

#1215
12.30.2019

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

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

- (1) Had the pleasure of hosting our friends Annemarie Brown and Marvin Sadovsky for dinner, followed by a couple of fierce games of Spot it!

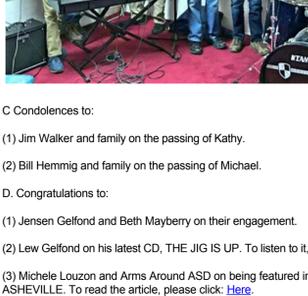
If you're not familiar with this game, it makes you feel like you're doing something good for your brain when you play it. For more information, please click: [Here](#).



- (2) We also got together with our friend Ellane Chandler for a tasty dinner at Twisted Crepe.



- (3) And we checked out Blue Sky Cafe in Fletcher for the first time. The food is good, the portions are generous and the prices are reasonable. We'll be back.



B. This week's BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM was taped at Experience Music. It featured an interview with the Seven Lemonz Band. ... The volume is on the low side until the 22-min. mark, so you might want to pump it up until then. That's when the music kicks in, so feel free to lower the volume at that point in time. ... To view the show, please click [Here](#).

Note: Special thanks to Grail Moviehouse for sponsoring the above. To find out what's currently playing, please click: [Here](#).



C. Condolences to:

- (1) Jim Walker and family on the passing of Kathy.
- (2) Bill Hemmig and family on the passing of Michael.

D. Congratulations to:

- (1) Jensen Gelfond and Beth Maybery on their engagement.
- (2) Lew Gelfond on his latest CD, THE JIG IS UP. To be listened to it, please click: [Here](#).
- (3) Michele Louzon and Arms Around ASD on being featured in THE LAUREL OF ASHEVILLE. To read the article, please click: [Here](#).
- (4) Elsten Torres on AND IT GOES LIKE THIS, his new spontaneous interview show. For more information, please click: [Here](#).

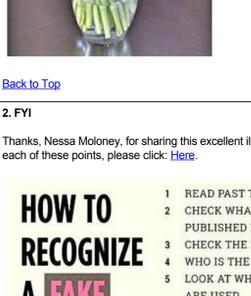
E. Correction: Last week's issue mentioned an event that Cynthia and I participated in with our friends Padma Dwyne and Will Redish. Here is the correct name: Bounty of Bethlehem. For more information about it, please click: [Here](#).

F. Invitations:

- (1) There's still time to enter ...

******* CONTEST #1 (of 2020) *******

One lucky winner will receive a colorful T-shirt of his or her choice from Psychedelic Serenity, my talented friend Louisa Daniel's company. I'm pictured (below) with Louisa wearing one the shirts that she has manufactured. My shirt is on order. ... To enter the contest, send an email to: bjginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #1 in the subject line. Make sure you include your street mailing address in the body of the email. All entries must be received on or before Monday, Jan. 6, at 9 p.m. ... And if you want to find out more about Psychedelic Serenity, please click: [Here](#).



- (2) And to check out our Billmore Lake home that's still for sale. Find out more about it yourself (or share this information with others who might be interested) by clicking: [Here](#).

G. MR. CURIOUS here: Do you have any knowledge about collagen, a protein that binds tissues in fish and animals? Have you ever tried it or do you know anybody who has? Of particular interest: Is it of any help for folks who have arthritis? Any feedback on this subject would be much appreciated.

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

Thanks, Eric Phelps, for the following nomination:
On a call to Chewy.com customer service recently, the rep asked how Pants and the rest of my gang of cats were. I told them I'd recently lost Pants. Today, a bouquet of flowers and a sympathy card showed up from them. Pretty amazing. (See pictures below.)

Thanks also, Cynthia Greenfield, for adding this information about the company: They are amazing. Every single time I call them, a person answers. They are there every single day of the year, 24 hours per day.

And if I ever want to return anything, even a largish order, they refund my money and then tell me to give the order away to a shelter.



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2. FYI

Thanks, Nessa Moloney, for sharing this excellent illustration. For more information on each of these points, please click: [Here](#).

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A FAKE NEWS STORY

- 1 READ PAST THE HEADLINE
- 2 CHECK WHAT NEWS OUTLET PUBLISHED IT
- 3 CHECK THE PUBLISH DATE AND TIME
- 4 WHO IS THE AUTHOR?
- 5 LOOK AT WHAT LINKS AND SOURCES ARE USED
- 6 LOOK OUT FOR QUESTIONABLE QUOTES AND PHOTOS
- 7 BEWARE CONFIRMATION BIAS
- 8 SEARCH IF OTHER NEWS OUTLETS ARE REPORTING IT
- 9 THINK BEFORE YOU SHARE

FYI, part 2

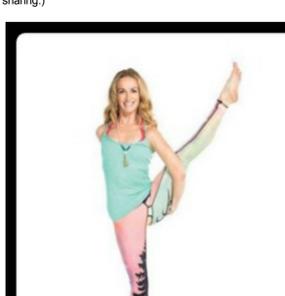
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: [Here](#).

- (1) Lori Brown: Don't Abbreviate 2020 When Signing Documents. (2) David Troy Friends: Empathy is the most important leadership skill needed today! (3) Avi Dobuler: How Sleeping on Your Left Side Affects Your Health.

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3. Joke 1

Finally ... something to take your mind off all the political news you've been seeing! (Thanks, Carol Seufert, for sharing.)



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4. Reviews

A. Saw BOMBSHELL, an engaging drama based on the sexual harassment scandal at Fox News. Charlize Theron, Nicole Kidman and Margot Robbie and John Lithgow are all excellent in their respective roles. Special credit and a likely Oscar nomination (and probable win) goes to makeup designer Kaxu Hiro. His work is amazing. Rated R.

Note: Find SEARCHING FOR SUGAR Hiro on Netflix and see if if you want to learn more about the greatest 70s icon who never was. The documentary is the incredible true story of Rodriguez, a singer who was discovered in a Detroit bar and who recorded one album that went nowhere. He soon faded into obscurity, but a bootleg recording found its way into apartheid South Africa and over the next two decades, Rodriguez became a phenomenon. This film about his life won a well-deserved Best Documentary Oscar in 2013. The story is amazing and so is the music. Rated PG-13.

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

******* TO FIND OUT MORE *******

I was so impressed with this film that I had to find out more about Rodriguez. For starters, I checked out some of his music:

- (1) I Think of You - Rodriguez: [Here](#).
- (2) Sixto Rodriguez - Sugar Man: [Here](#).
- (3) And perhaps best of all, check out this concert: Rodriguez - live at Best Kept Secret 2018: [Here](#)

I then read some more about his life. Here's a Reader's Digest version:
It's one of pop music's unlikeliest and greatest comeback stories ever: a Mexican-American singer-songwriter from Detroit named Sixto Rodriguez recorded two albums of psychedelic folk rock in the early 1970s that went nowhere in the U.S. upon their initial release; afterwards, he worked in construction. Unbeknownst to him, his music was a huge hit in South Africa, where his unsentimental and gritty outsider lyrics resonated with young liberal Afrikaners during that country's policy of apartheid. Rodriguez's impact on South Africa and his subsequent reemergence in the late 1990s--thanks to the efforts of some dedicated fans--formed the crux of the 2012 Academy Award-winning documentary Searching for Sugar Man, directed by the late Malik Bendjelloul. Due to the success of the film, Rodriguez's music has experienced belated and renewed attention.

Source: [Here](#) (a most informative website)

C. Margie Zack: The ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES has had several articles about the movie, Richard Jewel. The female reporter is untruthfully portrayed - and she's not alive to speak for herself. So former colleagues are telling her story more truthfully. You might want to read these articles (~2 weeks ago) before you make this a favorite movie.

Response: I read the above articles, but believe as with most things, there are two sides to every story--if not a lot more. For more information, please read the following: [Here](#).

I stick with my belief that it is a terrific film.

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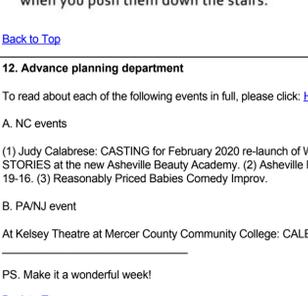
5. TV alert

- A. 77TH ANNUAL GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS: Sunday, Jan. 5, at 8 p.m. on NBC. Ricky Gervais hosts, which is usually good for a laugh, and Tom Hanks receives the Cecil B. DeMille Award for career achievement. In addition, Ellen DeGeneres accepts the second annual Carol Burnett Award for comedy.
- B. MCCARTHY: Monday, Jan. 6, at 9 p.m. on CBS (check local listings at pbs.org) To quote TV GUIDE, "It provides a cautionary tale of how ambition and hubris, inflamed by an eager media ... can destroy lives and threaten the very values of democracy."
- C. JEOPARDY! THE GREATEST OF ALL TIME: Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 8 p.m. on ABC Alex Trebek brings back three all-time champions: Ken Jennings, whose 74-win streak still holds the record; Brad Rutter, the all-around highest-earning Jeopardy! player, who has yet to lose to a human; and James Holzhauer, whose 32-day streak, including several single-day earning records, made him an instant celebrity. They'll play special matches in a prime-time tournament, airing nightly until someone wins three times, reaping \$1 million.
- D. PARTY OF FIVE: Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 9 p.m. on Freeform The beloved Fox series (1994-2000) is smartly, sensitively reimagined in a contemporary family drama about four siblings and a baby left to fend on their own when their parents are suddenly deported back to Mexico.

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6. Joke 2

Right before the clock strikes midnight on December 31st, make sure you raise your right left. That way, you start the year off on the right foot. (Thanks, Brian Bullman, for sharing.)



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7. Clips/Websites

- A. Video of the week
Happy Ending Message: [Here](#)
- B. And also check out these other clips at your convenience:
(1) Sam Cooke: "Chain Gang," one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).
(2) Judy Calabrese: It Didn't Happen Highlights: [Here](#).

Note: If you'd like to join me in helping Judy get more exposure for her show, please click: [Here](#).

- (3) Avi Dobuler: An Elvis Hanukkah - Jewish a cappella group Shir Soul featuring Elliot Dvorin of Key Tov Orchestra: [Here](#).
- (4) Annemarie Brown: Jane Fonda accepts the #GlamourWOTM Award on behalf of Annetta Thunberg and says Greta inspired her to step up her activism: [Here](#).

C. Thanks, Jensen Gelfond, for sharing information about Fakespot. To quote from the website:
Growing suspicious of online reviews? So were we. Fakespot provides consumers with a new way of filtering product reviews to find out what real users are saying about the products you want to buy. Our proprietary technology analyzes millions of product reviews, looking for suspicious patterns and incentivized reviews. We then weed out the reviews we think are unreliable. Don't take our word for it. You be the judge.
To see this website for yourself, please click: [Here](#)

D. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running. ... to view it, please click: [Here](#).

E. 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

DONT MISS a post on Facebook you really want to see. ... If it is a friend: 1. Add him or her as a friend (option to the right of person's name toward the top). 2. Under Friends, then click "Get Notifications" and "Close Friends." 3. To the right, indicate "See First" in your News Feed. ... If it is a business page you want to see: 1. Like the page. 2. Hover on "Following." 3. Choose "See First."

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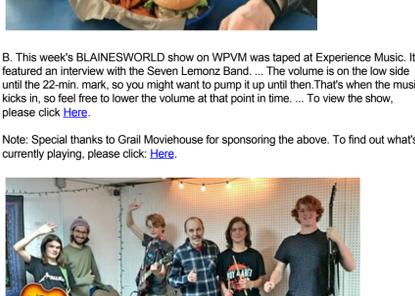
9. Joke 3

And if you're like me, and you celebrate all holidays because there's more food, fun and friends that way ... join me in making it a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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10. A quote I like

How I feel about you ...



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11. Thought for the day

DONT WORRY! ... If you are reading this, I don't put you in this category. (Thanks, Bob Player, for sharing.)

Some people are like Slinkies.

Not really good for much, but bring a smile to your face when you push them down the stairs.

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12. Advance planning department

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

- A. NC events
(1) Judy Calabrese: CASTING for February 2020 re-launch of WHET: SEXY STORIES at the new Asheville Beauty Academy. (2) Asheville Fringe Festival, Jan. 19-16. (3) Reasonably Priced Babies Comedy Improv.
- B. PANJ event
At Kelsey Theatre at Mercer County Community College: CALENDAR GIRLS.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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