

BLAINES WORLD

#1255
10.5.2020

In this issue

- [1. Reflections](#)
- [2. FYI](#)
- [3. Joke 1](#)
- [4. Reviews](#)
- [5. TV alert](#)
- [6. Joke 2](#)
- [7. Clips/Websites](#)
- [8. Technology tip](#)
- [9. Joke 3](#)
- [10. A quote I like](#)
- [11. Thought for the day](#)
- [12. Advance planning department](#)

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: Click [Here](#) to subscribe.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Continued to hunker down in Week 29 of the corona pandemic. Yet even though that was the case, we did manage to visit our friend Scout Gallagher for a driveway visit at the home of Marcy and Tom Gallagher--his dog mom and dad.



(2) Had a delicious outdoor dining experience at Vinnie's.





(3) Found a new place in West Asheville (at the previous Frostbite location) for both ice cream and DoughP doughnuts: 10th Muse Coffee. We'll be back!



B. WHATCHA THINK? ... A friend asked me to send him an audition tape for a movie he is making. ... So wanting to impress him with both my singing (starting at the 1-minute mark) and dancing, I submitted what y'all can see by clicking: [Here](#).



C. I got to watch the fabulous Murphy Funkhouser perform at White Horse Black Mountain, along with the equally outstanding David LaMotte. It was a terrific show. ... If you missed it, you can still view it by clicking: [Here](#). ... And if you like it as much as I did, show Murphy, David and White Horse Black Mountain some appreciation (and love), by clicking: [Here](#).





D, Catch Wednesday's BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM by clicking: [Here](#). ...
Guests: (first half) Michele Louzon, founder and executive director of Arms Around ASD; and (second half) Joe Calderwell, writer, podcaster and owner of development companies.



E. Condolences to Walter Weeks and family on the passing of Pat Weeks, Walter's wife.

F. Congratulations to:

(1) Michael Glaeser on his marriage

(2) Larry Parr on having his excellent play, SHUNNED, published by Stage Rights. It is now available on Amazon.com.

(3) Dianne Chapman on the birth of Declan Brooks Chapman, her new grandson.

(4) Congratulations to Kathy Byers, Steve Rizzo, Linda Williams and Eloise Yelle—all winners of Contest #19: a copy of my first joke book, BLAINESWORLD BEST JOKES (VOLUME 1). Originally, there were going to be only two winners, but I wound up making winners of all four readers who entered the contest.

Note: If you still want a copy of the above, you can purchase a print or Kindle copy by clicking: [Here](#).

And if you'd like to get my second joke book BLAINESWORLD BEST JOKES (VOLUME 2), you can do so by clicking: [Here](#).

To get a chance to win another book, it's now time to introduce ...

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

One lucky reader will win a copy of THE 60 SECOND PROCRASTINATOR: SIXTY SOLID TECHNIQUES TO JUMP-START ANY PROJECT AND GET YOUR LIFE IN GEAR! by Jeff Davidson. This informative book will teach you techniques to create a reward system, find a motivation buddy, review priorities, set goals, use deadlines, utilize breaks strategically and visualize success.

To enter, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #20 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. 19, at 9 p.m.

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

This week, it goes to Robert Raines, the Terminix technician who services our Fairview home. He is extremely competent and thorough, and we are appreciative of how he watches out for our cat Lovey. We are also grateful for how he takes the time to both explain what he is doing and answer our questions. ... We have used Terminix since moving to Asheville in 2009 and recommend this business highly. Robert works out of the Swannanoa office. The phone number there is 828.253.3816. If you call and are fortunate to get him, you won't go wrong.





[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

When researching something, don't just accept automatically what you see on Google or any other search engine.

As an example: I was recently asked by a friend to research some discount-priced hearing aids. They looked too good to be true, and there were many, many positive recommendations on the website. I was extremely skeptical when I saw nearly an approval rating of over 98%.

Here's some of what I reported back:

- * Just about nothing gets such a high rating.
- * An offer of a money back guarantee doesn't mean you will get your money back. (I found that out by looking at some legitimate reviews.
- * Check CONSUMER REPORTS. There is a fee to use this service, but it might be worth paying for it—even if only for one month.
- * Check the Better Business Bureau, too, but keep in mind that the businesses themselves support the Better Business Bureau. So anything negative in those files might be extremely rare.
- * See if you can find some ratings on Facebook and/or Google.
- * Go beyond page 1 of any ratings. Often, people flood ratings that are often phony just to get placement toward the top.
- * Look for YouTube clips that have reviews and/or ratings.
- * If something seems to be too good to be true, it often is.

FYI, part 2

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

A. 10 Monologues That Makes Solo Music. B. I Traveled to 52 Places. The I Discovered N.Y. on My Bike. C. How Airbnb Lets You Experience K-Pop Dance Classes and Scottish Sheep-Without Leaving Your House. D. Jon Kris: Good issue! E. Marty Sutton: You always look like you are really enjoying life in Asheville. F. Laughter May Be Effective Medicine for These Trying Times.

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

Methinks what's fair is fair, and the bees also shouldn't have to be shut inside if they don't want to be. (Thanks, Linda Williams, for sharing.)



[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. Enjoyed THE TIGER HUNTER on Netflix. It is a feel good dramedy about a young Indian who travels to America in the 1970s. He hopes to impress his childhood crush and live up to the legacy of his father, a legendary tiger hunter. Danny Pudi is quite good in the leading role, and I was glad to see Jon Heder on screen again. The always watchable Kevin Pollak also has a small part. NR, but appropriate for those over the age of 9.

B. Thanks, Tom and Marcy Gallagher (and Cynthia, too), for recommending MY OCTOPUS TEACHER, a nature documentary on Netflix. It is about a diver who swims with an octopus that lives in a kelp forest off the coast of South Africa. They develop a surprising friendship that's quite touching. The photography is absolutely stunning. NR, but appropriate for those over the age of 9.

C. Thanks, Steve Byas, for recommending THE SOCIAL DILEMMA on Netflix. He called it a "very good documentary." I agree! ... It features tech experts, sounding the alarm on the dangerous human impact of social networking. ... If you have children or grandchildren, you should definitely watch this. Rated PG-13.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. DICK JOHNSON IS DEAD: Now on Netflix

A filmmaker and her elderly father stage his death in various ways to help them face his inevitable demise. According to USA TODAY, "In the morbidly funny and thought-provoking new documentary, filmmaker Kirsten Johnson asks her 86-year-old psychiatrist father, Richard 'Dick' Johnson, to enact his own death in a series of surreal and sometimes shocking ways."

B. Carol Duermit: Challenge: If you think you "don't like" Michelle Obama, take a deep breath and open your heart and watch "First Ladies: Michelle Obama" on CNN. I know. You hate CNN. But you won't see this story on the other station. If you watch the entire thing, I challenge you to leave without your feelings about her changing significantly. Thanks. ... I'll watch something you want me to watch when you are done. Deal?!?

C. MONEYBALL: on Netflix, starting Oct. 14

Fact-based story about a baseball manager (Brad Pitt) who hires a tech nerd (Jonah Hill) to turn his losing team into a winner. Baseball fans will especially like this film..

D. SOCIAL DISTANCE: on Netflix, starting Oct. 15

This is a scripted anthology series whose stories reflect our new normal, looking at how the pandemic has affected people from a wide range of backgrounds.

E. CORRECTION: Last week, I ran information about ONE DAY AT A TIME on CBS. I indicated it premiered Monday, Oct. 5. That date has apparently been moved back to Monday, Oct. 12, at 9 p.m. ... Justina Machado and Rita Moreno both start in the reboot of the classic 1975 sitcom.

Note: Check out "The 50 Best TV Shows on Netflix Right Now" by clicking: [Here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

NEWS FLASH ... Water found on Mars!



[Back to Top](#)

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: bginbc@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 Taylor LaValley: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

Talking on your cellphone when in the bathroom isn't a great idea. To find out more, please click: [Here](#).

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

(1) Bonnie Tyler - Total Eclipse of the Heart, one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Ashleigh Phillips: All of Me: [Here](#).

(3) Ed Hackett: THE LOVIN' SPOONFUL - DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC?: [Here](#).

(4) Broadway Carpool Karaoke from Hamilton & More: [Here](#).

(5) Jeff Baker: Two covers [from my band]: [Here](#) and [Here](#).

(6) HS Smith: Live: [Here](#).

(7) Aaron Ybarra: Shane & Shane, "Beauty for Ashes"; Isaiah 61:1-11; Bob Dylan, "Make You Feel My Love"; and Bryan and Katie Torwalt, "Holy Spirit." [Here](#).

Note: No offense to Dylan, but I like Aaron's rendition more, make that much more--and I think you will, too. You can see it by fast forwarding to the 14:55 mark.

D. Thanks, Linda Williams, for telling me about this week's website that you will want to check out: Compassion & Choices.

To quote from it:

We envision a society that affirms life and accepts the inevitability of death, embraces expanded options for compassionate dying, and empowers everyone to choose end-of-life care that reflects their values, priorities, and beliefs.

Compassion & Choices improves care, expands options and empowers everyone to chart their end-of-life journey. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We work across the nation in communities, state legislatures, Congress, courts and medical settings to:

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

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](#).

[Back to Top](#)

8. Technology tip

Thanks, Jessn Gelfond, for telling me about the following resource that helps you identify fake reviews on Amazon, Best Buy, Walmart and other sites.

To quote from an article by Rick Broida in cnet.com:

Fakespot is a free site that analyzes product reviews to help you separate the wheat from the, well, fake. All you do is copy and paste the link to the product page, then click Analyze.

You can also use a browser extension for Chrome, Firefox and Safari, which makes it even simpler: Just click the Fakespot icon in your toolbar for instant analysis. It's also available for Android and iOS so you can use use Fakespot on the go.

For the rest of this informative article, please click:[Here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

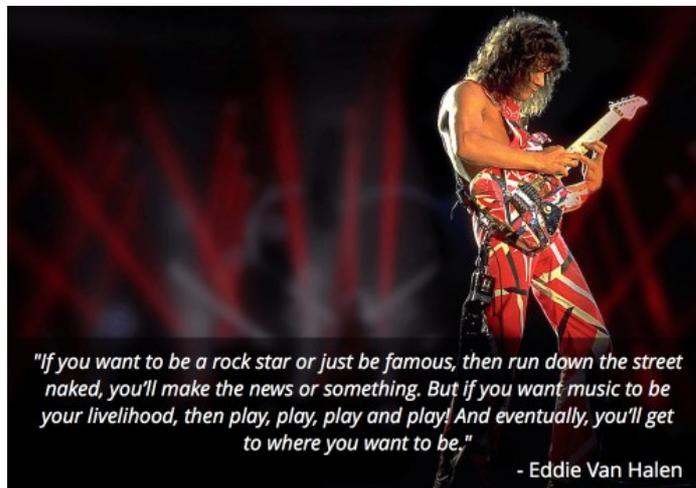
Three drunk guys entered a taxi. The driver knew that they were drunk, so he started the engine and turned it off again. Then said, "We have reached your destination." ... The first guy gave him money, and the second guy said, "Thank you." ... The third guy slapped the driver. The driver was shocked and asked, "What was that for?" ... The third guy replied, "Control your speed next time. You nearly killed us!" (Thanks, Tasha Pepi, for sharing.)



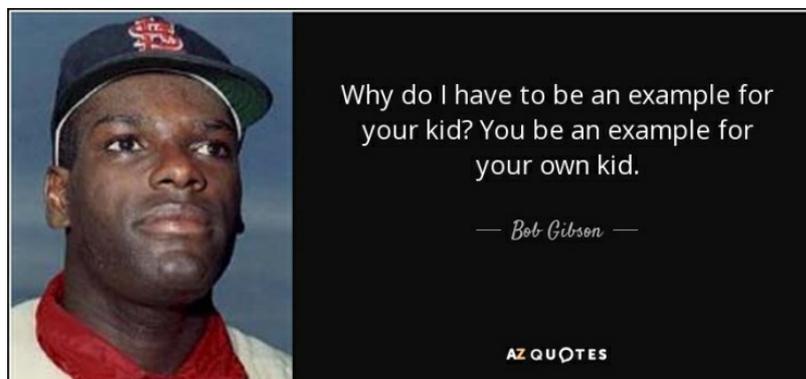
[Back to Top](#)

10. 2 quotes I like

A. Thanks, Eddie Van Halen (1955-2020), for your career as a musician, songwriter, producer and even inventor. ... I'll most remember you for popularizing the tapping guitar solo technique, as well as for the fact that you were voted number one in a GUITAR WORLD magazine reader's poll for "The 100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time." ... For more information about his life, along with several of his songs, please click: [Here](#).



B. Thanks, Bob Gibson (1935-2020), for your Hall of Fame baseball career with the St. Louis Cardinals. ... You were one of the finest pitchers I have ever had the pleasure of seeing. ... For more information about his life, please click: [Here](#).



[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Mike Ursino, for putting this on my radar screen:
Before You Waste Time - WATCH THIS | by Jay Shetty: [Here](#).

Note: For more information about Jay Shetty (and some of his other videos), please click: [Here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

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

A. John Adams: DRIVING MISS DAISY at Hendersonville Community Theatre. B. Murphy Funkhouser: The 2020 Breakdown. C. Natalie Kaye: A LITTLE BIT OF BROADWAY, A WHOLE LOT OF HEART, starring Keith Spencer.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

[Back to Top](#)

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