

From: Blainesworld blaine@blainesworld.net
Subject: blainesworld 1498 (See Sect. 12B for an amazing example of sportsmanship.)
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To: hank@hankeder.com

BLAINESWORLD

You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not toooo risqué (typically in Sections 5, 8 and 11); 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.](#)

#1498
5.26.2025

In this issue

- 1. Reflections
- 2. Cynthia's Corner
- 3. Invites
- 4. FYI
- 5. Joke 1
- 6. Reviews
- 7. TV Alert
- 8. Joke 2
- 9. Clips/Websites
- 10. Technology Tip
- 11. Joke 3
- 12. Two Quotes I Like
- 13. Thought For The Day

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I got to see to see Red. Here's my review:

Red by John Logan, presented by Blake Mountain Center for the Arts and Mockingbird Theatre Productions, was a riveting and emotionally charged exploration of art, ego and mentorship. Under the sharp direction of Julie Wharton, the two-hander crackled with intensity as John Hall delivered a commanding performance as the fiery and complex Mark Rothko, while Davin Broadhurst brought depth and passion to the role of his ambitious assistant, Ken. Their dynamic was electric, with each scene peeling back new layers of artistic struggle and human vulnerability. This powerful production was not only thought-provoking—it was excellent.





B. Afterward, we had a delightful meal at My Father's Pizza in Black Mountain, made even better by the lovely outdoor seating and warm, welcoming atmosphere. Our server, McCain, was terrific—friendly, attentive and made us feel right at home. I thoroughly enjoyed my flavorful cheesesteak, while Cynthia raved about her hearty meat and spinach lasagna. A charming spot we will happily return to!



C. Running at Parkway Playhouse from May 23-June 1, *Our Town* is a beautifully staged and emotionally resonant production of Thornton Wilder's beloved classic. Alesa Bryant delivers a superb performance as the on-stage Stage Manager, guiding the audience with warmth, authority and quiet wisdom. Raven Whitley and Nick Toner shine as Emily Webb and George Gibbs, convincingly portraying the tender evolution of their relationship from innocent childhood friendship to poignant young love. Their chemistry anchors the show's emotional arc with authenticity and charm.

The ensemble is equally impressive with standout performances from Jenny Martin, Jonathan Polgar, Peter Bobbe and Ali Ayala in key supporting roles. Additional kudos go to Roberta Whiteside, Lily Bartleson and the eight other skilled cast members who bring Grover's Corners to vivid life.

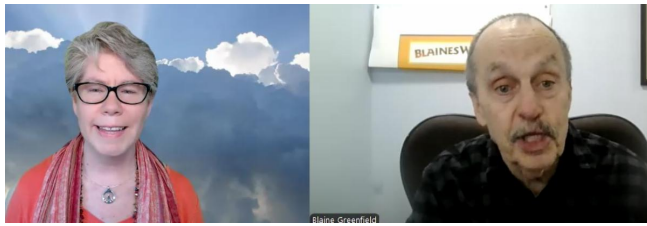
Santos Mondragon adds a delightful touch as the foley artist, crafting live sound effects that enrich the storytelling. Erika Tyner's direction is spot-on, capturing both the simplicity and depth of Wilder's vision, while Amy Buchanan's behind-the-scenes stage management ensures a seamless and polished production.

This *Our Town* is a heartfelt and moving tribute to the small moments that make up a lifetime. For tickets, click:

<https://tinyurl.com/jtyhctnu>.



D. I had the pleasure of hosting April Conner on this week's BLAINESWORLD webcast. To view our interview, look for the show from May 19 when you click: www.blaineworld.net.



E. Congratulations to:

(1) Linda Azar on her marriage.

(2) Jo Ciavaglia for winning a First Place award for feature writing from the #SocietyforFeaturesJournalism. Here is her winning story: <https://lnkd.in/ecuntZF7>.

F. Announcing this week's ...

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

Thanks, Cynthia Greenfield, for the following nomination.

It goes to Miranda Adcock, a Central Scheduler with AdventHealth in Georgia.

She was extremely helpful for me when I needed information on getting a procedure done. There was some confusion as to where I was to go and who would be calling me to arrange it.

When she answered the phone, she asked, "How may I care for you?" Deciding to have fun with her, as Blaine and I like to do with people who help us in different ways, I replied, "You could give me a massage or get me some ice cream."

Miranda played along with me. She was fun and delightful, and she was also helpful.

Most importantly, she got back to me in a timely fashion with the information I needed.

2. Cynthia's Corner

Inside the Fur - Our Animal Connections

Inside the fur, a heartbeat hums,
A quiet pulse where comfort comes.
No need for questions, no disguise—
Just life that lives between our eyes.

So simple, soft, a gentle art,
The fur that speaks straight to the heart.
A living pulse, pure and clear,
Binding souls that hold each other near.

Lately, I've been thinking about animals and our deep connections to them. I remember someone once saying to me that even when we simply think about an animal - perhaps one across the world that we've heard about or know is in need of rescue - we create an energetic connection. Just thinking of them is enough.

Blaine and I share our home with a cat named Kismet--or Kizzy, as I call him. He is a wonderful companion, bringing so much warmth and love into our lives. One of our favorite rituals when we come home is giving

bringing so much warmth and love into our lives. One of our favorite rituals when we come home is giving Kizzy a "Kizzy hug." Blaine and I hug each other with Kizzy in between us, and he just hangs there peacefully. It's the sweetest thing - such simple, pure love.



Who is your animal?? Do you have one? Or one across the world?

The following is a beautiful video of all kinds of animal connections - a collection of moments where animals gift their humans a hug. I hope it brings warmth to your heart.

[Here](#)

Warmly,

Cynthia (Greenfield)

cgreenfield1001@aol.com

PS. Please feel free to share the above and, also, I'd love to hear any reaction you might have.

3. Invites

A. Announcing ...

***** CONTEST #7 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of Sovereign Oak by my friend Moe Davis.

And yes, this is the same Moe Davis who is a retired Air Force Col. stepping back into familiar turf--running for Congress in North Carolina's 11th Congressional District. For more information about that, click:

[Here](#).

To quote from the Amazon description about the book:

Sovereign Oak, a historical novel set in the Blue Ridge Mountains outside of Asheville, North Carolina, tells the story of three historical events that took place in the Swannanoa Valley between the late 1700s and the late 1800s. These three short stories, which are based on actual events, lay the groundwork for the main story, a modern-day fictional tale of a couple who move to Asheville expecting to live quiet and uneventful lives in retirement ... until their past catches up with them and suddenly their lives are in danger. Will they be saved? And who ... or what ... might save them?

To enter the contest, send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #7 in the subject line. Include in the body of the email your name and mailing address, so that if you win, I can send you a copy of this book. Entries must be received on or before the 9 p.m. on Mon., June 9.

Note: Fred Northup was the winner of Contest #6, a copy of Dancing With Elephants: Mindfulness Training for Those Living with Dementia, Chronic Illness or an Aging Brain by Jarem Sawatsky. All told, there were six entries.

B. Leadership Asheville 44 Applications are now being accepted through the end of May, 2025. To find out more about this terrific organization and/or to get an application, click: <https://leadershipasheville.unca.edu/>.

I previously participated in Leadership Asheville and recommend it strongly. I'd be honored to nominate you for a slot. If interested, send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put LA in the subject line.

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.

If you want to join me, let me know. Send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com, if interested, and put WEBCAST in the subject line. And for more information, click: <https://www.blaineworld.net/>.

D. I'm back on Facebook after having been hacked. If we are not currently friends there (or if we lost contact because of the hack), please friend me by looking up: Blaine Greenfield. You'll see a picture of me in a blue shirt with, naturally, my thumb up.

E. 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: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/245515070390413>.

Note: Please also use the above to promote any shows you're involved in.

4. FYI

A. Cool notice that my friend David Carr includes with each piece of email that he sends out:

****CONSTIPATION NOTICE****

This communication, including any attachments, is from David Carr and you probably know that because you can read! It's interesting that you've taken time to read this piece as well because most people don't. While it may contain confidential information intended only for the addressee(s) it maybe light hearted, trivial and irrelevant. If you are not the intended recipient (because sometimes I screw up or somebody has got too much time on his/her hands and has decided to do something malicious), any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this document or its contents is up to you! If you have received this communication in error, please let David know and he will do what he can to change the situation. I hope you have a great day and do your part to make the world a better place to live!

Note: David is a trainer, facilitator and educator at Carpe Diem. For more information about him, click: [Here](#).

B. Harvard is now offering free online courses for US citizens. Some of the classes start today: [Here](#)

(Thanks, Dawn Westmoreland, for sharing.)

C. If you have this skill, you're a better boss than most, says workplace expert: [Here](#)

D. The one word that can destroy a friendship:

[Here](#)

E. I asked 3,000 successful executives what they wish they'd known starting their careers:

[Here](#)

F. Stop saying 'sorry'—to sound confident and get respect, make these 'subtle yet powerful changes':

[Here](#)

5. Joke 1

A question you did not want to be asked! (Thanks, [Janeen Ravkin](#), for sharing.)



6. Reviews

A. We both saw and enjoyed Queen Bees on Netflix. It's a heartwarming ride. Leads Ellen Burstyn, Ann Margaret, Jane Curtin, James Caan and Loretta Devine all have their moments. While reality for many in senior housing may not be portrayed, this is a movie about the possibilities of life in those years. Rated PG-13.

B. Baby Mama on Netflix is a lighthearted and witty comedy that delivers plenty of laughs, thanks to the irresistible chemistry between Tina Fey and Amy Poehler. The film follows a successful businesswoman (Fey) who hires an offbeat surrogate (Poehler) to carry her baby, leading to a clash of lifestyles and unexpected bonding. The clever script and strong supporting cast, including Dax Shepard and Steve Martin in hilarious roles, keep the energy high throughout. We liked it a lot—fun, quirky and with just enough heart to give it emotional weight. Rated age 15+ by Common Sense Media.

C. Thanks, Cynthia Greenfield, for this review of my friend Steve Darter's latest book: I really enjoyed reading Inside My Mind by Steven M. Darter. It is as if he is journaling his personal feelings and insights into some intriguing and difficult topics. His openness and honesty about his feelings are helpful as they reach out to that place in all of us that feels similarly. I love how he is not afraid to get deep into the feelings of a human being. He encourages the reader to reflect deeply. And helps one to come out the other end with a positive feeling while not closing the door on the challenging ones.

7. TV Alert

A. American Music Awards, May 26, 8 p.m. ET on CBS and Paramount+
Industry pros vote on the Grammy Awards, but the rival American Music Awards give fans (and music

buyers) the vote. Jennifer Lopez, 55, hosts a show with performances by Blake Shelton, Benson Boone, Lainey Wilson, Gwen Stefani, 55 and Gloria Estefan, 67, each doing a medley of their career hits, and Janet Jackson, 58, who will receive the ICON award.

B. Sirens on Netflix, a limited series

Charismatic high-society philanthropist Michaela Kell (Julianne Moore, 64) holds the guests at her luxurious island estate under some kind of strange psychic spell, especially her employee Simone (Milly Alcock). Kevin Bacon, 66, plays Michaela's billionaire stoner husband, and brilliant Bill Camp, 63, plays Devon and Simone's dad, afflicted with early-onset Alzheimer's.

C. Earnhardt on Prime Video

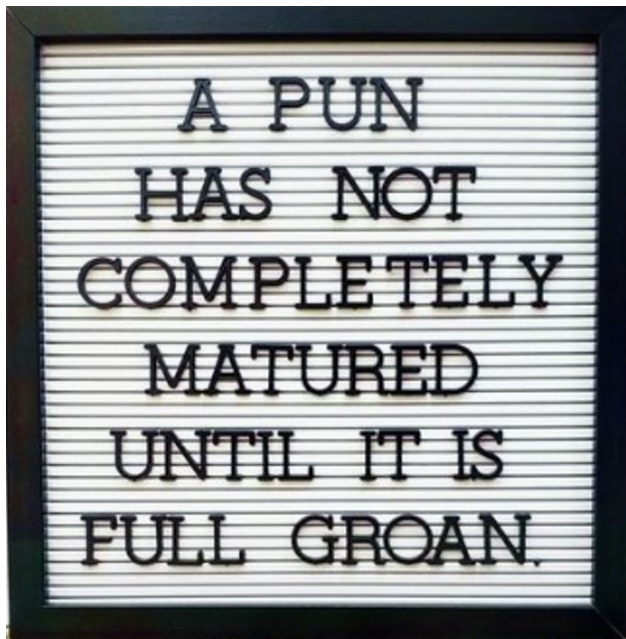
This four-part docuseries explores the life of the late NASCAR great Dale Earnhardt Sr., who single-handedly redefined stock car racing during his two-decade dominance of the track.

D. Two concert recommendations, both on Amazon Prime: Riverdance, a theatrical show that consists mainly of traditional Irish music and dance; and Peter, Paul and Mary: 25th Anniversary Concert. (Thanks, Jonathan Berg, for sharing.)

E. The Quilters on Netflix, an award-winning short documentary about men in a Missouri maximum-security prison who design and sew beautiful, personalized quilts for foster children. (Thanks, Cappy Tosetti, for sharing.)

8. Joke 2

What do you call something that's aged perfectly? This sign.



9. Clips/Websites

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

(1) Their recording of "Happy Together" proves it.

(2) As you may know, I welcome clips of them and/or others singing this classic song. For example, this week, you can see a cover from Banda ni #Kras by clicking: [Here](#).

Note: Feel free to submit your choices for greatest recording artists, music, etc. I'll try to run what you send me in in section 8C (below).

B. Video of the week

Mack the Knife as you've never heard or seen it played before:

<https://www.facebook.com/100091937413529/videos/3337721169855328>

(Thanks, Sarah Kohrs, for sharing.)

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

(1) The Shangri-Las, "Leader of the Pack," one of my favorites:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ge8_6rtQvs

(2) Howard Smith, Hymns (5.25.2025):
<https://www.facebook.com/hs.smith.73/videos/1033889225015082>

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: The Origin of Talking Heads & The Big Suit:
<https://www.facebook.com/neilratnerrockdoc/videos/4115104512142238>

(4) To hear "Psycho Killer" by the Talking Heads, click:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O52jAYa4Pm8>.

(5) Shopping with your wife:
<https://www.instagram.com/p/DJnzNUxuJH/>

(Thanks, JP Reavely, for sharing.)

(6) Never shoot down the dreams of children
She failed her stunt and began crying, but her wonderful coach encouraged her to try it again...and she nailed it!
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/x1mi1t621hk8bg9y8rjdm/Never-shoot-down-the-dreams-of-children..mp4?rlkey=93snzs939260xt245fp2yltch&e=2&st=qp dq9r2p&dl=0>

(Thanks Jonathan Berg, for sharing.)

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

Find the Invisible Cow is a fun, weird game where your mouse turns into a tool to find a cow you can't see, but you can hear. As you move around, the sounds get louder and more excited when you're close to the cow.

The cow's "MOOs" go crazy the closer you get. It's an easy but really engaging game that mixes the old "Hot or Cold" game with the funny idea of a cow hiding somewhere on your screen. Great for a quick break or if you're curious about how good you are at finding stuff that's invisible.

To play the game, click:
<https://findtheinvisiblecow.com/>.

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 looking for Blaine Greenfield when you click:
<https://www.facebook.com/>.

10. Technology Tip

A New Study Says Technology May Help Lower Dementia Risk — But Only If You Use It This Way
by Diana Kelly Levey

If you've become accustomed to searching for an answer online that you might know the answer to if you gave your brain a few minutes to ponder it, you might wonder if relying on technology is turning your brain to mush. Fortunately, new research says that might not be the case.

Overreliance on tech and the concerns that it could cause cognitive impairment led to the coining of terms like "digital dementia," but but research in this area is still in its early stages. The scientific community wants to have a better understanding of how our natural, everyday uses of technology impacts our brains, which led to this new study published in Nature Human Behaviour.

The researchers conducted a meta-analysis of 57 papers focused on general technology use among adults over 50 and found exposure to everyday digital technologies was associated with a reduced risk of cognitive impairment and cognitive decline with age.

For the rest of this informative article, click:

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

11. Joke 3

A. If stores can pay a person to watch me at self-checkout, then they can pay him or her to open a register and provide REAL customer service.



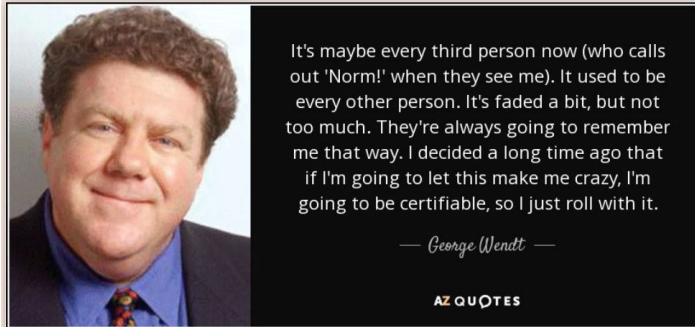
B. For the BEST answer when asked to ring up your purchase, see the cartoon that follows.



12. Two Quotes I Like

THE QUOTE LINE

A. Thanks, George Wendt (1948-2025), for your career as an American actor. From 1982 to 1993, he played Norm Peterson on the NBC sitcom Cheers, which earned him six consecutive nominations for the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series. For more information about his life, click: [Here](#).



B. Thanks, Vlastimil Hort (1944--2025), for your career as a Czech and German chess grandmaster. But I'll most remember him for displaying one of the game's greatest acts of sportsmanship. Read more about it by clicking: [Here](#).

"I believe that Chess possesses a magic that is also a help in advanced age. A rheumatic knee is forgotten during a game of chess and other events can seem quite unimportant in comparison with a catastrophe on the chessboard."--Vlastimil Hort



13. Thought For The Day

And if you see a problem, it's your chance to come up with the solution. (Thanks, Mark Goldstein, for sharing.)





PS. Make it a great week!

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