do not trust their management or human resources (HR) personnel. Consider creating support groups or other programs that allow employees to voice their concerns. CEOs/leaders of companies can also offer times and days where employees can address issues with them.

For the rest of this informative article, along with additional information about Dawn, please go to Section 11 when you click: [Here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

**12. Advance planning department**

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

**A. NC events**

(1) Singin' in the Rain. (2) Rhoda Weaver: I'm Still Here! (3) WORD! with Alison Fields, DeWayne Barton and Lee Lindsey.

**B. PANJ events**

(1) Emil Matarrese: The Changing Landscape of Concussion. (2) Natalie Kaye: Music Around the World.

**PS.** Make it a wonderful week!

[Back to Top](#)

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