

BLAINES WORLD

#1253
9.21.2020

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1. Reflections

If somebody sent this to you and/or in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber to this weekly blog, here's all you need to do to be added to the free mailing list: Just send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Continued to hunker down in Week 27 of the corona pandemic. At the same time, we managed to enjoy the mild weather and got to enjoy a delicious outside meal at Blue Mountain Pizza in Weaverville.



(2) We also got to enjoy our frozen desserts at Fro Yo Lab, located near our Fairview home.



(3) And we marveled at another excellent job by our friend Thomsen Guth, handyman extraordinaire, who made the outside of our home look like new. To see him hard at work, please click: [Here](#).



B. During the week, I:

(1) Had the pleasure of participating in Kamala Harris' virtual NC "Turn Up and Turn Out" virtual bus tour.

Note: I promise not to make BLAINESWORLD overly political, so this week, I won't repeat the endorsement of any political candidate. (If you want to see what I wrote, check last week's issue.)

However, I do want to mention that as a result of it, five readers discontinued their subscription to this blog. I'm a bit disappointed that this was the case, but am grateful that several other readers wrote much-appreciated emails of support, including CJ Breland, Emily Shaules, Jeanie Linders, Ilene Logelin and Rochelle McColl. Many thanks.

In addition, I received a particularly insightful email from one friend--and now former reader--that you can read by going to letter "F" in Section 2, part 2 when you click: [Here](#).

As I wrote him back, I do believe that I was both respectful and polite in my endorsement and will continue to behave in this fashion. My only hope is that others will continue to do the same.



(2) Saw the fabulous Shane Dinan in a virtual concert put on by SART. You can still see it by clicking: [Here](#). ... And when you do, please show both Shane and SART some appreciation (and love) by clicking: [Here](#).





C. Catch this week's BLAINESWORLD radio/Facebook Live show by clicking: [Here](#).
... Guests: (first half) Michael Crosa, Director of Jollyville Radio; (second half) Robyn Ziegler, owner, Ziggy's Bakery and Deli.



D. Condolences to Gayle Barsky Rosen and family on the passing of Norman Barsky, Gayle's father.

E. Congratulations to:

(1) Our Family Doctor on being named top Family Medical Practice in the Best of WNC 2020 MOUNTAIN XPRESS awards, and to Dr. Michael Weizman, my physician, for being tied for second in the same competition in the physician category. And to Dr. Meredith Polansky, Cynthia's doctor, for coming in first in the physician category, as well as to Dr. Amanda Vieages for also coming in tied for second in that same category.

(2) Scott Treadway for being named Top Actor in the Best of WNC competition as well as to Charlie Flynn-Mciver for being named second.

(3) Asheville Community Theatre, North Carolina Stage Co. and Montford Park Players, respectively, for being named first, second and third in the Theatre Company category in the Best of WNC competition.

(4) Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre for being named second place in the Marshall and Mars Hill regional category for Music/Entertainment Venue.

(5) Bryelle and Daniel Benzing on their marriage.

(6) Michael Feldman on his new position as Senior Customer Engagement Specialist at Alma.

(7) Candace Mullet, winner of Contest #18: a copy of A MONSTER CALLS by Patrick Ness. All told, there were four entries. And that reminds me that is now time to introduce ...

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

Two lucky readers will win a copy of my first collection of best jokes. (See below.) It had previously been available online, but I now have had it printed so as to be available in both book and Kindle format.

To enter, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #19 in the subject line. In the body of your email, include both your name and mailing address. All entries must be received on or before Monday, Oct. 5, at 9 p.m.





BEST JOKES (VOLUME 1)

Blaine Greenfield

F. Invitations:

(1) Join Cynthia in either of the two virtual courses she teaches for Arms Around ASD: Meditation on Mondays and Move Your Body on Wednesdays. To attend these and/or any of the others (that are open to the public), scroll down to Calendar when you click: [Here](#).

(2) Howard Debs: Want something special for doing something special? Then go: [Here](#) and put out 5 bucks to help the nonprofit Feeding America and get a free poster by famed New York photographer Stephen Wilkes with poetry by award-winning poet Howard Debs all about COVID-19 and the heroes of our perilous times.

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

Thanks, Cynthia Greenfield, for submitting the following nomination for this week's award winner: Tina Miller, Adoptions Manager at Asheville Humane Society.

My friend Elena was extremely sad because she had to bring four of her beloved cats to Asheville Humane Society due to her illness and the inability to care for them. One of the casts was 11 years old. Two of them were bonded and needed to go together. These did not promise to be easy adoptions.

As I care very much for Elena, I made numerous calls and sent emails to ask about the cats. Tina Miller always responded promptly. She was as committed as Elena was in getting them adopted.

Miracle upon miracle, ALL 4 CATS have been adopted to people who need them as much as they need their new forever homes.

If this is not a story to fill up your heart, I do not know what is.

Thank you, Tina, for all that you do, and also, thanks to the Asheville Humane Society.

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2. FYI

We got our flu shots outside the offices of our respective doctors, Our Family Doctor, and managed to survive the experience.

Even if you're not a big fan of the flu shot and/or vaccinations, in general, I urge you to consider getting one this year with the COVID-19 pandemic still upon us. For more information on my thinking behind this recommendation, please click: [Here](#).



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

A. Steve Kimmel: Really good blog this week. B. Too much candy: Man dies from eating bags of black licorice. C. Herb Spiegel: When Sandy Koufax Refused to Play on Yom Kippur. D. Majo John Madden: Please tell the story of my last three weeks in Asheville. E. \$2.50 a Year in Interest? That's What \$5,000 in Savings Gets. F. Anonymous: I have great respect for you and please do not read that by unsubscribing from your blog that I think any less of you.

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3. Joke 1

What you've always wanted to know. (Thanks, Jimmy Ferraro, for sharing.)

QUARANTINE UPDATE ... Today marks 3 weeks of isolation and for me, 3 weeks without sugar. Walking 3 miles a day. No meat, dairy or flour. The change has been fantastic! ... I feel terrific. Zero alcohol! A healthy vegan diet, gluten-free, caffeine-free, sugar free and a 2-hour home workout each day! ... Lost 20 lbs. of fat and gained muscle mass. ... I have no idea whose status this is, but I am very proud of the person, so I decided to copy and paste.

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4. Reviews

A. I was blown away by Ben Affleck's performance in THE WAY BACK, a powerful drama about a high school basketball superstar stuck in a meaningless job and struggling with alcoholism. When he gets his shot at redemption by becoming the coach for his alma matter, well, I can't tell you anymore without ruining the film for you. The basketball scenes are very well done, but they won't overwhelm you if you're not a sports fan. Rated R.

B. Loved revisiting BANANAS, an early Woody Allen comedy about a hapless product tester with the great name of Fielding Mellish. Allen, who wrote, starred and directed, attempts to impress a young and active social activist (Louise Lasser). So he travels to the turbulent country of San Marcos and falls in with resistance fighters, soon becoming their leader. It may sound absurd, but I guarantee you'll find it funny. Rated PG-13.

Give yourself 10 seconds to see this clip—one of the funniest 10 seconds I have ever seen in a film: [Here](#).

Note: I've added BANANAS to my list of favorite films. If you'd like to get this listing, send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

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5. TV alert

A. MRS. MINIVER: Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 7 p.m. on TCM
A moving drama about a middle-class English family learning to cope with war, told in a series of dramatic vignettes. Greer Garson is superb in the leading role, and Walter Pidgeon is likewise outstanding as her husband.

B. WEAKEST LINK: Returns on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 8 p.m. on NBC
Jane Lynch is the wisecracking taskmaster and host of the popular quiz show that first aired on NBC nearly 20 years ago.

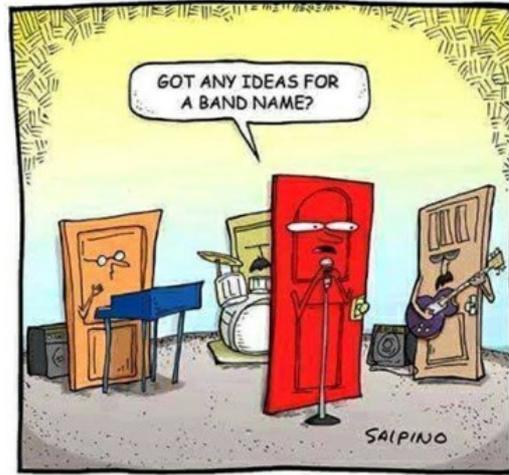
C. THE BOYS IN THE BAND: On Netflix, starting Wednesday, Sept. 30
This 2018 Tony-winning revival of Mart Crowley's groundbreaking play about gay men in 1960s New York City stars Jim Parsons.

D. CONNECTING: Premieres on Thursday, Oct. 1, at 8:30 p.m. on NBC
This ensemble piece, shot remotely from the actors' homes, begins 10 days after California's stay-at-home order was issued in March, and features a group of Los Angeles pals who stay connected by turning their weekly Sunday dinners into online hangouts.

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6. Joke 2

This is a-door-able!



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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 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 find this performance from Justin Diaz. You can view it by clicking: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

"A Prayer for This Great Nation," amazing music and lyrics by Dave Bates with a terrific vocal from Matt Edwardson: [Here](#).

Note: To quote a recent email from Dave: "I'm sharing a link to get you started. This song was written in reaction to our current administration. I'm trying to get as many people as possible to hear it before the election. I encourage you to share it with whomever you can."

Also: "I'm writing to let you know that I've created my own YouTube channel with some of my original music. To find the channel, type 'Dave Bates Music.' " It turns out there are dozens of Dave Bates and David Bates with YouTube channels, so the word 'music' is important. So far I've got about three dozens videos uploaded so far--some vocals, some instrumentals, all with interesting visuals.

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

(1) Rod McKuen - "Seasons In The Sun," one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Bob Player: Loved the music, loved the dancing, and really loved the kids: [Here](#).

(3) Elizabeth Pou: Ain't Misbehavin'- Find Out What They Like by Nathaly Lopez & Alexandra Bernard: [Here](#).

D. Here's a website that you will also want to check out: Narratively is a media platform and production company that celebrates the diversity of humanity through authentic storytelling. To view it, please click: [Here](#).

One interesting example was: "My Journey Into the Secret Subculture of Gays With Guns." You could either read it or listen to it by clicking the above link.

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

The other day, I needed to send a fax. (Yes, there are still such things--and they're often used for legal documents.).

I created a PDF file with my iPhone and then found FaxBurner, a free app that turns your smartphone into a fax machine. It can also be used on your computer.

Using it will enable you to send and receive free faxes to your email or iPhone. You can start faxing in about 30 seconds.

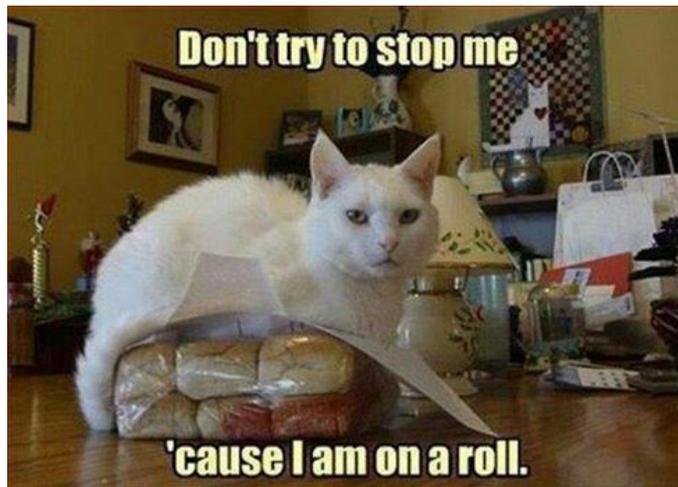
To start using FaxBurner, click: [Here](#).

Methinks you'll like it as much as I have!

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9. Joke 3

This idea never entered my bread!

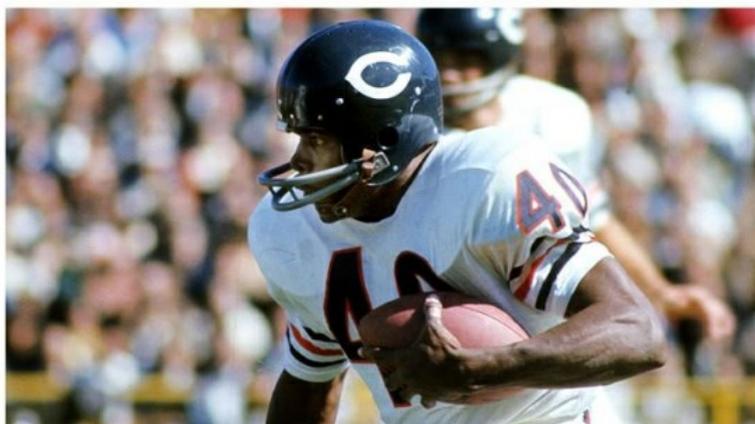


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10. A quote I like

Thanks, Gayle Sayers (1943-2020), for your scintillating football career that saw you inducted into both the College Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame. And thanks, also, for your 1971, autobiography, I AM THIRD, which became the basis of your memorable 1971 TV movie, BRIAN'S SONG, about your friendship with Brian Piccolo. ... For more information about Sayers' life, click: [Here](#).

"We must stop the trend of closing schools and building prisons."--Gale Sayers



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11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Carol Duermit, for sharing the following :

The question is: "What do you actually weigh?"

I weigh a girl who took a few more years than some to figure out how to grow up and know what she wanted, but never gave up.

I weigh three amazing children, all kind hearted, loving, and good.

I weigh a relationship based upon everything I've always dreamed of, that I've worked on internally and externally, every day.

I weigh friends that I would do nearly anything for, and who would do the same for me.

I weigh some bonus kids that know I love them and will cherish the time, however long

or brief, they passed through my life.

I weigh a passion for my work and the meaning and stability and hope it can bring into the lives of the people I work with.

I weigh an unending belief in the goodness of humanity and an inexhaustible desire that all children be loved, nurtured, and cared for.

I weigh an unfathomable amount of love for my number one bonus kid, Camden, and my grandson, Will.

I weigh a lot, but I love what I weigh.

This is a good exercise to put things into perspective. At least mentally share it with yourself.

Note: Wanting, to know about the above, I asked Carol to tell me more about it. Here's her response:

I wrote this particular rendition of it to fit me, but it is an exercise people can use starting sentences with "I weigh" ... and then talking about what makes their true mass up. I don't remember the name of the woman who started it. I'll try to find out, so you can give her credit.

If any reader does know the original author and/or source, 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. Ellane Chandler: My Journey From Silence to the Stage. B. Davyne Dial: Asheville City Council Candidate Virtual Forum. C. Peggy Ratusz: Lawn Concert. D. James Nave: LEAF Lit! w/ James Nave and Lynne Procope. E. SART: Dillon Giles in a fundraiser concert.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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