

BLAINES WORLD

#1110

1.1.2018

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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. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Were all smiles, despite the fact that our New Year's Eve party had to be canceled at the last minute because of the black ice that unexpectedly hit the area. We managed to make it to the restaurant, Yao Buffet, where the event was to be held and since we were there, we stayed for a delicious dinner that featured friendly service from Tuti (one of our favorite servers in the area). ... The only thing we regret is that we didn't skip dinner and go home right away. The trip, which usually takes us 15 minutes, required nearly an hour--and we were lucky we made it up one hill near our home. It was the worst driving we had ever encountered.





(2) Celebrated the birthday of our friend Annemarie Brown (top left photo with her husband Marvin Sadovsky). Thanks, Carole and Brian Biro, for hosting us all. ... For more pictures, please click: [Here](#)



(3) Welcomed the New Year at a party hosted by our friends Russ Gowan and Barrie Barton.





(4) Spent a delightful Christmas Day at the home of our friends Grant Randall and Ginny Plaisted where we were joined by their three sons, l-r: Dan Randall, Andrew Zimnicki and Adam Zimnicki



B. WPVM/FM invites you to listen to the BLAINESWORLD show from Wed., January 3, 2018.. ... Guest (first half): Dr. Virginia Plaisted, dentist in office of Dr. Tim Gillespie; for more information: www.drtingillespie.com ... Guest (second half): Jim Julien, artistic co-director of the Asheville Fringe Festival; for more information: www.ashevillefringe.orgPictured: (left) Blaine Greenfield with Dr. Plaisted to his right and (right) Blaine Greenfield with Jim Julien.

To listen to the show, please click:
[Here](#)



C. Condolences to Stacey Anne and family on the passing of Stacey's grandma.

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Frank Goldsmith on the launch of his new mediation and arbitration practice, Goldsmith Resolutions For more information, please click:

[Here](#)

(2) Erin R Sternberg on her marriage to Christopher Jensen.

(3) Bruce Trego on his interim appointment as Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner, effective immediately.

(4) KaChina Davine, winner of Contest #1: a copy of THE ART OF CONNECTION, Michael Gelb's fantastic new book. All told, there were four entries in the contest. And that reminds me that it is now time to announce ...

***** CONTEST #2 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of URBAN SUNSET, a CD from the Robert Thomas Band. It features original jazz compositions, infused with progressive rock and New Age--inspired by the music of Kansas, Steely Dan and Chick Corea. ... That's Robert pictured below with me at a recent breakfast meeting we had at Green Sage, at which we enjoyed that eatery's fine food and discussed his terrific music.. To enter, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #2 in the subject line, then include your snail mail address in the body of the email. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 15, 2018.



E. Correction: I mentioned Michelle Monet's new book in both Section 1 and Section 11 of last week's issue. There was a typo in the first section. What follows is the correct title of the book: CREATIVE PEOPLE ... AND WHAT MAKES THEM TICK. (Sorry 'bout that, Michelle!)

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

This week, it goes to LD Products, Inc.--a company I've used for many years for replacement toner cartridges (instead of buying new ones).

I've always found their prices to be very reasonable, and I have also enjoyed their free shipping for orders over a certain size. In addition, I've always received my orders in a prompt fashion.

The other day, I had a rare problem with a cartridge I had been sent. It came apart before I could put it in my printer. So I wrote the company about it and within 24 hours, I received this response:

Thank you for contacting LD Products. I'm sorry for the trouble you are having with your toner cartridge.

Not to worry, you are fully covered by our LIFETIME, 100% satisfaction guarantee. We were actually able to modify your current order since it was still in the system, to include the replacement toner X25. In regards to the defective one, please feel free to recycle it, we won't need the pictures that you kindly offered nor will we need it back.

When your order ships, you will receive a confirmation email with the tracking information. Should you have other concerns, you can always chat, email or call us at the number below: M-F 6am - 6pm PST | Sat & Sun 7am - 4pm PST.

My reaction: Wow!

Kudos to Cristina, the customer service representative, who wrote the above email. I most appreciated it.

And, also, to LD Products. I'll continue to be a loyal customer and as can be seen by this award, I'll also tell others about this company that can be reached at:

[Here](#)

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2. FYI

9 Ways to Be a Better Person in 2018

Our year's most popular stories offered advice on stress, sex, sleep and survival.

by Anya Strzemien

Here's what we've learned about living your best life in 2018, using lessons from some of our most-read Styles stories of 2017. We encourage you to be a better prepared, less anxious and more showered person in the new year. (And if you need more help after this, check out our tips for 2016 and 2017.)

To read the rest of this informative article, please click:

[Here](#)

And whatever you do, don't miss the fifth tip; i.e., accept the things you cannot control. It includes a sweet story about a woman, 98, who meets a guy, 94, at the gym.

(Pictured below at their wedding.) To read just that article, please click:

[Here](#)





FYI, part 2

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:

[Here](#)

(1) Blue Wine Is Real But Here's Why It's Making People Angry. (2) Bray Creech: Is the Michelle Baker in your photo an artist, by chance? (3) For Doctors, Age May Be More Than a Number.

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3. Joke 1

Tom waits while Jeremy irons. (Thanks, David Graham, for sharing.)



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4. Reviews

A. From the opening number, I was mesmerized by THE GREATEST SHOWMAN--a musical very loosely based on the life of P.T. Barnum. The songs (from the lyricists of LA LA LAND) were great, and the choreography was dazzling. Hugh Jackman was perfect in the leading role. I just saw this film and find myself wanting to see it again in the near future. Rated PG.

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

B. Read FUNNY ON PURPOSE: THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO AN UNPREDICTABLE CAREER IN COMEDY (Chronicle Books) by Joe Randazzo, a former ONION editor. ... There's a lot of useful information and much of it is funny, too; for example, the author's definition of comedy: "The simplest definition for what makes something funny is 'abnormality.' Like a tumor, for example. Tumors, of course, aren't funny. Which is why his definition is funny. Or because it's now impossible for me to read the word "tumor" without hearing Arnold Schwarzenegger say it, as in 'It's not a too-mah.' " ... I liked how the book covered a wide variety of topics, ranging from doing stand-up to writing for television and movies to auditioning (my favorite chapter for its useful advice) to creating a YouTube channel. ... And I liked the many interviews with such luminaries as Joan Rivers, Judd Apatow and Terry Jones. ... If you were ever interested in a career in comedy or if you just want to find out more about the industry, you'll want to read FUNNY ON PURPOSE.

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5. TV alert

A. THE 75TH ANNUAL GOLDEN GLOBES: Sunday, Jan. 7, at 8 p.m. on NBC
Seth Meyers hosts the beginning of the awards season. It will be interesting to watch the show in the wake of the #MeToo movement.

B. GREAT PERFORMANCES: TONY BENNETT & LADY GAGA: Monday, Jan. 8, at 3 a.m. (check pbs.org for local listings)
Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga perform selections from their new album at New York's Rose Theater.

Note: For one great song from the show, please click:

[Here](#)

C. DAVID BOWIE: THE LAST FIVE YEARS: Monday, Jan. 8, at 8 p.m. on HBO
A new documentary profiles the music legend in his final burst of creative energy.

D. THE POLKA KING: Premieres on Friday, Jan. 12, on Netflix
Jack Black stars at the real-life Polka King of Pennsylvania who built an internal polka empire before ultimately being jailed for a Ponzi scheme.

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6. Joke 2

Pope Francis and President Trump are on the same stage in Yankee Stadium. ... The pope leans toward the president and says, "Do you know that with one little wave of my hand, I can make every person in this crowd go wild with joy? This joy will not be a momentary display, but it will go deep into their hearts, and they'll forever speak of this day and rejoice." ... The president replies, "I seriously doubt that can happen with one little wave of your hand. Show me." ... Pope Francis then backhands President Trump and knocks him off the stage. ... The crowd leaps to its feet and cheers wildly--and there's also great joy throughout the land! (Thanks, Elaine Bilk, for sharing.)





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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Lori Lynn Mullet: Just a doggie taking himself sledding

[Here](#)

(2) Doug Snipes: Chad Prather - Pass Gas

[Here](#)

(3) Chihuahua Salsa Dancing On Cinco De Mayo

[Here](#)

B. The Chalkboard bills itself as "a guide to living well." There seem to be some interesting pieces here, including:

15 no fail anti-inflammatory snacks + staples

7 yoga accessories for the perfectionist

A one day detox to kick off the new year right

The blessings ritual we're using to start the year right

To check these and others out, please click:

[Here](#)

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

What You Need to Do Because of Flaws in Computer Chips
by Cade Metz and Brian X. Chen

On Wednesday, a group of security experts revealed two security flaws that affect nearly all microprocessors, the digital brains of the world's computers. These flaws, called Meltdown and Spectre, could allow hackers to lift passwords, photos, documents and other data from smartphones, PCs and the cloud computing services

that many businesses rely on.

Some of the world's largest tech companies have been working on fixes for these problems. But the researchers who discovered the flaws said one of them, Spectre, is not completely fixable. "It is a fundamental flaw in the way processors have been built over the last decades," said Paul Kocher, one of the researchers who discovered these flaws.

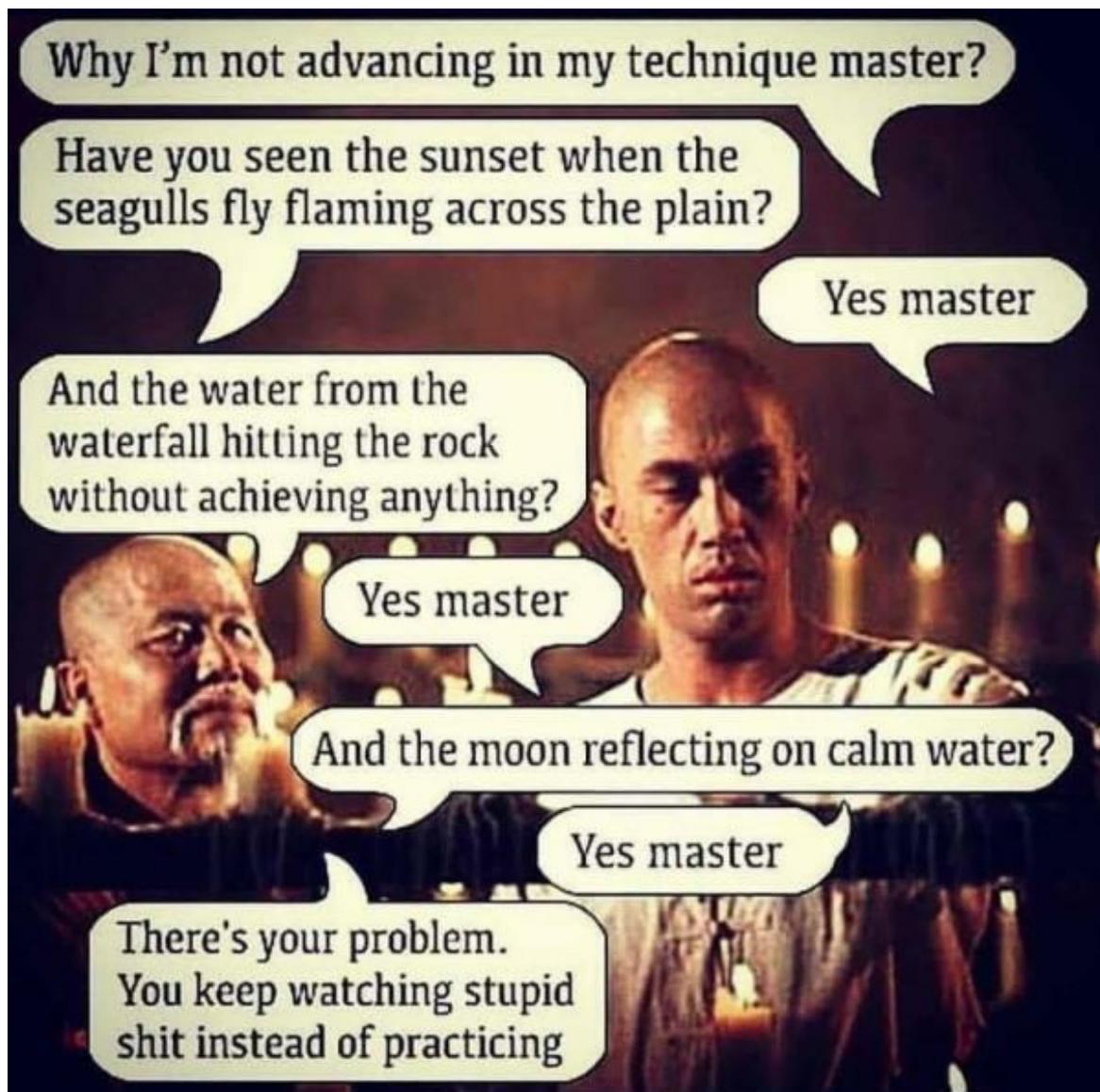
For the rest of this informative article, please click:

[Here](#)

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9. Joke 3

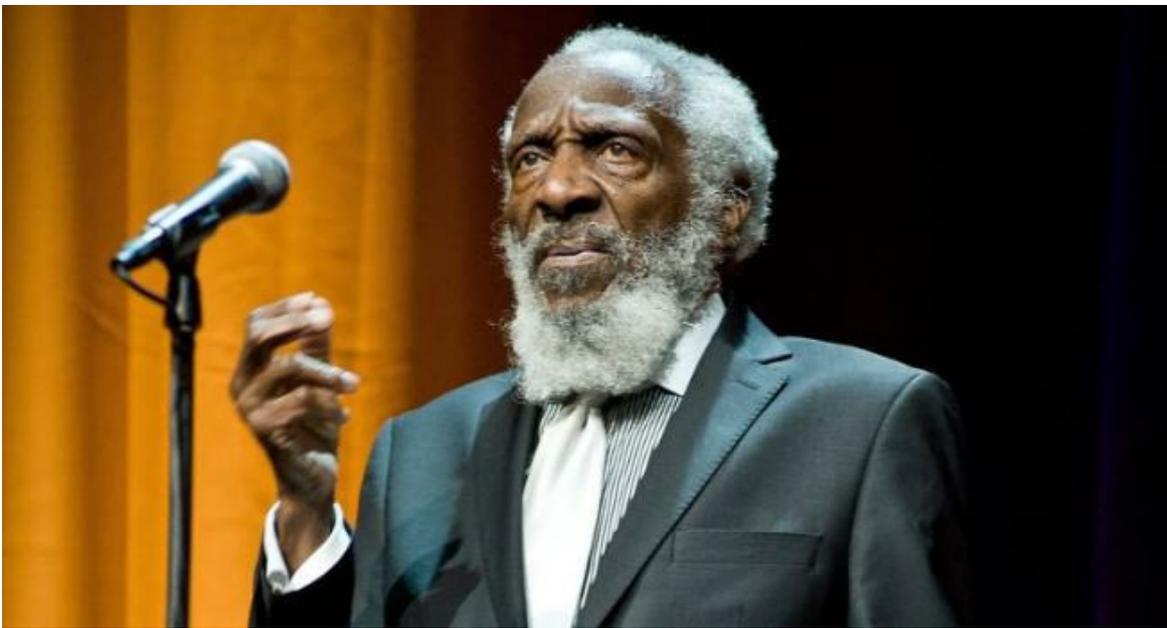
Now I know why I never made the Dean's List in college! (Thanks, Carol Seufert, for sharing.)



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10. A quote I like

"Last time I was down South, I walked into this restaurant, and this white waitress came up to me and said: 'We don't serve colored people here.' I said: 'That's all right, I don't eat colored people. Bring me a whole fried chicken.'" -Dick Gregory (1932-2017), comedian and activist



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11. Thought for the day

Relax, Breath & Let Go ... This touching video asks women about their lifestyles ... nearly half said they were feeling moderately or extremely stressed. Shockingly, 40% felt like they were about to burn out. ... To view it, please click:

[Here](#)



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12. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following NC events in full, please click:

[Here](#)

A. Philippe Andre Coquet: STRIPPED.

B. Amanda Levesque: THE UNSPOKEN WORD.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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