

You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not tooo risqué (typically in Sections 4, 7 and 10); contests; reviews of shows, movies and books; quotes, etc. ... Please feel free to share it with 437 of your closest friends and relatives.. ... And In the unlikely event that you or they are not already a subscriber, just click the following link to be added to the free mailing list: [Here](#).

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#1437

3.18.2024

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## 1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are back from our fantastic Oceania cruise. Hopefully, y'all didn't miss us too much.

B. Our ship was the Vista. It surpassed our expectations.

C. We sailed from Miami to Cozumel, Mexico; Harvest Cave, Belize; Roatan, Honduras; and Costa Maya, Mexico.

D. Some excursions we took included visits to a chocolate factory, a tequila factory and a boat ride under the water. All were pretty cool. Our only disappointment was that we couldn't swim with the dolphins in Costa Maya because of choppy seas that precluded us from getting off the boat.

E. See below for some pictures from our trip.



F. And three more.

Note: The bottom one was taken on Pi Day (3.1), so naturally we had to eat some pizza pie that day.



G. Announcing this week's ...

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

it goes to all the many folks involved in making our cruise as great as it was.

(1) Jerry Steves with AffordableTours.com took care of all the travel arrangements. Everything couldn't have gone smoother. In particular, we appreciated how promptly and thoroughly he answered our many questions. If you are looking to book a trip, we wouldn't hesitate to recommend him. His contact information is as follows: E-mail: [jerry@affordabletours.com](mailto:jerry@affordabletours.com); Direct: (281) 243-5651; and Toll Free: (800) 935-2620 Ext. 5651.

(2) Dominique Nicolle was the general manager of the ship. It was nice to see him throughout the trip. And we are especially grateful for how he helped us with a mistake that had been made with our dinner reservations.



(3) Peter Tredgett was the affable cruise director. His enthusiasm was infectious. He always had us laughing before and after every show, and we enjoyed how he spoke with us after leaving the theater each night.





(4) The food couldn't have been better. Every meal featured a wide variety of delicious choices, including ice cream in both the afternoon and at night. Every staff member was terrific--especially Marina Radovanovic who became our favorite server. She brightened our every meal.



(5) The entertainment knocked our socks off every night.

Jeff Nease, a comedian, did two separate one-man shows. He was hilarious while also being (mostly) clean. If you ever get a chance to see him, make sure you do.

The band, singers and dancers were equally outstanding. We got a kick out of meeting and chatting with Domonique Foster, one of the performers.



(6) On another afternoon, we attended a fun dance workshop run by Alexander McDaniel and Abigail Steele. By popular demand, you can even see the moves of yours truly at the above by clicking: [Here](#).



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## 2. Invites

A. Please come to either of these two Marketing seminars I'm conducting for Asheville SCORE.

Learn all about marketing yourself and/or your business.

The first is at 6 p.m. in Madison on Tuesday, March 28 : [Here](#).

The other is at 9 a.m. in Enka on Saturday, April 6: [Here](#).

There is no charge to attend, but you need to pre-register.

Note: All those in attendance will learn the difference between a right- and left-handed pencil. And person at each seminar will have the chance to win \$500!

B. Announcing ...

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

One lucky reader will win a copy of ON GRATITUDE: SHERYL CROW, JEFF BRIDGES, ALICIA KEYS, DARYL HALL, RAY BRADBURY, ANNA KENDRICK, B.B. KING, ELMORE LEONARD, DEEPAK CHOPRA, AND 42 MORE CELEBRITIES SHARE WHAT THEY'RE MOST THANKFUL FOR by Todd Aaron Jensen.

To quote one Amazon reviewer:

I have read the entire book and I thoroughly enjoyed the book. I was totally surprised that most of these celebrities are grateful for some of the same things in life that I am most grateful for. Deepak Chopra said "Give up being right!" I enjoyed Ben Kingsley's statement "Life is richer when you are not playing who you are but being who you are". I also got a chuckle from Ricky Gervais showing up at the White House wearing his pajamas - because I went to work in my pajama tops on occasion. But what says it all for me - is Francis Ford Coppola stating "It is nice to have your life be a good story."

To enter the contest, send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put CONTEST #4 in the subject line. Include both your name and mailing address in the body of the email. All entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Monday, April 1, 2024.

Note: Contest #3 had 10 entries. Steve Woodsmall was the winner. His prize was a copy of THE LITTLE BOOK OF INSULTS, edited by Rosanna Kelly.

C. Want to be a guest on my BLAINESWORLD webcast? It can now be seen on YouTube or you can listen to it on your favorite podcast player.

Even if you've been a guest before, I'd welcome the opportunity to speak with you again. I now tape via Zoom, usually in the early evening.

For more information about the webcast, click: [Here](#).

D. Are you interested in shows, movies, TV, etc.? ... If so, I encourage you to join a group I've formed on Facebook that's called Entertainment. To do so, all you need to do is follow the instructions when you click: [Here](#).

E. Come join Cynthia for the course she'll be teaching for Arms Around ASD this week: Move Your Body on Wednesday via Zoom or in person.

To attend this course and/or any other that is being offered, scroll down to Calendar when you click: [Here](#).

F. Please consider attending a Benefit Concert for Richard Shulman at Unity of The Blue Ridge.

To quote the flier:

Our connection with this amazing man and musician goes deep. Richard has served as the Music Director of Unity of The Blue Ridge for many years, weaving the tapestry of his music through our hearts and lives.

He is retiring due to health challenges.

For more information, scroll down to "Benefit Concert" when you click: [Here](#).

Note: Even if you can't make the concert, you can join me in making a donation by buying a ticket and stating "will not attend," which is an option at the Unity website: [Here](#).

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### 3. FYI

A. The 1 Household Object That Can Help To Spot Early Dementia  
It's probably already in your living room. To read, click: [Here](#).

B. The 1 Daytime Habit That's Increasing Your Risk Of Premature Death

This habit is a contributor to a heightened risk of premature death and some chronic diseases by 10-20%. To read, click: [Here](#).

C. It's Time To Stop Using Dryer Sheets In Your Laundry. Here's Why.

They're not only unnecessary, they're also damaging in a few ways, experts say. To read, click here: [Here](#).

D. Good for the United States also?

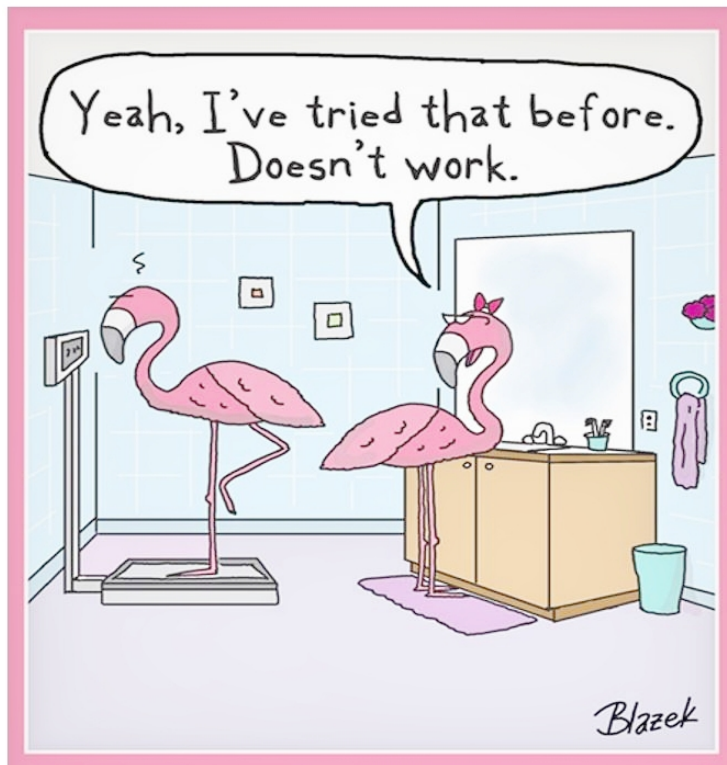
The Japanese apartment tower that is combating loneliness

The loneliness of older people is a significant problem in Japan. This apartment tower makes multigenerational friendships possible. To read, click: [Here](#).

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#### 4. Joke 1

Methinks a better approach would be to meditate, so as to make levitation possible. (Thanks, Drew Emanuele,, for sharing.)



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#### 5. Reviews

The ship offered many movies that you could watch from the comfort of your room. We saw the following two that you might also be able to find via various streaming services.

A. **AGAINST ALL ODDS** is a crime drama about down-and-out athlete Terry Brogan (Jeff Bridges) in desperate need of money. Crooked nightclub owner and bookie Jake Wise (James Woods) offers Terry a hefty sum to go to Mexico and find his girlfriend, Jessie Wyler (Rachel Ward). ... The first 3/4 of the film was great, but it tailed off greatly at the end. Rated R.

B. **LITTLE JAR** is a sweet dramedy about a misanthrope who finds herself missing human connection when she finds herself in isolation because of the lockdown. Kelsey Gunn is very watchable in the leading role. Appropriate for all ages.

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#### 6. TV alert

A. **MANHUNT**: Now on Apple TV+

Game of Thrones' Tobias Menzies is Abraham Lincoln's secretary of war, and Lili Taylor is Mrs. Lincoln, both



driven to the brink of madness on the 12-day hunt for the president's assassin, John Wilkes Booth. Patton Oswalt also stars.

**B. NOLLY:** On PBs, starting March 20

Helena Bonham Carter (*The Crown*, *Harry Potter*) plays the real-life 1960s-'70s Brit celebrity Noele "Nolly" Gordon, who refused to play by the industry's antiwoman rules and got sacked from her hit TV show. It has gotten rave review in the U.K.

**C. PALM ROYALE:** Now on Apple TV+

Kristen Wiig plays a divorcée trying to break into 1969 Palm Beach high society in a highly promising miniseries with the most illustrious comedy cast of the year: Carol Burnett, Laura Dern, Allison Janney, Julia Duffy, Josh Lucas and Ricky Martin.

**D. RICKY STANICKY:** Now on Amazon Prime Video

This is the Number One Prime Video hit. It's always fun to see scheming guys get their comeuppance – and that's the central thrust of a raunchy new comedy about three now-grown childhood buds (Zac Efron, Andrew Santino and Jermaine Fowler) who hire a washed-up actor (John Cena) to play the imaginary pal they've used for decades as an alibi for their secret boys-weekend getaways and bad behavior.

**E. THE GENTLEMEN, Season 1** now on Netflix

Guy Ritchie gives us another high-style gangster classic in this series about law-abiding British duke Eddie Halstead (Theo James, *The White Lotus*) who inherits a 15,000-acre estate and discovers it's got a vast cannabis plantation underground. Multiple colorful thugs try to take it over, including natty Stanley Johnston (Giancarlo Esposito) and East End tough Bobby Glass (Ray Winstone).

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## 7. Joke 2

What you see while traveling can be soooo profound! (Thanks, Becky Gautreaux, for sharing.)



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## 8. 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](mailto: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 cover from Simple Plan: [Here](#).

#### B. Video of the week

The impact of Kara Lawson's Duke speech eclipses basketball  
The Duke women's basketball coach spent a minute motivating her players in 2022. That short oratory has made a big impact in the two years since.

To view it, click: [Here](#).

To read the story behind it, click: [Here](#).

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

(1) Lady Gaga, "Million Reasons," one of my favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Howard Smith: Hymns (3.17.2024): [Here](#).

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: David Bowie: [Here](#).

(4) Thanks, Neil, for mentioning "Stormy Monday." If any of your many fans and friends want to see The Allman Brothers Band sing that song, click: [Here](#).

(5) "La Vie en Rose" from my friend Mari Hashimoto: [Here](#).

(6) A young bear shocked Destin, Florida beachgoers by swimming out of the ocean. It eventually got out of the water and ran through the beach chairs and umbrellas and disappeared -- presumably into the wild. [Here](#). (Thanks, Jonathan Berg, for sharing.)

D. Here's a website that you might want to check out:

You Should Have Seen This

Visit this website if you want to explore some of the most iconic internet oddities. Browse through its collection of memes, funny videos, and random events from the 2000s, and see how many you recognize or remember. Do so by clicking: [Here](#).

I got a kick out of Skateboarding Dog. To view that video, click: [Here](#).

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

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: [Here](#).

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## 9. Technology tip

Use Windows' character map to identify and create foreign symbols. ... To do so, search the Start menu for "character map" and you should find a utility that lets you copy every character imaginable and even provides an Alt + Numpad code for later use. ... For example, the euro sign (€) can be made with Alt + 0128.

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## 10. Joke 3

Money-saving tip of the day. (Thanks, Carol Leslie Duermit, for sharing.)

Did you know that if you garden naked, your neighbours will build a privacy fence at no cost to you?



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## 11. Two quotes I like

A. Thanks, Doug Blevins (1963-2024), for your career as an American football coach who was born with cerebral palsy. Though he was never ever able to play the game because of his handicap, he helped such players as Adam Vinatieri and Justin Tucker become successful kickers. For more information about his life, click: [Here](#).

I had the pleasure of working with him in my role as a SCORE mentor (helping him get a speaking career off the ground), and I also hosted him at a Biltmore Lake speaking engagement.

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**"Professional football is a results-oriented business. As soon as people saw that I could create the desired results and achieve the appropriate level of success, I was welcomed into the arena."—Doug Blevins**



B. Thanks, Eric Carmen (1949-2024), for your career as an American singer-songwriter, guitarist and keyboardist. He was the lead vocalist of the Raspberries, who had a million-selling single with "Go All the Way," and then as a solo artist had hits with "All by Myself," "Never Gonna Fall in Love Again," "She Did It," "Hungry Eyes," and "Make Me Lose Control." For more information about his life, click: [https://www.ctnewsonline.com/obituaries/article\\_b7aa0d2e-e32f-11ee-b131-ff6637cceb1b.html](https://www.ctnewsonline.com/obituaries/article_b7aa0d2e-e32f-11ee-b131-ff6637cceb1b.html).

"It's the duty of every generation to find music their parents hate."--Eric Carmen



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## 12. Thought for the day

Here's one of my favorite Irish blessings ... As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way. ... And if you're like me and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way), HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!



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

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