
You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not tooo risqué (typically in Sections 4, 7 and 10); contests; reviews of shows, movies and books; quotes, etc. ... Please feel free to share it with 437 of your closest friends and relatives.. ... And In the unlikely event that you or they are not already a subscriber, just click the following link to be added to the free mailing list: [Here](#).

#1317
12.13.2021

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I enjoyed our tasty dinner at Vinnie's and the fine service we received from Harry.



B. We got a big kick out of EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME), now at HART

through Dec. 19. ... Actors David Spivey, William Tyler Ezzell and Dakota Mann provided nonstop laughter; John Baldwin's direction was spot on; and Ginger Peterson's kept the show running smoothly with her work as stage manager. ... But perhaps our favorite part was when I got called up on stage, as can be seen in the bottom picture.



C. Afterward, we enjoyed viewing the Christmas trees outside Sheldon House, the museum of North Carolina handicrafts.



D. I was in luck, in that I got to see one of the final performances at The Magnetic Theatre of IT'S THE MOST _____ TIME OF THE YEAR: OIL ON CANVAS, a play by Erin McCarson's play that is quirky, funny and touching. ... All in the cast are outstanding: Dillon Giles, Clara Burrus, Peter Smith-McDowell, David Mycoff, Strother Stingley, Heather Bronson and Jane Hallstrom. And the latter actor deserves special kudos for her singing and dancing in the first act, followed by her work in the second act that has to be seen to be believed. ... Also to note: Jessica Johnson's direction is spot on.



E. Catch this week's BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM by clicking: [Here](#). ... Guests: (first half) Bill Branyon and Lauren Eavarone, authors, Advanced Romance; and (second half) Edie Weinstein, author, Attract, Don't Pursue: Ways to Create the Life of Your Dreams and Desires.



F. Condolences to Chelsey Lee Gaddy and family on the passing of Vickie Gaddy, Chelsey's mother.

G. Congratulations to:

(1) Ann Redfield on her retirement after 33+ years at Merck.

(2) Andrea Shrednick on the birth of Sully Jade Wrotchford, her granddaughter.

H. Announcing this week's ...

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

This week, it goes to Sarah Gewanter--hypnotist extraordinaire.

I've had a problem with excessive salivation for several years. Visits to several doctors did not help. But after just one visit with Sarah, I was on way to a successful resolution that has since been reinforced by two follow-up sessions.

Sarah is knowledgeable, as well as friendly. She is also a terrific trainer, and she helped me gain certification in the field some ten years ago.

I recommend her highly if you want to stop smoking, need help relaxing, have anxiety, want weight loss support, need to deal with chronic pain and many other issues.

For information and/or to contact Sarah, click: [Here](#).

Note: Sarah is also a certified AIT (Auditory Integration Training) practitioner. This non-pharmacological, non-invasive treatment helps normalize auditory, behavioral and neurological functions.

For information on her work in that field, click: [Here](#).



2. Invites

A. Announcing ...

***** CONTEST #28 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of **THE GREAT BRAIN ROBBERY: A COLLECTION OF PROVEN IDEAS TO MAKE YOU MONEY AND CHANGE YOUR LIFE!** by Ray Considine & Murray Raphel.

This is perhaps my all-time favorite business book. I used it as the text for my marketing classes at Bucks County Community for over ten years and would have kept using it had it still been in publication. And Raphel, one of the co-authors, was both a friend and my marketing guru.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST 28 in the subject line. In the body of your email, you **MUST** include your name and address, so that I can send you the prize if you win. All entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 27.

B. Results from Contest #27 ...Howard Berkowitz was the winner, a copy **ENCOUNTERS** by Alana Lorens. All told, there were four entries.

C. Want to be a guest on my radio/Facebook Live show? If you have news you'd like to share and/or a story to tell, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put GUEST in the subject line. In the body of the email, include both your name and phone number.

For more information about the show, click: [Here](#).

Even if you've been a guest before, I'd welcome the opportunity to speak with you again. I now tape via Zoom, usually in the early evenings.

D. Are you interested in shows, concerts, movies, TV, etc.? ... If so, I encourage you to join a new group I've formed on Facebook that's called Entertainment. To do so, all you need to do is follow the instructions when you click: click: [Here](#).

E. Come join Cynthia in teaching for Arms Around ASD beginning in January, 2022, via Zoom: Meditation on Monday and Move Your Body on Wednesday. To attend these and/or any of the other courses, scroll down to Calendar when you click: [Here](#).

Note: For others, see Sect.13 (at the bottom of this issue).

3. FYI

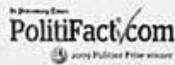
USEFUL INFORMATION HERE! ... Please help stop the sharing of inaccurate information. Use this chart to do your research. It apparently came out in Aug., 2020, but still seems pretty current. I have not been able to track down where it came from, but if you find out, please let me know. ... Note: When I got this chart, I saw one person had written: "I never look at Snopes. Look into their history." I have done just that and found out that Snopes is very well-respected. My take is that those who badmouth Snopes are those who often tend to spread garbage. Read more: [Here](#).

FACT-CHECKING RESOURCES

It is really hard to know if what you just read is accurate. Did the President really say that? Does a story say a source is claiming something you just can't believe? Here are five resources where you can check the facts and a few more that specialize in checking facts on internet rumors. Because just how many times are you going to mourn Andy Griffith's death on your Facebook page?

• Politifact

Perhaps the most recognized (and awarded after it won the Pulitzer Prize in 2009) of the fact-checking sites, this one has the "Truth-O-Meter," which ranks a claim as: True, Mostly True, False and the notorious Pants on Fire. It can be found at [politifact.com](#).



• FactCheck.org

This project was started in 2003 as a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania. It mainly deals with claims made in the political arena.



• Washington Post's Fact Checker

This is a blog that looks at claims made by politicians, political organizations and, occasionally, the media itself.

• Snopes.com

The granddaddy of fact-checking websites. Originally started to dispel urban legends touted in chat rooms long before social media, now, it is often used to beat back the most bizarre claims and outlandish memes. Also, Andy Griffith died in 2015. Don't fall for that post on Facebook the next time you see it.



See, you fell for it again. He actually died in 2012. This is why we need Snopes.

A couple more sites like Snopes that try to debunk internet rumors are **Truth or Fiction** and **Hoax Slayer**.

• NPR Fact Checker

This site deals with mostly political statements, but occasionally there will be a short audio clip

explaining the fact check.

A couple sites that "specialize" in certain areas:

• **Viral Spiral**, which is part of [FactCheck.org](#). It specializes in helping to determine if a claim is spreading false information. Often it is a question someone asks the site regarding something they saw on the internet, followed by an answer (usually refuting it).

• **FlackCheck.org**. This site deals with false claims in advertising, science and healthcare messages.

• **OpenSecrets**, part of the Center for Responsive Politics, tracks campaign spending and money spent on lobbying.

• **Sunlight Foundation**: This site uses public data to help bring more transparency to reporting.

• **Media Bias/Fact Check**: This site is a bias meter of the fact checkers. It actually focuses on the bias level on reporting and fact checking sites.

Some sites that help promote news literacy:

• **News Literacy Project**, founded a decade ago by a reporter at the Los Angeles Times. This site is dedicated to checking facts, but it has also become the go-to source for educators and those wanting to learn about what resources are needed to find a credible source and, also, to just get a good idea of how journalism works. The founder was quoted in the Washington Post as saying NLP's goal is to "see news literacy embedded in the American educational experience."

• **Poynter Institute**. An organization that has been around for more than 40 years, Poynter has a mission of making journalism better and helping the public better understand what journalists do. Its digital literacy initiative **MediaWise** is a great tool full of training on how to tell what is factual and worth your time.

FYI, part 2

To read the following articles, click: [Here](#).

A. Stephen Sondheim's classic arrives on Broadway in a gender-swapped production. B. 'You immediately tell

4. Joke 1

The perfect gift for the man in your life! (Thanks, Mike Martinelli, for sharing.)



5. Reviews

A. Some movies are best seen in theaters. WEST SIDE STORY, the 2021 remake, is one of them. ... Steven Spielberg both directed and produced this classic story of young Tony who spots Maria at a high school dance in 1957 New York City. Their burgeoning romance only serves to fuel the fire between the warring Jets and Sharks--the two rival gangs vying for control of the streets. ... Everything about this film is perfect: the singing, acting, dancing, costumes and sets. ... Look for it twin several Oscars. I especially liked the performances of both newcomer, Rachel Zegler and David Alvarez, and it was great to see Rita Moreno returning to the story she helped make famous in 1961. ... Rated PG-13.

B. Thanks, Grant Randall, for this HBO Max recommendation:

AN AMERICAN PICKLE is a quirky comedy about an Orthodox Jewish factory worker who wakes up in New York City after being preserved in pickle brine for 100 years. Seth Rogan stars in a dual performance as both the factory worker and his great grandson, and you actually believe him in the two roles. It is sweet film that methinks you'll enjoy. Rated PG-13.

6. TV alert

A. CUCKOO: Now on Netflix

This hilarious comedy is about a couple who collect their daughter from the airport and learn that she has returned from her gap year before medical school having married Dale "Cuckoo" Ashbrick. He is an eccentric American hippie with an exuberantly loving attitude who does not have a job and loves to take drugs. Andy Samberg is fantastic in Series 1, the one that Cynthia and I are currently loving. We have read that he is somehow replaced in Series 2, but the reviews on that seem to be quite good.

B. THE SECRETS OF CHRISTMAS REVEALED: Monday, Dec. 20, at 8 p.m. on Fox

Find out all your really wanted to know about the holiday (e.g., how many files does Santa keep on you?) in this tongue-in-cheek expose from the only network capable of bringing you such information.

C. THE 44TH ANNUAL KENNEDY CENTER HONORS: Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 9 p.m. on CBS

Honorees are Barry Gordy, Joni Mitchell, Lorne Michaels, Better Midler and Justino Diaz.

D. A HOLLY DOLLY CHRISTMAS: Friday, Dec. 24, at 8 p.m. on CBS

Dolly Parton performs holiday favorites and originals in a repeat if a moving 2020 special.

E. ALL MADDEN: Documentary premiere on Saturday, Dec. 25, at 2 p.m. on Fox

This documentary profiles the figure behind one of the most popular video game franchises who also happened to be one of pro football's top coaches and most popular broadcasters.

7. Joke 2

Here's what I got when I ordered "one pepperoni pizza." (Thanks, Elaine Bilk, for sharing.)



8. 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 view this version performed by the London Souls, Joseph, Dylan LeBlanc, and the Bonnarooovians: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

This fabulous new song was written for my friend Elsten Torres. It is for those suffering from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). To view it, click: [Here](#).

C. And also view these other clips at your convenience:

(1) The Tymes, "So Much In Love," one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

Note: I seem to recall seeing them perform at my LHS Class of '67 senior prom. (If you were there, please let me know if that's also your recollection.)

(2) Howard Smith: Christmas songs. December 19, 2021: [Here](#).

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: Billy Gibbons: [Here](#).

(4) Bradshaw Call: WKRP Turkey Drop: [Here](#).

(5) Bill Branyon: The Kinks: Father Christmas: [Here](#).

(6) Jonathan Berg: Steve Martin's Holiday Wish - SNL: [Here](#).

D. Here's a website that you might want to check out:

Scared by what you see on the internet? To give your eyes a break, check out Eyebleach by clicking: [Here](#).

You'll see adorable pictures of puppies kitties, babies and more.

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](#).

9. Technology tip

When you get a junk text, I strongly encourage you to block it. But if you also want to take action, report the junk text to the GSMA (Global System for Mobile Communications) Reporting Service by forwarding the message to 7726, which also conveniently spells SPAM. Or just hit "Report junk" in your messaging app.

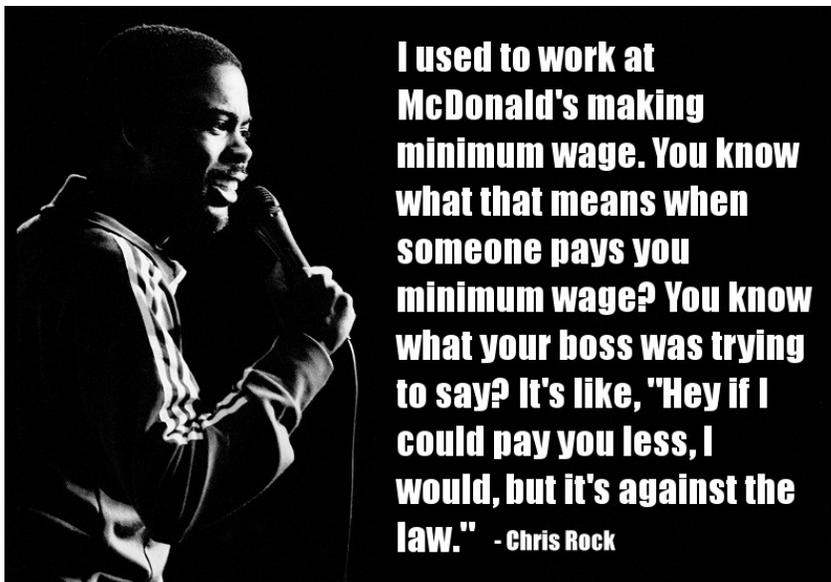
10. Joke 3

What it feels like to eat with someone who is always on his or her cellphone! (Thanks, Ed Nasta, for sharing.)



11. A quote I like

Chris Rock (born 1965) is an American stand-up comedian, actor, writer, producer and director. He has won four Emmy Awards and three Grammy Awards, and he has hosted the Academy Awards twice.



12. Thought for the day

Climate change has destabilized the Earth's poles, putting the rest of the planet in peril
by Sarah Kaplan

The ice shelf was cracking up. Surveys showed warm ocean water eroding its underbelly. Satellite imagery revealed long, parallel fissures in the frozen expanse, like scratches from some clawed monster. One fracture grew so big, so fast, scientists took to calling it “the dagger.”

“It was hugely surprising to see things changing that fast,” said Erin Pettit. The Oregon State University glaciologist had chosen this spot for her Antarctic field research precisely because of its stability. While other parts of the infamous Thwaites Glacier crumbled, this wedge of floating ice acted as a brace, slowing the melt. It was supposed to be boring, durable, safe.

To read the rest of this eye-opening article, click: [Here](#).

Note: If the paywall prevents you from reading the article, see it: [Here](#).



Ice and snow on the shoreline at Testhekpuk Lake in North Slope Borough, Alaska, on May 28, 2019. The lake is the largest in Arctic Alaska and is a significant location for geese to molt and for caribou to migrate and calf. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post)

13. Advance planning department

For more information about the following events, click: [Here](#).

A. James Nave: Upcoming performance of a Child's Christmas in Wales by Dylan Thomas. B. TJ Shimeld: Ricky D. Boone's Birthday Show Celebration! C. Jeff Hutchins: DENTON THE DRAGON: THE MUSICAL! D. Victoria Lamberth: Auditions for Hendersonville Theatre.

PS. Make it a great week!
