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Note: You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not tooo risqué (typically in Sections 3, 6 and 9); reviews of shows, movies and books; quotes, etc. ... Please feel free to share it with your friends. ... 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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#1289  
5.31.2021

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## 1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are loving the fact that we can get out to meet with folks and, also, that we can get to see their smiling faces. That's us eating a delicious lunch at Early Girl. (The biscuit French toast is something you MUST try!) .... We received friendly, excellent service from Jamie. ... Pictured with us, l-r: Kitty Hassan, Carole Goodman and Sandi Dior, Cynthia's cousin.



B. In addition, we got to meet our former neighbor, Steve Byas, who was visiting from Texas. The only thing

missing: Beth Byas, his wife, wasn't with him this time around. We hope to catch them both the next time they are in our neck of the woods.



C. Catch the most recent BLAINESWORLD show by clicking: [Here](#). ... Guests: (first half) Franklin Keel, cellist/singer/songwriter; and (second half): PJ Ewing, founder, Chief Marketing Outsourcer.



D. One of the highlights of my week was the fact that I got to resume eating breakfast with my friends Tom Gallagher and Brian Biro. We tried Kounty Line, located in a nearby Shell station. The food was quite good.



E. BE PREPARED TO LAUGH. (A LOT!) ... That's what you're going to do if get to see ALWAYS A BRIDESMAID at Hendersonville Community Theatre this June 4-6 & 11-13. ... You'll see the following funny women: Matilyn Hull, Sabrina Rock, Dallas Martin, Tiffany Hill, Kailey Blasius and Dru Dykes, along with spot on direction from Jonathan Forrester and dazzling costume design by Kathleen Henby & Janice Guazzo. ... For tickets, please click: [Here](#).

\*\*\*\*\* WIN FREE TICKETS (2 winners of 2 tickets each) TO AN UPCOMING PERFORMANCE \*\*\*\*\*

Email your name, name, phone number and email address to me: [bjinbc@aol.com](mailto:bjinbc@aol.com) and put TICKETS in the subject line. ... First two entries will win the tickets.



F. YOU'RE IN LUCK! ... WOMEN OF COUNTRY, SART's terrific virtual production, can still be seen through Tues., June 15. ... You'll love the starring performances from Kathleen Watson, Rebecca O'Quinn, Chelsey Lee Gaddy and Liz Aiello, as well as the other appearances from Bruce Lang, Brad Curtioff, Chelsea and Jason Cribbs, Jason Watson and Travis Michaels. ... For tickets, please click: [Here](#).



G. Congratulations to Rich Orth on the fact that five of his poems are being translated into Dutch for an anthology on Poe.

H. Invitations:

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

(2) Come join Cynthia for the virtual course she'll be teaching two courses for Arms Around ASD this week: Meditation on Monday and Move Your Body on Wednesday. To attend this and/or any of the other courses that are open to the public, scroll down to Calendar when you click: [Here](#).

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

\*\*\*\*\* CONTEST #11 \*\*\*\*\*

One lucky reader will win a copy of RISING TO THE OCCASION: THE BEST TOASTS FOR ANY CELEBRATION by Paul Dickson (courtesy of my friend Mike Lazanski) This book has a bunch of good ones, such as this one for a birthday:

Another candle in your cake?  
Well, that's no cause to pout,  
Be glad that you have strength enough,  
To blow the damn thing out.

To enter this contest. Send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put CONTEST #11 in the subject line. In the body of your email, include both your name and email address, as well as your mailing address. All entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Mon., June 7.

I. Announcing this week's ...

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

This week it goes to Arms Around ASD, the amazing nonprofit that serves people on the autism spectrum and their families.

The organization has just moved from its Charlotte Street location to a space in the Asheville Mall.

There was a soft opening on Tues., June 1, and the official grand opening in Sat., June 26.

Visitors will find a new retail venture called the Big Hug Boutique. There will be curated thrift and arts and other offerings from autistic artisans, artists and craftspeople.

For more information, please click: [Here](#).

Pictured: Jenn Hartzog (left), administrative assistant, and Michele Louzon (right). In the middle is artwork from Jason Logelin (top) and Ilene Logelin (bottom).



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## 2. FYI

If you're shipping books, educational materials, or digital media you'll want to know about USPS Media Mail.

USPS Media Mail is typically the cheapest way to ship items defined as educational materials. This includes books, CDs, DVDs, and digital recordings used for education. Figuring out exactly what qualifies can be tricky – comic books don't count?! – so we'll cover the specifics in full below.

Shipping USPS Media Mail can save you money if you don't mind longer delivery times. And some restrictions do apply.

For more information on this subject, please click: [Here](#).

Note: Don't be fooled if you are told that it takes additional time to mail something this way. Almost always, I get it to my desired recipient in just about the same amount of time had I shipped it using regular mail. Just be

aware, though, if you use Media Mail, you can't include anything extra; e.g., notes, cards, etc.

So that's why those who win one of the contests in this blog (e.g., see Section 1D this week) won't find anything other than the book when they get their prize.

## **FYI, part 2**

To read the following articles, please click: [Here](#).

A. How to Deal with the Rental Car Crunch. B. Can Wearing a Mask Reduce My Allergy Symptoms? C. How Do Animals Cross a Highway? Take a Look.

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## **3. Joke 1**

A string walks into a bar with a few friends and orders a beer. The bartender says, "I'm sorry, but we don't serve strings here." ..... The string goes back to his table. He ties himself in a loop, messes up the top of his hair and walks back up the bar, ordering a bar. ... The bartender squints at him and asks, "Hey, aren't you a string?" ... The string replies, "Nope, I'm a frayed knot."(Thanks, Kathy Byers, for sharing.)



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## **4. Reviews**

A. Enjoyed DREAM HORSE, an inspiring true story about Dream Alliance, an unlikely horse bred by a small town bartender (the always excellent Toni Collette in a fine performance). She manages to convince her neighbors to chip in their meager earnings to help raise Dream and compete with racing elites. The racing sequences are exciting. And make sure you stay for the credits.

The best part about seeing the above is that it was the first film we've seen away from home in well over a year. Also, we got to see it at the new location of our favorite local theatre, The Grail Moviehouse, where we were greeted by the friendly faces of Davida Horwitz and Steve White.



B. Thanks, Bill Branyon, for sharing this review:

Having watched the wonderful new movie "Cruella" twice over Memorial Day Weekend, I found myself confronted by how my own expressions of cruelty evolved, expressed themselves throughout my life, and currently express themselves in my present day.

Part of the reason I watched the movie twice was boredom and loneliness, certainly sources of cruelty in themselves, but the reason "Cruella" temporarily solved these problems was its a highly stylized, extremely sophisticated, and fast-paced exploration of the transformation of a wide-eyed and innocent sprite of a girl named Estella, into an amoral, revengeful, narcissistic character oblivious to the levels of suffering she imposes on her closest "friends," rescuers and even mother-and-child relations.

(In a word, Trump).

All accelerated to a joyous gallop by 37, count `em, super-cool songs of the `60s, crescendo-ing into the "most obvious song you can think of for a character whose last name is de Vil and for whom we feel sympathy," said Katie Rife in her review of the film for AV Club. ...

Emma Stone is perfectly cast as Estella transforming into Cruella, and Emma Thompson as her fashion-icon nemesis, the Baroness von Hellman. And the possible, hopeful conclusion that Disney studios has finally transcended its "Bamby," "Leave It to Beaver," and "best of all possible" world's naivete to direct its admitted genius down more realistic paths that actually help or assuage our sometimes awesome, sometimes -horrible human condition --- instead of just pretend it's not there.

Another amazing aspect is there's nary a speck of sexuality in a movie mostly about the fashion biz, so in a bizarro type of way, Disney is sticking to its asexual guns, while heightening mischievous horror to Hitlerian levels, yet somehow maintaining it all in good dirty fun. Even while, on the other hand, the movie is also exploring alternative sexualities.

What a movie!

Could it even help America shed its Disney aspect of phony innocence, American Exceptionalism and imperial self-righteousness, and so explore our lengthening shadow of gratuitous violence, casual imperial brutality, and massive dominance by the military industrial complex? No. That will have to be the sequel: "Cruella Does The World."

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## 5. TV alert

A. 5 CLASSIC COMEDIES TO STREAM: Now on Amazon Prime

Here's the list: THE DONNA REED SHOW, THE CAROL BURNETT SHOW, ROWN & MARTIN'S LAUGH-IN, THE ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW and THAT GIRL.

B. KAJILLIONAIRE: Mon., June 7, at 7:10 p.m. on HBO

Two con artists have spent 26 years training their only daughter to swindle, scam and steal at every turn. During a desperate and hastily conceived heist, they charm a stranger into joining them, only to have their entire world turned upside down. Richard Jenkins, Debra Winger, Evan Rachel Wood and Gina Rodriguez star. TV GUIDE rated it a "Movie Pick."

C. LEFT FOR DEAD: THE AHSLEY REEVES STORY: Movie premiere on Sat., Jun 12, at 8 p.m. on Lifetime A 17-year-old survives an attack and 30 hours in the wood, waiting to be found in this true-crime tale.

D. THE GOLDEN GIRLS: Sun., June 13, at 10 a.m. on TV LAND  
Catch still another classic comedy in this four-hour marathon.

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## 6. Joke 2

A man took his pregnant wife to the hospital. Upon arriving, the doctor said he had invented a machine that would transfer a portion of the mother's labor pain to the father. He asked if they were willing to try it, and they both said yes. ... The doctor set the pain transfer to 10% for starters, explaining that was probably more pain than the father had ever experienced. But as the labor progressed, the husband felt fine and told the doctor to kick the level up. So the doctor adjusted the machine to 20%, then 50% and still the husband felt nothing. ... Since this was helping the wife considerably, the husband encouraged the doctor to transfer all the pain to him. The wife delivered a healthy baby with virtually no pain. She and her husband were ecstatic. ... But when they got home, the mailman was lying dead on the porch.



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## 7. 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: [bjinbc@aol.com](mailto:bjinbc@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 1-hour loop of the song (so you can keep listening to it over and over): [Here](#).

## B. Video of the week

This was one of the best performances I've ever seen on AMERICA'S GOT TALENT:  
Dustin Tavella Performs Heartwarming Magic  
He should have definitely gotten the golden buzzer.

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

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

(1) "This Is Me" (from THE GREATEST SHOWMAN), one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

To listen to all the songs from the movie, click: [Here](#).

(2) Howard Smith: Hymns on 6.6.2021: [Here](#).

(3) Aaron Ybarra, Digital church of 6.5.2021: [Here](#).

(4) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: John Bonham is on most lists of the greatest drummers in rock and roll. Bonzo lived hard and died young but at least we still have his work with Zep to Listen to and enjoy: [Here](#).

(5) Jonathan Berg: This is what pure joy looks like: [Here](#).

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

Unique trips for every interest can be seen at Atlas Obscura. To view them, please click: [Here](#).

Note: I first hear about the above via a NEW YORK TIMES article on the company. To read it, please 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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## 8. Technology tip

10 Expert Ways to Get More Instagram Followers: A Summer Experiment  
by Dale Hrabí

Why would anyone want more Instagram followers?" sighed a friend two summers ago. "Mine just plague me with emojis in the comments." With 8,000 fans, she could get 300 likes just by aiming her phone down and haphazardly photographing her feet. I'd attracted a mere 950 followers; none was blindly interested in photos of my limbs. This seemed problematic. As the editor of a newspaper's lifestyle section when Instagram was increasingly defining lifestyle trends, I considered it a professional duty to conquer the platform and acquire

enough followers to be plagued at least a little. Besides, I was feeling competitive.

Mastering the science of growing my account became my summer project. To prepare, I watched dozens of YouTube videos in which platform pros talked very fast, outlining “tricks” and “secrets.” Here are the 10 strategies I considered or tested, driving my follower count up 20% in three months—along with updated commentary from two of those loquacious experts.

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

Note: You may see an ad to subscribe to the paper. In the right corner of the article, you should see an "X." Click that, and the ad should disappear. If it doesn't, send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put TECHNOLOGY in the subject line. I'll then send you the article.

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### 9. Joke 3

What you've always wanted ...



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### 10. A quote I like

“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.” —Pablo Picasso (1881-1973), Spanish painter, sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist and theatre designer who spent most of his adult life in France

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### 11. Thought for the day

MEMORIAL DAY 2021 ... Please join me in honoring all who lost their lives and extending sympathy to their families and friends. (Thanks, Becky Gautreaux, for sharing.)



## He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother

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### 12. Advance planning department

For more information about the following events, please click: [Here](#).

A. Montford Park Players: A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare. B. Sara Hassinger: Looking for crew for Grimm's Fairy Tales at Montford Park Players. C. Jeanie Linders: Electra bring Better Midler alive. C. Three dramas explore the margin of digital form.

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

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