

#1055
12.12.2016

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

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Were delightfully surprised by our friends Bill and Diane Lewis who sent us this box of Mallomars, arguably the best cookie of all time. ... This Nabisco taste delight features a graham cracker circle that is covered with a puff of extruded marshmallow, then enrobed in a thin shell of dark chocolate. ... Mallomars are generally available from early October through to April, and they are primarily in the New York metropolitan area. ... To find out more, please click:
[Here](#)



(2) Enjoyed Cynthia and her talented Autumn Player colleagues perform for the Isaac Dickson Elementary School at Pack Memorial Library. To see other pictures, please click:
[Here](#)

And whatever you do, make sure you see Ruth Planey and Ellen Pappas perform "La Cucaracha" by clicking:
[Here](#)



(3) Went from there to meet our friend Bradshaw Call for a tasty lunch at Cafe 64. Though under new ownership, the food remains great. And so does the fine service we received from Daniel



(4) Attended the Asheville Jewish Business Forum's fun Chanukah party at The Meadows Blake House. Thanks, Judy McKnight, for hosting us and to Michael McKnight of Chef Michael's Catering for preparing the excellent food that evening. To view other pictures from the evening, please click:
[Here](#)



(5) Joined our friends Amber Riddle (far left) and Connor Ray for a tasty dinner at Fresh Wood Fired Pizza West. Michelle was our excellent server.



(6) Had a great Italian dinner at Favilla's New York Pizza. The food is always good there and so is the service. (That night, Grace was our server.)



B. During the week, I joined my friend Rhoda Weaver for lunch at King Daddy's Chicken and Waffle—one of my favorite eateries. Our food was just right, as was the service we received from Laura Marie.

I also got to congratulate Rhoda on becoming an affiliate with Total Life Changes. If you are one of her many fans and friends who want to get some excellent products and/or come on board with her, click the following link for more information:
[Here](#)

Note: To contact Rhoda, please do so directly by sending her a message via Facebook.



C. Congratulations to:

- (1) Lynn Weltzner and Michelle Giannotti on their marriage.
- (2) Asheville for being named Number One travel destination in the United States by Lonely Planet. To read more, please click:
[Here](#)
- (3) And Asheville, again ... this time for being listed in LOCAL ADVENTURER where the 49 best places to eat are listed. To view it, please click:
[Here](#)
- (4) Donna and Mark Allen on the birth of Henry James Janis, their grandson.

D. Reminder: There's still time to enter ...

***** CONTEST #25 *****
Eight lucky readers will win a gently used book on CD that I've reviewed in a previous issue of this blog. You'll be given a choice of what book you want, and I'll fill your request based on the order in which it was received. ... Books on CD are great to listen to while driving, exercising, etc. You can also transfer them to your iPod, iPhone or iPad if you prefer listening to them that way. (The only thing you can't do is transfer them to your iRoni!) ... To enter the contest: Send an email to: blainc@aol.com and put CONTEST #25 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, Dec. 19, at 9 p.m.

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

Thanks, Gil C. in NC, for putting the following nomination on my radar screen: This week it goes to Lowe's. To find out why, please read this article: A disabled Air Force veteran needed a job. So Lowe's hired him—and his service dog.
by Amy B. Wang

While waiting in line at their local Lowe's on Sunday, Judy and Brian Rose did a double take.

Behind them, a golden retriever sauntered by wearing one of the home improvement store's red-and-blue employee vests. To finish it, please click:
[Here](#)

In addition, you might want to see this video clip about the story:
[Here](#)

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2. FYI

Note: Don't be misled by the headline. The following information applies to all investors, regardless of location.

Tips for Asheville's nervous investors
by Bray Creech

I'm a nervous flyer. If there's the least little bit of turbulence, the plane is about to crash - in my mind, at least. My heart races; I'm short of breath and white-knuckling the armrests for dear life.

I've flown a lot (and not crashed), but that doesn't change anything. Nor does arming myself with information about flight safety statistics or teaching myself about the physics of flight. I am always waiting for Elaine Dickinson, the flight attendant from the movie "Airplane!," who tells a bunch of jittery passengers after their pilot passes out from food poisoning: "There's no reason to become alarmed, and we hope you'll enjoy the rest of your flight. By the way, is there anyone on board who knows how to fly a plane?"

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

FYI, part 2

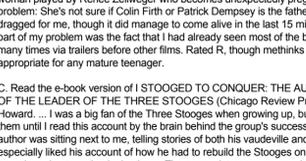
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
[Here](#)

- (1) Padma D. in NC: Thanks Blaine! I love your jokes. (2) One weight-loss approach fits all? No, not even close. (3) Shirley L. in NC: Your lovely wife, Cynthia shared the story about Lovey when she came through my line at Earth Fare the other day. (4) The perfect gift? It's the one they asked for. (5) The power of simple life changes to prevent heart disease. (6) Bray C. in NC: I'm impressed you mentioned the Madonna concert on Showtime.

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3. Joke

Someone has finally managed to photograph the pot at the end of the rainbow! So does this mean that all that glitter is not gold?



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4. Reviews

A. Saw OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY, a not very funny comedy about a company that holds an epic office party in an attempt to impress a potential client. I usually like Jason Bateman and Jennifer Aniston in almost anything they are in, but neither could save this film. And Rob Cordery is wasted in a role that doesn't give him much of an opportunity to display his talents. Rated R.

B. BRIDGET JONES'S BABY is now out on DVD ... my review from BLAINESWORLD #1043 follows:
Saw BRIDGET JONES'S BABY, the third film in the comedy series about a single woman played by Renée Zellweger who becomes unexpectedly pregnant. The only problem: She's not sure if Colin Firth or Patrick Dempsey is the father. The film dragged for me, though it did manage to come alive in the last 15 minutes. A large part of my problem was the fact that I had already seen most of the best scenes too many times via trailers before other films. Rated R, though methinks it would be appropriate for any mature teenager.

C. Read the e-book version of I STOOGED TO CONQUER: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE LEADER OF THE THREE STOOGES (Chicago Review Press) by Moe Howard. ... I was a big fan of the Three Stooges when growing up, but knew little about them until I read this account by the brain behind the group's success. ... It felt like the author was sitting next to me, telling stories of both his vaudeville and TV days. I especially liked his account of how he had to rebuild the Stooges on three separate occasions due to untimely deaths. ... The many pictures were an added bonus.

D. Heard LAST GIRL BEFORE FREEWAY: THE LIFE, LOVES, LOSSES, AND LIBERATION OF JOAN RIVERS (Hachette Audio), written by Leslie Bennetts and read by Erin Bennett. ... Rivers was a comedian, actress, writer, producer and television host noted for her acerbic wit that could both offend and delight. This book helped me better understand the inner workings of the trailblazer whose mother was so desperate to marry her off that she posted a sign with the book's title in their yard advertising Rivers' availability—or so Joan joked early in her career. ... I liked the tributes at the end from those who were influenced by Joan Rivers, including this one from Sarah Silverman: [She was] "the poster girl for perseverance" whose "existence changed everything for women in comedy." ... The only thing needed in this book were photographs from her career. I assume there were some in the hard cover book, and they would have added to my enjoyment of this version.

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5. TV alert

A. WHITE HOUSE: THE INSIDE STORY: Monday, Dec. 20, at 8 p.m. (PBS times and dates often vary, so check local listings.)
A historical tour of the White House, featuring remarks from President Obama.

B. DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 11:30 p.m. on TCM
Dustin Hoffman and John Malkovich won Emmys for the portrayal of a delusional salesman and his tormented son.

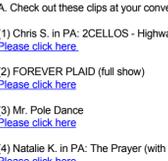
C. MY BIG FAT WEDDING 2: Thursday, Dec. 22, at 8 p.m. on HBO
If you liked the original, you'll enjoy this sweet sequel.

D. CHASING CAMERON: Series premiere on Tuesday, Dec. 27, on Netflix
The docuseries follows Internet celebrity Cameron Dallas (who has 35 million online followers) as he and his social-media friends embark on a world tour of meet-and-greets.

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6. Joke 2

One way to destroy creativity in cats—and people, too!



Note: If you have trouble reading the caption, here is it: "Never, ever think outside the box."

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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

- (1) Chris S. in PA: 2CELLOS - Highway To Hell
[Please click here](#)
- (2) FOREVER PLAID (full show)
[Please click here](#)
- (3) Mr. Pole Dance
[Please click here](#)
- (4) Natalie K. in PA: The Prayer (with Lyrics) - Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli
[Please click here](#)

B. Never pay full price! If you're a Chrome user, a free extension instantly alerts you to the best coupon codes, product deals and others offer for thousands of stores—including Macy's, Kohl's, Sears, Dell, Footlocker and many more. To access this, 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

If you have a Yahoo mail account, please read the following article-and share it with others who have such an account:
Yahoo Says It Was Hacked. Here's How to Protect Yourself.
by THE NEW YORK TIMES

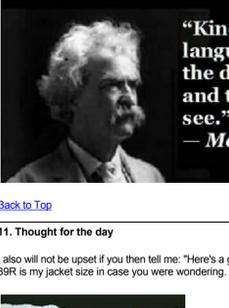
Yahoo said on Wednesday that hackers in 2013 stole data of over one billion users. Names, contact information, passwords and answers to security questions may have been taken in the breach, the company said. The announcement came months after the company disclosed a similar attack that affected 500 million accounts in 2014.

Whether you are a current or former Yahoo user, security experts have said that incidents like these could have far-reaching consequences for users beyond Yahoo's services. To read more, please click:
[Here](#)

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9. Joke 3

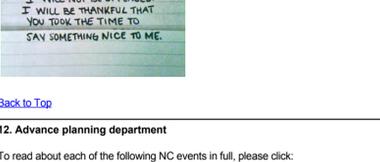
I can't believe they used my picture!



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10. A quote I like

Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910), better known by his pen name Mark Twain, was an American writer, entrepreneur, publisher and lecturer.



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11. Thought for the day

I also will not be upset if you then tell me: "Here's a gift that I thought you would like." ... 39R is my jacket size in case you were wondering.



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12. Advance planning department

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

A. Musical of Musicals (The Musical!), B. Ian Ridenhour and the band get festive at White Horse!

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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