

#1042
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1. Reflections

Note: Please see Section 1E, HELP REQUEST DEPARTMENT, and respond to it if you can possibly provide me with any assistance:

Also, 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 and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had a blast attending BUSINESS SINGS BROADWAY, a fundraiser for Asheville Community Theatre. I was honored to be chosen as part of the show. (I'm fourth from the left in the top photo) ... Kudos to all those who helped make the event the success that it was, including Jerry Couch, Musical Director Lenora Thom, Emcees Lon and McRee Hilliard, Stage Manager Richard Holcomb, Technical Director Jill Summers, Lighting Designer Adam Cohen, Sound Engineer Lee Ponder, Tech Assistant Cordell Nichols and Followspot Operators Jack Anderson and Graham Podrask.



After the show, Cynthia joined me on stage to present me with a beautiful balloon bouquet.

Note: If the balloons look familiar, that's because we have been passing them back and forth to each other for the last several years. Whenever one of us appears on stage, we give these balloons to the other person. Incredibly, they have lasted for some five years.



For more pictures from BUSINESS SINGS BROADWAY, please click: [Here](#)

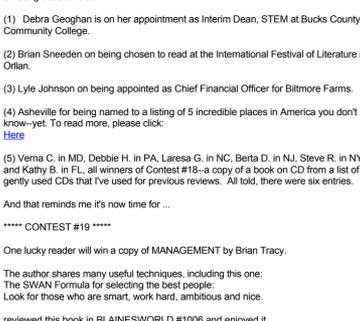
(2) Prior to the show, we joined a bunch of our friends for a delicious dinner at Wasabi: Ir. Brenda Shipley, Cappy Toselli, Annemarie Brown, Marvin Sadovsky, Grant Randall, Cenny Plaisted, Blaine Greenfield, Cynthia Greenfield and Bonnie Sibner. Our dinner was enhanced by the excellent service we received from Reza.



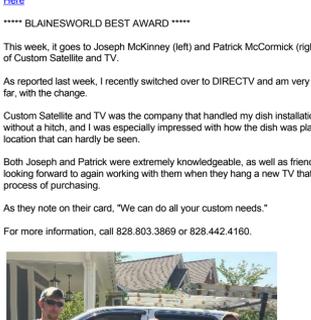
(3) Saw a very funny production of ONE SLIGHT HITCH at Haywood Arts Regional Theatre, starring Lyn Donley (second from left) and Michael Lilly (far right). Also pictured: Jeff Messer (second from right). He provided the spot on direction for the play that also featured the performances from Alexander Andrew, Lauren Kriel, Jonathan Lawrence, Josh Merrell and Kara Morrison.



We were joined at the above production by our friends who joined us, afterward, for dinner at Bogart's. Ir. Ginny Plaisted, David Joe Miller, Cynthia Greenfield, Blaine Greenfield, Robin Sanchez and Grant Randall. Lots' attentive service added to our enjoyment of the meal.



(4) Met our friends Shirley Levinson and Craig Klavuhn for a healthy dinner at Medea's Espresso and Juice Bar. It was the first time we went there. It won't be our last.



B. During the week, I heard an outstanding presentation from David Gantt--Chairman of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners. He spoke to the Asheville Jewish Business Forum at an event that was held at Strada, which featured both good food and service (from Jessica and Tucker). ...Kudos to Joel Mazelis for arranging the speaker and to Andi Block for taking care of the arrangements. ... But those in attendance will probably most remember how they were able to help make the evening a memorable one for Mr. Gantt. To quote him: "I am frequently asked about any regrets or business that I didn't accomplish or get to do during my 20 years in public office. Without a doubt, the biggest regret I had was the absence of the opportunity to speak to the Asheville Jewish Business Forum. Thanks, Joel and Blaine, for making my dream come true tonight. You have filled an embarrassing void on my resumé." ... Plan to come to our next event on October 5.

Note: For other pictures from the event, please click: [Here](#)



C. Condolences to David Brown and family on the passing of David's grandmother.

D. Congratulations to:

- (1) Debra Geoghan is on her appointment as Interim Dean, STEM at Bucks County Community College.
- (2) Brian Sneedeen on being chosen to read at the International Festival of Literature in Orfan.
- (3) Lyle Johnson on being appointed as Chief Financial Officer for Bitmore Farms.
- (4) Asheville for being named to a listing of 5 incredible places in America you don't know--yet. To read more, please click: [Here](#)

(5) Verma C. in MD, Debbie H. in PA, Laresa G. in NC, Berta D. in NJ, Steve R. in NY and Kathy B. in FL. ... 5000s of Copies! ... a copy of book on CD (I am a list of gently used CDs that I've used for previous reviews. All told, there were six entries.

And that reminds me it's now time for ...

***** CONTEST #19 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of MANAGEMENT by Brian Tracy.

The author shares many useful techniques, including this one: The SWAN Formula for selecting the best people: Look for those who are smart, work hard, ambitious and nice.

reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #1006 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Send an email to: blainbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #19 in the subject line. In the body of the email, please include your small mail address. All entries must be received on or before Monday, Sept. 26, at 9 p.m.

E. HELP REQUEST DEPARTMENT: A pipeline spill in Alabama that released 250,000 gallons on September has led to a shortage of fuel in the Asheville area. There has also been a dramatic increase in prices.

If you know any locations that have gas on Monday, Sept. 19 (or any day this week), please email that information as soon as possible. Many thanks!

For more information on the shortage, please click: [Here](#)

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

This week, it goes to Joseph McKinney (left) and Patrick McCormick (right)--owners of Custom Satellite and TV.

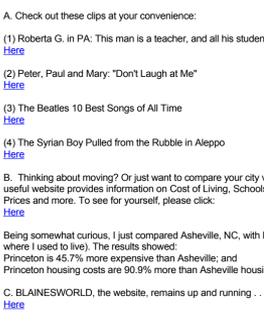
As reported last week, I recently switched over to DIRECTV and am very happy, so far, with the change.

Custom Satellite and TV was the company that handled my dish installation. It went without a hitch, and I was especially impressed with how the dish was placed in a location that can hardly be seen.

Both Joseph and Patrick were extremely knowledgeable, as well as friendly, and I'm looking forward to again working with them when they hang a new TV that I am in the process of purchasing.

As they note on their card, "We can do all your custom needs."

For more information, call 828.803.3869 or 828.442.4160.



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2. FYI

If you order something (especially online), tape the receipt to the last item you have ordered. That does two things: 1. Reminds you that you need to place a new order before you run out of the item; and 2. Makes it easy to place your order, in that you have easy access to all the information that you need--and you won't have to dig it up.

FYI, part 2

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

(1) Before you spend \$25,000 on weight-loss surgery, do this. (2) Why you should tell your children how much you make. (3) Tips to help your child have a successful school year. (4) Deborah B. in NC: I tried it (Any.Do) - not recommended due to poor customer service. (5) (5) Chic D. in PA: Wow Blaine, VERY impressed with both your Sue this time jumped and! (6) Researchers confront an epidemic of loneliness. (7) Why kids need mean moms. (8) 5 ways total strangers can make your trip better. (9) The insomnia machine.

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3. Joke 1

Yelling at kids--and adults, too--doesn't work, either.



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4. Reviews

A. Saw SULLY, the story of real-life pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger who landed an Airbus A320 full of passengers on the Hudson River. Tom Hanks is terrific in the leading role, and Aaron Eckhart is also excellent as his co-pilot. The crash scene was thrilling, as was the rescue afterward. Rated PG-13.

B. Find WHAT MAISE KNEW on Netflix or wherever else it might be available. Steve. This contemporary reimagining of Henry James' novel tells the engrossing story of a little girl in the midst of her parents' bitter custody battle. Julianne Moore, Stieve Coogan, Joanna Vanderham and Alexander Skarsgard are all outstanding as the adults, but it is Onata Aprile as Maise who will knock your socks off with her performance. Rated R.

Note: I've just added WHAT MAISE KNEW to my list of favorite films. If you'd like to get a copy of this list, send an email to: blainbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

C. Read BUSINESS STRATEGY, one of the books in THE BRIAN TRACY SUCCESS LIBRARY (AMACOM) by Brian Tracy.

The author, chairman and CEO of Brian Tracy International, a company specializing in the training and development of individuals and organizations, believes that strategic planning will enable you to develop absolute clarity on priorities, organize resources and get better results than ever before.

Tracy effectively uses a wide range of companies, including IBM, General Electric, Walmart and IKEA, among others.

He makes the subject come alive by citing real examples such as this one: Then Steve Jobs returned to Apple in 1996, the company was producing 104 different products and was in serious financial trouble. The company had only enough cash to last for another ninety days. One of the first things that Jobs did was announce that Apple was discontinuing 100 of these 104 products, as quickly as possible. By doing so, he freed up financial resources and personnel (engineers and developers) to focus on the "next big thing," which turned out to be the iPod.

The rest is history. Within a few years, Apple was the most valuable company in the world.

D. Heard LITTLE BLACK DRESS (Hachette Audio), written by James Patterson with Emily Raymond and read by Helen Wick.

The book is part of a series of BookShots from Patterson. They are advertised as lightning-fast stories that can be devoured in a few hours.

That was certainly the case with this story about magazine editor Jane Avery. She spends her nights alone in New York City alone with Netflix and Oreos until a dress turns her loose. She then becomes involved in a series of erotic adventures.

If you liked SEX AND THE CITY, either the TV series or movies of the same title, you'll like LITTLE BLACK DRESSES.

My take: I found it mildly interesting, though I'm not sure I would rush out to read another book in the series. Don't read it if you are expecting one of Patterson's typical mysteries.

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5. TV alert

A. DEIFYING THE NAZIS: THE SHARPS' WAR: Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 9 p.m. on PBS Note: Dates and times often vary on PBS stations, so check local listings. ... This new film, directed by Ken Burns and Artemis Jorkovsky, tells the story of Viestlitz and Martha Sharp, a Unitarian minister and his wife from Wellesley, Massachusetts, who left their children behind in the care of their parish and boldly committed to multiple life-threatening missions in Europe.

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

B. SPEECHLESS: Premieres on Wednesday, Sept. 21, at 8:30 p.m. on ABC Minnie Driver plays an overbearing mom who'll do anything to give voice to her exceptional son who has cerebral palsy.

C. DESIGNATED SURVIVOR: Premieres on Wednesday, Sept. 21, at 10 p.m. on ABC Kiefer Sutherland returns to TV accidental President Tom Kirkman who gets elevated to the nation's top job after a devastating terrorist attack.

D. PITCH: Premieres on Thursday, Sept. 22, at 9 p.m. on FOX This new drama imagines a world with the first female Major League baseball player. TV GUIDE says, "Not sure where it's heading, but the first inning is a wow."

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

Please do share any reaction(s) you have to the new TV season. I'm particularly interested if you are watching any of the new shows and, if so, what's your reaction to them?

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6. Joke 2

EVERY FEMALE'S FAVORITE PLACE TO EAT ... I wouldn't mind seeing that restaurant in Asheville ... and also, "You Know That Place."

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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Roberta G. in PA. This man is a teacher, and all his students love his class. [Here](#)

(2) Peter, Paul and Mary: "Don't Laugh at Me" [Here](#)

(3) The Beatles 10 Best Songs of All Time [Here](#)

(4) The Syrian Boy Pulled from the Rubble in Aleppo [Here](#)

B. Thinking about moving? Or just want to compare your city vs. another one? This useful website provides information on Cost of Living, Schools, Crime Rates, House Prices and more. To see for yourself, please click: [Here](#)

Being somewhat curious, I just compared Asheville, NC, with Princeton, NJ (city near where I used to live). The results showed: Princeton is 45.7% more expensive than Asheville; and Princeton housing costs are 90.9% more than Asheville housing costs.

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](#)

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8. Technology tip

Just in time for the upcoming election ...

Introducing Hear My Voice, a free app that puts democracy back in the hands of the people--literally.

Learn about important political issues with side-by-side comparisons in a neutral, nonpartisan space. Take meaningful actions to make your voice heard. Register to vote and contact your representatives in one convenient place. We'll notify you when there is new legislation for issues you care about. Plus we'll remember upcoming election information, so you don't have to.

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

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9. Joke 3

A nun called on Sue while she was sleeping in class: "Tell me who created the universe?" ... When Sue didn't stir, Joe who was sitting behind her, took his pencil and jabbed her. "God Almighty" she shouted. ... The nun said, "Very good" and Sue fell back asleep. A little later, she awoke. ... Joe stuck her harder, "Jesus Christ" she yelled. ... The nun again said, "Very good" and Sue fell back asleep. ... Soon, the nun asked a third question: "What did Eve say to Adam after she had her 23rd child?" When Joe once more came to the rescue, Sue this time jumped and exclaimed: "If you stick that damn thing in me one more time, I'll break it in half!"

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10. A quote I like (actually, two)

Edward Albee (1928-2016), R.I.P. ... American playwright known for works such as THE ZOO STORY, THE SANDBOX and WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF. ... He once said, "I think the fun were alive today, he'd be a drama critic." ... And also: "Do you think theatre should be comfortable? I think theatre should be there to make people uncomfortable." When then pressed if there are any taboos left in theatre, he replied, "Yes, I don't think you should be allowed to bore an intelligent, responsive, sober audience." ... For more information about his life, along with a fascinating Last Word interview, please click: [Here](#)

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11. Thought for the day

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could, and it could go no further.

So the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.

The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings; it never was able to fly.

What the man, in his kindness and haste, did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through that tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings' veins so it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives. If God allowed us to go through our lives without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. We could never fly!

Source: Author unknown; if you know who wrote this and/or where it came from, please let me know.

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12. Advance planning department

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

A. NC events

(1) Hawaiian Pottluck and Hula Presentation, (2) Story Medicine Completion Ceremony.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) The Bucks County Cabaret presents Molasses Creek, (2) Plumstead Historical Society.

PS: Make it a wonderful week!

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