

**From:** Blainesworld blaine@blainesworld.net  
**Subject:** blainesworld 1499 (See Sect. 4A to find out about our change in plans.)  
**Date:** June 1, 2025 at 5:59 PM  
**To:** hank@hankeder.com

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# BLAINESWORLD

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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](#).

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#1499  
6.2.2025

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## 1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I loved Next to Normal, which we saw at HART. Here's my review:

HART Theatre's Next to Normal is a gripping, beautifully staged musical that delivers both emotional depth and soaring performances. Under the skilled direction of Candice Dickinson, the production finds just the right balance between heartbreak and hope.

Kathleen Watson is riveting as Diana, portraying the complexity of a woman battling bipolar disorder with stunning emotional range and vocal power. Matthew Edwardsen, as Dan, brings quiet strength and a deep vulnerability to the role of a husband struggling to hold his family together.

Mars Mignon is magnetic as Gabe, blending charm and haunting presence, especially in powerful numbers like "I'm Alive." Arden Quigliano is compelling as Natalie, delivering a nuanced performance that captures teenage frustration and longing.

Doug Savitt skillfully handles the dual roles of Dr. Madden and Dr. Fine, providing both structure and subtle humor to Diana's journey. Lucien Hinton brings warmth and sincerity as Henry, a much-needed anchor in Natalie's turbulent world.

Leo Langmans does an outstanding job as Music Director, navigating the show's challenging score with clarity and energy. Emily Dake, wearing multiple hat as Assistant Director, Costumer and Assistant Music Director, enhances the production with her adroit work. And behind the scenes, Nichole Sumpter ensures everything runs smoothly as Stage Manager, keeping the emotional pacing and technical precision on point.

This Next to Normal is a must-see. It is raw, real and remarkably well done. Don't miss it!

The show runs through June 15. For tickets, click:  
<https://harttheatre.org/next-to-normal/>.



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. Review: SART's Oklahoma!—A Fearless and Fresh Take on a Timeless Classic

Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre's production of Oklahoma! is anything but traditional—and that's exactly what makes it so compelling. Directed with a bold vision by Leif Brodersen, this reimagined version of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic leans into the show's deeper themes of identity, community and conflict, offering a thought-provoking and emotionally resonant experience for modern audiences.

At the heart of the production are Sage Spiker and Samantha Resnick as Curly McClain and Laurey Williams. Spiker brings warmth and charm to Curly, while Resnick's Laurey is refreshingly strong and complex. Their chemistry is palpable, grounding the story's emotional core.

Kit Johnson delivers a gripping performance as Jud Fry, transforming the role into something far more nuanced and unsettling than the stock villain of old. Erin McCarson anchors the cast with wisdom and quiet strength as Aunt Eller. Annabel Poinsette is an absolute delight as the feisty and hilarious Ado Annie Carnes, while Colby Bell matches her energy as the lovable Will Parker. Elijah York adds flair and comic timing as Ali Hakim, stealing almost every scene he is in. And Kelli Hall gets well-deserved laughs as the ever-giggling Gertie Cummings.

The supporting ensemble, including Frank Calamaro, Daniel Sandoval and 15 other talented performers, enriches the production with energy and commitment across every scene.

Musically, the show is in excellent hands. Lenora Thorn conducts and plays piano with precision and passion, while Brad Curtioff—serving as both vocal director and pianist—brings out the full emotional range of the score. They're joined by Misty Rondeau and three other skilled musicians, forming a small but terrific orchestra that gives the music a rich, intimate feel.

Choreographer Jillian Adams infuses the show with movement that feels both grounded and expressive, and the design team—Karen Eske and Anne Knight on costumes, and Carew Henry on set—creates a visual world that supports the production's fresh, modern tone while nodding respectfully to its roots.

A quick heads-up: This isn't your grandfather's Oklahoma! Some elements have been shifted from the original version. Most of the changes work well in the context of the retelling. That said, I would have personally preferred the show to end with the title number, "Oklahoma," which was delivered with such rousing enthusiasm that it nearly lifted the roof off the theater.

Running through June 8, SART's Oklahoma! is a powerful, daring and deeply satisfying production that deserves to be both seen and talked about.

Grab your tickets here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3pht9zd3>.



D. On the way home, we stopped off for a delicious meal at The Village Porch (left). My cheeseburger hit the spot, and Cynthia liked her BLT with avocado. Perhaps best of all was our visit with Whiskey (right), a dog who was visiting at a nearby table.

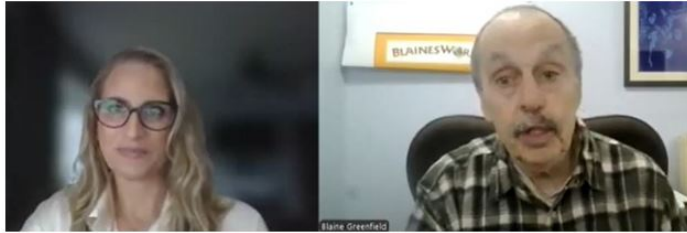


E. I hosted four BLAINESWORLD webcasts this past week. They can all be seen and/or heard by clicking:

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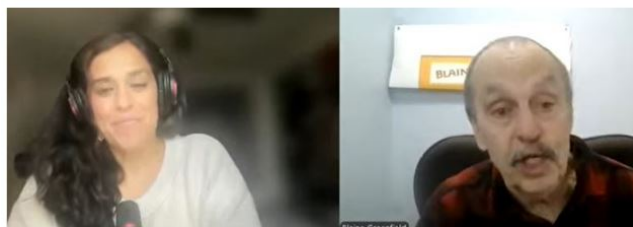
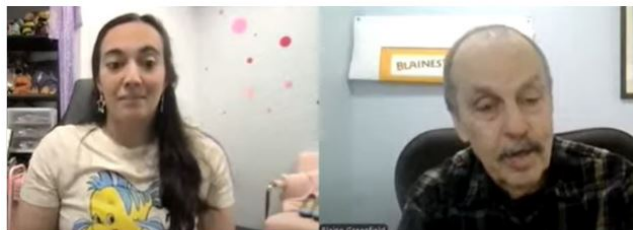
(1) Top photo: 5.26.2025 - Tiffany Foster--Owner, Aurelia Lux Collection & President, Women 4 Mentors

(2) Bottom photo: 5.27.2025 - Chuck Beattie (also known as Dr. Blues) discusses his career and upcoming Blues By Bus Tour



(3) Top photo: 5.28.2025 - Zoe Zelonky, Education Director at Asheville Community Theatre & Director, Disney's The Little Mermaid (running from June 13-July 6; for tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/3jchuyr5>)

(4) Bottom photo: 5.29.2025 - Jessica Ayala, Author--The Five Laws of Stillness: A Rebel's Guide to Spiritual Unfoldment; and Publisher, Stroll Biltmore Forest & The Ramble



F. Condolences to:

(1) Lisa Zaglin and family on the passing of Lisa's brother-in-law Peter.

(2) Jessica Vasquez and family on the passing of Jessica's father.

(3) Leah Wong Ashburn and family on the passing of Oscar Wong, her father. For more information about Oscar's life, click:

<https://tinyurl.com/yenjc3ht>.

G. Congratulations to:

(1) Ronald Rand for winning the Best Actor award the 26th International Mono Drama Theater Festival.

(2) Bill Lewis, outgoing president of the Bensalem Education Foundation, for his 12 years of dedicated service.

(3) Daniel Henry on his engagement.

(4) Ashleigh Graham for her song, "Soldiers of Heaven," making Number One on The Bluegrass Gospel Top 12 for the week of May 26, 2025.

(5) Beth Russo on the launch of her new website for People Who Help, a consulting practice created specifically for the nonprofit world. Check it out yourself by clicking:  
<https://peoplewhohelp.org/>.

H. Announcing this week's ...

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

We purchased four of the Intercoms Wireless for Home units from Amazon to use in different rooms throughout our house, and we couldn't be more pleased. These hands-free, two-way audio systems offer clear sound, impressive range, and easy setup—making them perfect for staying connected throughout the home. The four ringtone options and adjustable volume levels are a nice touch, and the standby time (up to 15 days!) means we don't have to constantly recharge. Whether we're using them to check in from the office to the bedroom or calling someone to dinner from another floor, they've been a fantastic addition to our household communication.

For more information about this oh-so useful product, click:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ycky25xa>.



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## 2. Cynthia's Corner

Kindness Seen by Cynthia

A hand extended, soft and small,  
Can lift a heart, can break a wall.  
A quiet word, a thoughtful deed,  
Can fill the space where we most need.

In giving more than just what's due,  
We find a light comes shining through—  
Not just for them, but in our chest,  
A warmth that says, I, too, am blessed.

The world feels near, not far apart,  
When kindness moves from heart to heart.  
And what we hold, when time has flown,  
Are moments someone made us known.

So when you feel adrift, unseen,  
Let kindness be the bridge between—  
For reaching out, you'll surely find,  
You're less alone when you are kind.

Thinking today of times of kindness being extended towards me:  
When I had a challenging and painful procedure more than 30 years ago, a nurse held my hand. When I was in graduate school and had a miscarriage, my professor gave me a special stone and card that I still keep. When I graduated with my Masters in Counseling, my parents gave me a card that said, "I am proud of you." These memories hold a space in my heart. I do not forget.

Then there are the times I've extended myself just a bit beyond the ordinary. How warm that made my heart feel--- how reaching out a hand to someone in need helped heal a part of me in need. Not because I could fix anyone or any situation, but because the desire to care ... to help .. to say "I wish for you....." that, all by itself, is meaningful. It's helpful.

Here is a video of children describing their feelings on why kindness is important:  
[Here.](#)

And here's another short video showing a child generously offering her own kidney to someone released from jail to be in the hospital:  
[Here.](#)

If you'd like, feel free to share a time when someone was kind to you---or when you extended kindness to someone else. I would love to hear from you!

Warmly,  
Cynthia (Greenfield)  
[cgreenfield1001@aol.com](mailto:cgreenfield1001@aol.com)

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### 3. Invites

A. Reminder about ...

\*\*\*\*\* 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:  
<https://smokymountainnews.com/news/item/39515-moe-davis-enters-nc-11-congressional-race>.

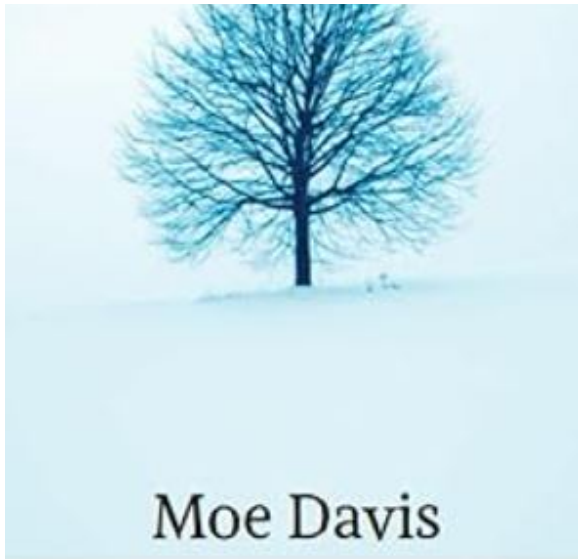
To quote from the Amazon description about the book:  
Sovereign Oak, a historical novel set in the Blue Ridge Mountains outside of Asheville, North Carolina, tells the story of three historical events that took place in the Swannanoa Valley between the late 1700s and the late 1800s. These three short 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: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@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, Moe can send you a copy of this book. Entries must be received on or before the 9 p.m. on Mon., June 9.



Sovereign  
Oak

The image shows the title "Sovereign Oak" in a large, serif font. The word "Sovereign" is on the top line and "Oak" is on the bottom line. Below the text, there is a faint, light blue image of a tree's branches.



B. 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: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com), if interested, and put WEBCAST in the subject line. And for more information, click: <https://www.blaineworld.net/>.

C. 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.

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

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

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#### 4. FYI

A. It's official! We sill NOT be going to the Cannes Film Festival this year because of the following change in rules we just read about:

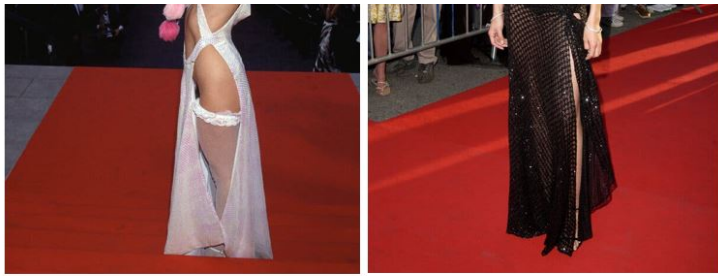
No Naked Dressing? How Will Stars Make News?

A new dress code at the Cannes Film Festival has set off a tempest.

To find out more, click:

[Here](#).





**La Cicciolina in 1988 (left) and Carmen Diaz in 2002 (right).**

B. How Much Money Do You Need to Retire Comfortably in Your State? Here's the Breakdown.:  
[Here](#)

C. Want to cut through small talk? Try asking a 'magical question.':  
[Here](#)

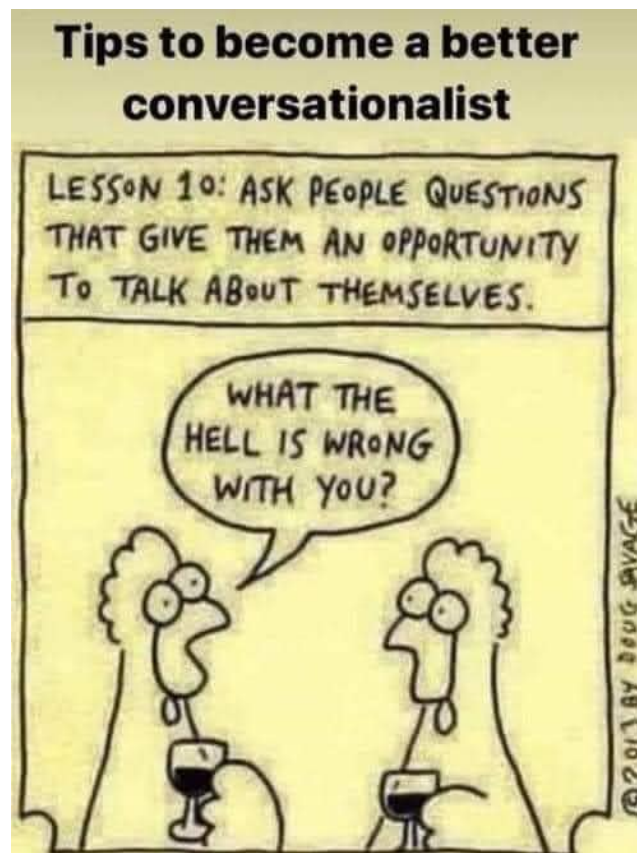
D. 8 Things You Should Never Do When You Visit the Doctor, According to Nurses:  
[Here](#)

E. With 7 Words, the Pilot on Our Delayed Delta Air Lines Flight Won Over a Plane Full of Cranky Passengers:  
[Here](#)

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## 5. Joke 1

Now you know my secret.



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## 6. Reviews

Δ "Instant Family" (2018), now streaming on Netflix, is a heartfelt comedy-drama that resonated deeply

A. *Instant Family* (2018), now streaming on Netflix, is a heartwarming comedy-drama that resonated deeply with us. Mark Wahlberg and Rose Byrne deliver standout performances as Pete and Ellie, a couple who decide to adopt three siblings from foster care. Their on-screen chemistry brings authenticity to the emotional rollercoaster of forming a new family. The film masterfully balances humor with poignant moments, offering a sincere portrayal of the complexities of adoption. Inspired by director Sean Anders' real-life experiences, "Instant Family" sheds light on the foster care system while celebrating the resilience and love that define family bonds. It's a touching and uplifting story that left both laughing and moved. Rated PG-13.

Note: I've added this to my list of favorite films. If you'd like to get a copy of this list, please send an email to: [bgjnb@aol.com](mailto:bgjnb@aol.com) and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

B. We recommend you watch the following two films back to back.

The Danish comedy *Maybe Baby* (2023) introduces two contrasting couples—Cecilie and Andreas, a structured, affluent pair, and Liv and Malte, their free-spirited, bohemian counterparts—who discover that a fertility clinic has mistakenly swapped their embryos. The film explores the ensuing chaos with moments of genuine humor, particularly highlighting the cultural and lifestyle clashes between the couples.

In *Maybe Baby 2* (2024), the story takes an unexpected turn that you'll have to see to find out what it is. This follow-up delves into themes of parenthood, identity and the complexities of modern family dynamics. We enjoyed all the actors and especially the two who played the young children.

Both films are rated TV-MA for mature content.

Note: I've also added these two to my list of favorite films. If you'd like to get a copy of that list, please send an email to: [bgjnbc@aol.com](mailto:bgjnbc@aol.com) and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

C. *Lion* (2016) on Netflix, directed by Garth Davis, is a poignant true story about Saroo Brierley's journey to find his birth family after being lost as a child and adopted by a loving Australian couple. Featuring powerful performances from Dev Patel, Nicole Kidman, Sunny Pawar and Rooney Mara, the film explores themes of identity, memory, and familial love. I was especially moved by Saroo's unending desire to reconnect with his mother and brother—a longing that never fades and deeply resonates throughout the film. The original scenes of Saroo's childhood, particularly those with his brother Guddu, are heartbreakingly authentic and pull at your heartstrings, drawing the audience into the emotional core of his story. The film's emotional climax and real-life resolution beautifully highlight the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring bonds of family. .... Rating: Age 13+ from Common Sense Media.

(Thanks, Cynthia Greenfield, for sharing.)

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## 7. TV Alert

A. *And Just Like That...*, Season 3 (Max)  
Carrie Bradshaw (Sarah Jessica Parker, 60) and her best friends Miranda (Cynthia Nixon, 59) and Charlotte (Kristin Davis, 60) are back for the third season of the sequel to HBO's iconic *Sex and the City*. John Corbett, 64, also returns.

B. *Stick* (Apple TV+), beginning on June 4  
A long washed up professional golfer, Owen Wilson, turns towards a rising young star in the game to turn things around. Costars include Judy Greer, Timothy Olyphant, 57, and some of the greatest golfers alive.

C. *Dept. Q*, Season 1 (Netflix)  
From the creator of the wonderful *The Queen's Gambit* and the team behind *The Crown* comes this British crime drama starring Matthew Goode as an Edinburgh detective who rubs locals the wrong way.

D. *The Better Sister* (Prime Video)  
This eight-episode thriller, based on a novel by Alafair Burke, centers on the fraught relationship between two sisters: high-profile media exec Chloe (Jessica Biel) and her struggling-to-stay-straight sister, Nicky (Elizabeth Banks, 51).

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## 8. Joke 2

If you don't find this funny, you need to join the other dyslectics of the world who have chosen this as their motto: Untie!

**WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU MELONS,  
YOU'RE PROBABLY DYSLEXIC.**

Facebook: Pun Based Humor

## 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 this cover from gladtobeback01:  
[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

To Keep My Love Alive (Rodgers/Hart)

From Wikipedia:

"To Keep My Love Alive" is a 1943 popular song composed by Richard Rodgers, with lyrics by Lorenz Hart for the 1943 revival of the 1927 musical A Connecticut Yankee... The song outlines the many ways the singer "bumped off" her fifteen husbands to avoid being unfaithful to any of them. Some of her methods are arsenic poisoning, stabbing and appendectomy.

Richard Rodgers died just 6 months after writing this song. Just sayin'.

To see the Elaine Stritch perform the song, click:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X\\_H9yGF36Rc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_H9yGF36Rc).

After listening to Stritch (who was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame in 1995 and also received three Emmy Awards for TV appearances ), if you ladies want to get the listing of the many ways you can kill your man, here are the lyrics:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/To\\_Keep\\_My\\_Love\\_Alive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/To_Keep_My_Love_Alive).

(Thanks, Jonathan Berg, for sharing.)

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

(1) Sonny and Cher, "I Got You Babe," one of my favorites:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BERd61bDY7k>

(2) Howard Smith Jr.: Hymns (6.1.2025):  
<https://www.facebook.com/hs.smith.73/videos/1234041181423031>

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: Bob Dylan:  
<https://www.facebook.com/neilratnerrockdoc/videos/698905126421798>

(4) Click below to see Dylan's outstanding video of "Subterranean Homesick Blues"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGxjIBZvx0>

(5) Pavarotti!:  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/DDP8B7dy4eY/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DBR6RZ0X4d/>

(Thanks, JP Reavely, for sharing.)

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

Free online courses to achieve your goals

Looking to add new skills? Is there a hobby you've wanted to try? We're Udemy, a leading destination for learning and teaching online.

If you're new to online learning and not sure where to start, you're not alone. We've curated a free collection of courses for professionals. Take one of these courses and learn new skills (on us).

For example, you can learn such things as:

Canva Essentials

How to speak to anyone & be fearless - in less than 55 min

PowerPoint for Beginners

Introductory Photography Course

To view the complete listing, click:

[Here](#).

Note: As you'll see, there are many other courses that you can take for a fee.

E. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<https://www.blaineworld.net/>.

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## 10. Technology Tip

Spotting a Fake Virus Alert Is Easy If You Know These 5 Tips  
by Brady Klinger-Meyers

Fake virus alerts prey on your fear and urgency—but spotting them doesn't have to be tricky. Thankfully, some straightforward methods make recognizing fake warnings simple, helping you stay calm and avoid falling victim to scammers.

For the rest of this informative article, click:

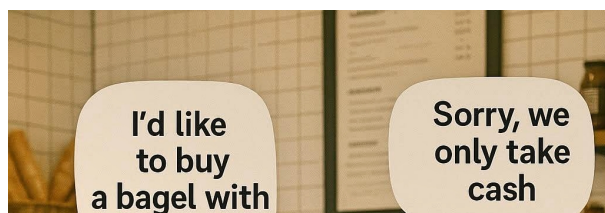
[https://www.makeuseof.com/tips-how-spot-fake-virus-alert/?utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.makeuseof.com/tips-how-spot-fake-virus-alert/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email).



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## 11. Joke 3

Talk about a real schmear campaign against credit cards.





## 12. Two Quotes I Like

A. Top: Thanks, Loretta Swit (1937-2025), for your career as an American stage and television actor widely known for her character roles, prominently her role as Major Margaret "Hot Lips" Houlihan on M\*A\*S\*H, for which she won two Emmy Awards. For more information about her life, click:

<https://apnews.com/article/loretta-swit-dead-mash-09a0a00b8076256b57b27baf231b2240>.

B. Bottom: Thanks, Rick Derringer (1947-2025), for your career as an American musician, producer and songwriter. Derringer gained success in the 1960s with his band, the McCoys. He also collaborated with Steely Dan, Cyndi Lauper and "Weird Al" Yankovic, producing Yankovic's Grammy Award-winning songs "Eat It" and "Fat." For more information about his life, click:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9yyzc65>.

**"If you care enough, you make a difference."--Loretta Swit**



**"Because I was successful over the years, I never had the opportunity to do the stuff I really wanted."--Rick Derringer**

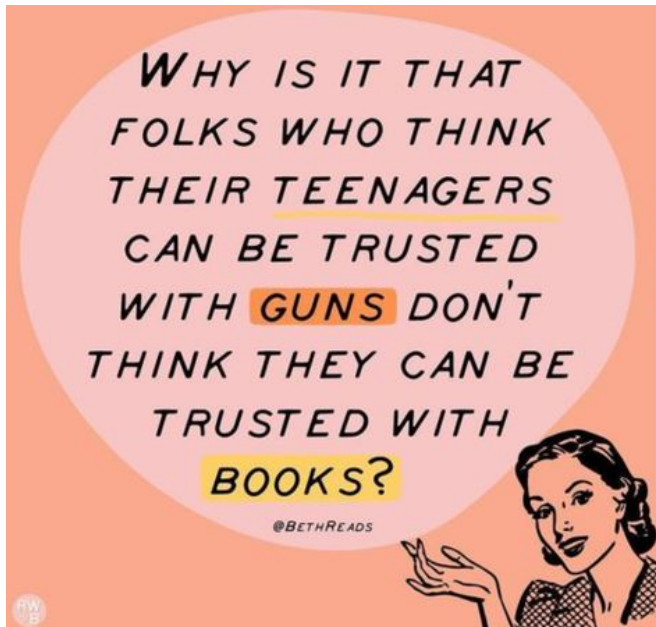




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### 13. Thought For The Day

Mental pabulum ...



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PS. Make it a great week!

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