

BLAINESWORLD

#1200
9.16.2019

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1. Reflections

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: bginbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Y'all get a big thumbs up for reading this issue--and any others you've read over the years.

(1) Can you believe it ... there have now been 1,200 issues, and BLAINESWORLD is still going strong.

It seems like only yesterday (10.13.1996) when I first started publishing this blog. It was called STUFF back then. And its purpose hasn't changed that much.

I still try to bring you some jokes, hopefully not too risqué; theatre news; reviews; websites; contests; information about both Asheville and PA/NJ; and consumer and computer tips.

(2) Here's a tidbit I ran in the first issue:

Hallmark offers this tip on how you can look years younger: "Hang around with very old people."

(3) Mr. Curious here: Were you one of my first readers? I mailed out about 30 copies and asked folks to subscribe. Out of those who responded, some 5 or 6 are still on board today!



B. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I were warmly greeted into our new home by our neighbor Teresa Bradley and her son Andi. They even brought us delicious chocolate chip cookies that Andi had baked.



C. In unpacking:

(1) We came across this Blaine doll hat my daughter Risa gave me when it first came out. ... For those of you who may have missed it, Barbie broke up with Ken for a short time and when she did, Blaine entered the picture. He didn't last long, but his doll did as can be seen below.



(2) We also came across this photo from sometime in the latter part of the 1970s, shortly after I had begun my teaching career at Bucks County Community College, Pictured, l-r: Hank Vankoski, Judy Toland, Warren Friel, Joanne Strickler and with a bit more hair than I now have, yours truly!





D. Catch this past Wednesday's BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM, featuring in the first half, Elizabeth Pou, Asheville SCORE VP; and in the second half, Marcia Whitney, President & CEO, and Stephanie Kelley, Curriculum Assistant, both from Verner Center for Early Learning. You can view it by clicking: [Here](#).

Note: Special thanks to Grail Moviehouse for sponsoring the above. To find out what's currently playing, please click: [Here](#).



E. Condolences to:

- (1) Trissa King and family on the passing of Paul I. King, Trissa's husband.
- (2) Charles Mills and family on the passing of Ralph Edwin Mills, Charles' father.
- (3) Meg Hanshaw and family on the passing of Frank Hanshaw, Meg's father.

F. Congratulations to:

- (1) Allison Young and John Gripentrog on their engagement.
- (2) Cappy Tosetti on the acceptance of her article by Highlights for Children magazine.
- (3) Kathy Rantz Wuttke and family on the birth of Eleanor Rey Wuttke, their new granddaughter.

G. Invitations to:

- (1) Attend my free marketing seminar at ABTech's Madison campus on Monday, Sept. 23, from 6-9 p.m. Here's the course description:
Marketing for the 21st Century small business is more dynamic and challenging than ever. Discover how to effectively and efficiently use marketing tools. Gain insights to understand and reach your customer, analyze your industry and business environment and differentiate between branding, advertising, and grassroots marketing techniques.

To register, please click: [Here](#).

- (2) Still enter ...

***** CONTEST #20*****

One lucky winner will win a copy of PURPLE GOLDFISH 2.0: 10 WAYS TO ATTRACT RAVING CUSTOMERS by Stan Phelps & Evan Carroll. To quote from the book's description on Amazon:

Purple Goldfish 2.0 is not your ordinary business book. It fundamentally aims to change the paradigm of what we do in business and how we do it. It offers 10 ways to attract raving customers. Purple represents "a little extra" whereas the goldfish stands for "differentiation." A Purple Goldfish is defined as any time a business purposely goes above and beyond to provide a little something extra to differentiate the

experience and honor the relationship. It's a marketing investment back into your customer base. It's that unexpected surprise that's thrown in for good measure to achieve product differentiation, drive retention, and promote word of mouth.

To enter contest , send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #20 in the subject line. Include your name and mailing address in the body of the email. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Mon., Sept. 23.

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

This week, it goes to Danny Brice--my handy friend for all his help in our move to Fairview over the past month. He moved our TVs, computers and phone systems without a hitch and then patched up the walls in our Biltmore Lake home so that you can't tell that anything had been there. Thanks, also, to his daughter Tori and wife Sharon for their assistance.

In addition, Danny has been my go-to guy for help on my website. Consequently, because of his assistance, you can see past issues of my BLAINESWORLD blog by clicking: [Here](#). And you can even read my first joke book by clicking: [Here](#).



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2. FYI

My Buick Encore has a blind spot monitor, and I love it. But Cynthia's Kia Soul is a year older and did not have one, so we bought a blind spot mirror. (See below.). It can be found at almost any auto parts store, typically for less than \$5. Or you can buy it on Amazon by clicking: [Here](#).

It is worth it? I think so, especially if you have an older car.

I also think the monitor is a worthwhile addition for any new car, even if you have to pay more to get it. For more information, please click:[Here](#).



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

(1) Ellane Chandler: I ordered a gift for my sister online. (2) Michaelleen Lee: Will definitely pray for the kitties. (3) The Beauty of the Ordinary. (4) Elizabeth Yaruss: I know you like funny things for your blog.

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3. Joke 1

My kind of race! Where do I sign up? (Thanks, Marilyn Schwartz, for sharing.)



"Runners to your mark. Get set. Go! ... OK, come get your T-shirts."

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4. Reviews

A. Saw *DON'T LET GO*, a moderately interesting time travel thriller about a detective who gets a shocking phone call from his recently-murdered niece. David Oyelowo is fine in the leading role. The main problem I had with the film is that it resembled 2000's *FREQUENCY*, which was far better. Rated R.

B. Heard *TROUBLEMAKER: SURVIVING HOLLYWOOD AND SCIENTOLOGY* (Random House Audio), written and read by Leah Remini. It is an eye-opening account of the author's 30-year-plus association with the Church of Scientology. I was fascinated by it, and you will be too. You'll also gain a greater appreciation for what being in the organization is all about.

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5. TV alert

A. *THE LAKE HOUSE*: Now available via Netflix
Sandra Bullock and Keanu Reeves star in this romantic drama from 2006 that has a killer soundtrack.

B. *THE 71ST ANNUAL PRIMETIME EMMY AWARDS*: Sunday, Sept. 22, at 8 p.m. on Fox
I'm hoping that *VEEP* wins in comedy for its farewell season and *FOSSE/VERDON* takes the award in the limited-series category.

C. *THIS IS US*: Returns on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 9 p.m. on NBC
I can't wait!

D. *THE UNICORN*: Thursday, Sept. 26, at 8:30 p.m. on CBS
TV GUIDE calls this comedy about an affable dad, widowed a year before who decides to play the dating game again, "the seasons' best comedy." Walton Goggins

stars, along with the always funny Rob Corddry.

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6. Joke 2

"I swear, I'm just as baffled as you are." ... For pictures of other dogs who have no idea where such a mess came from, please click: [Here](#).



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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

- (1) John Ellenburg: Hammock bears: [Here](#).
- (2) Sweet Mama Dog Interacting with a Beautiful Child with Down Syndrome: [Here](#).
- (3) Barbara Firestone: Alan King: Man Survive by Wife: [Here](#).

B. If you like funny and/or interesting lists, check out Cracked by clicking: [Here](#).

Among the ones that caught my attention were the following:
5 Weird Jobs Famous Authors Had To Take To Make Ends Meet
5 Weird Jobs Famous Authors Had To Take To Make Ends Meet
6 Outrageous Scams Too Many People Fall For
26 Weird Early Roles Your Favorite Actors Actually Played

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

Want to increase your productivity, reduce repetitive strain and keep focused? Then use this keyboard shortcut to copy text: Highlight what you want copied and press Ctrl+C. This shortcut is faster than moving your hands from the keyboard, highlighting with the mouse, choosing copy from the file menu, and then returning to the keyboard.

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9. Joke 3

The old man struggles to get up from the couch then starts putting his coat on. His wife asks, "And where do you think you're going?" . . . He replies, "I'm off to the doctor." . . . She: "Are you sick?" . . . He: "Nope, I'm going to get me some of that Viagra stuff." . . . Hearing this, the wife struggles to get out of her rocker, then slowly goes to the cupboard and starts to put on her coat. He: "And where on earth do you think you are going?" . . . She: "Oh, I'm off to the doctor, too." . . . He: "What do you need a doctor for?" . . . She: "Well if you're going to start using that rusty old thing again, I'm getting a tetanus shot!"



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10. A quote I like

NEW RULE, according to Bill Maher ... Amazon doesn't need to do a follow-up on every purchase. ... How'd you like that shower curtain? Great. It blew my mind. ... Or when they ask: Would you be willing to share your experience? Yes, let me get right on that. I was going to screw the wife after dinner. But let me sit down and type a 300-word story about how much I liked your f*cking cookie. ... How many times, when you're on hold, have they asked you to stay on the line after the call to answer a survey? Why would I want to say on the line after the call when I can't get somebody on the line during it? ... How would you rate your customer customer satisfaction? Oh, definitely a a 4, as in for f*ck's sake, leave me alone. ... Note: I encourage you to catch Maher's whole discourse on the subject by clicking: [Here](#).

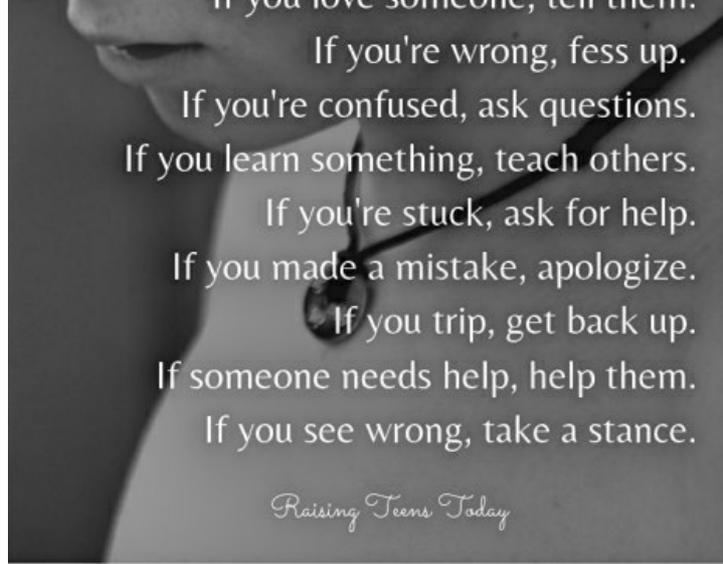


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11. Thought for the day

Great lessons for adults, too. (Thanks, Joyce Litchman, for sharing.)





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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) DARK OF THE MOON at Parkway Playhouse. (2) EINSTEIN AND THE POLAR BEAR at 35below and the Reuter Center.

B. PA/NJ event

LEADING LADIES at Kelsey Theatre.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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