



BLAINES WORLD

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BLAINESWORLD

Teaching

**Dispute
Resolution**

Speaking

Consulting

Radio Show

Newsletter

Blaine's Best

About Cynthia

Welcome to **BLAINESWORLD**, the only official guide to the workings of the mind of yours truly, Blaine Greenfield. **BLAINESWORLD** is the first and only complete work known to modern man that addresses the burning question of what it is, exactly, that I do with my every waking hour. It is also a treasure box of selected gems that I hope will enlighten, enhance and inspire you, my esteemed guest.

Best,
Blaine

What's New at
BLAINESWORLD.NET

What's new? EVERYTHING is new! **BLAINESWORLD** is now officially on the Internet, and your opinion really matters. Whether you're a student, client, coworker, radio fan, loyal newsletter follower, or even a family member, I hope you let me know what you think. Your opinion really matters!

While you're getting your thoughts and notes together, please note our email address, should you wish to contact us: bginbc@aol.com. Please change your contact manager, address book and palm pilot to reflect that address.

If you are a new visitor to our site, please take a few seconds to let us know how you discovered our place. Just click [here](#) and your own email program will be set up to send us your comments. Thank you, in advance.

Upcoming Events

Please see weekly newsletter, Section 12, for events you might want to attend. In the unlikely event you're not already getting this missive, see below (for the "Special Offer").

Special Offer

Sign up for free to receive the infamous **BLAINESWORLD** Newsletter. To get this weekly missive, please [click here](#).



073537⁵ 735⁵ 53

(You may have seen other counters, but I bet none are as impressive as mine.)

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BLAINESWORLD

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#534

12.25.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are finding it hard to believe that winter started this past week . . . we've been enjoying the lovely weather, often taking an early morning walk together.

We have also been seeing a bunch of movies, both in person and via Netflix--having finally taken out a membership with the latter . . . most recently in the theaters we saw THE HOLIDAY with friends (see also Section 4A).

Afterwards, we joined them for dinner at Uno Chicago Grill (609.890.0864) in Hamilton, NJ . . . the food there is always good . . . we shared a salad that came with a delicious blueberry vinaigrette dressing . . . I ordered ribs; they were both plentiful and tasty . . . Cynthia said her bowl of broccoli and cheddar soup was so filling that she was only able to taste her salmon before bringing the rest home.

Our server, Amy, was friendly . . . in particular, I liked something she did with our leftovers . . . when she packed them up, she labeled them with both what was in the box and the date . . . since we too often forget to do this when we get home, this little gesture was very much appreciated.

The restaurant also allows you to call ahead . . . while they don't say it is for reservations, per se, by doing so you can go to the top of the waiting list . . . lastly, the four of us shared dessert: a deep dish sundae on top of a freshly-baked chocolate chip cookie . . . even typing about it a few days later makes my mouth water.

B. You--the readers of this newsletter--are the greatest!

I mentioned last week how we needed help with our new

iPod . . . imagine my surprise when several folks immediately wrote back with such suggestions as the following from Ron in Pennsylvania about how to make on-the-go playlists when the iPod nano isn't connected to your computer:

1. Select a song and press and hold the Center button until the song title flashes.
2. Choose other songs you want to add.
3. Choose Music > Playlists > On-The-Go to view your list of songs.

You can also add entire lists of songs at once. For example, to add an album, highlight the album title and press and hold the Center button until the album title flashes.

THANKS to Andrea in Pennsylvania for providing similar information.

And SPECIAL THANKS to Lori in Pennsylvania, a former student, for coming to our place and giving us hands-on instruction on all that we needed to get going . . . having her do so saved us many hours of what would have been frustrating time reading through instructions and manuals that weren't clear . . . should you want to contact Lori for similar assistance, she can be reached at 215.850.8709 . . . whatever you pay her will be money well spent!

C. I LOVE competence . . . when it is provided by somebody who is nice, too, that's a winning combination.

My mother--our whole family, actually--has been blessed to be working with Tammy Lawlor, the lawyer who has handled her will and other legal documents . . . she met with us this past week to make sure that we were up to date, and as always, she painstakingly answered all our questions.

Tammy has actually come out to meet with my parents both at their apartment and when my dad was in the hospital . . . I do believe that if you're in need of somebody with an elder law background and if you're anywhere near Garden City, NY, you would be well served by utilizing her services . . . she can be reached at 516.296.1000.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to Roberta Mayer, a talented art history colleague of mine at Bucks County Community College . . . she just received word that she has been awarded \$7,000 from Furthermore Grants in Publishing for her book on Lockwood de Forest.

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

This week, it goes to Augusto Gonzalez--a service representative with Copi-Rite (609.587.1100) in Trenton, NJ.

I've dealt with Copi-Rite for well over a decade . . . my first copy machine was purchased from them and after that one, I purchased a Sharp SF-7800 that is still working quite well (having passed the 100,000 copy mark).

Augusto has serviced my copiers several times in the three most recent homes I've lived in . . . he is always on time, and he really knows his stuff . . . it is a pleasure to have something fixed right the first time and not have to keep calling a company back for additional service calls.

He is a true professional--one of several such individuals working with Copi-Rite . . . I'd strongly recommend this company for anybody looking to buy or lease a copier, provided that you also hook-in with the fine service that you get after the sale.

2. FYI

Requesting a credit report won't hurt your credit store . . . but beware that if lenders ask for your score too often, that can affect it since the implication is that you're looking to add additional debt . . . thus, do try to limit the number of places at which you apply for credit.

Also, you may not know that you can request a copy of your credit report each year for free from one of the three major credit-report providers: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion . . . for more details on how to obtain this information, please click: <http://www.annualcreditreport.com>

FYI, part 2

* Patty in Pennsylvania:
This is a pretty neat site: <http://www.restaurant.com>

I know you and Cynthia enjoy going out to eat. It's easily accessible, and you can search by zip code or state. There are many options; e.g., you can purchase \$10 gift certificates for \$3 or \$25 gift certificates for \$10.

Some restrictions may apply, such as you may still have to pay a portion of the meal. Check it out!

MY TWO CENTS:

If you visit the website, and I strongly recommend that you do, get on the FREE email list . . . that way, you can get even better savings about once a month when they'll send you a code to get an additional 50% or 60% off . . . beware that there are other restrictions than the one Patty mentioned, such as some restaurants only apply the discount during the week (and not on weekends) and others require that you dine with at least three other companions.

* Megan in New Jersey:
We based a three day staff meeting here on the FIVE DYSFUNCTIONS book and purchased the accompanying workbook ahead of time for everyone. The result was fantastic--it personally made me much more aware in my daily routine of the times that I sometimes pull out some of those poor behaviors.

Another positive about the book I noticed is that it isn't one of those ones where you're diligent about the points it presents for the first week only . . . still in meetings, I have heard people remind others that pulling out their blackberries during someone else's presentation is one of said "dysfunctions." I think its an excellent tool to get people to think beyond their individual goals.

Much cheaper, by the way, on Amazon than through The Table Group's website.

* Jerry in New Jersey:

Thank you . Thank you . Thank you.

The following is my testimonial to the book you recommended.

I'm a retired 64-year-old male. I've been on social security disability for five years due to severe emphysema. I've smoked 1 ½ pack of cigarettes a day for 40 years. I stopped smoking on my own 5 years ago as a result of my being hospitalized for complete pulmonary failure. I spent 2 weeks in ICU on a ventilator and feeding tube. I spent another week in the hospital and 5 weeks in rehab.

I didn't smoke again for 4 years. At that time I was depressed and also started drinking again. I'm a recovering alcoholic and after 5 rehabs had not anything to drink for 26 years. I started smoking 1 or 2 cigarettes day and drinking 2 or 3 glasses of wine all in moderation. Of course it gradually increased to 1 pint of brandy a day and 5 to 10 cigarettes a day over the period of a year. At that time, I was again hospitalized for complete pulmonary failure. I spent 3 weeks in ICU on a ventilator and feeding tube, at a cost of \$327,000.00. I was in rehab for another 5 weeks and started smoking and drinking as soon as I got out.

I had convinced myself that the alcohol was essential for me to breathe correctly. I was having a difficult time catching my breath, but after drinking I seemed to breathe easier. The cigarettes helped calm me and without them, I was a nervous wreck. I was also driving my wife crazy. She found out I was drinking and smoking. She felt I was going kill myself and kill someone on the road with my drinking, and she thought I would kill myself with my smoking. I tried to explain my reasons, but she would not listen.

She went to my pulmonary doctor and pleaded and cried for him to do something. He tried to give me the name of a counselor, but I didn't see them because they were out of my network. She pleaded and cried even more to my primary care physician. He gave me a prescription for Chantix. My insurance would not pay for it and I agreed to pay the \$120 for the starting month pack. (Insurance paid \$327,000 because of my smoking, but wouldn't pay \$120.00 for me to stop smoking. Go figure.)

I was also going to attend a hypnosis session recommended by my friend Blaine Greenfield, but I missed the session. He then recommended a book, THE EASY WAY TO STOP SMOKING by Allen Carr. The book cover said Join the millions who have become non-smokers using Allen Carr Easyway method. It went on to say, you will not need willpower, you will not gain weight, you will not feel deprived, you'll need no gimmicks or substitutes, and you'll lose your fear of withdrawal pangs, and you must smoke as usual as you read."

Before I got into the Chantix medication, I decided to read the book since I could keep smoking while reading the book. It took me three days to read the book. I set my stop smoking day as the next day. The next day I stopped smoking and also stopped drinking with little withdraw pangs, not feeling deprived, and without gimmicks or substitutes. I'm into my third day and there are occasionally some pangs but no real desire to smoke or drink. It was like magic, but it has worked so far.

Thank you again.

You've always told me to add a PS, so . . .

PS. I've have also begun donating a book to each branch of the Mercer County Library and keeping several in stock for gifts.

3. One too many battles

Although fighting the enemy is considered normal, the Army frowns upon fighting among the troops. So much so that after one too many battles royal, my uncle was ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation in which he had to endure some odd questions.

If you saw a submarine in the Sahara, what would you do?

Well, I'd throw snowballs at it, he answered.

Where'd you get the snowballs?the doctor asked.

Same place you got the submarine.

4. Reviews

A. THE HOLIDAY, a romantic comedy about two women who switch homes, starts off slowly . . . very slowly . . . in fact, the first hour was a step above terrible . . . however, things pick up noticeably in the second half of the film to the point where I'd recommend it . . . Kate Winslet, as she usually does, gives a terrific performance as the English woman swapping residences with her American counterpart Cameron Diaz (who appears to be trying too hard in her role) . . . Jude Law is surprisingly touching as one of the male leads; Jack Black, on the other hand, is underused as the other one . . . Eli Wallach, still acting up a storm at 92, adds poignancy to the story . . . rated PG-13.

B. Guilty pleasure confession: I saw and loved the first JACKASS movie . . . though I never watched the show when it was on TV, I found myself laughing out loud when I saw this big screen version . . . so I naturally looked forward to seeing JACKASS: NUMBER TWO (now out on DVD) and was I ever disappointed . . . despite reviews that were amazingly favorable, this sequel did nothing for me . . . I don't think I was amused by any of the stunts involving a bunch of guys inflicting pain on each other, and I even walked out after about an hour . . . rated R and definitely not something I'd recommend for young children--or anybody for that matter.

C. Move over Ann Rule!

She has always been my favorite true crime author, but I now might have to add John Grisham to that list . . . in THE INNOCENT MAN, his first nonfiction book, he tells the tale of a man falsely accused of murder.

It made me think about how this could happen to anybody and despite advances in DNA testing, about the fact that the judicial system still makes mistakes--particularly when trying to "prove" something that isn't true . . . furthermore, Grisham will get you thinking about the death penalty and whether it should be something we utilize in this country. . . however, I like that he doesn't hit you over the head with his opinion; rather, he lets you come to your own conclusions.

I also came away from reading THE INNOCENT MAN with an awareness

that we need to do a much better job of taking care of people who are released from prison after they have been found innocent of a crime they never committed.

One other thing that I very much liked about this book was how it helped teach me a little about law through its explanation of various cases such as this one:

Forensic examination of human hair got off to a rocky start as far back as 1882. In a Wisconsin case that year an expert for the state compared a known hair sample with one found at the crime scene and testified that the two came from the same source. The source was convicted, but on appeal the Wisconsin Supreme Court reversed and said, strongly, Such evidence is of the most dangerous character.

There were several memorable passages; among them:

* The tales started immediately "Holland was describing statements Ron allegedly made in jail about Debbie Carter" and it was obvious Ron was about to explode. He shook his head, clenched his jaws, stared at Holland as if he'd like to kill her. Finally she said, He said if she'd went ahead and went with him, he'd never had to kill her.

* Practice makes perfect, and executions as McAlester are carried out with precision. For the inmate whose time has come, the last day is spent receiving visitors—family members, friends, usually his lawyer. Of course the visits are painful, made even more so by the fact that there can be no physical contact. They chat and cry through a thick wall of glass while talking on a phone. No farewell hugs or kisses from the family, just a gut-wrenching I love you through a black receiver. Often the inmate and his visitor will symbolically kiss each other by pressing their lips against the glass. They also imitate touching with their hands.

And this frightening one, describing an actual execution:

* First a saline solution is pumped in to open the veins. The first drug is sodium thiopental, and it quickly knocks out the inmate. Another flushing of saline solution, then the second drug, vecuronium bromide, stops the breathing. Another quick flush and the third drug, potassium chloride, stops the heart.

D. Ken Blanchard has always been one of my favorite business authors, starting with the classic that he wrote with Spencer Johnson: THE ONE MINUTE MANAGER . . . so when I came across something of his that I had missed, THE ON-TIME, ON-TARGET MANAGER (co-authored with Steve Gottry), I grabbed an audio copy of it since I was particularly interested in its subtitle: HOW A "LAST-MINUTE MANAGER CONQUERED PROCRASTINATION.

I must admit it took me a few weeks to listen to it . . . first, I had to . . . well, I won't bother you with the details, but procrastination definitely came into play . . . unfortunately, I'm not sure that I learned very much from listening that helped me deal with this vexing problem.

THE ON-TIME, ON-TARGET MANAGER is another parable that Blanchard typically writes so well . . . this one, however, missed the mark for me . . . I wasn't interested in the

main character, Bob, or any of his multiple nicknames that actually got annoying after a very short while . . . moreover, I was thrown by the "3-P strategy" that started off fine with Priority . . . however, I'm still now quite sure how Propriety fit into the mix . . . and Commitment isn't even a "P," but according to the authors was a mnemonic device that didn't work for me.

I would have preferred a better ending, along with some actual examples of how the principles could be put into play by Bob or anybody else for that matter.

In retrospect, I did at least come away with a reminder that I need to continually ask myself: What is the most important thing I should be doing? Other readers wanting an answer would do better by reading my all-time favorite time management book, HOW TO GET CONTROL OF YOUR TIME AND YOUR LIFE by Alan Lakein.

5. TV alert

A. FUNNIEST COMMERCIALS OF THE YEAR has Kevin Nealon counting down the most laughworthy promotional spots of the year . . . Wednesday at 9 p.m. on TBS.

B. Be sure to catch 15 FILMS ABOUT MADONNA to see a song parody of Kabbalah and an animated battle between the Material Girl and Eva Peron . . . Saturday at 4 a.m. on A&E.

C. Two marathons worthy of your consideration show up on Sunday . . . beginning at 9 a.m., you can see a 45-hour block of eerie episodes from the TWILIGHT ZONE on SCI FI . . . starting at 10:30 p.m., the entire third season of the very funny ENTOURAGE airs on HBO.

D. LIVE FROM LINCOLN CENTER features Broadway and concert star Audra McDonald ringing in the New Year with a program of cherished pop-song standards by Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, Harold Arlen, and others with members of the New York Philharmonic conducted by Ted Sperling . . . Sunday at 8 p.m. on PBS . . . times and stations vary on PBS, so make sure you check your local listings.

6. Checkup

After a long-overdue checkup, my cousin's dentist sat down to go over all the work she would need on her mouth. The total estimate was \$9,200.

My cousin gasped. For that kind of money, I could get a tummy tuck and silicone implants.

But what about your smile? the dentist asked.

If I had all that done, my cousin replied, I guarantee no one would be looking at my teeth.

7. Websites

A. If you love to shop and hate experiencing inhumane customer support, please click:

<http://www.consumerist.com/>

Sometimes, it is a bit slow; i.e., to load . . . but give it a shot, if just to hear this one--a consumer's attempt to cancel AOL:

<http://www.consumerist.com/consumer/aol/the-best-thing-we-have-ever-posted-reader-tries-to-cancel-aol-180392.php>

I can relate, in that I experienced the same type thing after my dad died . . . to date, I still haven't been able to cancel his AOL service!

B. Who said mom and dad told you the truth about Santa . . . to see for yourself, please click:

<http://www.LettersFromBadSanta.com>

In the Hall of Shame, you'll see some of the hilarious letters he got from celebrities such as Donald Trump, Don King, Pamela Anderson, and Tom Cruise . . . in addition, you'll get a kick out of his evil toys . . . though be forewarned, some of them (and other material on this website) is not for the kids.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

As you may know, I frequently speak to groups and organizations throughout the country . . . should you like me to get me as a speaker, please click Speaking at the above, then Background and/or Some Comments.

8. Computer tip

To save money, I had taken to purchasing printer cartridges from eBay that had been refilled . . . however, methinks that I'll be stopping that practice--like yesterday.

Cynthia's Lexmark printer had stopped working, even though it showed that only half of the cartridge had been used . . . I then put in a replacement cartridge, and the same thing happened . . . only when a new cartridge was used did the printer start working again, which leads me to wonder:

Any other readers have a similar experience?

9. Troubled times

During these troubled times, people of all faiths should remember four fundamental religious truths:

1. Muslims do not recognize Jews as God's chosen people.

2. Jews do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah.
 3. Protestants do not recognize the Pope as the leader of the Christian world.
 4. Baptists do not recognize each other at Hooters.
-

10. A quote I like

Celebrate what you've accomplished, but raise the bar a little higher each time you succeed.--Mia Hamm, America's best-known soccer player of the 1990s, in GO FOR THE GOAL (HarperCollins)

11. Thought for the day

The blessing tree
by John Sharrock

I had gone into a supervisor's office to talk about a couple of issues that needed to be addressed. She, like all of the men and women in her department, had been through the proverbial "ringer." The stress was so intense, one could almost taste it.

I had been assisting the department during a crunch period of being very short-handed, and was watching everyone get close to burn-out. When I inquired about her state of mind, she confessed that her home life was almost non-existent because she was "zombie-ing through the evening." The next words out of her mouth expressed a frustration of my own: "This work is not my gift from God. My family is!"

I had heard of hanging all of one's problems from the office on a "Trouble Tree" while driving home, to be picked up on the way back to the office in the morning, and for a brief second thought about suggesting that scenario.

But what came out was: "Why don't we do something different? Let's have a Blessing Tree. On the way home in the evening, we could pull down a blessing to dwell on a character trait we adore in our spouse, a particular reason we love them, the love they or our children have for us, etc. The list could be endless.

When I tried it on the way home that night, the stress seemed to melt away. There was a "spring in my step" and when I arrived, a smile of joy and contentment was bubbling up from within. For the first time in two weeks, I was overjoyed to greet my wife and children!

The Blessing Tree could make a major difference in your evenings, especially after those REALLY tough days.

12. Advance planning department

A. Natalie in Pennsylvania:
Would you like to learn a hands-on-healing technique that is so loving, it

has the ability to relieve stress, pain and illness, release blockages, and create a sense of deep peace, clarity and joy? It is called Reiki, which means Universal Life Force Energy.

Reiki, Level I, is being taught by Shea Roache, a Reiki Master and Angelic Sound Healing Practitioner on Friday, December 29, 2006. This class is being held at the home of Nina McKissock, 338 Ashland Avenue, Doylestown from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$125.00. Class size is limited. Please call for information and reservations 215.534.1691.

B. Cynthia (see also Section 1A) will next be running her fantastic Move Your Body classes on the following dates

Saturday, January 6, at 1:30 p.m. . . . FREE;
Saturday, February 3, at 1:30 p.m. . . . FREE; and
Saturday, February 10, at 1:30 p.m. . . . FREE.

Regular drop-in classes start on Mondays, beginning on January 8, from 7:30-8:45 p.m. . . . \$15 per session.

All sessions are at the Princeton Center for Yoga & Health in Skillman, NJ.

For more information, please click:
<http://www.princetonyoga.com/>

or call 609.924.7294.

A guarantee: You will be delighted if you attend any and/or all of the above!

C. HOLD THIS DATE:

Harry Paul (co-author of REVVED! and FISH!) will be speaking at Bucks on March 12, 2007 at the annual "Meet the Author" Business Seminar . . . you won't want to miss him; he is great . . . details to follow.

Also, we are seeking a corporate sponsor for this outstanding event . . . for more information, please email me at bginbc@aol.com.

PS. The more holidays you celebrate, the more gifts you get . . . so if you agree, here's hope that you enjoy a Merry Christmas with your loved one . . . you can start by listening to:

<http://www.thecompassgroup.biz/merryxmas.swf>

For those who celebrate Kwanzaa, too, you can find more about this holiday by clicking:

http://youtube.com/watch?v=c-MY8I_kwJY&mode=related&search=

Also, please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD,

have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same email address.

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#533

12.18.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had two fantastic dining experiences this past weekend . . . on Saturday, we went to a dinner party at the home of our friends Jody and Barry . . . see below for a picture of us in the middle (l-r: Barry, Jody, Gina, Charlie, Cynthia, yours truly, Jim, Lee, and Joyce):



The food was delicious; in particular, one dessert was as good as we've ever had: chocolate covered macaroons . . . my mouth is still salivating at the thought of them.

Jody, our ever-so-gracious hostess, even gave me permission to run her recipe for this item:

Here it is. Enjoy.

What you need:

1 Bag Sweetened Flaked coconut
1 Can Sweetened condensed milk (14 oz.)
Mini chocolate chips
Parchment paper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix coconut and milk. Drop large tablespoons of the mixture onto baking sheet covered with parchment paper and bake about 12 -15 minutes. Macaroon needs to be lightly golden brown all the way around, including the top.

Remove from oven and cool. Melt chocolate in double boiler on stove. When macaroons have cooled (about 1/2 hour), remove from parchment, dip in chocolate (anyway you want; i.e., bottom only, one side, side and bottom, etc.) and place back on parchment paper. Cool in refrigerator or other cold place about 20 minutes--just for chocolate to set.

Additional options: mix some chocolate chips in macaroon, plain with flavored extracts, add grand marnier, add raisins and dip in white chocolate, add nuts, and so on.

On Sunday, we went to our friends Edina and Tunc to see their new home in Nutley, NJ . . . despite still being stuffed from the night before, we were treated to another feast--this time prepared by Edina's mother, Melanie, who was visiting from Germany.

We enjoyed the wiener schnitzel, as well as her made-from-scratch German potato salad . . . and to top things off, she served two different desserts that she baked herself with ingredients that she had actually brought from Germany . . . I told Melanie that she was welcome to visit us anytime, particularly if she was willing to cook.

B. At long last, our faculty contract at Bucks County Community College was approved and signed by the Board of Trustees at its most recent meeting . . . it seemed to take a long time to get everything finalized, but it seems that's just the way some things are . . . the good news: I'm now eligible for retirement--though I don't anticipate going that route in the immediate future.

C. CONGRATULATIONS to Karen Goeller, who just took a new position at Bucks County as director, administrative systems . . . I'm sure she will do her usual great job, though that said, I must admit that I'll miss greatly all the help and support she gave me and countless of my colleagues in her previous position as assistant director, online learning.

D. HELP REQUESTED DEPARTMENT:

We just purchased an iPod nano and to our dismay, it does not seem as simple to operate as we thought it would be . . . the key question: after you download songs onto it, can you create a playlist on the iPod (or does it have to be created on your computer)? also: when using the iPod, can you then move songs from one playlist to the other (or do you again have to do this at your computer)?

Lastly, would any reader be able to help us with the above; i.e., by coming to our house and giving us some lessons? . . . we'd further want our CDs copied onto the iPod . . . naturally, you would be paid for your time and effort . . . let me know if interested.

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

This week, it goes to Earl Sigmund (215.801.8031)--founder and president of the New Business Learning Center in Richboro, PA.

Earl, a longtime friend, was my accountant for many years . . . over the last several years, he shifted direction to where he now runs the Center on a full-time basis . . . as he describes his mission, "We help small businesses grow into big businesses."

As such, he holds monthly, 3-hour "Starting your own business the right way" seminars where students walk away with a 200-page manuscript, along with the tools and encouragement to venture out on their own.

In addition, Earl runs free network meetings and exchanges, and he heads a leads club that meets month at various locations in the Delaware Valley . . . he further provides business plan development, capital funding advice and marketing assistance, and he can handle new business due diligence audits.

Earl is one of the finest networkers I have ever encountered . . . working with him will enable you to get into contact with many other entrepreneurs (or those just thinking about going into business for themselves), and the result will prove beneficial for everybody.

2. FYI

I've been working with someone for about a year, and in that entire time, he's never once prefaced his feedback with, This was a really terrific piece of work, or Wow! This is one of the best ideas I've heard in a while. Pointing out the parts you liked best is much more than sugarcoating. Doing so serves several purposes. First, it puts us both on the same side of the table, making it more likely that your constructive criticism will actually be implemented. If you can start by seeing the project through my eyes, you're more likely to analyze (there's that word again) the situation in a way that helps me reach my goals. I think it's great that you want to get our quality ratings up. Let's see whether the added people you say this initiative requires are really necessary, and whether beginning your report with staffing needs is the best way to get this past senior management.

The other benefit is that this approach makes it so much more likely that I will come to you for feedback in the future. It's easy to interpret the absence of positive feedback as the absence of any sort of approval or enthusiasm. Finally, being nice to people is fun.

SOURCE:

SMALL IS THE NEW BIG (see also Sections 4C and 10)
by Seth Godin

FYI, part 2

* Rebecca in Michigan (with something that's been around for a long time, but I'm including it in case you have not yet seen it):

How smart is your right foot?

This is so funny that it will boggle your mind. And you will keep trying it at least 50 more times to see if you can outsmart your foot. But you can't!

1. While sitting at your desk, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles with it.

2. Now, while doing this, draw the number "6" in the air with your right hand. Your foot will change direction!

I told you so, and there is nothing you can do about it. Pass this on to your friends. They won't be able to believe it either.

* Deb in Colorado:

I just wanted you to know that after picking up smoking during my divorce several years ago after having been stopped for many years, I now have a month smoke free and am feeling great.

You, in part, inspired me! Thanks.

* Jean in Pennsylvania:

Matt Cipriano posted on my.bucks today this link:

<http://www.noradsanta.org/index.php>

It's NORAD's Santa-tracking website. The descriptions of how they track Santa every Christmas Eve are sure to make you smile, such as:

The satellites have infrared sensors, meaning they can detect heat. When a rocket or missile is launched, a tremendous amount of heat is produced--enough for the satellites to detect. Rudolph's nose gives off an infrared signature similar to a missile launch. The satellites can detect Rudolph's bright red nose with practically no problem.

(Note: It's also a very clever PR/Marketing tool for NORAD, tying in descriptions of all their equipment).

It's written to explain away any child's doubts, including how Santa could possibly deliver gifts to over 6 billion good little children across the world in one night:

Santa would not want to rush the important job of bringing Christmas happiness to a child, so the only logical conclusion is that Santa somehow functions on a different time and space continuum.

Be sure to visit it on Christmas Eve for reports of Santa sightings!

* Natalie in Pennsylvania:

By the way, did you guys see INFAMOUS? If not, I highly recommend it. We saw it today, and I just couldn't get over the acting. I thought it was so well done. It's another movie about Truman Capote.

* Sue in Pennsylvania:

The subconscious mind believes what every we tell it . . . and I would go a step further . . . sometimes, we have to fake it til we make it . . like:

I am a completely healthy person.

(If a person does not feel well and needs to talk about it, do so in the third person. My third person's name is Tanner. If Tanner has a sinus headache, she deals with it.)

By the way, I have read from various sources that the words "I am" have significant energy/power. I try to say and or write everyday as many times as possible every day:

I am healthy
I am wealthy
I am grateful

I am so happy and grateful that large sums of money come to me every day from multiple sources.

I am so happy and grateful that my body is healthy and always healing itself.

I am a millionaire.

I am believing you get the idea. (Smile.)

3. First checkup

I remember when we brought our daughter, Risa, to the pediatrician for her first checkup. As he finished, the doctor told us, You have a cute baby.

Smiling, I said, I bet you say that to all new parents.

No, he replied, just to those whose babies really are good-looking.

So what do you say to the others?I asked.

He looks just like you.

4. Reviews

A. I had really looked forward to seeing THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS, a film based on the true story of Chris Gardner--a family man struggling to make ends meet . . . when faced with the task of raising his five-year-old boy while being homeless, he manages to somehow survive the ordeal and become a success in life . . . Will Smith was fine in the leading role; his real-life son seemed to be overacting . . . I was touched by the ending; however, overall, PURSUIT was a bit flat . . . rated PG-13.

B. LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #516 follows:

If you think you're from a dysfunctional family (or know somebody who is), then see LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE . . . this hysterical satire will have you chuckling throughout . . . that said, I'd recommend it for anybody else in need of a good laugh . . . I thoroughly enjoyed this film for its script, the acting done by its perfectly-cast ensemble, and the surprisingly touching message about being obsessed with winning . . . the ending is as good as one you'll ever see . . . weeks after seeing LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE, I can still see many of the

scenes in my mind . . . rated R, though methinks it would be appropriate for mature teenagers.

C. Thanks to Seth Godin, author of *SMALL IS THE NEW BIG* (see also Sections 2 and 10), I'm going to be more receptive to a practice known as "zooming" . . . as he defines it, the term "is about stretching your limits without threatening your foundation. It's about handling new ideas, new opportunities without triggering the change avoidance reflex."

And to do this, I'll give thought to following his five-step zoom start checklist:

For dinner tonight, try a food that you've never tasted. Then try another one tomorrow night.

On your way to work tomorrow, listen to a CD from a musical genre that you hate or that's new to you.

Every week, read a magazine that you've never read before.

Once a week, meet with someone from outside your area of expertise. Go to a trade show on a topic in which you have no interest whatsoever.

Change the layout of your office.

Godin's excellent book is actually a collection of over 180 blog pieces that he has published over the past eight years . . . though presented in alphabetical order with no seeming flow, they almost all got me thinking--always a good sign . . . also, I found myself taking all sorts of notes with respect to both what I want to do in the future, and I have already shared many of his ideas with both my friends and colleagues.

Among the many valuable tidbits I gleaned were the following:

* Most organizations are staffed with people waiting for the alarm to ring. Instead of going out to the community and working to prevent new fires, the mind-set is that firemen are working to put out the fires that have started. Hotel desk clerks don't write letters or make calls to generate new business—they stand at the desk waiting for business to arrive. Software engineers are often overwhelmed with an endless list of programming fires—and rarely get a chance to think about what they ought to build next.

* The next time you review resumes, try ignoring all of the perfectly qualified applicants. In fact, disqualify everyone who is clearly competent to do the job at hand. Do what Southwest Airlines does: Don't hire people with experience at another airline unless you're sure that they can unlearn what they've learned there. Competence is too often another word for bad attitude. Instead, find the serial incompetents—the folks who are quick enough to master a task and restless enough to try something new. The zoomers.

* Cursive is a fundamentally useless skill in this century, and if we were inventing the curriculum from scratch, it wouldn't even show up in the top one thousand things children need to learn. Typing, on the other hand, is way up there, at least until the scientists perfect voice recognition. Educators must realize this, but because they don't actually test the efficacy of what they teach, because they don't have an obvious way to figure out what's worth the time and

what's not, they still teach cursive.

Godin, author of seven other business bestsellers, concludes *SMALL IS THE NEW BIG* with two free e-books that he has published . . . the first is about web design, and the second is about blogs . . . just these two pieces alone make his latest effort worth reading!

D. I've read most if not all of Dave Barry's books, but for some reason had missed *DAVE BARRY'S WORST SONGS AND OTHER HITS* . . . now I know why; it apparently never came out as book.

What Dove Audio did was record his original "Bad Song Survey" columns and then add a long piece about Elvis fans and the tale of his "Tupperware Song" . . . the compilation rocks.

Barry is sooooo funny, as evidenced by his description of the voter's choice for Worst Song--in both the Worst Overall and Worst Lyrics category:

"MacArthur Park," as sung by Richard Harris, and later remade, for no comprehensible reason, by Donna Summer.

It's hard to argue with this selection. My 12-year-old son, Rob, was going through a pile of ballots, and he asked me how "MacArthur Park" goes, so I sang it, giving it my best shot, and Rob laughed so hard that when I got to the part about leaving the cake out of the rain, and took so long to bake it, and I'll never have the recipe again, Rob was on the floor. He didn't believe those lyrics were real. He was sure his wacky old humor-columnist dad was making them up.

So as to not disappoint readers of this review, here are the other results . . . the clear runner-up in both categories was "Yummy Yummy Yummy (I Got Love in my Tummy)", performed by Ohio Express, and coming in a strong third was "(You're) Having My Baby" by Paul Anka. Honorable mention went to Bobby Goldsboro, who got many votes for various songs, especially "Honey."

Arte Johnson and John Ritter both did a fine job on the narration of *WORST SONGS*.

5. TV alert

A. *SWEET TOOTH* visits food plants around the nation to show how state-of-the-art technology is used to produce such classics as jelly beans, deep-fried Twinkies, Peeps, and Ben & Jerry's ice cream . . . Wednesday at 10 p.m. on NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC.

B. *A PERFECT DAY* stars Rob Lowe as a buddy author whose first book becomes a blockbuster . . . yet as fame and fortune go to his head, he begins to neglect his family . . . this holiday drama airs on Wednesday at 10 p.m. on TNT; for other times, please click: <http://tvguide.com/tvshows/perfect-day/285101>

C. *SEASONS GREETING MARATHON* begins on Saturday on FX at 7 a.m. and runs for the next 13 hours . . . you'll see holiday-themed episodes from such shows as *SPIN CITY*, *KING OF THE HILL* and *THAT 70'S SHOW* . . . but the ones you won't want to miss run

from 12:30-1:30 p.m.: two episodes from 1989's MARRIED WITH CHILDREN, in which the late Sim Kinison stars as Al's guardian angel in "It's a Bundyful Life."

D. HEART & SOUL: THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF FRANK LOESSER is on Sunday at 1 p.m. on PBS . . . he was the composer of such shows as GUYS & DOLLS, MOST HAPPY FELLA, HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING, and more than 60 Hollywood film scores . . . dates and times vary with most PBS shows, so be sure to check local listings.

6. Some bargain

Not long ago, my friend Leo, a farmer, got a call from a security firm that offered him a promotional burglar alarm at no charge. Happy to get something for free, Leo gave the caller directions to his farm. But no one showed up.

The next morning the supplier called Leo to say that he was lost. I'll try again to find you, he said.

Never mind, said Leo. If you can't find me, I don't expect a burglar can either.

7. Websites

A. What's your accent? To see for yourself, please click: http://www.gotoquiz.com/what_american_accent_do_you_have

I was impressed, it that it was accurate for me at least.

B. To get you in the mood for Christmas (in the unlikely case you are not already there), you MUST visit this website--even if you don't celebrate this particular holiday: <http://www.sundog.net/carolofthechins/flash/index.html>

Turn on your sound, and you'll be able to experience Christmas carols from the Chins . . . they're so cute . . . they actually sing whatever song you want, provided that they know it.

Make sure you type-in something that is not a Christmas song to see how they handle that request.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click: <http://www.blainesworld.net>

As many of you know, I love to read . . . to check the reviews, I've posted at the amazon.com website, just go to the above, then go the left and click "Blaine's Best," followed by "Websites" . . . the second part of letter "O" will take you to over 580 books that I have for the most part enjoyed.

I'm now a "Top 500" reviewer with amazon; actually, my ranking is 388 . . . to help me get even higher, go to: <http://www.amazon.com>

Find any book that I've reviewed; e.g., go to search and type-in:
THE WORLD ACCORDING TO MR. ROGERS

You'll see a bunch of reviews with mine being third or fourth from the top . . . when asked if it was helpful, and if you think so, indicate "yes."

8. Computer tip

Last week, I mentioned one idea for printing pages from Mapquest or any other Internet site easier . . . here's another one:

Click the print preview option before you finalize anything . . . that way, you have the option to see what you're going to print out--before you do so . . . in addition, you can change from portrait to landscape, turn headers and printers on or off, make print size larger or smaller, etc.

If you play with these possibilities, you'll be pleasantly surprised.

9. Holiday party rules

I always live by these; feel free to join me!

1. Avoid carrot sticks. Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet table knows nothing of the Christmas spirit. In fact, if you see carrots, leave immediately. Go next door, where they're serving rum balls.

2. Drink as much eggnog as you can. And quickly. Like fine single-malt scotch, it's rare. In fact, it's even rarer than single-malt scotch. You can't find it any other time of year but now. So drink up! Who cares that it has 10,000 calories in every sip? It's not as if you're going to turn into an eggnog-alcoholic or something. It's a treat. Enjoy it. Have one for me. Have two. It's later than you think. It's Christmas!

3. If something comes with gravy, use it. That's the whole point of gravy. Gravy does not stand alone. Pour it on. Make a volcano out of your mashed potatoes. Fill it with gravy. Eat the volcano. Repeat.

4. As for mashed potatoes, always ask if they're made with skim milk or whole milk. If it's skim, pass. Why bother? It's like buying a sports car with an automatic transmission.

5. Do not have a snack before going to a party in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a Christmas party is to eat other people's food for free. Lots of it. Hello?

6. Under no circumstances should you exercise between now and New Year's. You can do that in January when you have nothing else to do. This is the time for long naps, which you'll need after circling the buffet table while carrying a 10-pound plate of food and that vat of eggnog.

7. If you come across something really good at a buffet table, like frosted Christmas cookies in the shape and size of Santa, position yourself near them and don't budge. Have as many as you can before becoming the center of attention. They're like a beautiful

pair of shoes. If you leave them behind, you're never going to see them again.

8. Same for pies. Apple. Pumpkin. Mincemeat. Have a slice of each. Or if you don't like mincemeat, have two apples and one pumpkin. Always have three. When else do you get to have more than one dessert? Labor Day?

9. Did someone mention fruitcake? Granted, it's loaded with the mandatory celebratory calories, but avoid it at all cost. I mean, have some standards.

10. One final tip: If you don't feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you haven't been paying attention. Re-read tips; start over, but hurry, January is just around the corner.

Remember this motto to live by:

"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, martini in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO what a ride!"

10. A quote I like

Trying hard doesn't make you remarkable. Doing a good job doesn't make you remarkable. What makes you remarkable is being amazing, outstanding, surprising, elegant, and noteworthy.--Seth Godin in SMALL IS THE NEW BIG (see also Sections 2 and 4C)

11. Thought for the day

Julie Andrews on her birthday

To commemorate her 69th birthday, actress/vocalist Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the AARP. One of the musical numbers she performed was "My Favorite Things" from the legendary movie, THE SOUND OF MUSIC.

However, the lyrics of the song were deliberately changed for the entertainment of her audience. Here are the lyrics she recited:

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favorite things.
Cadillacs, cataracts, open back "dresses,"
Polident, Fixodent, false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favorite things.
When the pipes leak,
When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad
I simply remember my favorite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets, and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heat pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favorite things.
Back pains, confused brains, and no fear of sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favorite things.

When the joints ache, When the hips break, When the eyes grow dim,
It's then I remember the great life I've had, And then I don't feel so bad.

THE RESPONSE:

Ms. Andrews received a standing ovation from the crowd that lasted over four minutes, and she also was asked for and gave repeated encores.

MY TWO CENTS:

I imagine that the above did not take place for a few minutes; i.e., until all had a chance to rise from their seats. (After you reach a certain age, it does take longer to stand up after sitting.)

12. Advance planning department

A. Meaghan in Pennsylvania:

HALF PRICE ADULT TICKETS TO FINAL PERFORMANCES

Fast becoming a holiday tradition, BRT's Fourth Annual Winter Musicale, features some of the best-known holiday music from recent years and last century to long-standing traditional music. The entire family will enjoy this two hour celebration of your favorite songs of the season. Selections will include popular classics like Home for the Holidays, Santa Baby and The Christmas Song, gospel offerings Go Tell it on the Mountain and traditional songs including Carol of the Bells, Silent Night and a fun arrangement of The Twelve Days of Christmas.

Get in the spirit of the season through December 23.

Mention this email to receive 50% off your regularly priced adult tickets (\$13.50). Students tickets are just \$10!

CALL OUR BOX OFFICE: 215.785.0100.

B. John in Pennsylvania:

Bucks County Community College's Assistant Academic Dean, John Mathews, extends an invitation to all to visit his current exhibition entitled, Like Father, Like Son. This unique showing will feature Photography by his father, Paul L. Mathews, as well as Sculpture by John Mathews.

This exhibit will be on display at the Pennswood Village Art Galley from December 3, 2006 through February 4, 2007, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Pennswood Village Art Gallery is located at 1382 Newtown Langhorne Rd. (R.413S) in Newtown, PA.

C. Cynthia (see also Section 1A) will next be running her fantastic Move Your Body classes on the following dates

Saturday, January 6, at 1:30 p.m. . . . FREE;
Saturday, February 3, at 1:30 p.m. . . . FREE; and
Saturday, February 10, at 1:30 p.m. . . . FREE.

Regular drop-in classes start on Mondays, beginning on January 8, from 7:30-8:45 p.m. . . . \$15 per session.

All sessions are at the Princeton Center for Yoga & Health in Skillman, NJ.

For more information, please click:

<http://www.princetonyoga.com/>

or call 609.924.7294.

A guarantee: You will be delighted if you attend either and/or both of the above!

D. HOLD THIS DATE:

Harry Paul (co-author of REVVED! and FISH!) will be speaking at Bucks on March 12, 2007 at the annual "Meet the Author" Business Seminar . . . you won't want to miss him; he is great . . . details to follow.

Also, we are seeking a corporate sponsor for this outstanding event . . . for more information, please email me at bginbc@aol.com.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . also, make it a great week!

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If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same email address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

#532

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I went with friends the other night to one of our favorite restaurants: Pheasant's Landing (908.281.1288) in Hillsborough, NJ . . . this time, though, the occasion was something special; i.e., a celebration of our first date . . . it was at the same restaurant--just three years ago--and as Paul Harvey would say, "The rest of the story . . ." for those who are new to BLAINESWORLD is that we fell in love, married and moved to become the Greenfields of Belle Meade.

I don't think we have ever had a bad meal at Pheasant's Landing . . . my sauerbraten was quite tasty, and Cynthia enjoyed her duck . . . we both split a salad, as well as a delicious dessert . . . actually, make that two of the latter item . . . the apple strudel was as good as it always is, and we tried a new menu item that I thought was even better: a melted chocolate chip cookie with ice cream that is getting me hungry as I type this . . . Ben, our server, was most attentive.

B. My fall classes are winding down at Bucks County Community College . . . I was particularly pleased with the class projects that were done by my two night Marketing classes and the presentations that they made to their "clients."

My Tuesday group developed a marketing strategy for a fine restaurant in Morrisville, PA: Concerto Fusion (215.428.2899) . . . Man Wong, the owner, was a delight to work with; helping him was my longtime friend Betty Tsai . . . she took care of all the arrangements for the project . . . we had an equally positive experience on Thursday, working with Fran Stengel at Vita Educational Services (215.345.8322), attempting to have the community become more aware of and utilize an excellent decision-making program for teens . . . Judy Schaeffer, an executive assistant there, handled the arrangements for this project and very graciously attended the oral presentations.

C. Over the past few months, our faculty union has been considering its affiliation with the American Federation of Teachers . . . as such, we have met with representatives of that organization, as well as with representatives from the American Association of University Professors.

We will make an official decision as to what we want to do, probably within the next month or so . . . however, I find it surprising that several individuals raised questions about the wisdom of at least considering options . . . as I've tried to explain to anybody who has ever asked, the more we consider what is out there (now and in the future), the better we can serve our members . . . just like consumers should revisit their insurance purchases every so often and/or professors should consider their textbook adoptions, it is my belief that ALL union members should do the same type thing when looking at their state and national organizations.

D. I went to Sam's Club to purchase sugar packets not too long ago . . . the price was reasonable, but as much as I like to save money, I had to take a pass on this deal . . . after all, getting 8,000 of the particular item would last approximately 20 years . . . I wound up paying a lot more per individual packet at my local ShopRite; however, I just had to make the purchase as I couldn't fathom having that many supplies of anything.

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

This week, it goes to Meaghan Crawford (215.785.6664)--group sales manager for the Bristol Riverside Theatre in Bristol, PA.

Last spring, she graciously gave of her time to work with my Marketing students on their term projects . . . they greatly benefited from the experience and were most appreciative of the opportunity to see what marketing for a theater is all about.

Meaghan then returned to the College this fall semester, this time to work with students in the Advertising class taught by my colleague Joan Weiss . . . again, all involved had a most positive experience.

She tirelessly comes up with ideas for new group efforts that are both different and fun (often tying them into a meal or some other function), and she'd be glad to work with you or your organization to plan a memorable evening . . . give her a call; you won't be disappointed.

Lastly, I'm impressed that somehow Meaghan found time in the spring to return to her alma mater--Neumann College--to star in a production of PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD . . . my only it that I wasn't able to make it; however, I am looking forward to the possibility of seeing her in some future show!

2. FYI

What would you do if you lost your Day-timer (or any planner or PDA that you might use)? If you'd be in bad shape, join the crowd.

The above happened to me a few weeks ago. Fortunately, I got it back as a result of having done the following: I posted a very noticeable "\$25 REWARD" offer on the very first page, along with my contact information.

When somebody found my Daytimer, I was notified shortly thereafter. The \$25 I paid to get it back was well worth it!

FYI, part 2

* Sue in Pennsylvania (with a REQUEST FOR HELP):
I was wondering if you or your newsletter readers know of a good grief counselor . . . not sure if I ever told you but my friend's son died over two years ago . . . she lives in Mercerville, NJ . . . and I offered to help her find a grief counselor because she is struggling

* Natalie in Pennsylvania:
Light a candle . . . I checked it out, and it's for real . . . an easy way to do something good.

Today, Bristol-Myers Squibb, the pharmaceutical monolith that charges nearly \$1,000 for a 30 day supply of one of its HIV/AIDS medications, is donating \$1 to the National AIDS Fund for each person who simply visits their website and "virtually lights a candle."

Please, please take a minute to "light a candle" by visiting:
<http://www.lighttounite.org> www.lighttounite.org

This really will take just a second. Please forward this on to others.

* Karen in Pennsylvania:
Love the idea of your readers getting together. Count me in for the vote. Bring your business cards, printed on both sides, of course!

* Michael in Las Vegas:
If the readers' reunion is in Vegas, Nevada, I would love to go.

Also, take a look at this mini-clip called OBSESSION:
<http://www.obsessionthemovie.com/12min.htm>

* Geri in Pennsylvania:
Texas Road House is the bomb, fall off the bone ribs! Oh yes, do call ahead for seating.

* Harry in Pennsylvania:
I read an excellent book on the global expansion of creativity: A WHOLE NEW WORLD by Daniel Pink . . . the more global the ideas of creativity, the more acceptable creativity becomes.

* Kathy in Pennsylvania, a longtime reader, was nice enough to share the following piece that she wrote for a local paper:

Holistic corner
by Kathleen Ann Malen

Have you ever thought about the power of attraction? Not the kind that draws two people together, but the power that draws positive energy. Does what we perceive affect what comes into action? Why are there days when nothing seems to go right and as the day continues, it just keeps getting worse? We ask ourselves, "What else can go wrong?"

These thoughts are what we bring into action. The next time your day starts out on the wrong foot, try changing your thought pattern: smile at a stranger; visualize your day getting better; do something kind for no reason. Try introducing a positive feeling when you first wake up; be grateful for waking and having the chance to enjoy another beautiful day.

For some of us it may seem impossible to change our thought patterns. As human beings, we are often programmed to think the worst and realistically, not everyday will be a "bed of roses." However, each day that we can interject a positive thought the process will bring us closer to attracting what we really want. Start out small, maybe visualize a parking spot up close or a wonderful smooth ride to work or even just a great cup of coffee.

Experiment this week, read this quote from ASK AND IT IS GIVEN by Esther & Jerry Hicks, before you set off to work:

To be the deliberate creator of your own experience, you will be the one who had decided to direct your thoughts, for only when you deliberately choose the direction of your thoughts can you deliberately affect your point of attraction.

"You cannot continue to discuss, observe and believe things in the same way you always have and make changes in your point of attraction any more than you can set the radio to 630 AM and receive the broadcast from 101 FM.

"Your vibrational frequencies have to match."

Love and blessings for a positive week.

NOTE:

Kathleen is a Certified Hypnotherapist/Pediatric Hypnotherapist, EFT Therapist, Reiki Master, Mind and Body Specialist and has been helping people in Chester and Delaware counties find their life's path for over 11 years. You can contact Kathleen at HolisticHrzn@aol.com.

3. My father

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper and he calls it a poem, they give him \$50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a press release, they give him \$100."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

4. Reviews

A. Saw *DÄJÄ VU*, a convoluted science fiction thriller that

was mildly interesting . . . that said, though, it isn't something that I'd rush out to see . . . if you wait until it is out on DVD, that will be soon enough to see it (if you even bother doing so in the first place) . . . Denzel Washington, as is often the case, is the most watchable actor in the film . . . a very overweight Val Kilmer is completely wasted . . . also, I wished that Washington's love interest--Paula Patton--had more to do in the beginning . . . you never really feel the connection between the two of them . . . rated PG-13.

B. THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #510 follows:

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA is a comedy that I just didn't find very funny . . . it stars Meryl Streep as a high-powered fashion magazine editor who must deal with her new assistant, Anne Hathaway, a small-town girl in her first job . . . Steep is as effective as she can be with the material and Hathaway holds more than holds her own . . . Stanley Tucci, usually one of my favorites, wasn't particularly good--but blame it on the film . . . rated PG-13.

C. It sounds basic, but being nice is just something that not everybody does--or at least not often enough . . . and if that's the case in your company or organization, then please get and read THE POWER OF NICE: HOW TO CONQUER THE BUSINESS WORLD WITH KINDNESS by advertising executives Linda Kaplan Thealer and Robin Koval.

This is a small but powerful book, packed with plenty of examples from the corporate world . . . however, students and others would greatly benefit from reading it as well, as what the authors have to say makes an awful lot of sense in any situation.

For example, they talk about how this one little act of kindness made a flight attendant's day:

While traveling on a business trip from Los Angeles to New York, Rachel Pine noticed that the airline crew looked extremely harried. So when the flight attendant came by to check her seat belt, Rachel offered her a Fig Newton from her family-size pack. She took it, and was so grateful that she looked like she was going to burst into tears, said Rachel. Soon after, the attendant returned and asked Rachel to follow her "to first class. The attendant said, You have no idea what our last flight was like. If just one passenger had been like you, it would have been bearable.' "

I also liked this technique for getting people to pay money that they owe:

Gail tried a number of tactics to convince her creditors to pay "from letters that said Please pay soon festooned with smiley faces to diplomatic phone calls but nothing worked. Desperate, she stumbled on what turned out to be a brilliantly effective idea: bribing them with baked goods. I would send out reminders of past-due invoices with the enticement that if paid by a specified date, I would reward the client with fresh baked cookies, brownies, cake "whatever they wanted. And it worked.

And then there's this technique that I currently use (and suggest that others do, too):

The next time someone close to you is feeling cranky or disagreeable, try handing them a few chocolate Kisses or offering them the candy bowl. Although scientists haven't completely unraveled the mysteries of chocolate, they do know it contains several organic compounds that produce feelings of well-being in the human brain. The tryptophan found in chocolate, for example, enables the brain to create serotonin, an organic compound that can produce feelings of elation and ecstasy. And the phenylethylamine in chocolate stimulates the brain's pleasure centers and produces many of the feelings of infatuation, including giddiness, attraction, and excitement.

Lastly, THE POWER OF NICE contained some great exercises that anybody could utilize . . . this one, in particular, caught my attention:

Zip your lip

For one day, try to say as little as possible. Try to keep the focus away from yourself. Where you're tempted to tell a story, ask a question. Where you're tempted to say, Oh, that same thing happened to me!, ask, How did that make you feel? Don't be obnoxious about it. If someone asks how you feel about the new sports stadium the city is building, answer the question. But then bring the conversation back to the other person's opinion. At the end of the day, make a list of everything that you learned. How much would you have missed if you had spent the time talking about yourself?

D. Heard the THE WORLD ACCORDING TO MR. ROGERS by Fred Rogers . . . this is a touching compilation of stories, anecdotes and insights read by Tyne Daly, John Lithgow, Lily Tomlin, and Andre Watts.

Even if you weren't a fan of his famous TV show for kids, you'll become a fan after listening to this CD . . . the same applies to those not at all familiar with his work; you'll want to learn more.

I particularly liked the introduction from his wife, Joanne Rogers, and actual recordings of speeches that he made . . . there's even music from the show.

There were many worthwhile tidbits; among them:
There's not anybody you couldn't love if you knew their story.

I believe it is a fact of life that what we have is less important than what we make of what we have.

The same holds true for families. It's not how many people there are in a family that counts, but rather the feelings among the people who are there.

When we love a person, we accept the person exactly as he or she is.

The real issue is not how many blessings we have in life, but what we do with our blessings.

You don't have to do anything sensational for people to love you.

And this one, which was perhaps my favorite:

If the day ever came when we are able to accept ourselves and our children exactly as we and they are, then I believe we would have come very close to an ultimate understanding of what good parenting means.

5. TV alert

A. PEE-WEE'S PLAYHOUSE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL runs for the first time since 1988 . . . join Pee-wee Herman and such guest stars as Whoopi Goldberg, Magic Johnson, Frankie Avalon, and Dinah Shore . . . Thursday at 10:30 p.m. on CARTOON NETWORK.

B. TSUNAMI, THE AFTERMATH is a two-part miniseries that focuses on the aftermath of the tsunami that devastated the coast of Thailand on December 26, 2004 . . . Academy Award nominees Tim Roth, Toni Collette and Sophie Okonedo lead a first-rate ensemble cast . . . Part 1 airs on Friday at 3:30 p.m. on HBO; repeated on Saturday at 8 p.m. . . . Part 2 debuts on Sunday at 8 p.m.

For all times for both parts, please click:

<http://www.hbo.com/apps/schedule/ScheduleServlet>

You'll see "Search" box at the top . . . type-in TSUNAMI, THE AFTERMATH, Part 1 or Part 2 (depending on your preference) and you'll be given a wide range of times.

C. AL TV features "Weird Al" Yankovic, showing some of his videos and chatting with his celebrity pals . . . Friday at 8 p.m. on VH1.

D. Jay Mohr and Daphne Zuniga star in CHRISTMAS DO-OVER on Saturday at 8 p.m. on ABC FAMILY . . . it is the story of a man forced to relive the same awful holiday over and over until he gets it right for his son . . . if this sounds a bit like GROUNDHOG DAY, then you can guess what the movie is all about . . . and you don't have to keep reading this blurb over and over again.

6. Good thinking

There was once an aspiring veterinarian who put himself through veterinary school working nights as a taxidermist.

Upon graduation, he decided he could combine his two vocations to better serve the needs of his patients and their owners, while doubling his practice and, therefore, his income.

He opened his own offices with a shingle on the door saying, "Dr. Gruber, Veterinary Medicine and Taxidermy . . . either way, you get your cat back!"

7. Websites

A. Last week's issue (Section 4B) reviewed the inspirational film that everybody is talking about, THE SECRET . . . for a quick review of the material contained in it, please click:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=phL0RLKL8bc>

Make sure you have your sound on!

B. Cynthia is presently organizing a film festival at her school for her students and their parents . . . she is definitely planning to show AKKELAH AND THE BEE, but for other ideas we've taken to checking:

<http://movies.yahoo.com/mv/moviemom/>

This is a "must" website to check for parents to find out more information about films, especially with respect to appropriateness for various age levels, profanity and sexual content, diversity issues, etc.

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

If you have any ideas for family-type movies that could be shown, please share them . . . we were recently told that POLYANA might be a possibility; however, upon viewing it, we thought it wasn't nearly as great as we had remembered it . . . and that current students might well be bored by it.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

There are now over 760 readers of this missive, including you . . . kindly feel free to share it with others and encourage them to get their own FREE subscription . . . the easiest way to do this is to forward this whole issue, then specifically refer them (in your email) to the above website . . . at the bottom of the homepage, there's a SPECIAL OFFER that make subscribing very easy.

8. Computer tip

A friend recently told me about some trouble he was having printing directions from Mapquest . . . when he did, parts were often cut off.

Here's one way around that problem: When you get the directions (or information from any other website), highlight what you want printed with your mouse . . . then with your right mouse, select "copy."

Next open up a new window in your word processor . . . again with your right mouse, select "paste" . . . the directions will appear in a word processing document . . . from there, edit out what you don't want printed.

Another advantage to this approach is that you can save to your hard drive any directions you might want to use again in the future.

9. The voice

A man was walking down a street when he heard a voice from behind, "If you take one more step, a brick will fall down on your head and you will get killed."

The man stopped and a big brick fell right in front of him. The man was astonished.

He went on, and after a while, he was going to cross the road.

Once again, the voice shouted, "Stop! Stand still! If you take one more step a car will run over you, and you will die."

The man did, as he was instructed, just as a car came careening around the corner, barely missing him.

The man asked. "Who are you?"

"I am your guardian angel," the voice answered.

"Oh, yeah?" the man exclaimed, "And where the h*ll were you when I got married?"

10. A quote I like

I try to follow a self-imposed guideline that I call the Reprimand Rule: "Take thirty seconds to share feelings" and then it's over. Anytime we let a little thing create a big reaction (one that lasts longer than thirty seconds), then we're using a hammer.--Dr. John C. Maxwell, author of more than 30 books and motivational speaker

11. Thought for the day

A daisy field
by Kandi in Arizona, a reader and longtime friend

Life is like a daisy if you
think to make it so.
It's petals are like stepping stones
between you and your goal.

A daisy's known for picking off its petals,
one by one.
Yes! It's True! To reach a goal
the same thing must be done.

Focus not on obstacles
that snag you on the way.
Just think of them as petals,
gently pulled and tossed away.

Clear those hurdles one by one.
don't waste another day!
Pick another petal
when the last has cleared away.

Pause for just a moment
if a daisy field you see.
And think of all the dreamers
who have goals to reach like we.

12. Advance planning department

A. Meaghan in Pennsylvania:
DECK THE HALLS IN ONE MORE DAY

"All joy, romance, and true sentiment . . . "--The Bucks County
Courier Times

Fast becoming a holiday tradition, BRT's Fourth Annual Winter Musicale, features some of the best-known holiday music from recent years and last century to long-standing traditional music. The entire family will enjoy this two hour celebration of your favorite songs of the season. Selections will include popular classics like Home for the Holidays, Santa Baby and The Christmas Song, gospel offerings Go Tell it on the Mountain and traditional songs including Carol of the Bells, Silent Night and a fun arrangement of The Twelve Days of Christmas.

Get in the spirit of the season from December 14-23.

Individual tickets are available online at:
<http://www.BRTstage.org>

B. Cynthia (see also Section 1A) will next be running her fantastic Move Your Body classes on the following dates

Saturday, January 6, at 1:30 p.m. . . . FREE; and
Saturday, February 3, at 1:30 p.m. . . . FREE.

Regular drop-in classes start on Mondays, beginning on January 8,
from 7:30-8:45 p.m. . . . \$15 per session.

All sessions are at the Princeton Center for Yoga & Health
in Skillman, NJ.

For more information, please click:
<http://www.princetonyoga.com/>

or call 609.924.7294.

A guarantee: You will be delighted if you attend either and/or
both of the above!

C Now is the best time to see this spectacular American classic:
THE COLOR PURPLE

Tuesday at 7, Wednesday at 2, Thursday at 8:
Get tickets for only \$61.25
(Orchestra and Front Mezzanine)

or only \$46.25
(Rear Mezzanine)

That's a savings of up to \$50!

Friday at 8, Sunday at 2 & 7:30:
Get tickets for only \$66.25
(Orchestra and Front Mezzanine)

or only \$51.25
(Rear Mezzanine)

That's a savings of up to \$50!

Offer good for all performances except Saturdays at 2 & 8,
from Dec. 19 to Jan. 31 only.

TWO EASY WAYS TO GET YOUR SPECIALLY
PRICED TICKETS:

1) Visit:
<http://www.BroadwayOffers.com>

and enter special code CPTCEW7.

2) Call 212.947.8844 and mention special code CPTCEW7.

D. HOLD THIS DATE:

Harry Paul (co-author of REVVED! and FISH!) will be speaking
at Bucks on March 12, 2007 at the annual "Meet the Author" Business
Seminar . . . you won't want to miss him; he is great . . . details to follow.

Also, we are seeking a corporate sponsor for this outstanding
event . . . for more information, please email me at bginbc@aol.com!"

PS. Happy Chanukah to those like me who celebrate ALL
holidays . . . yet regardless of your religion, methinks you'll want to click
this link to see how the folks at SOUTH PARK sing a classic holiday
tune:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zkLBvjOMQA>

Also, please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers
back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . and make it
a great week!

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In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the
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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

#531

12.4.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I went with friends for dinner to the Texas Roadhouse (215.639.7427) in Bensalem, PA . . . this looks like a typical chain-type operation from the outside, but when we got inside, we were pleasantly surprised.

To begin with, though others were told they'd have to wait up to 80 minutes to get seated, we had fortunately taken advantage of the call-ahead reservation system and got seated right away . . . despite the fact that the place is a bit noisy--make that very noisy--we still had a blast . . . you start off by having the option of choosing the steak you want as you walk past a case where all the meat is displayed . . . when you are seated, they bring out steaming hot rolls that are baked every five minutes . . . the accompanying honey cinnamon butter makes them something that could well be saved for dessert.

When I asked how the ribs were, I was told by our excellent waitress Jena that they were "award-winning" . . . she could not tell me who actually gave them that designation, but I'd have to agree . . . they were oh-so-good . . . Cynthia liked her ribeye steak, and we both enjoyed the accompanying sweet potato . . . one other fun thing was that the waitresses get up and do some country dancing every hour or so, and you can even join them.

There were two other things that made this meal memorable . . . we went as a result of a gift certificate that we had been given for the restaurant by our friends . . . that is something, by the way, that we have been trying to do lately; i.e., when a gift is called for, give something (dining certificates, show tickets, etc.) that can then be used again with the person who is receiving the gift . . . thus you can again celebrate a happy occasion . . . as for the other thing that we enjoyed, see below Section 1D for this week's BLAINESWORLD

BEST AWARD.

B. From there, we went a few miles down the road to see a production of NOBODY'S PERFECT put on by The Playmasters in Bensalem, PA . . . this was a very funny comedy about a single guy and his daughter and father who . . . well, I don't want to give too much away, other than to say that it will still be running this coming December 7, 8, 9 and 10 . . . do try to catch it, particularly if you're in the mood for some laughs.

We've seen and enjoyed two of the stars, Richard Hall and Alex Straton in other shows at this theatre; they did not disappoint here either . . . nor did their co-stars, Jakki Rowlett and Emily MacHenry.

Best of all were the prices: \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door . . . for more information, please click: <http://www.playmasters.org>

C. MR. CURIOUS HERE:

Roger in Pennsylvania emailed me recently . . . his note follows: Thanks for another wonderful Newsletter. It would be fun sometime to have a party for all the recipients of your newsletter. I'm sure we make a diverse and unusual group of people.

What do YOU think of the above idea--something I should consider? And, if so, would you be interested in such a get together?

D. We loved SPAMALOT when we saw it last year in New York City . . . you can now get tickets for as little as \$45 A.D. (after discount).

Here are the great winter prices:

\$75 orchestra seats, \$60 mezzanine seats and \$45 front balcony seats, but only from January 2-February 8 . . . to obtain tickets at these rates, call 212.947.8844 and mention the code SPWDM75 . . . you can also visit: <http://www.broadwayoffers.com>

From the creators of LES MISERABLES and MISS SAIGON comes an epic new musical about a heroine of the high seas, THE PIRATE QUEEN . . . it tells of a compelling inspiring woman, Chieftain Grace O'Malley: a heroine who led an extraordinary life as a pirate, lover and mother in 16th century Ireland.

You can also get discount tickets of up to 46% for previews beginning March 6 . . . the show opens on April 5, and this offer can be used for tickets through May 13.

By phone, call ticketmaster.com at 212.307.4100 and mention code DM1 . . . or mention the same code DM1 at this website: <http://www.ticketmaster.com>

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

This week, it goes to Eric--"The Balloon Man" at the aforementioned Texas Roadhouse.

We were eating our meal when he appeared to ask us did we want any balloons . . . when we said "yes," he then proceeded to make us a whole slew of them . . . I even brought one of them--an elephant--to my mother when I saw her the next day.

You might think that balloons are only for kids; he told us that just isn't so . . . many adults order them, too.

Eric put a smile on our face . . . we were further entertained by his enthusiasm . . . we also got a kick from the button he was wearing, "Tips are awesome" . . . in his case, we certainly agreed!

2. FYI

Sorry, but you won't be getting a Christmas, Chanukah or Kwanzaa card from the Greenfields of Belle Meade this year . . . we instead mad a donation to our local paper's Wish 2006 Book, in appreciation of all our many friends.

We figured that it was best to help others, as opposed to greeting card companies and/or the post office.

Please consider doing something similar; e.g., make your own contribution to the found run by the COURIER NEWS. (THE TIMES of Trenton, the BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES and many other newspapers have similar programs to help the needy.) Also, you might want to consider suggesting that your employer do something similar. Just imagine how far \$2,000--the amount spent by some companies--could go to help others!

FYI, part 2

* Andy in Pennsylvania:

Hey buddy, CONGRATS on the smoking cessation at BCCC. I saw it in the paper a few days ago. You're quite a guy!

* Pat in Florida has for sale:

LHASA APSAS Pure Bred. Beautiful Golden and Brindle Male or Female. Approx. 2.5 yrs. Dogs my kids latched onto as pups, but I am left raising along with my own dogs. They are good-natured, trained and breeder quality.

I am in search of warm loving (dogless) homes with a fenced portion of the yard. Pet stores sell Lhasas for \$899 to \$1200. I am asking \$300, but would gladly compromise that if two were placed in the same home. I live in Boca Raton, Fl. Contact me at PSpinel3@FAU.edu for more info.

* Linda in Pennsylvania:

The holidays are here. If you haven't booked your party do not wait. We want to make them the best ever. Call Soup to Nuts for just food or full service catering of your holiday party for home or office.

Another idea is a gift certificate for friends and family. A full course dinner party make people feel really pampered and special. Really make a statement with this unique gift you'll be remembered for.

Antique lovers can again sample our foods at local antique shows. We will be selling food on January 12 and 13 at the Yardley Antique Show. Converting the kitchen of the community center into our own little restaurant is so much fun. I was so tickled last year when customers at these events said they waited all year to sample items like my butternut squash soup again. A few ordered items like black bean turkey chili for Super Bowl Sunday.

All my cooking is with perfection in mind. I do not stray from my beliefs

that real food should be started with whole fresh ingredients and cooked with care. I'm blessed with wonderful people who work as servers and make your party perfect.

All your past support is so greatly appreciated! I look forward to your call soon. Also, remember Soup to Nuts after the holiday season. We do anything from your office party to weddings and lot's in between.

Our menu is available at: <http://www.souptonutscuisine.com>

or call 215.321.7980.

* Susan in New York, commenting on the warning in last week's issue about gift cards:

One more step would be needed, besides the copying of the Gift Card's numbers --there is also a security code on every gift card (like there is on personal charge cards like A/E, Master Card, Visa, etc.). These security codes have to be scratched off the back of the Gift Card (much like an instant lottery ticket) before using for the first time and are needed along with the Gift Card's number when making an online or telephone purchase. Sooooo . . . one must always make certain that this code is NOT scratched off and visible when purchasing the Gift Card, even if purchasing from a customer service person.

3. Math problems

I was leaning over the shoulder of one of my students, helping her with some math problems, when I noticed the pencil she was writing with. It had the Ten Commandments listed on it.

I like your pencil very much, I told her.

Yeah, I like it too, she said. That's why I stole it from my brother.

4. Reviews

A.. THANKS to Sue in Pennsylvania, I was introduced to a feature length movie called THE SECRET . . . it is not out in theaters (and I doubt it ever will be), but it has appeared at some local wellness centers . . . also, there's been a lot of buzz about it as a result of mention on TV shows hosted by Larry King and Ellen DeGeneres . . . so wanting to see it, I purchased a copy--and am glad I did.

THE SECRET is about something called the Law of Attraction . . . in essence, you can get anything you want in life if you are open to receiving it in a positive fashion . . . the key is to avoid negativity.

The film, which might perhaps best be described as a documentary, is a bit choppy . . . and too many authors/consultants (among them Jack Canfield, John Gray, Bob Proctor, and Joe Vitale) kept repeating the same message, over and over . . . yet I carp . . . instead, let me just share just a few of the many powerful insights that I gained from THE SECRET:

- * Like attracts like. Thoughts become things.
- * Most people think about what they don't want. You need to focus on what you want.
- * When you celebrate good feelings, you'll have more good feelings.
- * The creative process:
 1. Ask. Write down what you want.
 2. Believe (that it is already yours).
 3. Receive (feel the way you will feel when it arrives).
- * Too often, if you expect debt, debt will come. If your goal is to stay out of debt, you'll stay in debt. Focus on prosperity instead.
- * Start making a list of things you're grateful for. Get up every morning and say thank you!
- * Start visualizing. When you visualize, you materialize. Create a vision board.
- * Say thank you for my healing (when sick). Disease can't exist in a healthy emotional state.
- * You are the designer of your destiny.
- * Inner happiness is the fuel of success.

For more information or to order your own copy, please click:
<http://www.theseecret.tv>

Or to save a few bucks, check to see if you can get a used copy like I did at:
<http://www.amazon.com>

B. SUPERMAN RETURNS is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #512 follows:

Saw SUPERMAN RETURNS, an overlong and not particularly involving comeback for the Man of Steel . . . Brandon Routh is OK in the title role, though he bears an eerie resemblance to Christopher Reeve . . . Kevin Spacey looked like he was having a blast as Lex Luthor and provided what enjoyment I got from the film . . . the special effects were well done, but not something you should rush out to see . . . rated PG-13.

C. I recently came across an author by the name of Patrick Lencioni in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL . . . it talked about a series of parables he had written on various business topics and how well-received they had become.

So I wanted to see for myself if his work had merit . . . I thus obtained THE FIVE DYSFUNCTIONS OF A TEAM, given that the topic had particular interest to me (in my role as president of my local faculty union).

The story involves a manager who attempts to bring her organization together, in spite of these very same five dysfunctions: absence of trust, fear of conflict, lack of commitment, avoidance of accountability, and inattention

to results . . . I found the story to be quite realistic and surprisingly compelling--unlike is the case with too many other books of this type.

However, what made Lencioni's book especially worthwhile to me was a questionnaire at the end, in which I was able to rate my team on the above . . . in addition, there were a series of great exercises throughout the book that could be used by any company or organization . . . for example:

Personal Histories Exercise. In less than an hour, a team can take the first steps toward developing trust. This low-risk exercise requires nothing more than going around the table during a meeting and having team members answer a short list of questions about themselves. Questions need to be overly sensitive in nature and might include the following: number of siblings, hometown, unique challenges of childhood, favorite hobbies, first job, and worst job. Simply by describing these relatively innocuous attributes or experiences, team members begin to relate to one another on a more personal basis, and see one another as human beings with life stories and interesting backgrounds. This encourages greater empathy and understanding, and discourages unfair and inaccurate behavioral attributions. It is amazing how little some team members know about one another, and how just a small amount of information begins to break down barriers. (Minimum time required: 30 minutes.)

I also liked many other passages, including these:

* "Okay, first of all, don't ever slam one of your teammates when that person isn't in the room. I don't care what you think of Mikey. She is part of this team, and you have to take your issues to her directly, or to me. You're going to have to make that right."

* The most important action that a leader must take to encourage the building of trust on a team is to demonstrate vulnerability first. This requires that a leader risk losing face in front of the team, so that subordinates will take the same risk themselves. What is more, team leaders must create an environment that does not punish vulnerability. Even well-intentioned teams can subtly discourage trust by chastising one another for admissions of weakness or failure. Finally, displays of vulnerability on the part of a team leader must be genuine; they cannot be staged. One of the best ways to lose the trust of a team is to feign vulnerability in order to manipulate the emotions of others.

* Great teams understand the danger of seeking consensus, and find ways to achieve buy-in even when complete agreement is impossible. They understand that reasonable human beings do not need to get their way in order to support a decision, but only need to know that their opinions have been heard and considered. Great teams ensure that everyone's ideas are genuinely considered, which then creates a willingness to rally around whatever decision is ultimately made by the group. And when that is not possible due to an impasse, the leader of the team is allowed to make the call.

One call I'll be making is to obtain other books by the author!

D. Heard the Nightingale-Conant program, UNLEASHING YOUR PRODUCTIVITY--written and read by Richard Ott . . . he's the head of his own consulting firm and is an expert in the area of personal achievement.

He shares a lot of useful ideas here and though I've heard many of them before, it was nevertheless valuable to hear them again . . . in fact, even writing them down now, I find myself drawn to this one in particular:

Keep your expectations very general then they involve other people. They [the other people] have a mind of their own.

How true that is, especially when they don't behave or act they way I want them to do!

Among the other valuable tidbits I gained were these:

- * Commit yourself to one thing every day.

- * You can't control when things will happen. There are too many uncontrollable variables.

- * Every so often, do away with your "to do" list.

And this one that too many people forget at times:

- * Visualization doesn't replace effort.

5. TV alert

A. DIRTY JOBS is now in its third season on DISCOVERY at 9 p.m. on Tuesdays . . . if you think you have it rough, tune in to have a job in such professions as the following: alligator farmer, avian vomitologist, casino food recycler, chimney sweeper, Chinatown garbage collector, hot tar roofer, micro algae man, mushroom farmer, ostrich farmer, plumber, shrimper, termite controller, and turkey farmer.

B. Conan O'Brien plays himself on 30 ROCK on Thursday at 9:31 p.m. on NBC.

C. ALI RAP airs on Saturday at 9 p.m. on ESPN . . . it celebrates Muhammad Ali's words and witticisms with dramatic readings by Sidney Poitier, James Earl James and others . . . ALI'S DOZEN, his 12 greatest rounds, follows at 10 p.m.

D. CHUCK BARRIS: MY LIFE ON THE EDGE has the guy who gave us THE GONG SHOW (and wasn't that one of the all-time great TV shows?) talking about his legacy, fractured family and alleged secret life as a CIA assassin . . . I'll watch if just to see the return of Gene-Gene the Dancing Machine . . . Saturday at 8 p.m. on GSN.

***** MEN IN TREES IS NOW ON A NEW NIGHT *****

This charming show, my favorite new one of the year, is now on Thursdays at 10:01 p.m. on ABC . . . even if you haven't seen any of the previous episodes, you'll be able to catch on quickly, and you'll be glad that you did . . . it is about a comedy-drama about a self-help author (Anne Heche) who, when jilted by her fiance, moves to Alaska.

6. High tech therapy

Picture yourself near a stream.

Birds are softly chirping in the crisp cool mountain air. Nothing can bother you here. No one knows this secret place. You are in total seclusion from that place called "the world." The soothing sound of a gentle waterfall fills the air with a cascade of serenity. The water is clear. You can easily make out the face of the person whose head you're holding under the water. Look. It's the person who caused you all this stress in the first place. What a pleasant surprise. You let them up . . . just for a quick breath . . . then plop . . . back under they go. You then allow yourself as many deep breaths as you want.

There now . . . feeling better?

7. Websites

A. Patty in Pennsylvania wrote to share another great website for shoppers:<http://keycode.com/>

I particularly liked the link to merchants offering a special offer for free or reduced shipping . . . among them: 1-800-FLOWERS, Ann Taylor LOFT, Bare Necessities, Best Buy, Home Depot, Kohls, Nordstrom, Target, and Wal-Mart.

B. Even if you're not "into" magic, you MUST view this clip:http://www.dailymotion.com/visited/search/jerome%20murat/video/xf9oo_jerome-murat

It is simply amazing . . . when I shared it with a magician friend, he agreed . . . and don't worry; only the very beginning is in French . . . the rest features music that you'll enjoy, too.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:<http://www.blainesworld.net>

On the left, you'll see "Radio Show" . . . go to that link if you want to see a history of my radio career . . . you can also hear one of my shows.

As you may have read in a past issue, a recent management change at WWFM has resulted in my show being taken off the air . . . but, hopefully, I'll resurface soon again . . . on another station and/or even with my own cable show.

Please do keep me in mind if you have any media contacts for me to pursue with respect to the above possibilities.

8. Computer tip

Matt Halprin, who manages the Global Trust and Safety Policy team at eBay, recently sent out an email that contained important safety tips designed to help keep accounts and personal information more secure and help guard against fraud . . . methinks that the following tips also apply to many other online transactions:

* Never pay with Western Union or Money Gram. eBay strongly encourages its members to avoid using instant cash wire transfer services such as Western Union or MoneyGram. It's against eBay's Safe Payments Policy for a seller to request payment via these methods as they've proven to be unsafe when paying someone the buyer doesn't know.

* Check My Messages to verify the authenticity of eBay emails. Any email eBay sends you about your account or requesting personal information will also be in My Messages. Before responding to an eBay email asking for information about your account or requesting personal information, verify it's authentic by checking My Messages. If it's not in My Messages, it's a fake email. If you receive a suspicious email that looks like it's from eBay or PayPal, please forward it to spoofer@ebay.com or spoofer@paypal.com. We will respond (usually within minutes) to tell you whether or not the email is authentic.

* Always verify Second Chance Offers. Sending fake Second Chance Offers is a common trick used by fraudsters. If you receive an email with a Second Chance Offer for an item you recently bid on, please check your My Messages inbox (located in My eBay) on the eBay site to make sure the offer is authentic. If it appears in My Messages with the title "eBay Second Chance Offer for Item . . . ," it's authentic. If the Second Chance Offer does not appear in My Messages, or appears with a different title, it is not legitimate and should be ignored. Help us fight this, by reporting these fakes to spoofer@ebay.com.

* Download eBay Toolbar and PayPal SafetyBar. **eBay Toolbar** includes Account Guard which indicates when you are on a legitimate eBay or PayPal site, and alerts you when you are on a known fraudulent site. PayPal's SafetyBar detects fraudulent emails in your email program and puts them in the spam folder.

* Monitor your account regularly for suspicious activity. Prevent problems by staying alert and catching any suspicious activity early. We recommend that you log into your eBay and PayPal accounts frequently to ensure that all the transactions listed are legitimate.

* Be suspicious of any email that requests personal information. Be cautious of other emails that request you to click a link and submit your financial or personal information. If in doubt, call or contact the institution first to verify the authenticity of the email. Do not click on any links in this type of email if you cannot verify it is authentic. Only enter your financial information on secure Web sites. Check that a Web site is secure by looking for the closed lock symbol near the bottom of your browser window. And, of course, use a payment method such as PayPal, which lets you pay without sharing your financial information with the person receiving your money. PayPal also covers you 100% against unauthorized money sent from your account.

9. Men are just happier people

What do you expect from such simple creatures? Your last name stays put. The garage is all yours. Wedding plans take care of themselves. Chocolate is just another snack. You can be President. You can never get pregnant. You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park. Hell, you can wear NO shirt to a water park.

Car mechanics tell you the truth. The world is your urinal. You never have

to drive to another gas station restroom because this one is just too icky. You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt. Same work, more pay. Wrinkles add character. Wedding dress: \$5000.00. Tux rental: \$100.00. People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them. The occasional well-rendered belch is not only appreciated by your friends, but practically expected. New shoes don't cut, blister or mangle your feet. One mood all the time. Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat. You know stuff about tanks.

A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase. You can open all your own jars. You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness. If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend. Your underwear is \$8.95 for a three-pack. Three pairs of shoes are more than enough. You almost never have strap problems in public. You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes.

Everything on your face stays its original color. The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades. You only have to shave your face and neck. You can play with toys all your life. Your belly usually hides your hips. One wallet and one pair of shoes one color for all seasons. You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look. You can "do" your nails with a pocket knife. You have freedom of choice concerning growing a mustache. You can do Christmas shopping for 25 relatives on December 24th in 25 minutes.

No wonder men are happier. Send this to the women who can handle it and to the men who will enjoy reading it.

10. A quote I like

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.--John F. Kennedy (1917-1963), 35th U.S. President

11. Thought for the day

I intend to have a great day

There once was a woman who woke up one morning, looked in the mirror, and noticed she had only three hairs on her head. "Well," she said, "I think I'll braid my hair today." So she did and she had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that she had only two hairs on her head. "Hmm," she said, "I think I'll part my hair down the middle today." So she did and she had a grand day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and noticed that she had only one hair on her head. "Well," she said, "today I'm going to wear my hair in a pony tail." So she did and she had a fun, fun day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and noticed that there wasn't a single hair on her head. "YEA!" she exclaimed, "I don't have to fix my hair today!"

Attitude is everything. Have a Good Day!

Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting

some kind of battle.

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply.
Speak kindly..... and leave the rest to God.

Author Unknown
(if you know who wrote this and/or the source, please let me know)

12. Advance planning department

A, I'm speaking on "Positioning: How to Differentiate Yourself from the Competition" to the Bucks Sales and Professional Association in Langhorne . . . on Tuesday, December 5, at 8 a.m. . . . breakfast will be served . . . NO CHARGE, but you need to call Jerry at 215.579.9390 for reservations.

And Cynthia (see also Section 1A) will next be running her fantastic Move Your Body classes on the following dates

Saturday, January 6, at 1:30 p.m. . . . FREE; and
Saturday, February 3, at 1:30 p.m. . . . FREE

both sessions are at the Princeton Center for Yoga & Health in Skillman, NJ

For more information, please click:
<http://www.princetonyoga.com/>

or call 609.924.7294.

A guarantee: You will be delighted if you attend either and/or both of the above!

B. Meaghan in Pennsylvania:
FAMILY PRICING or HALF OFF FINAL WEEK OF SCROOGE
Mention this coupon and get two (2) Adult Tickets for \$10 when you buy any number of \$10 Student tickets (age 22 and under).
OR: if not purchasing Student tickets, mention this coupon to receive Half Price (\$17-\$18.50) tickets.

Good for final week performances of The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge: Wed. 12/6, Fri. 12/8, Sat. 12/9, Sun. 12/10. Not valid with any other offers or on prior ticket purchases. All sales are final, no refunds or exchanges.

HOLIDAY MUSIC IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Fast becoming a holiday tradition, BRT's Fourth Annual Winter Musicale, features some of the best-known holiday music from recent years and last century to long-standing traditional music. The entire family will enjoy this two hour celebration of your favorite songs of the season. Selections will include popular classics like Home for the Holidays, Santa Baby and The Christmas Song, gospel offerings Go Tell it on the Mountain, and One for the Little Bitty Baby, and traditional songs including Carol of the Bells, Silent Night and a fun arrangement of The Twelve Days of Christmas.

Get in the spirit of the season, December 14-24.

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:
<http://www.BRTstage.org>

OR BY CALLING OUR BOX OFFICE: 215.785.0100.

C. Betsy in Pennsylvania:
Mercer County Symphonic Band Concert

This is my attempt to actually let people who have expressed an interest (and even some who haven't) know in advance when the Mercer County Symphonic Band will have its annual Holiday Concert. We are performing on Wednesday, December 20th at the Kelsey Theater at Mercer. Curtain is at 8:00, and admission is free. There are three BCCC community members involved in the band—Marta Kaufmann and myself on flute and, of course, our esteemed conductor Lou Woodruff from Testing.

I'm excited about our selections this time around—there's something for everyone! Hope you are able to make it. Please feel free to pass this information on to anyone you think might be interested. If you need directions, please let me know. Thanks!

D. HOLD THIS DATE:

Harry Paul (co-author of REVVED! and FISH!) will be speaking at Bucks County Community College on March 12, 2007 at the annual "Meet the Author" Business Seminar . . . you won't want to miss him; he is great . . . details to follow.

Also, we are seeking a corporate sponsor for this outstanding event . . . for more information, please email me at bginbc@aol.com.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . also, make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same email address.

Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I were fortunate to be able to celebrate a lovely Thanksgiving at her the home of her sister Joyce and brother-in-law Marty . . . the food, as always, was great . . . yet what made this day particularly memorable was the fact that we were joined by both her mother and my mother, along with her niece and nephew and my nephew and his wife . . . see below for a picture of (from left to right) yours truly, Cynthia, my nephew David and his wife Bettina



B. We had an enjoyable weekend, too . . . on Friday, we saw GREETINGS! at the Off-Broadstreet Theatre (609.466.2766) in Hopewell, NJ . . . this is a comedy, of sorts, that also has

a powerful message at the end . . . the performances were uniformly fine, though Geoffrey Barber perhaps stood out in a role that was quite challenging . . . if I told you any more, it would give away one of the key elements of the plot . . . and Doug Kline, as he has done in several plays I've seen him in, made me chuckle.

GREETINGS! runs through December 16 . . . if you attend, make sure you get there early for the excellent desserts that are also served.

On Saturday, we went to a party at the house of our friends Natalie and Ivan . . . the food was good there, too, and we especially enjoyed one activity that our hosts had us do; i.e., go around the room and share something about gratitude.

I used one of my favorite quotes . . . when Maurice Chevalier became 70, he was asked how he felt . . . his reply, "Great, considering the alternative."

I then mentioned that when I wake up in the morning, I stretch . . . and when I don't feel wood about me, I know it's going to be a great day . . . I added that I further know that this will be the case when I stretch and find Cynthia, my beautiful bride, next to me!

When it was Natalie and Ivan's turn, they shared an activity that they do each night when they go to bed . . . they first ask each other:
1) What would you like to be acknowledged for today? and then:
2. What are you grateful for?

About the only thing we did NOT like about the party was that it concluded with karaoke . . . that part was fun; however, it seemed that when it was our turn to sing, everybody started to clear out--rather quickly . . . can you believe thaaaaat?

C. During the week, Bucks County Community College had its annual recognition ceremony . . . I mention that because during the event, I was recognized for having been employed there for some 30 years . . . unreal, in that it seems like only yesterday that I arrived!

Joining me in being recognized were other colleagues who have been at the College for 30 years, including Bill Ford, Anita Manders, Maureen McCreadie, Ray O'Brien, and Pamela Perkins-Frederick.

Lastly, CONGRATULATIONS to the following individuals who received Administrative Special Recognition Awards:
Lisa Angelo, Rebecca Axe, Tobi Bruhn, Betsy Sell, and Marjorie Zipin.

D. SPECIAL KUDOS to the 13 folks who gave up smoking as a result of the recent smoking cessation program that we ran . . . it went well, at least in my opinion, and I'm hopeful that we can have even better results in the future.

For more information, please click:

<http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/94-11262006-747208.html>

Should you want to join us in the next program, please send an email to: hughesbr@bucks.edu and put down SMOKING CESSATION PROGRAM in the subject line.

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

This week, it goes to Mike DiFiori--graphic design coordinator at Bucks County Community College.

Mike has designed several posters for various programs I've run at the College, and he never ceases to amaze me with the quality of work that he does . . . in addition, he almost always manages to get it done BEFORE you have requested it . . . and he does it with a smile . . . it is a pleasure to work with him.

When not doing excellent work for Bucks, Mike provides his expertise to others in the business and non-profit sectors . . . he is the guy I'd certainly contact if I needed any help with posters, flyers, brochures, logos, and newsletters.

He can be reached via his cell number, 215.350.5979 or via email, difiori@verizon.net.

2. FYI

A lot of warnings that you get via email just aren't very helpful; in fact, they often are downright misleading . . . an exception was the following:

Subject: Info / Crooks
Date: Thu, 23 Nov 2006

Well, the crooks have found a way to rob you of your gift card balance. If you buy Gift Cards from a display rack that has various store cards you may become a victim of theft. Crooks are now jotting down the card numbers in the store and then wait a few days and call to see how much of a balance THEY have on the card. Once they find the card is "activated", and then they go online and start shopping. You may want to purchase your card from a customer service person, where they do not have the Gift Cards viewable to the public.

Please share this with all your family and friends.

NOTE:

Rather than just blindly forward such warnings, I'll also check them out first . . . you can do so, too, by clicking:

<http://www.snopes.com/fraud/sales/giftcard.asp>

FYI, part 2

* Bettina in New York (also see Section 1A):

Please feel free to mention my website in your newsletter:

<http://www.weddingsbybettina.com>

BLAINE'S TWO CENTS:

Bettina provides a unique service for couples--either those getting married or those who can't get married (because of

laws in various states) . . . she's a New York-based marriage officiant and civil celebrant (who can practice in other states and countries), and she provides beautiful services for civil, non-denominational, inter-faith, and same-sex unions.

* Shai in Pennsylvania:

Zolof the Rock and Roll Destroyer has advanced to the Final Three in the Dew Circuit/ MTV2 competition. They will be on TV tonight (Monday 11/27) at 9 p.m. on mtv2. Thank you all for voting!

* Tobi in Pennsylvania:

This holiday season, you can count on the Alumni Association [at Bucks County Community College] for some great gift ideas.

1. The Eagles Encyclopedia (Hardcover), by Ray Didinger and Robert S. Lyons, will find a special place in the library of any sports fan. In the City of Brotherly Love, no team tugs at the hearts and weighs on the minds of fans more than the Philadelphia Eagles. But, much more than a local obsession, the Eagles are also one of football's most storied franchises. Amply illustrated with 200 photos of the players, coaches, fans, and the stadiums in which the team has played, The Eagles Encyclopedia recounts the greatest moments in the team's history, and brings to life the men who helped create modern football (review courtesy of Amazon.com).

Buy your copy of The Eagles Encyclopedia today as the first 10 orders will receive a signed copy by author Ray Didinger. Listed at \$35, The Eagles Encyclopedia is available to BUCKS faculty and staff for only \$25. Additional shipping and handling charges may apply. Call 215.968.8224 or e-mail alumni@bucks.edu.

2. After more than 50 years, Goodnoe's Dairy Bar and Family Restaurant in Newtown closed its doors this September. Residents all over Bucks County remembered special meals they had with family and friends, and tried to count the many flavors of ice cream they tasted over the years.

For a limited time only, Goodnoe's Restaurant is offering you the opportunity to own a piece of history and at the same time invest in Bucks County's future. As the restaurant is being demolished, a small amount of bricks will be reclaimed and authenticated to be offered to the general public. To order your Goodnoe Brick, call 215.968.8224 or e-mail foundation@bucks.edu. Select between a \$20 brick, featuring the Goodnoe logo, and a \$50 brick which, in addition to featuring the logo, is personalized by owner Raymond "Skip" Goodnoe. All proceeds will benefit Bucks County Community College's quest to build a new full-service campus in Lower Bucks County.

3. Just in time for the holiday season, the Alumni Association is once again offering its popular Buy 1, Get 1 Free Brick Special. Rather than just another tie, cookbook, gift certificate, or bottle of wine, surprise a friend, family member or loved one with a personalized brick that will be planted in the beautiful Tyler Gardens on Bucks County Community College's Newtown campus.

Even better, if you place your order by December 31, we give you a second brick for FREE. That's two personalized bricks for \$100 (and also two items off your shopping list!). You will receive a personalized certificate announcing your creative gift in time for the holidays (orders must be placed by December 18).

Proceeds from this Brick Special benefit the Alumni's student scholarship fund and help pave the way to the College Gazebo in the Tyler Formal Gardens.

Each 4" x 8" brick can be inscribed with three lines of up to 15 characters each. To order your brick today, call 215.968.8224, email alumni@bucks.edu, or complete your order online (www.bucks.edu/alumni) and submit the information directly and securely to the Alumni Office.

3. Waiting time

Knitting is a passion for my friend Elizabeth, who is a caregiver for the elderly. When she brings her clients to doctors' appointments, she knits while she waits. Recently, Elizabeth showed me a gorgeous scarf she'd made.

How long does something like that take? I asked.

About one stress test and one colonoscopy, she estimated.

4. Reviews

A. Ordinarily, I'm not a big fan of films that attempt to weave several disparate tales into one . . . but I fortunately made an exception and saw BABEL, and I'm glad that I did . . . each of its four storylines kept me in suspense; I'm still both thinking about them and "seeing" them in my mind . . . Brad Pitt is excellent as an American tourist touring Mexico whose wife, Cate Blanchett, is shot by accident . . . the rest of the cast--with the possible exception of Gael Garcia Bernal, an actor who is rapidly becoming one of my favorites--is relatively unknown . . . however, each performer manages to get his or her role down perfectly . . . the cinematography is also excellent . . . BABEL is definitely one of the best films I've seen this past year . . . rated R.

B. YOU, ME AND DUPREE is now out on DVD . . . though it did not get very good critical reviews, I liked it and think you might too . . . but if that be the case, you'll probably have to be a fan of Owen Wilson . . . he does his usual slacker thing here, playing a permanent houseguest to Kate Hudson and Matt Dillon . . . Michael Douglas is virtually wasted as Dillon's father . . . there were some funny bits that had me laughing, including a great ending . . . rated PG-13.

C. Reading BEYOND BASKETBALL by Mike Kryzyzewski with Jamie. Spatola, his daughter--was almost like being in a one-on-one conversation with the longtime Duke basketball coach . . . it felt like he was talking directly to me, providing advice on a whole host of matters that are relevant not only to sports fans, but to those in any profession or even life situation.

The key, as he points out, are these four words that can bring out the best in your team, your employee and your family: I believe in you.

These four words can mean the difference between a fear of failure and the courage to try.

Kryzyzewski contends that there are other words that have special importance and force, aside from belief . . . these include courage, passion, trust, commitment, excellence, and respect . . . he attempts to use them every day to

energize, motivate and inspire his players on the court and in every aspect of their lives.

BEYOND BASKETBALL consists of 40 short, insightful essays--each written around an important keyword--that often contain anecdotes from the author's personal experiences . . . although I've never coached anything beyond my daughter's softball team when she was very young, I found myself nevertheless relating to each one of them because they were all so realistic.

They were also useful in getting me to think about things in my life, as evidenced by the following tidbits:

[Adversity] One of the greatest comments I ever heard about adversity came from the current Duke University president, Richard Brodhead. He said to me, "You outlive your darkest day." In other words, failure can never be your destination. In adverse circumstances, you must remind yourself that this day is not your last. You will get through it, but can you use it to get better? Improvement comes as the result of adversity; it comes from learning about limits and how to break those limits. Whenever I face adversity, I look at the problem and then beyond the problem. I look for the solution and then I look for the positive impact it will have on me, my team or my family.

[Challenges] No matter how successful you believe yourself to be, you can never feel as if you've reached the absolute pinnacle. There are always new and wonderful challenges out there, and part of maintaining success is knowing when you need to accept them. I am rejuvenated, I am nervous, I am eager, and I am so excited to discover that amazing things I will learn as a result of taking on this new challenge.

[Pride] The first person to ever teach me about pride was my mom. She told me, "Michael, everything you do has your personal signature on it. You should take pride in it because it's yours." As I have grown older, I have come to develop a better and deeper understanding of what she means. You do not have pride in something because it earns you accolade or because someone gives you a trophy or tells you it's great. The pride comes not in the recognition you receive for something, but merely in doing that thing to be the best of your ability. Whether you are playing a basketball game, painting a portrait or cleaning your house, you should take deliberate pride in it because it is a reflection of you. It will always carry your signature.

D. Heard the CD version of TRUE PROSPERITY by Yehuda Berg, a rabbi committed to the teaching of Kabbalah--the world's oldest body of spiritual wisdom . . . the book's subtitle says it all: SUCCESS WITHOUT SIDE EFFECTS.

Berg attempts to show you how this can be done, so that you can have it all; i.e., happiness doesn't have to bring about failures in other parts of our lives . . . and that is one of the best things about TRUE PROSPERITY . . . it applied not only to money, but to health and fitness, family and relationships, and lifelong spiritual growth.

I'm not sure that I learned very much about the Kabbalah, yet that was OK with me . . . what I did learn were such valuable insights as the following:

- * Goals aren't enough. You have to continually seek more, such as when you've attained your goal.
- * Fear stands for False Evidence Appearing Real.
- * Things get worse if you don't take care of them.
- * When we focus on what's important on our list, we get the job done. Yet when we focus on what's not important, we will never get anything done.
- * We should really seek what we need, not just on what we want. What we want isn't what we really need.
- * Agenda-giving isn't truly giving. Truly give. Don't expect anything back in return.

My only criticism of this informative program was that it was delivered by the author . . . his voice was a bit grating . . . here is one case where having a professional narrator would have helped.

This program is available for purchase or rental . . . if you want to get it, please click:

<http://www.achievementlibrary.com/>

Above is the tape rental club I belong to; i.e., the Achievement Tape Library . . . this a great way to hear CDs and/or audio cassette tapes, view videos, etc.--all for a fraction of what it would cost to buy them . . . call the head of the firm (Paul Arroyo) directly at 1.800.735.3660 and mention my name . . . that way, you'll be sure to pay even higher prices . . . NOT.

5. TV alert

A. You probably missed RORY O'SHEA WAS HERE in the theaters, and it most probably won't be at your local Blockbuster . . . so catch it via Netflix or when it appears on Wednesday on HBO Signature at 5:30 p.m.; repeated on Friday at 12 p.m. on HBO2.

It is a very moving tale of two young men with physical disabilities who band together to savor life on their own terms . . . Steven Robertson and James McAvoy are both outstanding in the two leading roles . . . I'll certainly be looking for them in other movies.

B. GREAT PERFORMANCES spotlights "A Tribute to James Taylor," featuring Sting, Bonnie Raitt, Alison Krauss, Dixie Chicks, and Bruce Springsteen . . . Wednesday at 9 p.m. on PBC . . . check local listings because stations and times often vary on PBS specials.

C. THE ELLEN DEGENERES SHOW will feature an interview of Bob Proctor and John Assaraf from THE SECRET, a DVD program that is aimed at helping people get what they want out of life . . . Friday

on WNBC (NYC) at 10 a.m. and on WCAU (Philadelphia) at 3 p.m. . . . for a station and time near you, please click:

<http://ellen.warnerbros.com/showinfo/whenitson.html>

D. THE CHRISTMAS CARD is a sentimental 2006 tale about a soldier so moved by a homemade Christmas card--addressed to "a member of the U.S. Army"--that he tries to track down the sender after returning from Afghanistan . . . John Newton and Ed Asner are the stars . . . Saturday at 9 p.m. on HALLMARK.

6. The pasta diet

1. You walka pasta da bakery.
 2. You walka pasta da candy store.
 3. You walka pasta da Ice Cream shop.
 4. You walka pasta da table and fridge.
-

7. Websites

A. For a creative approach that brings together images and viewpoints to create insights into science and culture, please click:

<http://www.ingenious.org.uk>

This is a project of the U.K.'s National Museum of Science & Industry . . . it weaves unusual and thought-provoking connections between people, innovations and ideas . . . for example, I found a very interesting discussion of the topic, "Dumbing down science" in the Read section.

B. On April 29,2006 at the 2006 White House Correspondence Dinner, President Bush invited a Bush impersonator named Steve Bridges to share the dais with him. The premise was that the impersonator was Bush's conscience interpreting Bush's words and putting it into language as to what he really meant. The website below is the video transcript of this event:

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1921276117304287501&q=genre%3Acomedy>

It is quite long (some 11 minutes) . . . whether you like or don't like Bush, methinks you'll get a kick out of it . . . keep in mind that the President was the one who chose Bridges.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

New readers are always welcome, so feel free to refer friends and relatives to my webpage . . . at the bottom of the home page, see "Special Offer" for an easy way to have anybody get added as a subscriber.

8. Computer tip

The Monday after Thanksgiving--dubbed Cyber Monday by the National Retail Federation--is one of the year's busiest online-shopping

days . . . the following websites aggregate and organize deals that retailers are offering shoppers this holiday season:

<http://www.cybermonday.com>

A bulletin of online promotions from almost 400 retailers, including Norstrom and Waterford.

<http://www.fatwallet.com>

Seasonal offers and specials arranged by store name, as well as a forum of deals uncovered and posted by members.

<http://shopping.msn.com>

Holiday sales & deals center displays coupons from some 250 stores and offers selected from site's 8,000 merchants.

<http://www.slickdeals.net>

A message board with deals its members have found and posted, along with descriptions and coupon codes for hundreds of offers from online retailers.

<http://www.dealtaker.com>

Some 5,000 coupons, a lively deal forum and a special section highlighting free giveaways.

SOURCE:

Extracted from "Clicking with cyber Monday," by Jessica E. Vascellaro in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, 11.25-26.2006, p. B1

9. Fishing

One weekend, a doctor, a priest and an attorney were out in a fishing boat. Their motor had conked out and one of the oars had drifted off. Just as the doctor was about to dive in to retrieve the oar, the boat was surrounded by sharks.

I can't go now, the doctor said. If someone gets bitten, you'll need my services.

I can't go either, said the priest. If the doctor fails, I'll need to give last rites.

Fine, said the attorney. I'll get it. He dove in, the sharks moved, he retrieved the oar and climbed back into the boat. The doctor and priest looked flabbergasted. The attorney just smiled and said, Professional courtesy.

10. A quote I like

Never be the first to arrive at a party or the last to go home, and never, ever be both.--David Brown, movie producer (JAWS, CHOCOLAT, etc.)

11. Thought for the day

QUESTION:

How do we deal with the absence of those we love who have died since last Thanksgiving or Christmas?

The Operating Principle: They are not here, and they are still here.

My tips:

1. PREPARATIONS BEFORE HOLIDAY DINNER

Talk about Grampa with your children: How will you feel without him at dinner?

Prepare his favorite foods.

2. THAT NIGHT BEFORE DINNER

Leave his chair empty for the first year.

Light a candle to remember him, place it on the mantle.

Place pictures of him on the mantle"with other family members!

3. AT DINNER

Brief go-around at beginning: What do you miss about Grampa?

Tears are good, laughter is better.

Tell a favorite story about him.

4. ACTS OF LOVING-KINDNESS IN HIS MEMORY AND IN HIS HONOR

Invite someone who is alone for the holiday to fill in for him at your dinner.

You have paid him forward with two acts of love:

A. Remembering him; and

B. Giving someone else some joy and companionship.

Take presents from Gramps to a mission or a children's hospital. This makes a connection to keep his goodness and his God-ness flowing.

SOURCE:

Press Release from Rabbi Mel Glazer, Temple Israel of the Poconos, Stroudsburg, PA; 570.872.4196; e-mail: griefok@aol.com; reprinted with his permission.

12. Advance planning department

A. Kitty in New Jersey:

The show you don't want to miss opened on November 24 at Kelsey Theatre and runs through Dec.10th: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, THE MUSICAL.

Bring along the tissues because it is a tearjerker just like the Jimmy Stewart movie. Perfect for the holidays.

Tickets only \$16 adults, \$12 Seniors, \$10 students.

For more information, please click:

<http://www.kelseytheatre.net>

B. Two invites from yours truly:

* DOOR TO DOOR is perhaps the finest made-for-TV movie I've ever seen . . . it is the true life story of salesman Bill Porter who, despite suffering from cerebral palsy, doesn't let his affliction stand in the way of becoming successful . . . I'm tentatively showing it to my Marketing classes on Tuesday, November 28 and Thursday, November 30--both nights around 6:30 p.m. . . . FREE, plus popcorn will be served . . . if you'd like to join us, email me to

that effect, so I can confirm both the showing and time.

* I'm speaking on "Positioning: How to Differentiate Yourself from the Competition" to the Bucks Sales and Professional Association in Langhorne . . . on Tuesday, December 5, at 8 a.m. . . . breakfast will be served . . . NO CHARGE, but you need to call Jerry at 215.579.9390 for reservations.

C. Cynthia in New Jersey (see also Section 1A), will next be running her fantastic Move Your Body classes on the following date:

Saturday, December 2, at 1:30 p.m. . . . FREE
at the Princeton Center for Yoga & Health in Skillman, NJ

For more information, please click:
<http://www.princetonyoga.com/>

or call 609.924.7294.

D. Former NJ Gov. Christine Todd Whitman will be making a special appearance on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Mary Jacobs Library in Skillman, NJ . . . she is expected to talk about the results of the recent election and its impact on both New Jersey and the nation . . . in addition, the former governor has agreed to sign copies of her book (IT'S MY PARTY TOO; THE BATTLE FOR THE HEART OF THE GOP AND THE FUTURE OF AMERICA) that attendees bring to the program.

The event is FREE, but seating is limited . . . reserve seats by Dec. 14 by contacting the Friends of Mary Jacobs Library at 908.281.6220 or send an email to MJL-Friends@patmedia.net.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . also, make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com.

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same email address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

#529

11.20.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a great time at the wedding of her step niece last Friday . . . the food was good, and so was the fact that we got to dance . . . what we'll remember most about the event, though, was the facility where it was held: a place called the Grand Prospect Hall in Brooklyn, NY . . . it is a magnificent Victorian music hall that has been restored to look almost like it did in 1892 and is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information, please click:

<http://www.grandprospecthall.com>

B. On Saturday, we got to dance again when we went with friends to the Washington Crossing Inn (215.493.3634) in Washington Crossing, PA--one of our favorite restaurants . . . we first went for dinner . . . I'm ordinarily not that an adventurous diner, but I decided to try something new and asked the waitress about the Wahoo dish with sesame seeds in a teriyaki sauce . . . her response was a classic: "I don't know since I don't like the name" . . . I tried it, anyway, and loved it . . . Cynthia wasn't quite as thrilled with her salmon in a puff pastry, but said it wasn't bad . . . we both shared a delicious pound cake in caramel sauce for dessert.

There's usually a band on weekends . . . "In the Pocket" was the group that night, and we enjoyed what we heard . . . "Second Nature," perhaps our favorite local group, also performs there at least once each month.

C. The smoking cessation program continues to go well at Bucks County Community College . . . a bunch of folks have already stopped smoking, and I'm hopeful that others will do so by the end of our final session next week.

For another great article by Jo Ciavaglia about what's happening, please click:

<http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/111-11192006-744252.html>

D. CONGRATULATIONS to Jerry Gross, a longtime friend and reader . . . he has just joined AXA Advisors, LLC.

Jerry has more than 25 years of experience in the financial services industry. His practice focuses on retirement and estate planning for retired individuals and baby boomers, helping them to grow, preserve and transfer assets. He is licensed to offer individuals life insurance and long term care insurance, as well as mutual funds and annuities.

His office is located at 1041 Bustleton Pike, Suite #4, Feasterville, PA 19053. His phone number is 215.355.4544.

CONGRATULATIONS, also, to Marie in New Jersey . . . actually, make that to her son Neil Foglio . . . he's the first chair and section leader in the New Jersey All State Orchestra and as such, he recently performed at both the NJEA Teacher's Convention in Atlantic City and at NJ PAC . . . also, he was the bassist in the pit orchestra for a production of 1776 at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, NJ . . . quite an accomplishment for any musician and even more amazing given that Neil is just 16.

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

This week, it goes to Marjorie Brody--founder and to quote from her website, "fearless leader" of Brody Communications (1.215-886.1688).

Marjorie has been a longtime friend . . . in addition, she has become one of the nationally-recognized experts in her field . . . she has also written 18 books, including the award-winning HELP! WAS THAT A CAREER LIMITING MOVE? and CAREER MAGIC: A WOMAN'S GUIDE TO REWARD & RECOGNITION . . . and she's not only a member of the National Speakers Association, but the recipient of that group's Council of Peers Award for Excellence.

However, something she did last week really impressed me . . . she donated her time and effort to run a very successful "Boot Camp for Women" at Bucks County Community College . . . over 50 women attended and many of them told me that it was one of the finest seminars that they have ever attended . . . best of all, the program raised some \$12,000 for the BCCC Foundation!

2. FYI

It seems I'm on a patriotic kick this week (see also Sections 7B and 11), which leads me to want you to read the following long but worthwhile email from Debbie in New York:

I received this from a friend of mine whose son is a 2nd Lieutenant in the USAF.

Do what your heart tells you.

Mom,

I don't have very many contacts outside of the military, but I know that you do. This touches a subject that I see everyday. I know that

most Americans want their loved ones to come home and scream for support of our troops. But the little magnets that people put on their cars do little more than damage paint. These are some real ways for people to support those that they love. Would you please forward this out? I know many people that this could impact.

Thanks,
Ken

These are some ways to Support Our Troops:

* The Kim Komando Show:

<http://www.komando.com/tips/support-our-troops.aspx>

* AAFES Gift Certificates:

<http://www.aafes.com/docs/homefront.htm>

The Army and Air Force Exchange Services is where most servicemen and women do their shopping. You can purchase gift certificates for those in Iraq and those hospitalized.

* Adopt a Platoon:

<http://www.adoptaplatoon.org>

Adopt a Platoon has several ongoing projects to ensure that no soldier overseas walks away from mail call empty-handed.

* AnySoldier:

<http://www.anysoldier.com>

Any Soldier is a non-profit organization that helps people send care packages to members of the armed services in Iraq.

* Appreciate Our Troops:

<http://www.appreciateourtroops.org>

Purchase a Support Our Troops mug and a free personalized mug will be given to a current or former service member.

* Blue Star Mothers:

<http://www.bluestarmothers.org>

The Blue Star Mothers was founded by service members' moms during World War II. Any mother with a son or daughter in the military can join.

* Books For Soldiers:

<http://www.booksforsoldiers.com/>

Help the troops escape boredom by donating some books. You can also donate DVDs and CDs requested by soldiers.

* Camp Doha:

<http://www.campdoha.org/>

Camp Doha provides valuable information for those about to deploy, their friends and families and anyone who wants to support the troops.

* Cell Phones for Soldiers:

<http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/pages/1/index.htm>

Donated cell phones are recycled and turned into cash. The cash is used to purchase calling cards for soldiers in Iraq.

* Defend America:

<http://www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html>

Thank any service member stationed throughout the U.S. and the world with an e-mail.

* Fisher House:

<http://fisherhouse.org>

The Fisher House Foundation donates comfort homes, built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one during hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease or injury.

* Freedom Calls:

<http://www.freedomcalls.org>

The Freedom Calls Foundation is helping families videoconference with their loved ones in Iraq. You can donate money to help keep this project going.

* Groceries for Families:

<http://www.commissaries.com/certificheck>

The men and women who lay down their lives for us are terribly underpaid. Help a family by purchasing gift certificates to the commissary.

* Homes for Our Troops:

<http://www.homesforourtroops.org>

Homes for Our Troops assists injured veterans and their immediate families by building new or adapting existing homes with handicapped accessibility.

* Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund:

<http://www.intrepidmuseum.org/pages/intrepidfoundation>

The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund provides grants to the families of servicemen and women who died in Iraq. You can donate online, through mail or by calling a toll-free number.

* Military Moms:

<http://www.militarymoms.net>

This site provides support to all of the moms out there who have a son or daughter in the military.

* MarineParents:

<http://www.marineparents.com>

MarineParents is a place for parents of Marines to meet up. You'll find advice, support and information.

Operation: A Bit of Home:

<http://www.operationabitofhome.com>

Operation: A Bit of Home supports over 150 different soldiers per day by providing necessary and hard-to-get toiletries.

Operation Air Conditioner:

<http://www.operationac.com>

Operation Air Conditioner provides not only air conditioners but space heaters (the desert is cold in the winter) for soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

* Operation Dear Abby:

<http://www.anyservicemember.navy.mil>

The U.S. Navy and Dear Abby have teamed up. Their site allows you to send email messages of support to service members.

* Operation Give:

<http://www.operationgive.org>

Operation Give provides toys, clothing and school supplies primarily to the children of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Operation Gratitude:

<http://www.opgratitude.com>

Operation Gratitude provides a way for you to show your respect and appreciation for the troops. It sends care packages and letters to troops stationed overseas.

* Operation Hero Miles:

<http://www.heromiles.org>

You can donate your unused frequent flier miles to help soldiers travel on emergency leave. They are also used to help families fly to hospitalized soldiers.

* Operation Interdependence:

<http://www.oidelivers.org>

Operation Interdependence supplies care packages to deployed soldiers. You can help out by providing goods, coordinating efforts or donating funds.

* Operation Iraqi Children:

<http://www.operationiraqichildren.org>

Many soldiers are rebuilding schools in Iraq and scrounging around for school supplies. Help by donating a school supplies kit.

* Operation Kids for Troops:

<http://www.kids4troops.com>

Write directly to men and women serving overseas in combat areas. Or place the names of loved ones serving overseas on the "OKFT Hero List" to receive encouraging mail.

* Operation Uplink:

<http://www.operationuplink.org>

Donate money to Operation Uplink. The money is used to purchase phone cards so servicemen and women can call home.

* Packages From Home:

<http://www.packagesfromhome.org>

Packages From Home sends personal care and comfort items to U.S. troops deployed overseas. Find out how to donate time, money or items to this non-profit organization.

* Soldiers' Angels:

<http://www.soldiersangels.org/heroes/index.php>

Become some soldier's angel by adopting a service member.

* Treats for Troops:

<http://www.treatsfortroops.com>

Treats for Troops helps get you provide packages to your loved ones overseas. If you don't know anyone, the Foster-A-Soldier Program matches you with a registered soldier by branch of service, home state, gender, or birthday--or you can choose to sponsor a group of soldiers.

* US Central Command:

<http://www.centcom.mil>

Find out what the Coalition is doing. U.S. Central Command features up-to-date information on Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

USO Cares:

<http://www.usocares.org>

You can sponsor care packages provided by the USO with a \$25 donation.

* Voice from Home:

<http://www.voicesfromhome.org>

Voices From Home allows military members and their families and friends to send and receive immediate voice email messages in remote locations around the world.

FYI, part 2

* Billie in Pennsylvania:

Your newsletter never fails to lift my spirits. I especially like what you had to say about funerals where people come forward to share great memories. I, too, think we should take the time to let people know while they are with us how they affect us or how we feel about them now before it's too late.

You do a fantastic job with your newsletter. I enjoy the jokes, the stories, the reviews and appreciate your prayers for our troops. Keep up the outstanding work.

* Bruce in New Jersey:

I just wanted to tell you to please again remind all your readers about the spamming and false emails from people claiming to be eBay. I have been with them for awhile, and I never respond to them.

However about a week ago I decided to hit the respond now button to see what would happen. As it happens, it brought me to an almost exact copy of the eBay sign in page. So thinking this was real, I answered by signing in.

It only took a day before I got two alerts that will stay on my account for at least another 10 days because it wasn't the exact page, and the person who it went to was able to use my password and cause some havoc for me.

Thank goodness the only info they got was my username and password, which I changed immediately. I was at least smart enough not to include any other personal information.

Thank you for pre-warning us and unfortunately, I thought I could still get the best of these people and they got me. So please inform your readers again.

Thank you, as always.

PS. Loved the Halloween costumes. My cousin and her husband just won a contest for being Lily and Herman Munster. LOL.

* Nick in Vermont:

Just thought I would drop you a line about a beautiful place we have discovered since our move from Newtown to Vermont. Please visit the website for details:

<http://marblemansioninn.com>

If your readers visit Vermont, this is the place to stay!

3. Ms. helpful

I wanted to store some decorations in the garage, but there wasn't much empty space. So I asked my daughter (when she lived at home) to make some room. Being a typical teen, she had to be asked a few times. Eventually, she dragged himself from the couch to the garage--only

to return just a few short minutes later.

I thought I asked you to make some room in the garage, I said.

I did, she replied. I moved your car into the driveway.

4. Reviews

A. STRANGER THAN FICTION is, at its title implies . . . strange, yet also both enjoyable and fun . . . there's a nice romantic plot line, too . . . it is the story about an everyday office worker who is trying to save his life from his narrator (an author writing a book) . . . only when he discovers love does his existence change, and he comes life . . . Will Ferrell, unusually subdued, is nevertheless quite watchable as the main character . . . so is Maggie Gyllenhaal as his girlfriend . . . rated PG-13.

B. AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #514 follows:

Don't be put off by the topic: global warning . . . the documentary about it, AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH, is magnificent . . . it is an account of Al Gore's one-man crusade to tell the world that we have just ten years to avert a major catastrophe that could bring killer heat waves, droughts and floods that are worse than the planet has ever experienced . . . you'll be thinking about the message a long time after you leave the theater, and you'll also never think that science (or Gore, for that matter) was boring . . . I urge you see this important film . . . rated PG, though probably not of interest to anybody younger than 13.

AFTERWARD:

After you see this inspiring film, and I sincerely hope that you do, please click:

<http://www.climatecrisis.net/>

You'll learn how you can make a difference, particularly if you click "Take action" on the right.

C. I've been active in my teacher's union for over 20 years, but even with that background, I found THE UNION MEMBER'S COMPLETE GUIDE by Michael Mauer to be a most worthwhile book to read . . . it reminded me of some things that I had forgotten and even taught me some new stuff as well.

Mauer, director of organizing and services for the American Association of University Professors, really knows his stuff . . . you can tell he has an extensive union background from reading virtually any page, and you'll appreciate how he takes almost anything a union member needs to know (e.g., how to file a grievance) and breaks it down into steps to follow that are easily understood.

I particularly liked his breakdown on an employee's right to have a union representative, a situation we too often have to deal with at my college . . . as he notes, under "Weingarten rights," an employee has the legal right to have a union representative--but not a lawyer--present during a meeting with management if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The meeting is an investigatory interview. This means that you are expected to answer questions in connection with an inquiry into possible wrongdoing or unacceptable behavior. Weingarten rights do not cover meetings where the communication is one-way; that is, when the purpose is merely to convey information to you or to notify you of a decision already made regarding discipline.
2. Disciplinary action may result from the meeting. The law requires only that disciplinary action of any severity is one possible result of the meeting.
3. You reasonably believe that disciplinary action may result. If there is a legal dispute over whether your concern about possible disciplinary action is reasonable, the determination will be made based on all the circumstances surrounding the meeting: Has your supervisor previously raised the possibility of discipline? Have other employees already been disciplined for what you're accused of? Are you already working under the threat of a performance warning letter?
4. You make a request for representation. This is another way Weingarten rights differ from Miranda rights: your employer generally is under no obligation to inform you of your right to be represented. It's up to you to know your rights, and to assert them.

The above is so good that I'm going to copy it and share with several of our union officers . . . in fact, there's a lot more that is worth sharing . . . do yourself a favor and get Mauer's book for any prospective or future member who really wants to understand what it means to belong to a union.

D. Heard AN EASY BURDEN, written and read by Andrew Young--an early adviser and colleague of Martin Luther King who went to become the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, among other things.

The book provides a stirring account of the civil rights movement, starting in the 1950s . . . it got me thinking about the role not only played by both King and Young, but by many other leaders of the time . . . in addition, it gave me a different perspective on how hard this must have been; i.e., to fight for change without being violent.

The author is quite candid in his views . . . just has been the case throughout his life, he is not afraid to mince words (or opinions) and while some may disagree with what he says or the way he says it, you will gain an increasing respect for the man if you read AN EASY BURDEN.

I especially enjoyed the ending:
Everything I know now convinces me that the struggle to eliminate racism, war and poverty is a burden, but in America, with all the freedom and opportunity afforded us under our constitution--in the most productive society in human history--it is an easy burden if we undertake it together.

5. TV alert

A. MADONNA: THE CONFESSIONS TOUR--LIVE FROM LONDON
airs on Wednesday at 8 p.m. on NBC.

B. Billy Crystal, Whoopi Goldberg and Robin Williams join forces to host COMIC RELIEF 2006--HBO's ninth live superstar comedy extravaganza to raise funds and awareness for those in need . . . Wednesday at 9 p.m. on HBO, repeated at 2:35 a.m. on HBO2.

C. OFF THE RECORD previews on Friday at 11 p.m. on HBO . . . hosted by Dave Stewart, one half of the Eurythmics, the series features interviews with the likes of U2's Bono and The Edge.

D. I never saw MARCH OF THE PENGUINS, the Oscar-winning documentary, when it was in the theaters . . . so I'll be watching it on Saturday at 9 p.m. on HALLMARK.

6. My turn

A junior manager, a senior manager and their boss were on their way to a lunch meeting. In a cab, they found a lamp. The boss rubbed it, and a genie appeared. I'll grant you one wish each, the genie said.

Grabbing the lamp from his boss, the eager senior manager shouted, I want to be on a fast boat in the Bahamas with no worries. And, poof, he was gone.

The junior manager couldn't keep quiet. He shouted, I want to be in Miami with beautiful girls, food and cocktails. And, poof, he was gone.

Finally, it was the boss's turn. I want those idiots back in the office after lunch.

7. Websites

A. For a moving tribute to the flag, please click:
http://home.comcast.net/~nw-fla/tribute_flag_B_thompson.htm

Make sure you have your sound on for an equally moving rendition of a song by Elvis.

B. Remember snowglobes when you were a kid? To remind you, please click:
<http://ww12.e-tractions.com/snowglobe/>

After you observe it, use your mouse to "pick it up" and then shake it for a completely different appreciation for this simple animation . . . make sure you listen to it, too.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

If you'd like to see some article that I have written in the past, click Consulting to the left, then Article Samples . . . one you'll be sure to want to read is "The Yomber Principle," my all-time favorite technique for dealing with folks who give you may think that you are wrong. (Can you believe thaaaaat?)

8. Computer tip

To just complain about spam means little; you must do something about it . . . in AOL, this means doing two things (most everybody does the first, but unless you also do the second, you won't see any measurable difference):

* First, when you get spam, report it directly to AOL . . . this is especially helpful when it comes to getting rid of the large spam mailers); and

* Then go to Settings, Spam Controls . . . when you get to the next window, click Edit on Sender Filter (at the bottom) . . . next click Use a Custom Sender List and add any specific addresses that send you spam . . . methinks that should permanently remove them.

Please forward this tip to all your AOL friends . . . if you're not on AOL, then look for the capacity to do something similar with whatever server you currently use.

9. Traffic sign

A farmer lived on a quiet rural highway. But a new expressway bypass meant an alarming increase in traffic. In fact, it was so heavy and so fast that his chickens were being run over at a rate of three a day.

So he called the sheriff's office and said, "You've got to do something about these people driving so fast and killing all of my chickens."

So the next day the sheriff went out and put up a sign that read: SLOW: SCHOOL CROSSING

Three days later the farmer called again and said, "You've got to do something about these drivers. The School Crossing sign seems to make them go faster."

So, again, the sheriff went out and put up a new sign: SLOW: CHILDREN AT PLAY

No good. So the farmer calls again . . . and again, everyday for three weeks, but the sheriff just doesn't have time to put up signs every week. Finally, the telephone calls stop and the sheriff becomes very curious.

So he drives out to the farmer's house, and there on the edge of the road he sees a new sign. It's a whole sheet of plywood. And written in large yellow letters are the words: SLOW: NUDIST COLONY

10. A quote I like

Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned.--Buddha

11. Thought for the day

In case you did not get to commemorate Veterans Day a few weeks back, here's a piece that methinks you'll appreciate:

A vet

You can't tell just by looking.

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia, sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She--or he--is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another. Or didn't come back at all.

He is the Quantico drill instructor who has never seen combat but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb Of The Unknowns whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket--palsied now and aggravatingly slow--who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being--a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness. So remember . . . to just lean over and say "THANK YOU."

Author Unknown

(if you know who wrote this and/or the source, please let me know)

12. Advance planning department

A. Meaghan in Pennsylvania:

We wanted to let you know about a special ticket offer for our friends and family! To celebrate the holiday season we would like to invite you to join us for either of our two upcoming productions: œThe Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge (November 14-December 10) or BRT Fourth Annual Winter Musical (December 14-24), a concert featuring your favorite songs of the season.

Our Special Family Offer:

Buy one or more \$10 Student Tickets and get two Adult tickets at Student Price!

(Family of three \$30, Family of four \$40, Family of five \$50 . . . you get the picture)

Or, if you don't have children . . .

Get Half-Priced Adult Tickets! (regular prices are \$29 to \$37)

Please note, this offer is not available for credit on prior purchase and can't be combined with any other offers. You can only get your discounts by calling our Box Office at 215-785-0100; discounted tickets are not available online at this time.

For more information on the shows, visit:

<http://www.BRTstage.org>.

Hope to see you at the theatre soon. Happy Holidays!

B. DOOR TO DOOR is perhaps the finest made-for-TV movie I've ever seen . . . it is the true life story of salesman Bill Porter who, despite suffering from cerebral palsy, doesn't let his affliction stand in the way of becoming successful . . . I'm tentatively showing it to my Marketing classes on Tuesday, November 28 and Thursday, November 30--both nights around 6:30 p.m. . . . FREE, plus popcorn will be served . . . if you'd like to join us, email me to that effect, so I can confirm both the showing and time.

C. Cynthia in New Jersey (see also Section 1A), will next be running her fantastic Move Your Body classes on the following date:

Saturday, December 2, at 1:30 p.m. . . . FREE
at the Princeton Center for Yoga & Health in Skillman, NJ

For more information, please click:

<http://www.princetonyoga.com/>

or call 609.924.7294.

D. HOLD THIS DATE:

Harry Paul (co-author of REVVED! and FISH!) will be speaking at Bucks County Community College on March 12, 2007 at the annual "Meet the Author" Business Seminar . . . you won't want to miss him; he is great . . . details to follow.

Also, we are seeking a corporate sponsor for this outstanding event . . . for more information, please email me at bginbc@aol.com.

PS. Please join me in enjoying your turkey, as well as your Thanksgiving . . . and toward that end, please click:
<http://www.jacquielauson.com/viewcard.asp?code=GM26534313>

When you do the above, please don't forget to pray that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . and make it a great rest of the week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same email address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

#528

11.13.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride and I, got to vote together--something that seems to have become another of our traditions . . . the polling place (the clubhouse of our development) is within a mile , so an added plus for us was the fact that we were able to walk there together . . . we got there early, so there were no lines . . . and we had no trouble with the new electronic voting machines.

We also got to go for her birthday gift: her teeth being whitened . . . Cynthia had the work done at the office of a friend, Dr. Fred Weiss (609.393.6404) in Trenton, NJ, and the results are smashing if I do say so myself . . . not wanting to have her go through the experience alone, I also got my teeth whitened at the same time . . . afterwards, Cynthia surprised me by putting her sunglasses on as I came out of the office . . . I'm not sure that the results were quite that dazzling, but overall, we're both very pleased . . . furthermore, we'd recommend the process for anybody not wanting to go through the hassle of whitening strips.

B. Over the weekend, we went to Woodstock, NY, where Cynthia was taking a reiki course . . . while she was doing so, I got caught up on my reading and some paperwork . . . fortunately, we had some time together to take a walk through the town and got to see some of the shops . . . in addition, we enjoyed one dinner at the Bear Cafe (914.679.5555) in Bearsville, NY . . . my burger was quite tasty; she enjoyed her shrimp Caesar salad . . . best of all was the view, overlooking a brook and some trees . . . the next afternoon, we had an equally enjoyable meal at Elijah's Cafe (845.679.9524) in Woodstock . . . we split the three things we ordered: potato soup, tuna on organic bread and an excellent carrot/apple juice combo . . . the help was friendly, and this latter establishment is a place we'd definitely visit again.

C. The smoke cessation program at Bucks County Community College has gotten off to a grand start . . . some 44 people attended the first session, and afterwards when I spoke to a bunch of them, most had reported that they had quit smoking . . . Diana Loreman, the

hypnotherapist, did a great job . . . and so did Jo Ciavaglia, the reporter from the COURIER TIMES, who wrote the following article:
<http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/111-11132006-741097.html>

PLEASE NOTE:

Thursday is the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout, so even if you're not participating in the above program, you can still quit . . . for more information, call 800.227.2345 or click:

<http://www.cancer.org>

Also, Arlene in Pennsylvania--a longtime reader and friend--has graciously offered to share her techniques for quitting . . . she can be reached via email at:

Sweetn5163@aol.com.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to the following Pennsylvania readers: Barbara, Cathy, Karen, Emma, Sue, Natalie, Joan, Robin, and Jo . . . they were among just some of the winners of last week's contest for a FREE ticket to Marjorie Brody's "Boot Camp for Women" seminar being presented at Bucks . . . see, it pays to read BLAINESWORLD each and every week--carefully!

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

This week, it goes to Michael Miller--vice president and creative director of Set Now Solutions (609.406.1665) in Ewing, NJ.

He and his wife, Sarah, founded their company ten years ago . . . that's around when I first got to know him for it was their company that helped developed my website.

As Michael notes about his professional and volunteer work, "I teach people to fish in a digital stream" . . . in addition to helping run his company, he is chair of the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce's Technology Committee and was named as that organization's 2006 Volunteer of the Year . . . he is also active with the Princeton Child Development Institute.

For more information, please visit his website:

<http://www.setnow.com>

Or to see the quality of his work, you could visit my website as well:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

2. FYI

I didn't realize it at the time, but during those formative years I practiced what I would later learn was my "WIN" strategy for life. WIN is an acronym for "What's important now?" the question I have always asked myself when facing tough decisions. No matter what situation you are in, you should constantly ask yourself, "What's important now?" If you have a test in the morning, but your buddies have tickets to a late-night concert, "What's important now?" If your team has an important game on Saturday and you need plenty of rest, but your roommate asks you to go clubbing, "What's important now?" In some instances, the answers are easy. If my car is in a ditch, what I'm having for dinner tonight isn't

important. If my wife comes home with a bad report from her doctor, the score I shot on the golf course tumbles down the important list. When I was a young child and my father was out of work for a week, leaving no food in the house, the question "What's important now?" had an easy answer: get out, work, hustle, and do whatever it took to survive. The WIN strategy is as applicable in times of prosperity as it is during a depression.

SOURCE:

WINS, LOSSES, AND LESSONS (see also Sections 4C, 10 and 11) by Lou Holtz

FYI, part 2

* Ken in New York (with a FREE SHOPPING PASS):
Lord & Taylor is having its pre-Thanksgiving Sale.
Buy More. Save More.
The more you shop, the better it gets!

Wednesday, November 15 through Monday, November 20.

15% off when you spend up to \$100, 20% when you spend \$100 to \$250 and 25% when you spend over \$250 or more. Excluded sales tax. Some exclusions apply. Available in-store only. See pass for details.

If you'd like to get the above, please send an email to:
bginbc@aol.com and put in the subject line:
FREE SHOPPING PASS.

* Figen in Pennsylvania (with a FREE MANUAL):
This manual is one of its kind, explaining the emotional clutter behind the physical evidence, how to reach the core of it and a technique to work on getting rid of it.

Just click: http://www.lovethe wayyoulive.com/emotional_freedom_technique.htm

* Jean in Pennsylvania:
Since attending your lecture last month, I not only make sure I'm carrying business cards with me all the time, but have been handing them out to many people.

But once I mistakenly handed out a colleague's card--since we both work at BCCC, it looked similar. I now make sure the cards I collect are in a different section of my wallet than my cards and also double check my card before I pass it on, so I don't make that mistake again.

* Shai in Pennsylvania (with a REQUEST FOR HELP for her son):
Matt is in a band called Zolof the Rock and Roll Destroyer. They are one of 6 finalists in the United States on the "Dew Circuit Breakout 2006."

Please go to: <http://www.dewcircuit.mtv2.com>

This is the home page for the Dew competition. Click vote on the toolbar at the top of the page. Then you can enter your vote under "Zolof the Rock and Roll Destroyer". If you choose you can "meet the bands" and under "videos" go to their "live video" (the second one from the top) and you will see Matt (the one with glasses and the green guitar).

So please vote now!

* Jeanne in Pennsylvania:

Remembered you were looking for the song "Happy Together" for your cellphone ring tone. Came across this website that has it:

<http://www.songfacts.com/detail.php?id=2221>

Hopefully, you know how to download it to your phone. I have no clue how it's done. Good luck!

* Robin in Pennsylvania (with a MONEY-MAKING OPPORTUNITY)

I'm looking for a parking space for my Alfa Romeo, a small classic sports car, from November through March. Would you please put something in your newsletter? I figure the more people who know I'm looking, the better my chances for finding something safe/secure. I'll consider any location at this point.

I live in Newtown, PA; my telephone is 215.504.2122.

Thank you, as always, for being the friendliest, most helpful resource with the most reach!

3. Self-help books

A rack of self-help audio books at my local copy center caught my eye. I picked one up: How to Get Your Point Across in 30 Seconds or Less. Flipping it over I read, Listening time: 45 minutes.

4. Reviews

A. Loved BORAT: CULTURAL LEARNINGS OF AMERICA FOR MAKE BENEFIT GLORIOUS NATION OF KAZAKHSTAN, a comic documentary about a reporter who leaves his country to discover the culture of America . . . Sacha Baron Cohen, the star and creator of HBO's DA ALI G SHOW, brings his character to the big screen with hilarious results.

He is funny, offensive and simple-minded--all at the same time . . . I found myself laughing out loud at many parts of the film, and one scene--involving a wrestling match--was one of the funniest I have ever seen . . . rated R, but be forewarned . . . if you're easily offended, then BORAT is not for you.

B. WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR? is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #514 follows:

Do try to track down WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR?, a thought-provoking documentary that will remind you of a murder mystery with its multiple suspects.

I remember when EV1, as it was then called, first came out in the 1996 . . . it was a revolutionary modern car, requiring no gas, no oil changes and no muffler . . . the only maintenance check-up entailed replenishing the windshield washer fluid and a tire rotation . . . in fact, in one great scene, you see a mechanic showing his clean hands at the end of the day.

Yet the vehicle failed and WHO KILLED ELECTRIC CAR? attempts to answer the question . . . though no easy answers are given, you'll join me in wondering aloud how come you can't buy an EV1 now . . . rated PG; however, me thinks not particularly appropriate for anybody under the age of 10.

C. I first began following the career of football coach Lou Holtz when I read about something he did when he was in his 20s; i.e., write down a list of over 100 things he wanted to accomplish in his life . . . among them: jump out of an airplane, land on an aircraft carrier, go out on a submarine, appear on THE TONIGHT SHOW with Johnny Carson, go white-water rafting down the Snake River, play the greatest golf courses in the world, have dinner in the White House, meet the Pope, learn to juggle and do magic, and run with the bulls in Spain with a slower person.

The amazing thing is that 40 years later, he has accomplished all but two items from his original list.

So when I saw his autobiography, WINS, LOSSES, AND LESSONS (see also Sections 2, 10 and 11) came out, I knew that I just had to read it to find out more about this amazing guy . . . and I'm glad that I did.

Holtz is a guy who seems to have lived his life to the fullest--and loved every minute of it . . . his book is funny, at parts, but also touching in others . . . it is one that can be enjoyed by any football fan or Notre Dame graduate; however, others will like it too.

There were several memorable sections in it; among them:
* I learned what it takes to be a great teacher, because I had some great ones. My history professor Dr. Kaplan, for example, was so knowledgeable and enthusiastic that he inspired me to become a history major. In that first year I realized that to be a good teacher you had to (1) know your subject inside and out, (2) be able to present what you know in a cohesive and interesting way so that your audience understands what you're talking about, and (3) have enthusiasm for teaching.

Every good professor I've known has embodied all three of these traits, and every bad one has fallen short in one or more. I knew that if I was going to become an effective coach, I had to embrace the principles of good teaching. What I didn't know was how soon I would get to test my abilities.

* More than once, I jumped into the middle of a scrimmage without pads to demonstrate a blocking or tackling technique. I know this shocked a lot of players, but I was passionate about doing things the proper way. If I got down in the middle of a pile with no pads, there was no reason that kids who were much bigger than I couldn't do the same when fully outfitted. I told them, "If you're going to be something, do it to the best of your ability. If not, don't waste your time or mine." Those are words I repeated throughout my coaching career. How good those players were was not important to me. What was important was the effort they showed. I wasn't a great player, which meant I had to put forth 100 percent on every play just to equal those athletes who were more physically gifted than I. Overcoming my own physical shortcomings made me a better coach because I knew what it was like to give everything you

had on every play. I still can't understand people who fail not because they aren't physically or mentally up to the task, but because they simply don't put forth the effort to succeed. If you aren't going to be the best you can be, why try?

Lastly, there was this fantastic bit of advice for anybody choosing a career:

* We prayed a lot, talked a lot, and wrote a lot of things down. Out of that discussion came our creed for what's important in choosing a profession: First, you have to do something that you love. Work isn't work when you love what you do. If you dread going to the office in the morning and can't wait for the workday to end, you need to seriously rethink your career choice. Second, you need to find something you do well. You might love to play golf, but if you shoot 100 every time you play, you're not very good, and you're going to starve to death playing golf for a living. Finally, you have to find somebody who will pay you. You might love something, and be very good at it, but if no one is willing to pay you for doing it, you don't have a career. I love eating Snickers bars, and I'm very good at it. Unfortunately, I've yet to find anyone who is willing to pay me to eat Snickers bars, so that aspect of my life doesn't qualify as a profession.

D. Heard *THE HEALING HEART* by Norman Cousins (author of *ANATOMY OF AN ILLNESS*, one of my all-time favorite books).

In *THE HEALING HEART*, he describes his experience as a heart attack survivor, and tells how to both overcome panic and utilize the body's magnificent healing powers . . . as he notes, "Death is not the enemy. Living in constant fear of it is."

Furthermore, "Nothing is more essential to the treatment of serious disease than liberating the patient from panic and he notes, "Death is not the enemy. Living in constant fear of it is."

Furthermore, "Nothing is more essential to the treatment of serious disease than liberating the patient from panic and foreboding." Toward that end, Cousins strongly advocates--as he did in *ANATOMY OF AN ILLNESS*--that "laughter is an antidote to apprehension and panic."

One passage, in particular, had me chucking to myself when I was driving home one night . . . he described finding out about a surprise party that was going to be held for him (to celebrate his recovery) . . . so he went to it in disguise, completely fooling those in attendance--including his wife and daughter . . . his thinking, "What better way to celebrate such events than with laughter?"

William Conrad's narration greatly added to my enjoyment of this book . . . you'll like it, as well, whether you listen to or read it . . . please do so, particularly if you're a heart attack survivor or know somebody who is.

5. TV alert

A. *DANCING WITH STARS* concludes with a final dance-off on

Tuesday at 8 p.m. on ABC and results on Wednesday at the same time . . . I had been rooting for Joey, but now with him out of the competition, I'll just be watching for the pure fun . . . the results show will also give me a chance to again see the hoofers who have been eliminated along the way.

B. LARRY KING LIVE is running the second of a two-part series called "Beyond Positive Thinking" on Thursday at 9 p.m. on CNN . . . it will feature Jack Canfield, Jayne Payne, George Pratt, James Arthur Ray, and Joe Vitale

C. GIANTS is a show that gives artists a chance to pay tribute to their peers . . . Reba McEntire is honored in the opener on Saturday at 8 p.m. on CMT . . . Dolly Parton, Faith Hill, Trisha Yearwood, and Martina McBride are among those who perform from Hollywood's Kodak Theater.

D. THE AMAZING JONATHAN: WRONG ON EVERY LEVEL has the magician performing feats in a tape show from New York's Hudson Theater on Saturday at 10 p.m. on COMEDY CENTRAL . . . he also teams up with illusionist Criss Angel for a person-on-the-street.

6. Door-to-door

A door-to-door vacuum salesman goes to the first house in his new territory. He knocks, a lady opens the door, and before she has a chance to say anything, he runs inside and dumps horse dung all over the carpet.

He says, "Lady, if this vacuum cleaner don't do wonders cleaning up that horse dung, I'll eat every chunk of it."

She says, "You want tomato sauce on that? We just moved in and we haven't got the electricity turned on yet."

7. Websites

A. For tips on sample sales, restaurant openings and the hottest parties in your city, as well as advice on living well, please click: <http://dailycandy.com/>

The website has been expanded to include 12 cities, there's an "everywhere" edition, and information on how to subscribe to a FREE email newsletter . . . in addition, you can access a listing of exclusive sales, discounts, promotions, and special offers that have been handpicked by the editors of DailyCandy; however, each deal is short-lived and available only to DailyCandy subscribers.

B. If you love dogs or know somebody who does, then you MUST click: http://www.idodogtricks.com/index_flash.html

Type-in a command and see what happens; e.g., sit down, roll over, down, stand, sing, dance, shake, fetch, play dead, etc. . . . and it's also very cute if you type a command that's not recognized.

Make sure you type-in kiss, too, but do that last. And make sure your sound is turned on.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

THANKS to the efforts of Dan Becker, my ace webmaster, you can see what you may have missed in this missive by going to Newsletter (on the left), then Past Issues . . . you can go back to as far as 3.21.05, in which you'll find a very moving "Thought for the Day."

8. Computer tip

For holiday shopping to easily compare prices on specific items, use a portal like either of the following:

<http://www.shopping.com>

<http://www.shopzilla.com>

But beware that some merchants pay portals to be featured prominently . . . so look for labels like "smart choice" or "trusted merchant," indicating that other shoppers have consistently rated a site well . . . also, look for ratings that have been submitted by other users.

And two other suggestions:

* Look for special holiday free shipping, particularly in the beginning of December before the last-minute rush.

* Shop the sales, which means reading the dozens of emails you get from amazon.com and other etailers.

9. Corporate travel policy

Due to the budget constraints, the following policies are announced regarding employees traveling on official business. These policies are effective immediately:

Lodging:

All employees are encouraged to stay with relatives and friends while on business. If weather permits, public areas such as parks should be used as temporary lodging sites. Bus terminals, train stations and office lobbies may also provide shelter in periods of inclement weather.

Transportation:

Hitch-hiking is the preferred mode of travel, in lieu of commercial transport. Luminescent safety vests will be issued to all employees prior to their departure on such travel. Airline tickets will only be authorized in extreme circumstances and the lowest fares will be used. For example, if a meeting is scheduled in Seattle, but a lower fare can be obtained by traveling to Detroit, the travel to Detroit will be substituted for travel to Seattle.

Meals:

Expenditures for meals will be limited to an absolute minimum. It should be noted that certain grocery and specialty chains, such as Hickory Farms, General Nutrition Centers and Costco Club stores often provide free samples of promotional items. Entire meals can be obtained in this manner.

Travelers should also become familiar with indigenous roots, berries, and other protein sources available at their destination. If restaurants must be utilized, travelers should utilize "all you can eat" salad bars. This is especially effective for employees traveling together as one plate can be used to feed the entire group. Employees are also encouraged to bring their own food on official travel. Cans of tuna, Spam and Beefaroni can be consumed at your leisure without the unnecessary bother of heating or costly preparation.

Miscellaneous:

All employees are encouraged to devise innovative techniques in an effort to save our budget dollars. One enterprising individual has already suggested that money could be raised during airport layover period, which could be used to defray expenses. In support of this idea, red caps will be issued to all employees prior to their departure, so that they may earn tips by helping other travelers with their luggage. Small plastic roses and ball point pens will also be made available to employees so that sales may be made, as time permits.

We welcome any suggestions for further cost cutting.

10. A quote I like

I don't think about the wins and losses these days, so I hope no one remembers them when they think of me after I'm gone. I want the great games to be remembered for the players who played in them, not for the short, skinny man who paced the sidelines. I don't want to be known for the successes I had as a coach, or as a public speaker, because success dies. Significance--helping others to better their lives through word and deed--lasts forever.

The only thing I hope is that when I die, someone says, "That Lou Holtz was significant to a lot of people." It is the best thing that can be said of a person. I hope it will be said of me.--Lou Holtz in WINS, LOSSES, AND LESSONS (see also Sections 2, 4C and 11)

11. Thought for the day

When I mention a book four separate times in an issue, you know that I REALLY like it . . . that's certainly true of WINS, LOSSES, AND LESSONS (see also Sections 2, 4C and 10), from which the following passage was taken:

Beth [my wife] saw it. She knew that I had to get out. She also knew, as I did, that everyone needs four things in life:

First, you have to have something to do. Stories of healthy individuals who die within a few years of retirement are too

numerous to list. It's also true that prisoners serving life sentences sleep for twelve to fourteen hours a day because they have nothing in their lives that compels them to get out of bed.

The second thing you have to have is someone to love. We are put on earth to love other people. Those who don't have anyone exist without happiness.

Third, you have to have something to believe in. I've always said that not believing in a god is not an option for humans. You might not believe in the Heavenly Father, as I do, but everyone has a god. It might be the quest for power or material gains; it might be a cause--environmentalism, conservationism, global socialism, or one of countless other isms; or it might be the search for peace--but everyone has a god.

Finally, you have to have something to look forward to. In his famous book *Man's Search For Meaning*, Dr. Viktor Frankl, a Holocaust survivor, made some interesting clinical observations in the midst of the horrors of Auschwitz, Dr. Frankl noticed that prisoners who had nothing to live for and nothing to look forward to died quickly of starvation, fatigue, or abuse at the hands of their captors. But those who survived shared one thing in common: they all had something to look forward to. Often the survivors lived for the thought of rejoining a relative, or escaping to another country. Sometimes they hung on in the hopes of exacting revenge on the Nazis. But whatever the reason, those who survived the greatest atrocity in history were those who had something to look forward to.

12. Advance planning department

A. Debbie in Pennsylvania:
Mark Your Calendar for November Events at:
Omphalos the Center for P.E.A.C.E.

* Reiki Share

Tuesday, November 14th 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free
(Donations for space are appreciated.)

Join us to practice and share Reiki with each other ~ bring a friend!
Reserve your place, space is limited!

* The Rainbow of Desire with Luisa Rasiej

Wed., Nov 15th 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Come join us for an interactive, fun process focused on creating a visual map of your desires. Designed as a group process, Rainbow of Desire borrows techniques from the theater to bring thoughts, beliefs, feelings, hopes and obstacles to light. During this evening workshop you can experience yourself and your desires in a non-threatening, non-judgmental environment and explore how to achieve them. This spontaneous and creative approach gives you the opportunity to transform the world around you and within you. You may even discover new or unexplored facets of yourself! \$30

* Remember Who You Are with Debbie Burns

Thursday nights November 16th and 30th 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Are you playing a leading role in your life? Are you living your Life's Purpose? Join us for an on-going process to write your own script . . . Remember Who You Are . . . find 'your center' and Shine your Light! . . . An incredible story is about to unfold, an epic adventure about awakening in a new paradigm . . . what role will YOU play? \$20.

* Spiritual Cinem: The Secret Friday November 17th 7:00 p.m.
Followed by a Lightworkers Gathering \$10 Donation

The Secret is released to the world! This groundbreaking feature length movie presentation reveals The Great Secret of the universe. It has been passed throughout the ages, traveling through centuries . . . to reach you, mankind and humankind.

This is The Secret to everything--the secret to unlimited joy, health, money, relationships, love, youth: everything you have ever wanted.

* Tahya Technique "Healing Dance" an Introduction

Saturday November 18th 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Experience the Wonder of Ancient and Enduring Arts!

The intent of this program is to introduce these ancient arts, drumming & dance movements rooted in the sacred and secular traditions of North Africa, and Middle and Far East, as accessible tools for relaxation, reconnecting with our deeper selves and each other, increasing individual creativity and reviving one's health via the development of positive body image while reducing stress and encouraging well-being. \$30

For more information:

OMPHALOS the Center for P.E.A.C.E.
301 Oxford Valley Road Suite 1503 Yardley PA 19067
215.493.3456

<http://www.omphaloscenter.org/>

B. Jean in Pennsylvania:

Marjorie Brody, executive coach and BCCC professor emeritus, will be holding a one-day Boot Camp for Womenbusiness seminar at BCCC in Newtown Wednesday, November 15, from 8 a.m. 4:30 p.m. It's a fundraiser for the BCCC Foundation's Fulfilling Our Promise campaign to support the new Lower Bucks Campus in Bristol.

Why should women attend? According to Brody:

“Women often believe that by doing a good job they're going to move ahead within an organization. But that's a faulty assumption; doing a good job will only get you so far. You need to understand how you come across to people, the politics of an organization, taking risks, and how you can get your name to be a “household name” within the organization. You have to find your advocates within an organization. Advocates are really your own personal sales force. It's universal advice for men and women.

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* Wednesday, November 15, from 7-8:15 p.m.
at the Capitol Health System in Hamilton, NJ.

Cost: \$5

To register, please call 609.588.5050 or 609.394.4512 and ask for Marsha Rudolph.

* Saturday, December 2, at 1:30 p.m. . . . FREE
at the Princeton Center for Yoga & Health in Skillman, NJ

For more information, please click:
<http://www.princetonyoga.com/>

or call 609.924.7294.

D. There's a terrific FREE Conference at Princeton University on "Food, Ethics and the Environment" this coming Thursday and Friday, November 16 and 17.

Among the speakers: Michael Pollan (author of OMNIVORE'S DILEMMA), Peter Singer (THE WAY WE EAT), Marion Nestle (WHAT TO EAT), and Eric Schlosser (FAST FOOD NATION).

For details, please click:
<http://www.princeton.edu/~eating/program.htm>

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . also, make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same email address.

Blaine Greenfield
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Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
Phone : 828.633.1049

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #527

11.6.2006

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10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I hosted a smashing Halloween party on Saturday for a bunch of our local friends . . . in case you're wondering what we looked like, see below:



(Left to right: That's Jody and Barry Sysler in electrical outlet and plug costumes with Cynthia and Blaine masks on, yours truly as a personal trainer and Cynthia as a ballerina; photo by Ivan Winegar.)

All who attended got to judge the costumes and prizes went to the

winners . . . in addition, we had our traditional--for us--contest, wherein another person won a whole jar of Hershey Kisses because she guessed how many were in it . . . lastly, another three people won the "Mummy Wrap" contest when they covered a team member in toilet paper.

Tom Shields (267.441.7341) did an outstanding job as the DJ for the evening, first getting everybody up to dance and then providing the opportunity for many brave souls to demonstrate their Karaoke talents . . . and Mike Lazanski (215.547.6196) handled the food for the party . . . his cheese and chocolate fondues went over especially well.

B. The actual day for Halloween, October 31, proved to be a lot of fun for me . . . I did something that I haven't done for a long time; i.e., went around the Bucks County Community College campus in the aforementioned costume in an attempt to spread cheer . . . instead of trick or treating, I went to the various offices and offered a treat or trick . . . I particularly enjoyed getting to see many old and not so old friends.

C. LAST CHANCE:

If you'd like a chance to win a FREE TICKET to Marjorie Brody's presentation (see Section 12B), please send an email to: hughesbr@bucks.edu.

and put in the subject line:
BRODY SEMINAR

Include in the body of your email your name and email address, along with your home, work and cellphone numbers . . . you'll be notified on or before November 10 if you're a winner.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to Barbara Ford . . . she was recently named director, Transfer Services, at Bucks--having previously served as coordinator/assistant director for the past five years . . . she does excellent work, and I look forward to continue working with her.

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

I love a good bagel . . . to me, that means getting it at Bagel Junction (215.968.9795) in Newtown, PA, my favorite establishment for such a product.

I've been a longtime satisfied customer . . . the bagels are ALWAYS fresh; in addition, sandwiches are both ample and tasty . . . and the accompanying "sides" of coleslaw or potato salad are a nice extra touch.

The staff at Bagel Junction is also tops . . . Steve Seidner, the owner, never fails to greet you with an enthusiastic smile . . . he is ably aided by Dan Eller and Bill White, his managers, as well as the rest of his staff.

2. FYI

To emphasize another FISH! philosophy, David often asks teachers to consider this scenario: At your funeral, 40 people stand up and tell how

much they appreciated you, the things you did for them, and what they liked about you. Would you rather that happen after you're dead or on a day-to-day basis during your life?

Having people talk nice about you at your funeral is great but it's like winning the lottery the day after you die; it's too late. The problem is that we aren't trained to make other people's day. We think it has to be something grand or we have to say just the right thing. But it can be as simple as a smile or a compliment.

SOURCE:

SCHOOLS OF FISH! (see also Sections 4C, 10 and 11) by Philip Strand, John Christensen and Andy Halper

FYI, part 2

* Karen in Pennsylvania:

To Sue in Pennsylvania, the library has some resources on home based businesses. Barnes and Noble has even better ones. They are current, up to date books. Additionally, many medical transcriptionists work from home. There are specialized companies that do the training.

* Denise in New Jersey:

Well, that's good news [about my saying I'd attend a rally if Bush or Fitzpatrick were there]. Good thing you had Kerry visit before his stupid comment. A riot to be had for sure!

What WAS funny was Letterman saying Kerry is the only person that can lose an election he's not even in. LOL.

You know, we're supposed to vote very soon and the only platforms I've seen are mudslinging. The media is just creating a feeding frenzy that should not be allowed. Ugh!

* Sue in Pennsylvania:

Such a shame that it always has to be an us against them, right wing against left wing . . . one of the saddest things about politics.

By now, people should understand to respect both sides . . .there are great Democrats and great Republicans.

Use your brain and make a conscientious choice about who to vote for, as opposed to just being manipulated by the politicians and taking sides!

Kudos to you Blaine for being the master when it comes to listening to both political parties with an open mind. I wish more people used their brain like you.

* Geri in Pennsylvania:

Your mother is a very attractive woman. Please tell her.

MY TWO CENTS:

I agree, but then again, I'm prejudiced. But I did tell her, and she said thanks for the nice words!

3. So tall

My friend is so tall that people feel free to make comments like "You must play basketball." His favorite came on a road trip with me. We stopped at a convenience store, and as he paid the young cashier, she asked, gawking. "How tall are you?"

"About six-ten," my friend replied.

"Wow," she said. "I'm only four-eleven. You're twice as tall as me."

When we got back in the car, I told my friend, "Better count your change."

4. Reviews

A. THE QUEEN (starring Helen Miren; see also Section 5D) is about Queen Elizabeth II and the rest of the royal family around the time of Princess Diana's death . . . it is a film that has gotten absolutely great reviews; in fact, probably the highest I've ever seen . . . my reaction was that I couldn't get into THE QUEEN at all, nor did I care for any of the main characters . . . while Miren was fine, as usual, her performance wasn't one that I'd recommend you rush to see because methinks you'd wonder like me: so what? . . . rated PG-13.

B. WORDPLAY is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #511 follows:

I never would have thought a documentary about crossword puzzles would be fun to watch, but was I ever wrong . . . catch WORDPLAY if you possibly can; you'll love it . . . you'll get to meet many players, including such famous ones as Jon Stewart (who is particularly funny), Bill Clinton and Mike Mussina . . . in addition, you'll get a behind-the-scenes look at the 28th annual American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, an event that was quite suspenseful to watch . . . rated PG.

C. FISH! A REMARKABLE WAY TO BOOST MORALE AND IMPROVE RESULTS by Stephen C. Lundin, Harry Paul and John Christensen has become one of my favorite business books . . . so when I saw that the principles have been applied to education in a book, SCHOOLS OF FISH! (see also Sections 2, 10 and 11) by Philip Strand, Christensen and Andy Halper, I knew that it was something that I had to read.

And am I ever glad that I did, in that it inspired with its ideas and techniques for better classroom management . . . though all the many examples were from grades K-12 situations, I do believe that they could be related to any level of education--up through and including graduate school.

One quote from the book says it all: "We're very serious about learning; play is just how we feel while we're doing it."

It got me thinking about the fact that education should be more fun . . . for the teacher, as well as the student . . . you don't have to be a rocket scientist to make this happen . . . just utilize some of the methods that have worked for others, apply them to your situation, and you'll be all set.

There were several memorable passages; among the ones that I especially liked were these:

* That duality also transfers to adult relationships. As daily pressures compete for our attention, it's amazing how people can seem rude or, equally, how simple gestures stand out. For example, a certain principal never answers his phone when talking with a visitor. "It will ring and the other person will say, "It's OK if you get that," he explains. "I tell them, 'No, you're more important to me right now.' They're always surprised," Why? Possibly because it's such a powerful statement of respect and commitment.

* When it came to dealing with parents, Puntteney wanted to make sure she not only called home to discuss problems, but also to congratulate students. She sent good-news postcards home, and sometimes she just called parents to tell them about their child's success.

"Some parents were in disbelief when I called," she says. "They said things like, 'Are you sure you have the right student?' One said, 'Nobody from school has ever called with good news before! Thank you."

* At Avon Intermediate School, there's room at the table for everybody.

"Recently I bought furniture for the staff dining room—four tables with four chairs for each table," says principal Scott Raftery. "The next day, when I came in the dining room, the teachers had pushed all the tables together to create one huge table so they could eat like a big family."

The above is just basic stuff, but it works . . . if you're looking for the ideal gift for any teacher (past, present or future), then you won't go wrong buying SCHOOLS OF FISH!

D. Heard the CD program, REAL INTELLIGENCE by Dr. Laurence D. Matel . . . it teaches people to figure out how they are smart, so that they can then adapt any learning situation to their unique strengths and needs.

There's a lot of good stuff here . . . however, one idea stood out that made my listening worthwhile . . . Matel talks about a way to begin any meeting or gathering . . . just go around the room and ask people, "What's good and new?" . . . as he notes, this will take you to a new level of gratitude and appreciation . . . I already tried this (at our recent party; see Section 1A), and it worked . . . big time!

Once I come away with at least one usable idea from any program, I'm typically satisfied . . . however, there was a lot more that I gained from listening to REAL INTELLIGENCE.

For example:

* The journey for success doesn't begin with the first step; it begins with the idea for the journey.

* If you teach something once, you've learned it twice.

* I [Matel] carry pictures of my grandchildren around. They're my personal vision statement.

* Learning like love is the only thing you can give away and never lose.

* Stupidity is a learned behavior.

* Some people learn best by getting up. Let them get up.

* You can be more effective when you realize everybody learns differently.

This fine program is available for purchase or rental . . . if you want to get it, please click:

<http://www.achievementlibrary.com/>

Above is the tape rental club I belong to; i.e., the Achievement Tape Library . . . this a great way to hear CDs and/or audio cassette tapes, view videos, etc.--all for a fraction of what it would cost to buy them . . . call the head of the firm (Paul Arroyo) directly at 1.800.735.3660 and mention my name . . . that way, you'll be sure to pay even higher prices . . . NOT.

5. TV alert

A. PAULA POUNDSTONE: LOOK WHAT THE CAT DRAGGED IN has the comic take aim at her well-publicized run-ins with the law . . . Friday at 2 p.m. on BRAVO, repeated on Sunday at 1 p.m.

B. HACKING DEMOCRACY exposes the vulnerability of computers, which count approximately 80% of America's votes in county, state and federal elections . . . Friday at 6:30 p.m. on HBO.

C. I hope others are watching MEN IN TREES because it is my favorite new show of the year . . . native Alaskan singer Jewel has a cameo this week . . . Friday at 9 p.m. on ABC.

D. Helen Miren (see also Section 4A) is back for a last case as Jane Tennison in the opener of the two-part "Prime Suspect: The Final AC" on MASTERPIECE THEATRE . . . Sunday at 9 p.m. on PBS . . . check local listings because times and stations on PBS specials often vary.

6. Looking at the bright side

Being able to look on the bright side of life was something I always admired about my grandfather. Even after receiving the terrible diagnosis that he had Alzheimer's, he was philosophical. "There's one good thing that'll come from this," he told my father.

"What's that?" asked Dad.

"Now I can hide my own Easter eggs."

7. Websites

A. Students have long had the opportunity to rate their professors at this website:

<http://www.ratemyprofessors.com/index.jsp>

OK, I must admit . . . I did peek and saw what some have written

about me . . . it's all true, too; the good stuff that is . . . as for any negative ratings, all I can say to those folks who wrote them, "Get a life!"

That said, though, I must admit to being somewhat disappointed that not even one person gave me a "hot" rating . . . hmpf!

I mention the above because ratings can work both ways and now there's this blog that readers might want to check out:

<http://rateyourstudents.blogspot.com>

To quote from the homepage, "Students can tell us why they won't take the iPod out during a lecture, and professors can tell us why their clothes are so frumpy.

B. There's hope for us . . . see for yourself by clicking:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKRZv6NGjdc>

It starts out slowly, but stick with it . . . we should all age so well (he's 25, and she's 84) . . . you'll enjoy the music, too.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

If you're new to the newsletter and interested in seeing pictures of just some of the many people that are important to my world (Cynthia, my daughter Risa, etc.), please click Blaine's Best to the left, then Pictures . . . and when you do, make sure the sound is on because you'll get to listen what is arguably the greatest song of all time.

8. Computer tip

Many online photo-printing services permit you to crop, fix red eye and do minor enhancement with free software, such as that from Shutterfly:

<http://www.shutterfly.com>

You don't even have to register!

A competitor, Snapfish, also provides a similar service:

<http://www.snapfish.com>

However, to use it, you must first sign up as a customer.

9. Amazingly simple home remedies

1. A mouse trap, placed on top of your alarm clock, will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.

2. If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives, then you will be afraid to cough.

3. Clumsy? Avoid cutting yourself while slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold them while you chop away.

4. Avoid arguments with the Mrs. about lifting the toilet seat by simply using the sink.
 5. For high blood pressure sufferers: simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure in your veins. Remember to use a timer.
 6. Have a bad toothache? Smash your thumb with a hammer, and you will forget about the toothache.
 7. Sometimes, we just need to remember that you only need two tools: WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.
-

10. A quote I like

Sharing such stories became a regular feature at staff meetings. "One day I heard a teacher tell a kid, 'I'm gonna watch you go to the water fountain 'cause I can't trust you.' The teacher just wants the child to hurry, but what does the child hear? You're not trustworthy. You're bad. After we talked about it, I heard the teacher say, 'Hey, you're fast! I'll bet you can go to the water fountain and back in 30 seconds. Matter of fact, I'm going to watch you to see how well you do that.' Same situation but the kid hears a completely different message."

SOURCE:

SCHOOLS OF FISH! (see also Sections 2, 4C and 11) by Philip Strand, John Christensen and Andy Halper

11. Thought for the day

You know I REALLY like a book when I mention it four times in any one issue of BLAINESWORLD . . . such is the case with SCHOOLS OF FISH! (see also Sections 2, 4C and 10) by Philip Strand, John Christensen and Andy Halper . . . the following passage quotes a teacher:

He continues, "I've always asked students to practice the same kind of commitment I have to them. If you're a sixth grader in my building, you're expected to take care of everybody younger than you. It's your job to show them respect and to help them learn. The same is true of every other grade, on down the line. The second graders are expected to take care of the first graders, and so on. The only people exempt are the kindergartners and autistic kids. They're perfect in every way. The rest of us have to take care of somebody."

Acceptance also means remembering that some days, students have more to worry about than reading and writing. "Forty percent of the students at Roosevelt have parents in the military, " he says. "Some of them are in harm's way. So we have to watch for kids that need the most attention. We can't tell them it's over and we can't guarantee that Mom or Dad's coming home safe. But we can make a commitment in our hearts to fill that gap with whatever they need from us."

One day, Hartzel asked a student if she had been working hard.

"I sure have," she answered.

"What are you working hard at?"

"I work hard praying that my mom comes back alive from Iraq," she said.

12. Advance planning department

A. Yvonna in Pennsylvania: Benefit for the Haynes Family

The son, 8 Years old, has a wish to go on a vacation with his mother. His mother has gone through breast cancer and is now diagnosed with Myeloma.

The father contacted my sister, and I and asked if we could help. The son also has cystic fibrosis. The family has been instrumental in helping others, as they are foster parents to other children.

The father is the guitar player for Long Hard Ride and has played numerous benefits for others from raising rent money to raising funds for area senior centers. This family is a very giving family and we feel it is their turn to receive back the goodness the have given.

Dudes Named Fred, a great local band, will be playing at two local benefits:

Friday, November 10, at Five Points Sports Bar in Levittown; and
Sunday, November 12, also at Five Points Sports Bar

For more information, please click:

<http://www.dudesnamedfred.com>

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Cost: \$5

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at the Princeton Center for Yoga & Health in Skillman, NJ

For more information, please click:
<http://www.princetonyoga.com/>

or call 609.924.7294.

D. Lou in Pennsylvania:

The Mercer County Symphonic Band, under the direction of Dr. Louis Woodruff, will perform its Winter Concert at the Kelsey Theater, on the West Windsor campus of Mercer County Community College, on Wednesday evening, December 20, at 8:00 p.m. Admission is free.

The program will include contemporary works for band, marches, selections from popular musicals and seasonal favorites. The sixty member ensemble involves area musicians ranging in age between fourteen and eighty-two, including a number of same-family members. The Band is supported by Mercer County Community College and through a grant from the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the NJ State Council on the Arts.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . also, make it a great week!

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19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way
Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
Phone : 828.633.1049

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #

526

10.30.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a delightful day this past Saturday . . . we took my mother out for dinner to Trinity Restaurant (516.358.5584) in Floral Park, NY . . . I ordered one of the specialties of the place, the Yankee pot roast, and it was delicious . . . the portion was humongous . . . Cynthia enjoyed her salmon, and my mother liked something she tried for the first time: a steak & mushroom pie . . . we all agreed that the accompanying scones were outstanding.

From there, it was on to see a musical version of THE WONDERFUL WICKED WIZ OF A WIZARD OF OZ, produced by the Stars of Tomorrow Theatrical Workshop (516.932.9173) that starred my cousin Brian and his wife Lisa . . . they were joined by Lisa's daughter Elizabeth, and they were all great . . . OK, so I'm a bit prejudiced, but in the honesty of fairness, I must also admit to liking the work of Lisa's ex--Steve Mintz--who was in the cast as well . . . and everybody got along, too.

See below for a picture (from left to right) of my cousin David, who managed to work his way into the picture, me, Lisa, Elizabeth, Brian, Cynthia, and my mother:



B. I love hearing speakers, so there was no way I was going to miss Sen. John Kerry when he was at Bucks County Community College last week at a rally to support the candidacy of 8th District congressional candidate Patrick Murphy . . . although the event was over an hour late in starting, it was nevertheless quite impressive and well worth attending . . . Kerry's best line was when he thanked the good residents of Bucks County for the votes and money the last time he ran, but he wished some of them could have moved to Ohio to have voted for him . . . Murphy, though very young, impressed me . . . too bad he's running against Mike Fitzpatrick, one of the really good guys in politics.

KUDOS to Tony Wolf, one of the College's many excellent teachers, who made the arrangements for the event.

I then got to hear Herb Greenberg and Patrick Sweeney that night . . . they were speaking at the Barnes & Noble (609.716.157) in West Windsor, NJ, about a book they co-authored, SUCCEED ON YOUR OWN TERMS . . . their basic message was that after interviewing over 100 successful people to understand the qualities that distinguish them, they found that these individuals were successful because of four main factors: they focus on their strengths, they have a keen sense of self-awareness, they're willing to take a risk, and above all, they love what they're doing . . . I was so impressed by the presentation that I bought a copy of the book and look forward to soon reviewing it.

SUGGESTION, if I may:

Check your local Barnes & Noble . . . Border's, too . . . you'll often find similar programs that are offered to the public at no charge.

Lastly, Dr. Beth DuPree--through the efforts of Natalie Kaye, the dynamic programming coordinator of the Women's Center at the College--recently spoke to my Marketing students . . . Dr. DuPree spoke about her book, THE HEALING CONSCIOUSNESS, and the magnificent journey that led her to write it . . . if you are interested in a moving, inspiring tale that's true, then this is a book for you'll want to read . . . in addition, it is a great

gift for anybody you know who may have had or does have breast cancer.

What I'll perhaps most remember from this presentation is something that her husband told her when they were contemplating a move . . . in a line that sounds like it was from a movie, he said, "If you want to move to this farm and that's where you feel you should be, I want to be where you want to be."

C. Often times, you may want to skim this missive . . . that's fine, in that I realize you're pressed for time . . . and I often get a bit wordy, such as in this issue when I have so much to share.

In case you have not yet figured it out, Sections 3, 6 and 9 usually contain jokes . . . Section 11 typically has a story that you might find inspirational, such as is the case in this week's issue . . . please don't miss it, along with the accompanying video . . . it is as good as anything I've ever run . . . Section 7 features some websites that you might want to check out . . . and from time to time, I'll have some giveaways and/or contests . . . such as the following one . . . if you'd like one FREE TICKET to the Marjorie Brody presentation (see Section 12D), just send an email to the following person: hughesbr@bucks.edu . . . put in subject line: FREE TICKET . . . include your name, phone number, email address, and how you know me . . . a drawing will be held within the week, and winners will be notified by email . . . this is another event that you won't want to miss . . . Marjorie is a longtime friend who has written several books and is a member of the prestigious National Speakers Association.

D. MR. CURIOUS HERE:

Our teacher's union is presently looking at options for national affiliation . . . we are presently aligned with the American Federation of Teachers, but are also looking at the American Association of University Professors . . . if you have any experience with either of these groups--or others for that matter--please let me know.

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

This week, it goes to Betty--a customer service representative with CapitalOne Rewards.

I typically use my credit card for just about any purchase that I make over a buck . . . it's soooo easy that way, and I like the fact that I have a record of all purchases when I get my monthly statement . . . I just make sure that I have enough money to pay my bill on time each month (so as to not incur any charges).

I've been doing this for quite some time and had accumulated well over 200,000 points . . . for some reason, I had never bothered using them--in part because I'm embarrassed to say that I did not know how to do so.

When I called, I was lucky to get Betty as my representative . . . she walked me, step by step, through the process and helped me get some \$2,000 in credits that completely covered two recent trips that I had purchased . . . she then helped me set up my account online, so that I will be able to keep closer tabs on it if I want to do so.

However, I must admit that will probably call back to get a live operator--particularly if I'm fortunate to get Betty or somebody as helpful as she was.

2. FYI

Phillip Cooper's WHAT + HOW = WOW (see also Section 4C) got me thinking about how marvelous it would be if we could improve the way that all folks answered their phones . . . as he notes:

Call our office and ask our Director of First Impressions about the mirror. I promise the Director will proudly tell you it is there to remind ourselves to smile especially on the days when we are not in the mood to smile. It is her benchmark for delivering outstanding customer service. On a down day, the mirror is there to insure the smile factor is in full affect.

WHAT I ALSO LIKED:

The title for this person; she's just not another customer service representative!

FYI, part 2

* Manny in Pennsylvania:

You're a great guy for encouraging a non-smoking campaign. I'm telling all my students--in and out of class.

* Arlene in Pennsylvania:

I cringe every time I read about your hypnotherapy [program to quit smoking].

I previously suggested to your readers if they really, really want to quit, I would be happy to explain how. No tricks, no hypnotherapy, nothing. Just have to want to, and I will take it from there.

I know that writing this will mean nothing; just had to vent.

How do I know this? Because not one of your readers inquired how. I was a 3-pack a day smoker and gave up two jobs because I was no longer permitted to smoke at my desk.

Haven't smoked in over 28 years and found quitting very simple. You have to want to and follow some very easy steps.

YOU CAN STILL CONTACT ARLENE BY EMAIL:

If interested, feel free to send an email to sweetn5163@aol.com . . . do let me know, too, if Arlene was/is able to help you . . . I'm very interested in any and all ways that will help people quit smoking.

* Ed in Florida:

"Quit smart" did it for me and many prayers. The tape (or CD) is offered at the local VA.

* Kitty in New Jersey:

Where does one get Madagascar cockroaches for such a purpose? [The race I reported on having used in last week's issues.] My initial response to Kitty was a rather flippant, "Madagascar." But I then found out that they can be purchased at some pet stores. Ask around, if interested.

* Peter in Pennsylvania:
[on reading about the aforementioned Kerry rally at Bucks] Make sure you let us know when the right wing is having a rally at Bucks so I can go.

BLAINE'S TWO CENTS:

Of course! I think some people missed the point here and, in fact, one reader even subscribed as a result of this mention. I just wanted to let you know that this was happening. If President Bush was there with the local Congressional representative--Mike Fitzpatrick, in this case--I'd be there as well. And encourage you to attend.

Which reminds me . . . don't forget to vote on Tuesday, regardless of who you favor. The key is to let your voice be heard.

* Kevin in Pennsylvania:
I don't want to miss a single issue! So please change my email address to [a new one he gave].

WHY I RAN THIS EMAIL:

To remind you: PLEASE let me know whenever you have a switch in addresses, so I can remain in touch. It really bugs me when I get the dreaded message, "Address unknown." Also, if interested, I'd be more than glad to send BLAINESWORLD to both your home and work email addresses; just let me know.

* Colleen in Pennsylvania:
I am trying Vongo.com, and I do not like it. At all. Am trying to get the negative word of mouth out to as many people as I can.

I had seen the commercials and thought it might be nice to try. My computer is away from my TV, and I thought I could listen to the movie while working.

I do netflix and love it. I was able to see PAPER CLIPS after not making the showing on campus. I appreciated your bringing the movie to the campus.

3. Such problems!

The teenage boy seemed placid as I approached his hospital bed to give him a psychiatric evaluation. His mother was seated nearby, immersed in her crocheting.

I walked over and introduced myself to the boy. He looked right through me and started screaming: "I can't see? I can't see!"

I had never witnessed such a dramatic example of hysterical blindness. "How long has this been going?" I asked his mother.

Without looking up she replied, "Ever since you stepped in front of his television."

4. Reviews

A. Saw **FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS**, the true story about the most memorable photograph of World War II and how it helped rally America behind our troops . . . it is a film that is growing on me as I reflect back on it . . . also, it is one that has me thinking about my dad and how he never talked about his participation in World War II . . . he didn't see himself as a hero; rather, he just saw himself as a guy doing what he had to do.

As is the case with any war movie, there's a lot of fighting that may be too much for many viewers . . . I actually enjoyed the other part of **FLAGS**, the one dealing with the human side of the soldiers and what happened to them both during and after the war . . . Clint Eastwood directed . . . stay for the credits, in that you'll see some real pictures from the war that I found very moving . . . you'll also learn that Eastwood was the person responsible for the excellent soundtrack . . . rated R.

B. **KEEPING UP WITH THE STEINS** is now out in DVD format . . . my review from **BLAINESWORLD #504** follows:

Enjoyed **KEEPING UP WITH THE STEINS**, a comedy about a Hollywood agent who wants to outspend his rival when it comes to throwing a bar mitzvah for his son . . . Jeremy Piven is fine in the title role (one very similar to his work in the HBO series **ENTOURAGE**), but Gary Marshall is even better as his estranged father . . . rated PG-13.

C. Just finished a terrific book on customer service, **WHAT + HOW = WOW** (see also Section 2) by Philip Cooper.

Cooper, head of Cooper Pest Control in Lawrenceville, NJ, doesn't just write about the subject . . . he applies it to both his daily life and business, continually attempting to elicit the **WOW** that he so succinctly defines as follows:

WOW is achieved when the experience makes such an excellent impression with the receiving party that it is shared with family and friends. When striving for **WOW**, the by-product is an incredible experience, which impresses everyone with whom we come in contact.

What I particularly liked about this book is that it used many real examples, not only from Cooper's business but also from those he has helped in his consulting and others he has actually observed . . . in addition, he does something that not too many guts have the courage to do; i.e., when sometimes a firm doesn't measure up to standards, he mentions its name--including sometimes his own company.

As I was reading **WOW**, I knew that I was really liking it because of the many notes that I was taking down in the margins . . . these were for my future reference, as well as to share with others.

Among the many valuable tidbits I gained were the following:
* When our staff takes on-line tests there are two objectives, the score and how quickly the score is achieved. The first goal is to get 100 percent on the exam and the second goal

is to increase the speed at which you can score the 100 percent. I believe the questions should not be complicated or too tricky. The objective is for our representative to be able to recall the item quickly when speaking with the client. Scoring 100% with speed is the ultimate goal. Typically, the quicker a person can achieve this on the test, translates to improved recall with the client.

* The Soft Shell story is an example of how we can hide behind policy and procedure of our company to create a really poor customer service experience. What infuriates me is when company representatives hide behind the policies and procedures of a company in the process of working with clients. Phrases like, "It is our policy" "Our procedure requires us to...", should be eliminated. I am sure that if you search your memory over the last month you probably can find at least one instance where you were the client and heard these phrases. There is nothing more aggravating than to hear these words. I really am not interested in what the company's policies are. I am not interested in what the company cannot do for me; rather I want to know what they can do for me. I am the client, although I do not need to be catered to, I do expect quality service.

* Why can't customer service be like talking to a neighbor, that is, a friendly neighbor? I often wonder this after a poor customer service experience. What I am trying to achieve, is simply a nice friendly conversation; it should just flow. Imagine trying to provide excellent customer service while yelling at the client? Or, take it to the other extreme. Imagine listening to someone who is talking so softly that you get lulled to sleep.

If you like the idea of WOWing others, then get--make that, run to get--this book!

D. Heard the taped version of GETTING BETTER by Nan Robertson, an inside look at Alcoholics Anonymous . . . I've often wondered about this group, but had seen little ever written about it--in part because of the anonymity factor.

Somehow, Robertson (a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for THE NEW YORK TIMES) got permission to write the book . . . in it, she tells the story of how a failed stockbroker and a surgeon together found a way to stay sober--one day at a time.

She also describes what happens at the actual meetings . . . and that is what I perhaps liked best about the book: its behind-the-scenes view of these gatherings . . . the fact that Robertson actually attended many of these as a recovering alcoholic made her reporting all the more believable.

I also liked how she summarized the message of message of AAA into these three key points: Be honest, change yourself and help others.

GETTING BETTER was made even more enjoyable by Michael Learned's excellent narration.

5. TV alert

A. ANGEL RODRIQUEZ stars Rachel Griffiths, playing a pregnant counselor who tries to reach an at-risk teen in the inner city . . . Wednesday at noon on HBO2-EAST; repeated at 8 p.m. on the same channel, then on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. on HBO SIGNATURE-EAST and on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. on HBO.

B. I've been watching and enjoying UGLY BETTY on Thursdays at 8 p.m. on ABC . . . executive producer Salma Hayek drops by this week to play a mystery lady who steals the heart of one of the characters.

C. I no longer watch LAW & ORDER, but I'll probably make an exception on Friday at 10 p.m. on NBC . . . Chevy Chase guest stars as a celebrity on the skids who when taken into custody by the police, launches into a bigoted rage . . . if it sounds like somebody else you've recently read about, that's the intent I'm sure.

D. ROSEANNE BARR: BLONDE AND BITCHIN airs on Saturday at 10 p.m. on HBO . . . I loved her response to the question (when asked by TV GUIDE) whether she was having more fun as a blonde: "I really am! People are way nicer to you. I just have the horrible feeling that if I was really thin, they'd be even nicer. Particularly the men." . . . then when the reporter replied, "That is so sad," Barr answered, "I know. That's why I refuse to lose weight."

6. Banter

The rabbi and the priest met at the town's annual picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter.

"This ham is really delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but you just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, when are you going to break down and have some?"

The rabbi looked at his friend with a big grin, and said, "At your wedding."

7. Websites

A. Like saving money? If so, then click:
<http://www.cheapstingybargains.com>

There are some good savings here, particularly if you're looking for Dell and other computers . . . but there's a lot more, too . . . for example, I just found a coupon for 10% on all online Target purchases . . . this is a website that's definitely worth a look.

B. To view "White and Nerdy," the latest video from "Weird Al" Yankovich, please click:
<http://youtube.com/watch?v=qZ4RaYCHEZA>

This is a funny spoof of Chamillionaire's gangsta-rap hit "Ridin' " . . . it features cameos from such very white folks as Seth Green and Donny Osmond.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

Should you want to encourage others to subscribe to this newsletter, you can always send them the above link . . . at the bottom, you'll find a "Special Offer" that makes this a cinch.

There currently are about 760 readers, including you and me . . . I'd love to someday hit the 1,000 mark, so toward that end, new readers are ALWAYS welcome!

By the same token, also feel free to forward this current issue to your friends, relatives, etc. . . . often times, that is the best way to get others to subscribe.

8. Computer tip

Methinks that you are like me, in that you probably get a lot of email . . . as such, I'm sure that it is hard to keep up with it at times . . . here's one thing that I do to make life easier--at least for those I write . . . when I want a reply, I might put that fact in the subject matter; e.g., Question for you, (name of person I'm writing to); REPLY REQUESTED.

If you like this idea, please feel free to use it if you write me AND want me to reply.

9. My tiredness

For a couple years I've been blaming it on iron poor blood, lack of vitamins, dieting and a dozen other maladies. But now I found out the real reason.

I'm tired because I'm overworked.

The population of this country is now 300 million. 146 million are retired. That leaves 154 million to do the work.

There are 102 million in school, which leave 52 million to do the work. Of this there are 36 million employed by the federal government. This leaves 16 million to do the work.

Nine million are in the Armed Forces, which leaves 7 million to do the work.

Take from the total the 4,800,000 people who work for State and City Government and that leaves 2,200,000 to do the work.

There are 1,600,000 in hospitals, so that leaves 600,000 to do the work.

Now, there are 599,998 people in prisons. That leaves just two people to do

the work.

You and me.

And you're sitting there reading BLAINESWORLD!

10. A quote I like

People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget how you made them feel.--Maya Angelou,
American writer/actress

11. Thought for the day

Strongest dad in the world
by Rick Reilly of SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

NOTE:

Please read story, then see video at end; you won't be disappointed.

I try to be a good father. Give my kids mulligans. Work nights to pay
for their text messaging. Take them to swimsuit shoots.

But compared with Dick Hoyt, what I do for my kids is inconsequential.

Eighty-five times he's pushed his disabled son, Rick, 26.2 miles
in marathons. Eight times he's not only pushed him 26.2 miles
in a wheelchair but also towed him 2.4 miles in a dinghy while swimming
and pedaled him 112 miles in a seat on the handlebars--all in the
same day.

Dick has also pulled him cross-country skiing, taken him on his back
mountain climbing and once hauled him across the U.S. on a bike.
Makes taking your son bowling look a little lame, right?

And what has Rick done for his father? Not much--except save his life.

This love story began in Winchester, Mass., 43 years ago, when Rick
was strangled by the umbilical cord during birth, leaving him
brain-damaged and unable to control his limbs.

"He'll be a vegetable the rest of his life;" Dick says doctors told him
and his wife, Judy, when Rick was nine months old. "Put him
in an institution."

But the Hoyts weren't buying it. They noticed the way Rick's eyes
followed them around the room. When Rick was 11 they took him
to the engineering department at Tufts University and asked if there
was anything to help the boy communicate. "No way," Dick says
he was told. "There's nothing going on in his brain."

"Tell him a joke," Dick countered. They did. Rick laughed. Turns out
a lot was going on in his brain.

Rigged up with a computer that allowed him to control the cursor
by touching a switch with the side of his head, Rick was finally

able to communicate. First words? "Go Bruins!" And after a high school classmate was paralyzed in an accident and the school organized a charity run for him, Rick pecked out, "Dad, I want to do that."

Yeah, right. How was Dick, a self-described "porker" who never ran more than a mile at a time, going to push his son five miles? Still, he tried. "Then it was me who was handicapped," Dick says. "I was sore for two weeks."

That day changed Rick's life. "Dad," he typed, "when we were running, it felt like I wasn't disabled anymore!"

And that sentence changed Dick's life. He became obsessed with giving Rick that feeling as often as he could. He got into such hard-belly shape that he and Rick were ready to try the 1979 Boston Marathon.

"No way," Dick was told by a race official. The Hoyts weren't quite a single runner, and they weren't quite a wheelchair competitor. For a few years Dick and Rick just joined the massive field and ran anyway, then they found a way to get into the race officially: In 1983 they ran another marathon so fast they made the qualifying time for Boston the following year.

Then somebody said, "Hey, Dick, why not a triathlon?"

How's a guy who never learned to swim and hadn't ridden a bike since he was six going to haul his 110-pound kid through a triathlon? Still, Dick tried.

Now they've done 212 triathlons, including four grueling 15-hour Ironmans in Hawaii. It must be a buzzkill to be a 25-year-old stud getting passed by an old guy towing a grown man in a dinghy, don't you think?

Hey, Dick, why not see how you'd do on your own? "No way," he says. Dick does it purely for "the awesome feeling" he gets seeing Rick with a cantaloupe smile as they run, swim and ride together.

This year, at ages 65 and 43, Dick and Rick finished their 24th Boston Marathon, in 5,083rd place out of more than 20,000 starters. Their best time? Two hours, 40 minutes in 1992--only 35 minutes off the world record, which, in case you don't keep track of these things, happens to be held by a guy who was not pushing another man in a wheelchair at the time.

"No question about it," Rick types. "My dad is the Father of the Century."

And Dick got something else out of all this too. Two years ago he had a mild heart attack during a race. Doctors found that one of his arteries was 95% clogged. "If you hadn't been in such great shape," one doctor told him, "you probably would've died 15 years ago."

So, in a way, Dick and Rick saved each other's life.

Rick, who has his own apartment (he gets home care) and works in Boston, and Dick, retired from the military and living in Holland, Mass., always find ways to be together. They give speeches around the country and compete in some backbreaking race every weekend, including this Father's Day.

That night, Rick will buy his dad dinner, but the thing he really wants to give him is a gift he can never buy.

"The thing I'd most like," Rick types, "is that my dad sit in the chair, and I push him once."

Now here's the video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryCTIigaloQ>

12. Advance planning department

A. I'm presenting on "Staring your own business on \$50 (or less)" this coming Thursday, November 2, at 6:30 p.m. and repeating the session on Tuesday, November 7 at the same time . . . both sessions will be in Penn 410 on the campus of Bucks County Community College . . . no charge, but please email me in advance if you'll be coming.

B. Cynthia in New Jersey (see also Section 1A), will next be running her fantastic Move Your Body classes at the Princeton Center for Yoga on the following dates:

Saturday, November 4, at 1:30 p.m. . . . FREE

Saturday, December 2, at 1:30 p.m. . . . FREE

For more information, please click:

<http://www.princetonyoga.com/>

or call 609.924.7294.

In addition, she'll be running another class as follows:

Wednesday, November 15, from 7-8:15 p.m. at the Capitol Health System in Hamilton, NJ.

Cost: \$5

To register, please call 609.588.5050 or 609.394.4512 and ask for Marsha Rudolph.

C. LAST CHANCE:

We still have a few slots open for the smoking program cessation that we are running . . . it begins on Monday, November 6, at 7 p.m. and runs on November 13 and 20, too . . . if you'd be interested in forever giving up smoking (with the natural process of hypnotherapy, please immediately call 215.968.8254 or send an email to hughesbr@bucks.edu . . . if you get a return call or email, you've been chosen to participate!

D. Tobi in Pennsylvania:

Business "Boot Camp" for Women
A Guide to Reward & Recognition

Hosted by internationally recognized speaker,
executive coach and author Marjorie Brody

November 15, 2006

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Library Auditorium – Newtown Campus
Bucks County Community College

Tickets: \$295 per person:

- * Interactive workshop
- * Opportunity to network with other business leaders
- * Complimentary breakfast and lunch

Or take advantage of a \$1,000 Corporate Sponsorships and receive:

- * 3 tickets
- * Your logo on all marketing literature
- * The opportunity to promote your organization to various business leaders attending the event.

For more information and to reserve your tickets today,
call 215.968.8224, e-mail: foundation@bucks.edu or please click:
<http://www.bucks.edu/foundation>

PS. If you get this before Halloween, here's hope that get to enjoy the day . . . or if October 31 has already passed by the time you read this, then enjoy all the candy that you may have taken away from some little kid . . . also, please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . and make it a great week!

Blaine Greenfield
19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way
Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
Phone : 828.633.1049

Contact Us at bginbc@aol.com

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #525

10.23.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a memorable past Thursday--along with my mother . . . that was the day I spoke at the Dean's Reception to my colleagues at Bucks County Community College . . . the topic was supposed to be on my philosophy of teaching, but how boring would that have been? So I instead spoke on the following topic: "What's the difference between a left- and right-handed pencil? (The READER'S DIGEST version.)

That enabled me to give those in attendance a feel for what I have done in my classroom these past 30 years . . . being that I had only 30 minutes, I could just present some of the highlights.

So to give the audience a feel for the marketing strategy project that my students once did on a pest control business, what better way then to have a race featuring the live 4.5 inch Madagascar hissing cockroaches that you can see in this picture:



(That's Marilyn Puchalski trying to get her team's cockroach onto the track.)

Photo by Pat Hannigan, a good friend and accomplished photographer . . . should you want to utilize his services for your next portrait, wedding or even cockroach race, give him a call at 215.968.1615 or send an email to: pat.hannigan@verizon.net

***** SPECIAL OFFER TO BLAINESWORLD READERS *****

If you'd like your very own left- and right-handed pencils (and there IS a very real difference between the two), please send me a self-addressed stamped 6 x 9 or 9 x 12 envelope with \$1.11 postage affixed to it . . . please include a piece of cardboard, too, so the pencils don't get crushed . . . put your self-addressed envelope into an outer envelope and mail with appropriate postage to:
Blaine Greenfield, 15 McElroy Lane, Belle Meade, NJ 08502

Another high spot for our week was attendance at a Murder Mystery, run by the College's Alumni Association . . . it was a lot of fun, especially since a lot of our friends joined us . . . we even guessed that the murderer was John Long, a member of the College's Board of Trustees . . . and I had previously thought he was such a nice guy . . . just goes to show you that you can't be toooooo trusting these days!

KUDOS to Tobi Bruhn, Nancy Steigerwald and Jean Holmes of the Foundation Office, as well as to Linda Soltis, Eileen Zolotorofe and countless others in the Alumni Association, for all their hard work in making the event the success that it was . . . and Greg Tozzi, manager of CulinArt, came though as always with some great hors d'oeuvres and desserts.

B. THANKS to Jean Dolan for writing another great press release . . . this time, it was for the FREE smoking cessation program that now has 25 enrollees . . . there are only a few more seats, so if you'd like to join us or recommend somebody else, please see below for what you need to do to make that a reality:

NEWS RELEASE October 19, 2006

Contact: Jean Dolan, Assistant Director, Public Relations 215.968.8094

Personal Quest Prompts Professor to Offer Free Smoking Cessation Program

Blaine Greenfield, who watched his father's health deteriorate from tobacco use, hopes to get smokers to quit with hypnotherapy

Bucks County Community College professor Blaine Greenfield doesn't want to see anyone go through what his father did.

"My father was a marvelous man, and he lived a great life. Most of it, he was healthy," says Greenfield. "But over the last 10 years of his life, he had to go through 10 operations and two amputations. He spent much of that time in hospitals or rehab centers."

Greenfield says his father's health problems were directly linked to tobacco. "He often told my mother that he wished he had given up smoking 35 years ago, when she did. I don't want anybody else to have to go through what he had to go through. It was very tough on him. It was equally tough for others to watch."

That personal quest has motivated Greenfield to offer a free smoking-cessation program at the Newtown campus of the college, to be held the first three Monday evenings in November. The program is open to any smoker who is highly motivated to quit and who can provide a sponsor to support him or her through the process.

"What's unique about this program is its use of hypnotherapy, which has been shown to be highly successful in getting people to quit," notes Greenfield. The instructor is certified hypnotherapist Diane Loreman.

The program is sponsored by the BCCC Women's Center, in conjunction with the BCCC chapter of PA-SWAT (Pennsylvania Students Working Against Tobacco), and the college's Student Life office. Following the program, Greenfield is asking successful quitters to write him a testimonial, help recruit a smoker for the next program, and consider making a donation to the BCCC Women's Center.

Last spring, Greenfield vowed to use part of his stipend from the college's prestigious Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award to fight tobacco use on campus. His father, Bernard Greenfield, died three months later at the age of 87.

The free smoking cessation program will be held at 7 p.m. November 6, 13, and 20 on the BCCC campus at 275 Swamp Road, Newtown. Enrollment is limited. To register, call 215.968.8254 or email hughesbr@bucks.edu.

C. Too often, folks don't scroll down to the last section of this missive; i.e., Section 12 (Advance planning department) . . . too bad because there is often a lot of good stuff there . . . that said, the following event is just so important that I had to run it here:

Tony Wolf is one of the many outstanding professors I'm blessed to work with at Bucks CCC . . . he does just a super job teaching many of the Sociology courses, and he also advises the Social Science Club . . . and he is a political activist who has just arranged for Sen. John Kerry to come on campus this coming Thursday . . . do attend the event, regardless of your political affiliation . . . the details follow:

RALLY FOR CHANGE

with

SENATOR JOHN KERRY

and

Democratic Nominee for Congress

PATRICK J. MURPHY

BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

10:00 A.M., , THIS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26th

Student Center Terrace (outdoors)

275 Swamp Road, Newton, PA

This event is open to the public, so invite all your friends!

D. CONGRATULATIONS to Lavelle Olexa, my sister-in-law . . . she is Lord & Taylor's senior vice president for sales promotion, marketing and publicity and a woman who recently was honored at a reception of the Laboratory Institute of Merchandising . . . the event was used to kick off a scholarship fund in her name.

CONGRATULATIONS, also, to Peter Hughes . . . the soccer team that he coaches, Pennsbury High School, won the Suburban One League (Bucks County, PA) National Division title.

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

This week, it goes to Phil Cooper--president of Cooper Pest Solutions (609.799.1300) in Lawrenceville, NJ.

Phil is the guy who provided the cockroaches for the aforementioned race . . . but that's not why I am recognizing him; rather, it's because of all that he does in the community.

He runs a very fine company that I've personally used in the past and will continue using in the future . . . as mentioned, he has worked with my classes and beyond that, has made himself available to my students . . . he's also a top fundraiser for the Multiple Sclerosis Society (Delaware Valley Chapter) and sits on that group's Board.

In addition, Phil has written a book, WHAT + HOW = WOW, that I'm currently reading and learning from . . . it is all about the communication process that he is so passionate about.

2. FYI

The other day, I was taking a lot of pictures on my digital camera . . . I failed to take a backup battery, and so I was out of luck . . . what I learned: ALWAYS carry that backup . . . also, whenever I'm done with my camera on a particular day or night, I take out the battery and recharge it . . . while this is taking place, I put the oyrjt battery (that had been charging) into my camera . . . that way, I have two fully charged batteries at my disposal.

FYI, part 2

* Sue in Pennsylvania (with a REQUEST FOR HELP):
I would really like to start a home-based business . . . do you know of any legitimate sources regarding getting started . . . or any suggestions?

Do you think it's even possible; i.e., does anyone make money doing it?

* Ed in Pennsylvania (with an INVITATION):
You are cordially invited to a Retirement Income Planning Seminar.

Tuesday, November 14

Spring Mill Manor, 171 Jacksonville Road, Warminster, PA 18974

Time: 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Guest speaker will be Matt Delzingaro, a retirement income specialist.

Light refreshments and dessert will be served.

You are welcome to bring a friend or another couple with you.
Seating is limited, so please respond at your earliest convenience.
RSVP to Kelly McDonnell at 215.340.5777, ext. 305
or kellym@kohlheppadvisors.com

BLAINE'S TWO CENTS:

Ed is Ed Kohlhepp, my financial adviser/guru, who heads his own firm: Kohlhepp Investment Advisors, Ltd. in Doylestown, PA . . . he is the ABSOLUTE BEST, and so is anything he is involved in.

* Roger in New York had this to say about my comment at the end of each issue, asking that you join me in praying for our soldiers in Iraq:

Voting would be more effective, I think.

* Terri in Pennsylvania:
I have been to her office [referring to Dr. Marcoux], and you are right. She is great!

* Earl in Pennsylvania, a professor of nursing:
Good health tip! [He was referring to my recommendation last week, urging all over 50 to get a colonoscopy.]

* Bettina in New York:
I recommend that you see LITTLE CHILDREN. it is playing in Manhattan at the Angelika and uptown at the Lincoln Plaza. It might just go on your

list of your list of great movies this year too!

I warn you: heavy material, but excellent acting and direction.

* Robin in Pennsylvania:

SHOCKED that you liked THE DEPARTED. I thought it was overlong, repetitive, self-indulgent and that Scorsese should retire before he continues to embarrass himself. This is the man who did films like TAXI DRIVER AND RAGING BULL.

The only performance I thought was really stand-out was DiCaprio--amazing. Nicholson was usual hammy self. I saw nothing I haven't seen before from Damon and Wahlberg. I could not wait until it was OVER!

* Chic in Pennsylvania:

We saw FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS . . . good; but, not as good as I had anticipated and a little different from what I had thought it would be. Joni thought it was a bit long, and she does not typically care for war movies.

* Bill in Pennsylvania:

I saw THE DEPARTED . . . incredible . . . what a cast . . . all gave great performances . . . Nicholson always amazes!

I also saw FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS . . . incredible again . . . will it be Scorsese or Eastwood for best director? I don't know.

FLAGS was so good that I did not leave until all credits were done.

* It pays to read BLAINESWORLD--and in a timely fashion, too.

Last week's issue had a contest that offered tickets to the Murder Mystery (see Section 1A) as a prize . . . those who responded right away found themselves as winners; they included the following Pennsylvania readers: Nancy, Barbara, Kevin, Fred and Sara, Bill, Mike, and Chris, and they were joined by Marianne in New York.

3. Irksome behavior

We rushed our four-year old son Ben to the emergency room with a terrible cough, high fever and vomiting. The doctor did an exam, then asked Ben what bothered him the most.

After thinking it over, Ben said hoarsely, "I would have to say my little sister."

4. Reviews

A. I loved THE ILLUSIONIST (reviewed in BLAINESWORLD #519) . . . it is still around, at selected theaters; do catch it if you can . . . by contrast, I did not like THE PRESTIGE at all . . . this one, also a period piece, is about two magicians whose life-long battle for supremacy has them constantly trying to outwit the others . . . there are plenty of twists and turns, but by the ending, I just wanted to get out of the theater . . . very dreary and far too long . . . Hugh

Jackman, who I usually like, did not leave me spellbound, nor did Christian Bale . . . and what was Scarlett Johansson doing in this film? She comes into it late, then disappears shortly thereafter . . . rated PG-13.

B. A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #508 follows:

Saw A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION, a comic/musical tale about a fictitious radio show that has somehow managed to survive in the age of television . . . yet when the radio station is sold, the show comes to an end and the movie depicts its final night . . . Meryl Streep and Lily Tomlin star as country singers who have somehow managed to survive over the years . . . I particularly liked the pairing of John C. Reilly and Woody Harrelson as a singing cowboy act; their one song together is a hoot . . . and Lindsay Lohan's version of "Frankie and Johnny" had me laughing, too . . . even Garrison Keillor makes an impressive movie debut as the host of the show, something that he has actually done on PBS for more than a quarter of a century . . . overall, I found A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION a bit slow, and it dragged in spots . . . but if you are a fan of the actual show or of director Robert Altman, then methinks you'll want to catch this film . . . rated PG-13.

C. Read THE TRAVELER'S GIFT by Andy Andrews, a self-help book that effectively uses fiction to hold your interest . . . it is the story of a typical guy--David Ponder--whose troubles begin when he loses his job.

When his car crashes, he then begins a journey that will remind you of the movie, IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE . . . but what makes this tale different is that along with way, Ponders encounters various historical figures who each teach him a different rule of success.

The first is "The Buck Stops Here" (Harry Truman), followed by "I Will Seek Wisdom" (King Solomon), "I Am A Person of Action" (Colonel Chamberlain, Civil War hero), "I Have A Decided Heart" (Christopher Columbus), "Today I Will Choose To Be Happy" (Anne Frank), "I Will Greet This Day With A Forgiving Spirit" (Abraham Lincoln), and "I Will Persist Without Exception" (Archangel Gabriel).

By the time Ponder is ready to return to the real world, you will have feel that you will have learned something from his travels . . . and though you just know that all will turn out well, the ending will still warm your heart.

There were several memorable passages; among them:

* David put his energy and focus into providing a home and lifestyle in which his family would prosper. But his work at the plant, while it did provide a living, never seemed to provide a life. As David told a friend one day, "I'm working so hard to live where we want to live that I don't actually get to live there."

* Truman paused. He pulled out his handkerchief and wiped his brow. David's head was hanging, his chin on his chest. "David, look at me," the president said. David's eyes met his. "The words It's not my fault! should never again come from your mouth. The words It's not my fault! Have been symbolically written on the gravestones of unsuccessful people ever since Eve took her first bite of the apple.

Until a person takes responsibility for where he is, there is no basis for moving on. The bad news is that the past was in your hands, but the good news is that the future, my friend, is also in your hands.”

* “I do not complain,” Anne said. “Papa says complaining is an activity just as jumping rope or listening to the radio, and one may choose not to turn on the radio, and one may choose to complain, and one may choose not to complain. I choose not to complain.”

D. Heard NIGHT, read and written by Elie Wiesel--his memoir (and first book) of his experiences in Nazi concentration camps.

You won't fully comprehend that atrocities that took place during that time, but you will at least begin to understand them better . . . in addition, you'll find yourself wondering along with the author: Why did God allow these monstrous events to occur?

There's not easy answer to this question in NIGHT . . . however, in thinking about it, you will come to a greater appreciation of all that you do have in life.

I highly recommend this book.

5. TV alert

A. JOAN RIVERS: BEFORE MELISSA PULLS THE PLUG airs on Tuesday at 10 p.m. on BRAVO.

B. ICONOCLASTS returns on Thursday at 9 p.m. on SUNDANCE . . . this series features two notable personalities going one-on-one in a conversation without an annoying host . . . tonight's episode features Eddie Vedder, the lead singer of Pearl Jam, teamed with surfing legend Laird Hamilton . . . I'll be looking forward to November 23 when Paul Simon is teamed with Lorne Michaels . . . the November 30 teaming of Dave Chappelle and Maya Angelou is even more intriguing.

C. WHY I WORE LIPSTICK TO MY MASTECTOMY is the true story of a woman's inspiring battle with breast cancer . . . Saturday at 9 p.m. on LIFETIME.

D. PAUL MCCARTNEY: THE SPACE WITHIN US is an all-access concert film that chronicles the former Beatle's 2005 U.S. tour . . . Saturday at 10 p.m. on A&E.

6. Surgery

One of our surgeons recently suggested to a patient that he have a benign growth removed.

“Will it be expensive?” asked the patient.

“About \$400,” the doctor replied.

"Is it a dangerous operation?"

The doctor scoffed, "I don't do dangerous for \$400."

7. Websites

A. The National Motorists Association "is committed to defending your driving freedoms" . . . to learn more, please click:

<http://www.motorists.org>

This group was the lead organization that helped get the old 55 mph national speed limit repealed. They oppose red light cameras, which have been proven to be about revenue enhancement, not accident prevention (they actually cause more accidents). There's also advice on how to fight unfair traffic tickets and much more.

B. Imagine learning Yiddish with George and Laura . . . you can by clicking:

<http://www.vidlit.com:80/gandl/>

This is hilarious; you'll love it . . . but for maximum enjoyment, you MUST have your sound on.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

It even has pictures of yours truly, Cynthia, etc. . . . to view, click "Blaine's Best" to the left, then "Pictures" . . . make sure you have your sound on to listen to what is arguably the greatest rock song of all time ("Happy Together").

8. Computer tip

Make sure your email system has a spam filter to weed out junk mail, then use it . . . but make sure you check your spam folder every few days to make sure a legitimate message hasn't slipped through.

9. Lost

A hot-air balloonist had drifted off course. He saw a man on the ground and yelled, "Excuse me, can you tell me where I am?"

"Yes," the guy said. "You're in a balloon."

"You must work in IT," the balloonist said.

"How did you know?"

"What you told me is technically correct, but of no use to anyone."

"And you must work in management," the man on the ground retorted.

"Yup."

"Figures. You don't know where you are or where you're going, but you expect me to help. And you're in the same position you were in before we met, but now it's my fault."

10. A quote I like

It's essential to have a balance between acceptance and denial. On one hand, I have to accept that I'm in a wheelchair; otherwise, I'd be depressed all day. But the other part of my mind thinks: "What's it going to take to get me out of this wheelchair?" because it's unacceptable. We were not meant to be in wheelchairs.--Christopher Reeve (1952-2004), American actor/author/humanitarian

11. Thought for the day

Jack, the coffee taste better when you make it!
by Harry Paul

Coauthor, FISH! A REMARKABLE WAY TO BOOST MORALE AND IMPROVE RESULTS and REVVED! AN INCREDIBLE WAY TO REV UP YOUR WORKPLACE AND ACHIEVE AMAZING RESULTS

Recently Jack was in a local delicatessen in Philadelphia enjoying brunch with his wife. A man recognizes him from the WAWA convenience store where Jack works and stopped by to say hello. The man says that he had had a cup of coffee at the WAWA that morning, but it didn't taste as good as when Jack makes it. Jack thanks the man for being a regular WAWA customer and for stopping by their table to share. He then turns to his wife and says with a laugh, "The coffee is pre-measured, and the water comes out of a filtered tap. How could it taste better when I make it? Maybe it's because I wash the coffee pots better--that's it, I wash the pots better."

Looking at the business world today, one thing is certain. Well washed pots won't make the coffee taste noticeably better. Technology is making products very much alike. Everyone seems to be selling the same thing for the same price with a baseline of good service. What will set us apart from everyone else? We can create an environment that gives customers a unique experience--we can make them feel special; that they're important and a part of our life. As my friend Jack Mitchell, author of HUG YOUR CUSTOMERS says, "Grab them with warmth."

That's exactly what Jack does. But who's Jack? Actually, Jack is my father. He lives in Philadelphia, is 85 years young and still works part time. He is the oldest employee for WaWa and works the coffee counter at the store near his home three mornings a week. My dad loves people--he loves talking to them, sharing stories and getting to know them. He is the Mayor of WaWa.

When telling me the story about the man at the delicatessen saying how the coffee tastes better when he makes it, I started to laugh. I told him it wasn't that the pots were cleaner. I said, "Dad, you make the coffee taste better." He said questionably, "I do?" I said, "Sure, you do. It's because you are nice to people and you're interested in them. You share yourself with them, make them laugh and create a positive experience for them

which, in turn, makes the coffee taste better. You do naturally what helps an organization attain and maintain success. You make a big-time difference."

Jack's behavior did not go unnoticed. Not long ago, WAWA awarded him with a medal for outstanding customer service. After receiving the medal, he said to me. "I still think it's that the pots are cleaner." I respond, "They may be cleaner, but remember, you make the coffee taste better."

What can we learn from how Jack made the coffee taste better?

Treat people as if they're important.

Why? Because they are important. Without them, there would be no business. So it's important that we never take customers for granted.

Help lighten their load.

Get to know them. Share something of yourself with them. Share some humor with them. Think about what you are you doing to ensure they have a memorable experience.

Build a relationship.

When they leave, you want them to tell others about their experience and you want them to come back. Treat them like a boom-a-rang. You know what happens when you throw a boom-a-rang, it comes back to you. Give them a reason to say, "The coffee tastes better when you make it."

(Reprinted with permission of the author.)

***** HOLD THIS DATE *****

Harry Paul will be speaking at Bucks on March 12, 2007 at the annual "Meet the Author" Business Seminar . . . you won't want to miss him; he is great . . . details to follow.

12. Advance planning department

A. Cynthia in New Jersey (see also Section 1A), will next be running her fantastic Move Your Body classes at the Princeton Center for Yoga on the following dates:

Wednesday, October 25, at 7:45 p.m.

Saturday, November 4, at 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 2, at 1:30 p.m.

For more information, please click:

<http://www.princetonyoga.com/>

or call 609.924.7294.

In addition, she'll be running another class as follows:

Wednesday, November 15, from 7-8:15 p.m. at the Capitol Health System in Hamilton, NJ

Cost: \$5

To register, please call 609.588.5050 or 609.394.4512 and ask for Marsha Rudolph.

B. Jean in Pennsylvania:

A friend of mine is holding a beef and beer this Friday to raise money for Katrina victims. He will be personally going to the Gulf to rebuild homes still devastated a year later. Details in this news story; see link below:
<http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/111-10162006-7276>

If your readers can help, thanks in advance!

C. Doug Ferguson, a very talented guy/friend/reader, has a show of his work--Portraits--opening on November 9 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the NY Studio Gallery. 511 West 25th St., Suite #6-07, New York City; 612.987.1473.

D. Tobi in Pennsylvania:
Business "Boot Camp" for Women
A Guide to Reward & Recognition

Hosted by internationally recognized speaker,
executive coach and author Marjorie Brody

November 15, 2006
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Library Auditorium – Newtown Campus
Bucks County Community College

Tickets: \$295 per person:
* Interactive workshop
* Opportunity to network with other business leaders
* Complimentary breakfast and lunch

Or take advantage of a \$1,000 Corporate Sponsorships and receive:
* 3 tickets
* Your logo on all marketing literature
* The opportunity to promote your organization to various business leaders attending the event.

For more information and to reserve your tickets today,
call 215.968.8224, e-mail: foundation@bucks.edu or please click:
<http://www.bucks.edu/foundation>

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . also, make it a great week!

Blaine Greenfield
19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way
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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue # 524

10.16.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I would like to invite you to enter a contest for BLAINESWORLD readers . . . if you'd like to win two FREE TICKETS to the Tyler Murder Mystery on this coming Saturday at Bucks County Community College (see Section 12A for full details), just send an email to: bginbc@aol.com . . . in your subject line, put down FREE TICKETS and in your body of your email, include your name, email address, as well as home and cell phone numbers.

It should be a fun event, and we plan to be there . . . last year, when we went, we were surprised to find out that we were the actual murderers!

ANOTHER CHANCE TO CATCH US:

If you read this on or before this coming Thursday at 12:30, feel free to stop by to catch my Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award presentation at the Dean's Reception at the College . . . it will be held in the Fireside Lounge.

By doing so, you'll learn the difference between a left-handed and right-handed pencil . . . also, you'll have a chance to win \$500 . . . and get to meet Cynthia, if you've never had the pleasure, as well as my mother.

B. Cynthia and I went with friends to one of our favorite restaurants, Pheasants Landing (908.281.1288) in Hillsborough, NJ . . . this was where we had our first date, so we always get a kick out of returning.

We enjoyed our cheese fondue that they went out of the way to make for us, in that it wasn't on the regular menu . . . our server, Benjamin, also made a favorable impression on us . . . it seems that there had been a mistake on our check . . . he ran to find us afterwards, making sure that we were not overcharged.

He managed to find us in the pub that is off to the side of Pheasant's Landing . . . we had all gone there to play some pinball games and pool and, also, to listen and dance to the music of a group called Soul Symphony . . . they had a good sound.

C. I had the pleasure of attending two informative presentations this past week . . . John Adams, author of MIRACLES AT WORK, spoke to one of my night Marketing classes (thanks to the efforts of Natalie Kaye, who arranged his visit) . . . he urged those in attendance "to have a love affair for what you choose to do" from a work standpoint . . . then he gave this great piece of advice for getting rid of somebody . . . never fire them; rather, dehire them . . . what he would do is keep telling people that he didn't think this was the job for them . . . they often agreed.

On Saturday, I went for the annual mediation training that's required to keep up to date for the court work that I do . . . one speaker, Judith Irizarry, ombudsman and eeo/aa officer for Mercer Vicinage (NJ), shared this basic but valuable piece of advice for determining whether what advice we gave to clients was legal or not . . . she said if it's in writing somewhere, it is probably OK to give out the information; otherwise, we need to be extremely cautious . . . Sandy Terry, municipal division manager, then concluded the day with a listening exercise that was very enlightening . . . we had to pair up with somebody we didn't know, then listen to that person speak for 3-5 minutes with our eyes closed . . . it wasn't as easy at it might sound.

D. Cynthia recently had a colonoscopy . . . she told me it wasn't thaaaaat bad, especially since the preparation for such procedures has gotten a lot better . . . all she had to drink was a lot of Gatorade and take two small pills . . . her physician was Dr. Anne Marie Marcoux (215.750.2000), and she would recommend her to others . . . I had previously used Dr. Marcoux' partner, Dr. Richard Goldstein, and would likewise recommend him . . . the best news of all was that everything appears normal, and no polyps were found.

If you're reading this and are over 50 . . . and if you've never had a colonoscopy done . . . please, please schedule one at your earliest convenience . . . the procedure is painless; more importantly, it could save your life!

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

This week, it goes to Sister Margaret Jones at St. Mary Medical Center . . . we met her when Cynthia had her aforementioned colonoscopy done . . . all the personnel at the Center were competent, as well as friendly . . . however, it was Sister Margaret who we shall most remember . . . she approached us and asked would it be OK to give Cynthia a blessing . . . she then did just that, even bringing me into the process . . . an added plus was her use of touch--or was it Reiki? . . . she made the both of us feel extremely comfortable about being in what ordinarily is a very stressful situation.

When you go somewhere, ALWAYS bring the phone number of your destination; e.g., if you run late or need directions . . . also, if you've never been to the place before, get directions prior to leaving with mapquest (www.mapquest.com or some other similar service) and bring them with you . . . lastly, if you're still lost, do something that Cynthia taught me; i.e., call the local police office of the town you're visiting . . . in case you need the phone number for this office, call FREE411: 1.800.373.3411.

BLAINE'S TWO CENTS:

By calling the above number, you will NOT be charged for the call . . . in return, you may have to listen to a short advertisement but that's a small price to pay for the exorbitant rates you often are charged for calls to directory assistance . . . this number, by the way, can be used from both your home and cell phone lines.

FYI, part 2

* Ken in New York:
LORD & TAYLOR
FRIENDS AND FAMILY

We're offering a 20% SAVINGS PASS
on regular and sale merchandise (some exclusions apply).
Thursday, October 19th through Sunday, October 22nd.

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS GREAT OFFER:
Send an email to me: bginbc@aol.com . . . in subject line,
put the following: LORD & TAYLOR . . . by return email, I'll
then send you this pass.

* Nancy in Pennsylvania:
Just wanted to let you know that I "borrowed" your article on the website for sending cards to the men and women in the American Armed Services stationed in Iraq. I sent it out to friends and family and hope that they will join me in using this free and moving site to send our appreciation to those men and women far from home, defending our freedom. Regardless of one's feeling about the war itself, we must support our troops who are far from their own friends and family.

* Robin in Pennsylvania:
I'd like to recommend John Primerano to BLAINESWORLD readers. John is a benefits broker who works with all lines of group health for small- to mid-size businesses, including dental and vision, and life and disability insurance. He also handles these benefits for individuals.

John is the insurance consultant for the Small Business Assistance Center (www.sbacnetwork.org) and handles all employee benefits business for The Selzer Company, a large property/casualty insurance agency in Warrington.

John has been very helpful to me. He is extremely knowledgeable (a big help in these difficult times with health insurers), dedicated, and very responsive. He can be reached at 215.426.8763.

3. Once upon a time

Once upon a time, a beautiful, independent, self-assured princess happened upon a frog in a pond. The frog said to the princess, "I was once a handsome prince until an evil witch put a spell on me. One kiss from you and I will turn back into a prince and then we can marry, move into the castle with my mom where you can prepare my meals, clean my clothes, bear my children and forever feel lucky for doing so."

(scroll down)

That night, the princess had frog legs for dinner.

4. Reviews

A. THE DEPARTED is as good a film as I've seen in quite some time and right now is tied (with THE ILLUSIONIST) for my favorite film of the year . . . it is a riveting gangster drama about a battle by state police in Boston to infiltrate organized crime . . . there are twists and turns on top of twists and turns, and the acting by Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Jack Nicholson, and Mark Wahlberg star will take your breath away in spots . . . Martin Scorsese directed, and I'm hopeful that he gets an Oscar for his work . . . rated R and be forewarned; it is very violent in spots.

B. TAKE THE LEAD is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #497 follows:

Cynthia and I loved TAKE THE LEAD; so did friends who joined us . . . inspired by a true story, the feel-good film revolves around an acclaimed ballroom dancer who volunteers to teach in the New York City public school system . . . the music is great, as is the dancing . . . Antonio Banderas seems like he was born to play the leading role, Alfre Woodard (always one of my favorites) is believable as his principal, and the actors who play the students all seem to be having fun . . . rated PG-13.

When I really like a movie, I'll often check the ROTTEN TOMATOES website to read the Production Notes . . . to see it for yourself, please click:

http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/take_the_lead/about.php

C. Back pain . . . if you've had it or do have it (or know somebody who has it), you must make yourself familiar with the work of Dr. John Sarno . . . he wrote my all-time favorite book on the subject, HEALING BACK PAIN, that helped me walk again . . . at the time, I read it, I was suffering from a herniated disc and in really bad shape . . . within a few days, I was up and about--and have never had problems since.

I then read and enjoyed his follow-up effort, THE MINDBODY PRESCRIPTION, and was equally impressed . . . this one got me realizing that the mind can affect more than just problems in the back area; it also can be the cause of carpal tunnel syndrome and a whole host of other ailments involving the neck and shoulders.

Sarno's latest book, THE DIVIDED MIND, is another winner . . . it is

a bit more technical than his earlier efforts, though that said, I found his discussion of the views of Freud and others quite interesting . . . I also liked how he supplemented this with views expressed by several current practitioners.

In addition, he addresses the entire range of psychosomatic (or mind/body) disorders, including common stomach and bowel conditions, skin disorders and even headaches . . . in his view, the crucial interaction between the generally reasonable, rational and moral conscious mind and the repressed feelings of emotional pain, hurt, sadness, and anger appears to be the basis for mind/body disorders.

There were several memorable tidbits from the book; among them:
* The enormity of the problem is illustrated by an article that appeared in the business section of THE NEW YORK TIMES on December 31, 2003. It described how one such expensive treatment, spinal fusion, is being widely performed despite the lack of evidence that it has any value whatsoever.

The article went on to point out that the doctors, hospitals, and manufacturers of the hardware used in these procedures all have a financial stake in the performance of this operation. That national bill for its hardware alone has soared to \$2.5 billion a year. What the cost of treatment must be staggers the imagination. My medical school professors would be shocked and horrified at what has happened to medical practice. The marketplace and economics factors have taken over.

* It is quite remarkable that I have been unable to find a single mention in the medical literature questioning the reason for these epidemics. And one never gets a reasonable answer when one asks, Why is it that the millions of men and women who pounded typewriters since the beginning of the twentieth century never developed CTS? Again, medicine bears the responsibility for these epidemics on two counts: first, by failing to make the correct diagnosis, and then by attributing the severity and long-term nature of symptoms. This is important because it supports the mind's strategy, which is to distract attention from what is going on in the unconscious mind and focus it on a body symptom. By so doing it perpetuates the process. The sad reality is that most of the people suffering from conditions like chronic pain, fibromyalgia, and CTS will not accept a psychosomatic diagnosis.

And this one I especially liked:

* So, whenever someone confronts their fear, resumes their activity, and feels fine, I tell them to celebrate. CELEBRATE! I tell them to talk to their brain—tell themselves that they are fine! There cannot be a physical problem if they were able to do the activity without difficulty. Celebrating is an important way to reprogram the mind. It helps condition you to think differently about your body and will help you immeasurably to undo the old conditioning and forget all that came before.

Do yourself a favor . . . if you or anybody you know has ever had problems with your back or anything related (including various muscular pain), buy them THE DIVIDED MIND and his earlier books, too . . . you will not be forgotten!

D. John Stossel's first book, GIVE ME A BREAK, got me thinking about a whole bunch of consumer issues when it first came out in 2005 . . . I just had the pleasure of listening to his latest, MYTHS, LIES AND DOWNRIGHT STUPIDITY, and found that it fortunately continues in much the same vein.

Its subtitle explains what it is all about; i.e., GET OUT THE SHOVEL--WHY EVERYTHING IS WRONG . . . Stossel does a fine job of not only criticizing various beliefs that people may have, but then shows what is wrong with them . . . and what people need to do to avoid being "taken" in the future.

Along the way, he shows that price gouging might actually be good for the consumer, and that there is no cancer epidemic . . . furthermore, if you believe that there's a difference in bottled water and tap water, well . . . you just might be in need of reading or listening to MYTHS.

You'll also learn that:

* Gas is cheaper than in 1981 when you count for inflation. And when you do, you'll find that water is even more expensive than gasoline.

* Size does matter when it comes to height. Women just won't go out with short guys.

* Car dealers are typically against government intervention except when it came to making purchases on the Internet.

* Competition finally inspired the post office to get it there over night.

* Taste tests prove that consumers vary with respect to liking certain generic products more than name brands. Sometimes they do; other times, they prefer the name brands. You need to make your own taste tests.

* Consumers preferred tap water to Evian water.

* Use a buddy system when buying at warehouse club stores, so that you don't buy stuff you don't need.

* Eating at home is more likely to make you sick than eating at restaurants. Restaurants have to be clean.

* Kids learn best when they are told that they're doing right. Coaches also use this formula, often making five positive statements to a critical one.

5. TV alert

A. A classic SEINFELD airs on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. on TBS . . . in this episode, a college reporter gets the mistaken impression that Jerry and George are gay--"not that there's anything wrong with that."

B. FOUR EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN is a fact-based telemovie about one man's efforts to support a quartet of women as they each battle breast cancer . . . Friday at 7 p.m. on LIFETIME.

C. STEVEN WRIGHT LIVE AT THE ELGIN THEATRE has the deadpan comedian appearing from Toronto on Saturday at

9 p.m. on COMEDY CENTRAL . . . he'll most likely cite some of his gems, which have included the following:

- * What's another word for Thesaurus?
- * Do you think that when they asked George Washington for ID that he just whipped out a quarter?
- * I poured spot remover on my dog. Now he's gone.
- * You can't have everything. Where would you put it?
- * I got this powdered water—now I don't know what to add.
- * If a word in the dictionary is misspelled, how would we know?
- * If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do all the rest have to drown too?
- * A lot of people are afraid of heights. Not me, I'm afraid of widths.
- * How young can you die of old age?
- * I intend to live forever. So far, so good.

D. DISCOVEY ATLAS looks interesting on Sunday at 9 p.m. on DISCOVERY . . . Russell Crowe offers a tour of his country, Australia.

6. Duck hunting

A big city lawyer went duck hunting in rural Tennessee. He shot and dropped a bird, but it fell into a farmer's field on the other side of a fence. As the lawyer climbed over the fence, an elderly farmer drove up on his tractor and asked him what he was doing.

The litigator responded, "I shot a duck and it fell in this field, and now I'm going to retrieve it."

The old farmer replied, "This is my property, and you are not coming over here."

The indignant lawyer said, "I am one of the best trial attorneys in the United States, and if you don't let me get that duck, I'll sue you and take everything you own."

The old farmer smiled and said, "Apparently, you don't know how we settle disputes in Tennessee. We settle small disagreements like this with the "Three Kick Rule."

The lawyer asked, "What is the Three Kick Rule?"

The farmer replied, "Well, because the dispute occurs on my land, first I kick you three times and then you kick me three times and so on back and forth until someone gives up."

The attorney quickly thought about the proposed contest and decided that he could easily take the old codger. He agreed to abide by the local custom. The old farmer slowly climbed down from the tractor and walked

up to the attorney. His first kick planted the toe of his heavy steel-toed work boot into the lawyer's groin and dropped him to his knees. His second kick to the midriff sent the lawyer's last meal gushing from his mouth. The lawyer was on all fours when the farmer's third kick to his rear end sent him face-first into a fresh cow pie .

The lawyer summoned every bit of his will and managed to get to his feet. Wiping his face with the arm of his jacket, he said, "Okay, you old codger. Now it's my turn."

The old farmer smiled and said, "Naw, I give up. You can have the duck."

7. Websites

A. I've sent you a greeting that methinks you'll enjoy:

<http://www.jacquelawson.com/viewcard.asp?code=1003189007936>

To truly appreciate the above, be patient and allow it time to both load and play . . . a friend sent Cynthia a card from this company, and she was so impressed with it that she registered for the very nominal fee of \$8 . . . you may want to also . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.jacquelawson.com>

The music is awesome, and the graphics are equally impressive!

B. The following website needs to be viewed with sound on. It is a promotional video used by a real college that has become an Internet phenomenon. VH1 has ranked it as one of the most ridiculous videos online.

To see for yourself, please click:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=pVENWI8uBeg>

Here's what a recent article had to say about it:

How many times must you watch a music video before the song becomes hopelessly lodged in your brain? Readers of the monthly science-humor newsletter *Mini-Annals of Improbable Research* were recently asked to participate in such an experiment.

The "test material" is an Appalachian State University promotional video set to a painfully bouncy tune. Over a photographic montage of the Appalachian State campus, lyrics flash across the screen karaoke style as a peppy vocal group bellows, "Come and let us show you why we're HOT! HOT! HOT!"

Lynn E. Drury, a spokeswoman, says the lyrics were written by a donor, and Appalachian State's music department wrote the music. The video was not, she is quick to point out, made for recruitment purposes, but for a series of alumni events three years ago. . . .

The science newsletter reported last week how many times its readers had to watch the video before it was clearly lodged: once, 17 percent of respondents; twice, 39 percent; three times, 21 percent; four times, 15 percent; five to nine times, 0.07 percent; 10 times, 0.01 percent. At *The Chronicle*, we found that one viewing was plenty.

SOURCE:

"Too hot to handle" by Jane R. Porter in THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION (10.6.2006), Volume 53, Issue 7, Page A6 Copyright © 2006

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

On the left, you'll see "Radio Show" . . . go to that link if you want to see a history of my radio career . . . you can also hear one of my shows.

As you may have read in a past issue, a recent management change at WWFM has resulted in my show being taken off the air . . . but, hopefully, I'll resurface soon again . . . on another station and/or even with my own cable show.

Please do keep me in mind if you have any media contacts for me to pursue with respect to the above possibilities.

8. Computer tip

Although it may make life easier for you, the recommendation here is to NEVER use the "save ID and password" option in your browser at home, on a laptop or especially when using a public computer . . . trying it in each time will make things safer for you when online!

9. Funny letters to Dear Abby, part 2 of 2

(concluded from last week)

DEAR ABBY: My husband hates to spend money! I cut my own hair and make my own clothes, and I have to account for every nickel I spend. Meanwhile he has a stock of savings bonds put away that would choke a cow. How do I get some money out of him before we are both called to our final judgment? He says he's saving for a rainy day.--FORTY YEARS HITCHED

DEAR HITCHED: Tell him it's raining!

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend is going to be twenty years old next month. I'd like to give him something nice for his birthday. What do you think he'd like? -- CAROL

DEAR CAROL: Never mind what he'd like. Give him a tie.

DEAR ABBY: Are birth control pills deductible?--KAY

DEAR KAY: Only if they don't work.

DEAR ABBY: Our son was married in January. Five months later his wife had a ten-pound baby girl. They said the baby was premature. Tell me, can a baby this big be that early?--WONDERING

DEAR WONDERING: The baby was on time, the wedding was late. Forget it.

DEAR ABBY: Do you think about dying much?--CURIOUS

DEAR CURIOUS: No, it's the last thing I want to do.

DEAR ABBY: Is it possible for a man to be in love with two women at the same time?-- JAKE

DEAR JAKE: Yes, and also hazardous.

DEAR ABBY: I know boys will be boys, but my 'boy' is seventy-three and he's still chasing women. Any suggestions?--ANNIE

DEAR ANNIE: Don't worry. My dog has been chasing cars for years, but if he ever caught one, he wouldn't know what to do with it.

DEAR ABBY: I have always wanted to have my family history traced, but I can't afford to spend a lot of money to do it. Any suggestions?--SAM IN CAL.

DEAR SAM: Yes. Run for public office.

DEAR ABBY: What inspires you most to write?--TED

DEAR TED: The Bureau of Internal Revenue.

DEAR ABBY: When you are being introduced, is it all right to say, "I've heard a lot about you"?--RITA

DEAR RITA: It depends on what you've heard.

DEAR ABBY: I am forty-four years old and I would like to meet a man my age with no bad habits.--ROSE

DEAR ROSE: So would I.

DEAR ABBY: What's the difference between a wife and a mistress?--BESS

DEAR BESS: Night and day.

10. A quote I like

Getting fired is nature's way of telling you that you had the wrong job in the first place.--Hal Lancaster
in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

11. Thought for the day

Oh, how I loved her
by Hanoch McCarty, Ed.D.

The clergyman was finishing the graveside service. Suddenly, the 78-year-old man whose wife of 50 years had just died began screaming in a thick accent, "Oh, oh, oh, how I loved her!" His mournful wail interrupted the dignified quiet of the ceremony. The other family and friends standing around the grave looked shocked and embarrassed. His grown children, blushing, tried to shush their father. "It's okay, Dad; we understand, Shush." The old man stared fixedly at the casket lowering slowly into the grave. The clergyman went on. Finishing, he invited the family to shovel some dirt onto the coffin as a mark of the finality of death. Each, in turn, did so with the exception of the old man. "Oh, how I loved her!" he moaned loudly. His daughter and two sons again tried to restrain him, but he

continued, "I loved her!"

Now, as the rest of those gathered around began leaving the grave, the old man stubbornly resisted. He stayed, staring into the grave. The clergyman approached. "I know how you must feel, but it's time to leave. We all must leave and go on with life."

"Oh, how I loved her!" the old man moaned, miserably. "You don't understand," he said to the clergyman, "I almost told her once."

12. Advance planning department

A. Do you want to quit smoking? Or know somebody who does? If so, VERY FEW openings remain for this exciting program that begins on Monday, November 6, at 7 p.m. and continues on both November 13 and 20 . . . should you need additional information, email: hughesbr@bucks.edu or call her, 215.968.8254.

B. Tobi in Pennsylvania:

Time still remains to get tickets for the following event, which is back by popular demand:

Tyler Hall Once Again Becomes the Scene of a Crime
for the Alumni Association's Murder Mystery Event

Saturday, October 21 – 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Another "murder" will haunt Tyler Hall on October 21, and it will be your job, as junior FBI agent, to untangle the web of lies and deception and figure out who done it. After last year's sold-out success which involved the "murder" of Frederick Tyler-Farnsworth, the fictitious self-proclaimed long-lost nephew of the Tyler family, this year's crime, involving the "death" of a student, will prove even more difficult to solve.

Sponsored by Wachovia Trust, Chaddsford Winery, CulinArt, and the BCCC Federation of Teachers, tickets to the event are limited so reserve yours today, \$55 per person, securely online, or by calling 215.968.8224. (Alumni Card holders, please call this number to receive your \$5 discount). Hors d'oeuvres and dessert will be served. Proceeds benefit the Bucks County Community College Alumni Association.

To view photos of last year's Murder Mystery event, please click:
<http://www.bucks.edu/foundation/MurderMysteryPhotoGallery.html>

C. Cynthia in New Jersey (see also Section 1A), will next be running her fantastic Move Your Body classes at the Princeton Center for Yoga on the following dates:

Wednesday, October 25, at 7:45 p.m.

Saturday, November 4, at 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 2, at 1:30 p.m.

For more information, please click:
<http://www.princetonyoga.com/>

or call 609.924.7294.

In addition, she'll be running another class as follows:
Wednesday, November 15, from 7-8:15 p.m. at the
Capitol Health System in Hamilton, NJ

Cost: \$5

To register, please call 609.588.5050 or 609.394.4512 and ask
for Marsha Rudolph.

D. Natalie in Pennsylvania:
One-Woman Show Examines War

Susanne Sulby of Yardly, will bring her one-woman, multiple-character play "Sanctuary" to Pebble Hill Church on Saturday, October 28, at 7 p.m. The play, which premiered at the Philadelphia live Arts/Fringe Festival in 2005, explores human reactions to war, whether on the home front or battlefield.

A multi-media performance, "Sanctuary" focuses on three female characters: a stay-at-home mother bombarded by endless television broadcasts of destruction and death, an emotionally detached Syrian reporter, and a prisoner of war who both longs for her mother and is desperate at being separated from her own children. All three characters are deeply affected by the brutality and senselessness of war. Each seeks sanctuary from war's violence, whether physical or emotional.

After watching years of disturbing television news herself, including coverage of the Serbo-Croatian conflict and 9/11, Sulby, an established Philadelphia-area actor, voiceover artist, and acting teacher, decided to write the play as a way to overcome her own sense of helplessness.

"Sanctuary" employs writings ranging from Rumi's thirteenth-century poetry to a soldier's e-mail as it tracks the intransigence of war through history. A theme emerges: one war is like another; history repeats itself as the same mistakes are made again and again. Is it possible to break the cycle? Finally each of the three focal characters discover that peace is inevitable; the answer is love.

Pebble Hill Church is located at Edison-Furlong Rd. and Woodcrest Lane in Doylestown Township. To purchase tickets AT A SPECIAL REDUCED RATE or for more information, please call 215.579.1836.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . also, make it a great week!

Blaine Greenfield
19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way

Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
Phone : 828.633.1049

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #523

10.9.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I met friends for dinner on Saturday night at Charlie Brown's (908.874.6511) in Hillsborough . . . we enjoy eating there, having rarely ordered a meal that was not good or even excellent . . . yet best of all: we always partake in their plentiful salad bar . . . that alone could well be a complete meal for a lot of people.

We then had the pleasure of going to the nearby Princeton Center for Yoga & Health to see David Brahinsky & Friends in concert . . . joining David were regulars Mark McCusker on harmonica and our personal favorite (and Cynthia's good friend) Gail Frantz on fiddle . . . newcomers included Guy Troichuk on mandolin, Beverly Troichuk on double bass and Jen Terry on vocals.

This year's concert featured songs by Cheryl Wheeler, Joni Mitchell and Tom Paxton . . . the latter's "Hot Frogs on the Loose" had everybody clapping . . . also, David performed a tune by Phil Ochs that he knew I liked: "There but for fortune."

B. On Sunday, we joined Cynthia's sister and brother-in-law at another restaurant we like: Lone Star ((908.526.8177) in Bridgewater, NJ . . . the steaks are huge, as well as tasty, and the accompanying sweet potato with cinnamon is oh-so-fine . . . our server, Nicole, was most attentive--as is the case with most of the wait staff there.

The place does something else that we like . . . if you call up in advance, they don't take reservations . . . but they will take your name down, so when you get there, you are put at the top of the list and usually get seated quickly as a result.

C. Earlier in the week, we got the Jewish New Year off to a great start when we had a bunch of relatives and some other friends over to our place--the official residence of the Greenfields of Belle Meade--where

we broke the Yom Kippur fast.

Neither of us had previously been much into entertaining; however, we have now found that this is something we like to do . . . it was great to be surrounded by those we love, talking and laughing with them around the dinner table.

D. The smoking cessation program at Bucks County Community College is picking up steam, in large part because of the help I've received in getting people to enroll . . . we currently have 10 signed-up; our goal is 25.

Mike DiFiori did a great job designing posters, Matt Cipriano arranged to have them printed and then posted, and Natalie Kaye came forward as she always does by having the Women's Center become one of the primary sponsors.

We are slated to begin on November 6 and run on Monday nights until November 20th . . . should you want additional information and/or wish to register, call 215.968.8254 . . . or send an email to hughesbr@bucks.edu

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

This week, it goes to Shawn Wright--a front gate guard at my mother's apartment (North Shore Towers in Floral Park, NY).

Guests, when they come on the property, must first stop at a security booth . . . there they are often greeted by Shawn, who I've always found to be both extremely courteous and helpful . . . on top of that, he has a great smile that makes you feel especially welcome.

Regardless of the weather, Shawn can always be found doing a fine job . . . he never complains--at least not to me . . . North Shore Towers is fortunate to have him as an employee!

2. FYI

I feel pretty happy right now, I'm on the bus rolling through the Rocky Mountains, and I'm drinking a cup of coffee and listening to some classic country music on the Hank's Place channel on XM Satellite Radio. I guess you could say there's no place I'd rather be.

If you consider all the people you know who seem truly happy, there is likely to be one trait-one essential perspective on life-that each of these happy people shares. Some people have to learn this and some just seem to know it instinctively, but once this knowledge is truly a part of you, I don't believe that it can be taken away.

What is the incredible secret? It is the word now. It is the understanding that happiness exists at just one time. And that time is now.

SOURCE:

THE TAO OF WILLIE (see also Sections 4C, 10 and 11) by Willie Nelson with Turk Pipkin

FYI, part 2

MR. CURIOUS HERE:

You get a flu shot this year? Or are you planning to get one?
Regardless, how do you think others should get? (And why.)

A. Terri in Pennsylvania:

It's that time of year again and the 6 ABC/Boscov's Thanksgiving Day Parade will be here before you know it.

This year I am looking for responsible and talented people to help out with . . . well...talent. These are great short-term positions that really stand out on a resume.

The following paid positions are open:

1 Talent Assistant

Dates: Monday, 11/20/06 through Thursday, 11/23/06.

Time: Must be available all times for the entire 4 days. Monday and Tuesday will not be as long, but Wednesday and Thanksgiving morning are intense. There is an extremely early call time on Thanksgiving morning. This person must be available all day (into the evening on Wednesday) and Thanksgiving Day until 2:00 p.m.

Must be a team player, be proficient in Excel and Word, and be able to make quick decisions. This person could possibly be dealing with the parade talent (celebrities and WPVI talent,) so he/she must have a professional manner. There is no production involved in this position.

1 Talent Assistant

Dates: Tuesday, 11/21/06 through Thursday, 11/23/06

Time: Must be available all times for the entire 3 days. Tuesday will not be as long, but Wednesday and Thanksgiving morning are intense. There is an extremely early call time on Thanksgiving morning and this person must be available all day (into the evening on Wednesday) and Thanksgiving Day until 2:00 p.m.

Must be a team player, be proficient in Excel and Word, and be able to make quick decisions. This person could possibly be dealing with the parade talent (celebrities and WPVI talent,) so he/she must have a professional manner. There is no production involved with this position.

1 Talent Assistant

Dates: Wednesday, 11/22 and Thursday, 11/23/06

Time: Must be available all times for the entire 2 days. Hours for both days are long. Wednesday and Thanksgiving morning are intense. There is an extremely early call time on Thanksgiving morning, and this person must be available all day (into the evening on Wednesday) and Thanksgiving Day until 2:00 p.m.

Must be a team player and be able to make quick decisions. This person could possibly be dealing with the parade talent (celebrities and WPVI talent), so he/she must have a professional manner. There is no production involved with this position.

1 Production/Logistics Assistant

Dates: Wednesday, 11/22 and Thursday, 11/23/06

Time: Must be available all times on both days

Must be a team player. Will have varied responsibilities.

For all positions, please forward your resume and cover letter to Terri Sivertsen at: dparade@yahoo.com

B. Mel in Pennsylvania:

Great line you recently quoted:

Live as if you have a terminal illness; e.g., by asking, "What would you do if you had a year to live?"

This is from the Epilogue in my upcoming book, which will be out in January (it's already discounted on Amazon):

Needless to say, thank God, the results came back showing that the spot on my lung was some benign scar tissue left over from who-knows-what and who-knows-when.

I was elated. I really was. But, to tell the deep, dark, honest-to-God truth, I was just a wee bit disappointed at the same time. I was actually looking forward to the last year of my life. I was going to be able to fill the closing chapter of my existence with passion! Between seeing the world, teaching people across the country the truths I'd learned, and finishing my book on grief and hope, my days would be filled with joy and creativity. They would be filled with life, not death, and when the end came, I'd feel that my life had been well worth my 59 years of effort.

That's my story, and it has a happy ending. Sort of.

The gnawing-in-my-gut question I continue to ask myself ever since this happened is: What's stopping me from doing all those things I was going to do if I was going to die?

How many of them can I still do right now, even without a death sentence hanging over me? Why do I have to wait until the Angel of Death comes for real?

These are the real questions, not thoughts of dying one day, that continue to haunt me.

C. Paul in California:

We now have a new web address:

<http://achievementlibrary.com>

MY TWO CENTS:

This is the service I belong to, wherein I can rent tapes, CDs, videos, DVDs on a wide range of motivational and business topics . . . good stuff!

D. Bill in Pennsylvania:

In Section #3 of last week's issue (on signage), you give institutions of higher learning too much credit. Why should they be any different in their ignorance toward the handicapped?

As someone who has lived with a handicapped person for 35 years (my father), I can tell you some stories. I have gotten in to fights with spectators at sporting events because somehow people who can

stand on two legs think that it is okay to stand in front of someone at a ballgame who is in a wheelchair.

Once at a Penn State vs. Temple football game at Franklin Field, myself and another gentleman (whose father was also in a wheelchair) protested so vehemently (and there were also some punches thrown) that they actually had University of Pennsylvania police blocking people from walking in front of us for the second half of the game. It is one of my favorite stories (one I will be happy to share with you sometime). Once my father drove up to the Post Office on Street Road in Feasterville (a government installation I might add . . . so much for the ADA) and found that there were no curb cut-outs on the sidewalk, thereby making it impossible to enter the building. My father asked someone to go inside and get the Postmaster.

The person offered to take in my father's letters to be mailed, but my father said that he would rather have the Postmaster come out to him. However over the years, my father has become complacent to the fight because it is on-going and all the time . . . not me.

I will always (until my last dying breath) fight for righting such wrongs. It's my way of doing something right and being a pain in the a*s at the same time! don't know if the story in Section #3 was a true story or if it was meant to be humorous, but it struck a nerve and I apologize for going on and on.

3. Overhead

I was on line in the cafeteria of the hospital where I work when I overheard a doctor ask an anesthesiologist how his day was.

"Good," came the response. "Everyone's woken up so far."

4. Reviews

A. Saw THE GUARDIAN and liked it, despite it being too much like other military branch movies (and especially AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN) . . . in this one, Kevin Costner is sent to train Coast Guard Rescue Swimmers . . . he encounters a particularly brash Ashton Kutcher and, well, you can pretty much guess what's going to happen next . . . so nice guy that I am, I won't ruin any of what limited plot turns there are . . . yet I will tell you that you'll like the action scenes and, also, the interplay between Costner and Kutcher . . . and the ending, while no surprise, will leave you feeling good when you leave the theater . . . rated PG-13.

B. THE LAKE HOUSE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #509 follows:

THE LAKE HOUSE is a convoluted romance that involves time travel, ordinarily one of my favorite themes . . . it held my interest, but fell somewhat short of being a great or even a very good film.

Two characters live in the same house, but two years apart from each other . . . yet somehow they manage to start corresponding to each other via mail, and that's my biggest

problem with THE LAKE HOUSE . . . it just didn't seem overly plausible.

I did like the acting of both Sandra Bullock and Keanu Reeves . . . in addition, the accompanying soundtrack was great . . . rated PG, though methinks it wouldn't be of interest to any child under the age of 13.

C. I've always enjoyed the music of Willie Nelson . . . his latest book THE TAO OF WILLIE (see also Sections 2, 10 and 11)--written with Turk Pipkin--made me appreciate him even more.

It is a collection of what might be called "Willie wisdom," obtained from his lifetime of both performing around the world and living a life that might best be described as colorful . . . included are some funny jokes, most of which could not be run in this family missive.

However, there was at least this one that I can share:
A guy goes to the library and asks for books on suicide. The librarian sends him to the shelves, but he soon comes back and says, "There's only two books."

And the librarian says, "The never bring them back."

The writing in THE TAO OF WILLIE, while breezy, did contain many useful tidbits of information . . . among them:

* Remembering people's names is the hard part, but it's worth the effort.

When you remember someone's name, they'll always remember you. If you don't know or don't remember their name, then introduce yourself, remind them of your name, and they'll come right back at you with theirs. When these things become habit-a part of who you are-you're on your way to being a person who will make your parents proud.

* The funny thing about advice is that no matter how good it is, most people are gonna do what they want anyway. That's why my general philosophy has been never to miss an opportunity to shut up. So now that I'm writing a book in which I'm constantly giving advice, I must remind you to read the warning label on my bottle of wisdom.

Because something works for me doesn't mean it will for you, especially in large doses.

* The older I get, the more I realize it's never too early to start appreciating the people in your life.

If you love your family, it's essential that you tell them. They need you and you need them.

If you can make someone feel better with just a few words, why wouldn't you want to use them?

D. Heard the taped version of UUNSTRUNG HEROES by Franz Lidz, the author's tale of growing up in what might charitably be called a dysfunctional family . . . it consisted of him and his sister, their parents, and their father's four brothers who

played an even more significant role in his upbringing when his mother died.

If you ever thought your family was strange, wait until you meet this group of eccentrics . . . for example, one brother thought Mickey Mantle was out to get him . . . another collected shoelaces . . . how Lidz, who became a writer for SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, managed to escape the lunacy is beyond me.

The fact that he grew up on Long Island, not far from where I was raised, made the book even more interesting to me . . . that and the narration by John Turturro . . . the actor's work greatly aided in my enjoyment of UNSTRUNG HEROES.

5. TV alert

A. 30 ROCK stars former SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE head writer Tina Fey as a TV Producer trying to contain unpredictable new star Tracy Morgan while coping with a network nitwit, Alec Baldwin . . . I've heard that it is supposed to be funny . . . Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on NBC, followed at 8:30 p.m. by TWENTY GOOD YEARS, another comedy . . . this one stars Jeffrey Tambor and John Lithgow as 60-year-olds who vow to make the best of their remaining lives.

B. Audra McDonald performs selections by such artists as Elvis Costello and Rufus Wainright on LIVE FROM LINCOLN CENTER on Thursday at 8 p.m. on PBS . . . times and stations may vary, so check local listings.

C. WANDA SYKES: SICK & TIRED, filmed before a packed crowd in Seattle, has the foul-mouthed actress/comedian that has--according to TV GUIDE--"more laugh-out-loud moments than a week's worth of sitcoms" . . . Saturday at 10 p.m. on HBO.

D. NIGHT OF TOO MANY STARS: AN OVERBOOKED BENEFIT FOR AUTISM EDUCATION has Jon Stewart hosting a fund-raiser the features, among others, Adam Sandler, Jack Black, Stephen Colbert, Sacha Baron Cohen, and Triumph the Insult Comic Dog . . . Sunday at 8 p.m. on COMEDY CENTRAL.

6. Pricing haircuts

Recently, a man walked into a barbershop asking how much for a haircut.

He was told, "Twenty dollars."

"And for a shave?"

"Ten dollars."

"All right," he said, settling into the barber chair. "Shave my head."

7. Websites

A. Carol in New Jersey:

Here is a website that I thought you might be able to put into your newsletter. With the holidays coming up, it would be great if as many people as possible could do this.

It's a real deal!

Please click:

<http://www.letssaythanks.com/>

You can pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print it, and it will be sent to a soldier that is currently serving in Iraq.

You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to some member of the armed services.

How AMAZING it would be if we could get everyone we know to send one! Whether you are for or against the war, our guys and gals over there need to know we are behind them.

Please send a card.

It is FREE and it only takes a second.

B. Maryann in New Jersey recommends this website:

Click here: <http://www.learnenglish.org.uk/games/magic-gopher-central.swf>

It is a cute version of an old trick that will leave you baffled, particularly if it is the first time you've ever seen it.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

Should you want to subscribe or have a friend/relative/colleague do so, it's now easier than ever . . . just go the above homepage and look at the bottom for the "Special Offer" . . . thanks to the efforts of Dan Becker, my ace webmaster, your email program will now open up to create a form that will now handle subscriptions automatically.

8. Computer tip

When making an online purchase, make sure the website you use begins with these letters: https . . . so, for example, if you use amazon.com, you can go that website by clicking:

<http://www.amazon.com>

However, when you are ready to make a purchase, you will then be taken to another amazon website that begins with https . . . in addition, make sure you see a picture of a lock in the lower right-hand corner of your screen.

This applies not only to amazon purchases, but to any other company you use . . . if you don't see both the https AND the lock, beware!

9. Funny letters to Dear Abby, part 1 of 2

DEAR ABBY: A couple of women moved in across the hall from me. One is a middle-aged gym teacher and the other is a social worker in her mid-twenties. These two women go everywhere together and I've never seen a man go into their apartment or come out. Do you think they could be Lebanese?--CURIOUS

I have a man I never could trust. Why, he cheats so much I'm not even sure this baby I'm carrying is his.

I am a twenty-three-year-old liberated woman who has been on the pill for two years. It's getting expensive and I think my boyfriend should share half the cost, but I don't know him well enough to discuss money with him.

I suspected that my husband had been fooling around, and when I confronted him with the evidence he denied everything and said it would never happen again.

Will you please rush me the name of a reliable illegitimate doctor?

Our son writes that he is taking Judo. Why would a boy who was raised in a good Christian home turn against his own?

I joined the Navy to see the world. I've seen it. Now how do I get out?

My forty-year-old son has been paying a psychiatrist \$50 an hour every week for two-and-a-half years. He must be crazy.

I was married to Bill for three months and I didn't know he drank until one night he came home sober.

Do you think it would be all right if I gave my doctor a little gift? I tried for years to get pregnant and couldn't and he finally did it.

My mother is mean and short-tempered. I think she is going through her mental pause.

I met this nice guy who was in the service. He's the chief petting officer.

Then you told some woman whose husband had lost all interest in sex to send him to a doctor. Well, my husband lost all interest in sex years ago and he is a doctor.

This is the second marriage for both of us. And when my husband said "I Will" he knew very well he couldn't.

DEAR ABBY: I've been going steady with this man for six years. We see each other every night. He says he loves me, and I know I love him, but he never mentions marriage. Do you think he's going out with me just for what he can get?--GERTIE

DEAR GERTIE: I don't know. What's he getting?

(to be concluded next week)

10. A quote I like

In marriage and elsewhere, there's an easy way to avoid regret: Keep your words sweet. You may have to eat them.--Willie Nelson in THE TAO OF WILLIE (see also Sections 2, 4C and 10), written with Turk Pipkin

11. Thought for the day

You know I REALLY like a book when I mention it in four different sections of BLAINESWORLD . . . such is the case with THE TAO OF WILLIE (see also Sections 2, 4C and 10) by Willie Sutton with Turk Pipkin . . . the following passage came from it:

Instead of letting your thoughts think you into a corner, why not just let them go? Letting go of your anger by simply exhaling it away makes room for the ultimate breath of fresh air.

If someone's a jerk, that's their misfortune, not yours.

Let the jerks of the world serve as the perfect example of what you don't want to be. You'll be a heck of a lot happier, and in the long run, there's a chance that other person at work will end up asking what your secret is. Why are you the happy one?

In other words, don't let your thoughts think you.

Besides, if you're really gonna get pissed, don't waste it on your family, friends, or coworkers, save it for something that really matters.

The problems of the world are many and large, so if you're gonna get pissed, it ought to be about hungry children, or the fact that health care is too damned expensive and illiteracy too prevalent. It might do some good if more people were angry about the unjust sharing of power and decision making in politics and business, about family farmers who suffer so corporations can thrive, or the general living, medical, and education standards for the five and a half billion people on earth who've got a much tougher life than you and me.

One of the great benefits of helping people who are less fortunate than you is that it gives you a new perspective on your own life. Appreciate what you have and you'll be in a better frame of mind to make the world a better place for those who have less.

That may not change other people's driving habits, but when some jackass cuts you off, chances are you won't give a sh*t anymore.

And that'll probably really piss him off.

12. Advance planning department

A. Natalie in Pennsylvania:

* John Adams, an author, is speaking on Thursday, October 12.

His talk will be entitled "How to Get your Business Off the Ground in 73 Minutes or Less . . . for Women and Others." He will speak at 7 p.m. in Penn 410.

If you'd like to attend, please register by calling Natalie at 215.968.8015.

* Dr. Beth DuPree, local breast surgeon and author, will be speaking on "The Adversity of Breast Cancer: Our Greatest Teacher" on Tuesday, October 17, at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge at Bucks County Community College.

She will focus her talk on the journey a patient takes through diagnosis and treatment . . . in doing so, she'll educate about early detection, talk about the new breast center that she is opening in Bucks County and tie together with her fantastic new book (THE HEALING CONSCIOUSNESS, reviewed in BLAINESWORLD #519).

Dr. DuPree will then be available to sign copies of her book.

* One-Woman Show Examines War

Susanne Sulby of Yardly, will bring her one-woman, multiple-character play "Sanctuary" to Pebble Hill Church on Saturday, October 28, at 7 p.m. The play, which premiered at the Philadelphia live Arts/Fringe Festival in 2005, explores human reactions to war, whether on the home front or battlefield.

A multi-media performance, "Sanctuary" focuses on three female characters: a stay-at-home mother bombarded by endless television broadcasts of destruction and death, an emotionally detached Syrian reporter, and a prisoner of war who both longs for her mother and is desperate at being separated from her own children. All three characters are deeply affected by the brutality and senselessness of war. Each seeks sanctuary from war's violence, whether physical or emotional.

After watching years of disturbing television news herself, including coverage of the Serbo-Croatian conflict and 9/11, Sulby, an established Philadelphia-area actor, voiceover artist, and acting teacher, decided to write the play as a way to overcome her own sense of helplessness.

"Sanctuary" employs writings ranging from Rumi's thirteenth-century poetry to a soldier's e-mail as it tracks the intransigence of war through history. A theme emerges: one war is like another; history repeats itself as the same mistakes are made again and again. Is it possible to break the cycle? Finally each of the three focal characters discover that peace is inevitable; the answer is love.

Sulby considers "Sanctuary" to be humanistic rather than political, and hopes that people of every viewpoint will be inspired to help create a peaceful world. After the performance, which runs about an hour, Sulby will lead a discussion of the questions raised by the play.

Sulby was a senior company member of the Philadelphia Area Repertory Company for seven seasons. In 2000, she appeared with Billy Crudup in the award-winning Evenstar feature film, "Jesus' Son." Sulby's experience growing up in Doylestown, where her father was warden of Bucks County Prison, gave her an early awareness of suffering and an ability to find humanity in anyone.

Pebble Hill Church is located at Edison-Furlong Rd. and Woodcrest Lane in Doylestown Township. To purchase tickets or for more information call 215.579.1836.

B. Cynthia in New Jersey (also see Section 1A):

I'm offering a 7-week class "Move Your Body" class on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginning on October 17 and running through November 28.

This is a great way to dance to music from countries around the world, plus have a lot of fun.

Location: Elizabeth Avenue School Gym, Somerset, NJ

Cost: \$35

To register, contact Ruth at the Franklin Adult Community Education Center: 732.873.2400, ext. 403.

C. Debbie in Pennsylvania:

Crystal Journeys Series with Cathy Scarpello

Tuesdays, Oct. 17, and Nov. 7 & 21 7-9 p.m.

Join us for one Tuesday or all 3 weeks!

Connect deeply with the mineral kingdom in mystical ways. Learn how crystals can enrich your life and deepen your spirituality. Learn about the therapeutic properties of crystals and how to apply that knowledge to our life.

\$35 per class.

To register or for more information:
OMPHALOS the Center for P.E.A.C.E.
301 Oxford Valley Road
Suite 1503
Yardley PA 19067
215-493-3456

<http://www.omphaloscenter.org/>

D. Tobi in Pennsylvania:

Back by popular demand

Tyler Hall Once Again Becomes the Scene of a Crime
for the Alumni Association's Murder Mystery Event

Saturday, October 21 - 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Another "murder" will haunt Tyler Hall on October 21, and it will be your job, as junior FBI agent, to untangle the web of lies and deception and figure out who done it. After last year's sold-out success which involved the "murder" of Frederick Tyler-Farnsworth, the fictitious self-proclaimed long-lost nephew of the Tyler family, this year's crime, involving the "death" of a student, will prove even more difficult to solve.

Sponsored by Wachovia Trust, Chaddsford Winery, CulinArt, and the BCCC Federation of Teachers, tickets to the event are limited so reserve yours today, \$55 per person, securely online, or by calling 215.968.8224.

(Alumni Card holders, please call this number to receive your \$5 discount).
Hors d'oeuvres and dessert will be served. Proceeds benefit the Bucks County Community
College Alumni Association.

To view photos of last year's Murder Mystery event, please click:
<http://www.bucks.edu/foundation/MurderMysteryPhotoGallery.html>

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers
back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . also, make it
a great week!

Blaine Greenfield
19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way
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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #522

10.2.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I got to celebrate her birthday on Sunday . . . we saw her mom in the morning, then joined a friend to see a film (Section 4A) that we all enjoyed . . . a relaxing dinner followed, and in looking back on the day, I can't believe that I have now been blessed to get to spend three of Cynthia's birthdays with her . . . yet as I often tell her, this one day--while nice--was nothing spectacular for me, in that I really do attempt to make every day her birthday!

B. The night before we both attended a fun party, sponsored by my teacher's union . . . it was held at MEI Catering (215.364.2130) in Tullytown, PA, and once people found the place, they had a blast . . . the food was excellent, as was the service.

Tom Shields (267.441.7341), our DJ, did a fine job getting lots of folks up to dance and, also, playing some trivia with those who wanted to do so . . . Ed Croftshock and Cathy Spiegel, two students, helped by greeting everybody and taking pictures throughout the evening . . . in fact, see below for one of Cynthia and me:



And all seemed to enjoy the truffles we gave out as favors; they were provided by Jennifer at the Candy Bouquet (609.333.0025) in Skillman, NJ.

C. Earlier in the week, I was fortunate to be able to get together with several other College folks to meet Bill Heaslip for lunch . . . he had been the longtime president of our teacher's union and somebody who taught me much over the years . . . he's now retired and doing well in Arizona.

We ate at Piccolo Trattoria (215.860.4247) in Newtown, PA, a place where the food is consistently delicious . . . I enjoyed my

chicken Caesar wrap and even more so this story Bill told me walking to his car:

It seems that one day he was playing golf with his buddies . . . he hadn't done well, so at the end of the match, he said something to the effect of, "You guys have taken me for an arm and a leg today . . . you can't have my arm, but here's my leg." (He then proceeded to take off his artificial leg and put it on the table they were sitting at!)

D. I'm pleased that the smoking cessation program that I've been talking about has officially gotten off the ground!

Do you want to quit smoking? Or know somebody who does?

A FREE Smoking Cessation Program is coming to Bucks County Community College!

For: BCCC faculty, staff, students and friends/relatives of BCCC faculty, staff and students

When: 3 Mondays--November 6, 7-9 p.m.; November 13 & 20, 7-8 p.m.

Where: Rollins Center, Room 115, Bucks County Community College, Newtown, PA

Sponsored by: Women's Center at Bucks County Community College, in conjunction with the Office of Student Life & PA.-S.W.A.T.

Instructor: Diana Loreman, BCCC part-time faculty member and certified hypnotherapist.

What makes this program unique:

Hypnotherapy, which has a success rate of more than 75% in helping smokers quit. Typical smoking cessation programs have a success rate of under 10%.

TO GET MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGSITER:

Call Bridget Hughes at 215.968.8254 or email her at hughesbr@bucks.edu

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

This week, it goes to Jean Dolan, assistant director of public relations for Bucks County Community College.

To quote a friend of mine, Jean "writes great press releases" . . . I agree . . . rather than just present the facts, Jean constantly goes out of her way to get quotes and background information that give life to whatever she is writing about.

She also is most generous in sharing her ideas on how to make all programs run even better.

In addition, Jean does a fantastic job in keeping the rest of the College community informed about when BCCC is in the news . . . she is a real asset to Bucks, and I'm fortunate to have been able to work with her over the last several years.

2. FYI

Robin in Pennsylvania:

You may want to check your passport now to make sure that it is not expiring or, if you do not have current passports for you and your children, you may want to start the process of getting them now. Here's why:

Beginning December 31, 2006, US citizens will need a valid passport to travel to and from Bermuda, Canada, Mexico, Central and South American, and the Caribbean (excluding Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands). If you're planning a trip and any portion of it will take place after December 31, 2006, you'll need a valid passport to re-enter the US.

FYI, part 2

* Sue in Pennsylvania:

I wanted to pass on a website that sells products for sinus and allergy sufferers . . . many of your readers have suggested some very good tips for me in the past, and I wanted to return the favor.

This website sells products that are all natural and organic . . . its a little intense to use at first; ok, downright painful . . . but these products have helped me so much . . . anyone who suffers sinus headaches or allergy problems may want to give them a try . . . they even offer a 30-day money back guarantee--something that is unheard of for "medicine."

These products have helped me SO MUCH . . . just wanted to pass it on.

For information, please click:

<http://www.sinusbuster.com>

* Jean in Pennsylvania:

A favor to ask; it only takes a minute:

Please tell ten friends to tell ten today! The Breast Cancer site is having trouble getting enough people to click on their site daily to meet their quota of donating at least one free mammogram a day to an underprivileged woman. It takes less than a minute to go to their site and click on "donating a mammogram" for free (pink window in the middle).

This doesn't cost you a thing. Their corporate sponsors/advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate mammogram in exchange for advertising.

Here's the web site! Pass it along to people you know:

<http://www.thebreastcancersite.com/>

AGAIN , PLEASE TELL 10 FRIENDS TO TELL 10 TODAY

* Robin in Pennsylvania:

I had my teeth whitened in my dentist's office: Dr. Howard Rosenthal in Newtown. (He doesn't do the actual procedure). It's not the most pleasant process, but I've been pleased with the results.

Thank you as always for all YOU do for all of us who are the fortunate and grateful recipients of BLAINESWORLD.

Also, a REQUEST FOR HELP:

Might you ask your readers the following:

A. Is anyone interested in buying a class A timeshare in Atlantic City?

Details to all interested parties; price flexible.

B) is anyone using FiOS, the latest Internet access from Verizon? If so, how are they finding it?

* Jim in Pennsylvania:

Georgia and Jim Donovan, join eight other well known presenters from across the country for a one time exclusive live event to help people learn How to Triple Your Income in the next 12 months using cutting edge business techniques!

By coming to this 2-day live event on October 5 & 6 near Philadelphia, you get the chance to experience all of us in one place, under one roof, for as little as \$200 down.

For more information, please click:

<http://www.jimdonovan.com/go?spa>

* Lisa in Pennsylvania:

My friend Kathy has left dotPhoto to strike out on her own as a pro photographer. Though she's been a photographer for years, she's now going to do this as a business full-time. And as she's a good person and a great photographer, I'm trying to help her build her new business as much as possible.

So . . . if you're looking for a photographer, she'll come to your home or the outdoor location of your choice to shoot family portraits. Her work is excellent; take a minute to check out all the images from a photo shoot of our new baby boy Eric:

<http://www.dotphoto.com/Go.asp?l=lisaswenson&P=&AID=3918676&Show=Y>

Her contact information can be found in the presentation above with a special offer at the end or check out her website:

<http://www.pho-go.com/>

Please forward this on to anyone you know in the area who might be looking for family portraits, photo cards for the upcoming holidays, etc.

Thank you so much.

3. Signage

One likes to think that our universities are bastions of high-mindedness and compassion. But that isn't always the case. Crossing the campus of the local college, I saw this sign: "Office for Disabled Students has moved to the Student Center, 2nd floor."

4. Reviews

A. Loved KEEPING MUM, a black comedy that had a certain sweetness to it too . . . Rowan Atkinson plays the absent-minded vicar of a rural parish who is so consumed by his job that he fails to notice that his wife, Kristin Scott Thomas, is becoming infatuated by her golf instructor (Patrick Swayze) . . . only when the family's housekeeper (Maggie Smith) enters the picture do things begin to sort themselves out . . . this is another film that

you might have to search to find; however, your efforts will be well worth it . . . rated R.

B. THANK YOU FOR SMOKING is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #498 follows:

THANK YOU FOR SMOKING is a biting satire that will also get you thinking the role lobbyists play in the country . . . Aaron Eckhard (IN THE COMPANY OF MEN, ERIN BROCKOVICH, etc.) continues his streak of outstanding performances as the public spokesperson for Big Tobacco who goes on television and tells people that smoking can actually be good for them . . . he even tries to get a very funny Rob Lowe to get more Hollywood stars to smoke in movies just like the good old dates . . . despite its R rating, methinks this would be a good film for anybody over the age of 13 to see.

C. David Feldman returns! . . . for fans of his series of IMPONDERABLES books (and I'm one), that's good news because by reading his latest effort, you'll learn the answer to the question raised in the title: WHY DO PIRATES LOVE PARROTS? . . . along with answers to such other questions as: Why are most psychics women? How does the vending machine know when it's Sunday? And why do peanut butter cookies have crisscross marks on them?

I like the fact that Feldman thoroughly researches each and every question, then proceeds to answer it in a manner that not only informs but also puts a smile on your face . . . for example, in case you've always been wondering what do they stuff in medicine balls to make them so heavy, he found this out from the MediBall company:

The balls are filled with an aqueous gel composed of potassium polyacrylate and water. It is non-toxic and non-hazardous, the same material is used as an absorbent in baby diapers. Should not hurt you unless you eat too many of them.

I also liked his discussion of the most frequently asked irritating questions . . . among them: Do blind people dream? (Yes, but they rarely see anything in their dreams.) . . . also: How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop? (The average seems to be 600 to 800 licks, though my finding is more along the lines of Mr. Turtle, who when in commercials was asked how many licks it took him to get to the center, replied, "I never made it without biting.")

The accompanying drawings by longtime Imponderables illustrator Kassie Schwan added to my enjoyment of this wonderful book that will make a great holiday gift for folks of all ages.

D. Heard a great CD program, THE E-MYTH REVISITED: WHY MOST SMALL BUSINESSES DON'T WORK AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT--written and read by Michael Gerber.

Gerber, the founder of a consulting company for small businesses, had previously written one of my favorite business books: THE E-MYTH (short for entrepreneurial myth) . . . his basic premise is that just because you know the technical side of a business, you're not automatically going to be successful.

But if you follow the model of many franchises--such as McDonald's--you can improve your chances . . . the key is to get a formula, then work that formula . . . all the time.

I especially liked his advice on doing a little experiment if you run a retail store . . . ask the question that most people always ask when somebody enters your place of business, May I help you? . . . ask that for three weeks and track the results . . . then change the question to instead ask, Have you been here beforehand . . . when you track the results, you'll see that sales have increased 16%!

That was just one of the many tidbits I gained from listening to this marvelous program; among the others:

* Ask the question, What do you want to be? (As opposed to the question, What do I want to do?)

* In a small business, 90% of your time should be spent on strategic work and only 10% on tactical work. Most businesses reverse these figures.

* We don't have to motivate people, we need to inspire them.

* Hire people by running ads not like anybody else; e.g., this one: We want people with passion, we want people with heart. When you get a bunch of people who are interested, bring them all at once in to a hiring seminar to listen to your story. At then end, then ask what one thing can they contribute to your organization.

* Follow the example of Ritz Carlton, wherein any employee who gets a complaint owns it.

This fine program is available for purchase or rental . . . if you want to get it, please click:

<http://achievementlibrary.com>

Above is the tape rental club I belong to; i.e., the Achievement Tape Library . . . this a great way to hear CDs and/or audio cassette tapes, view videos, etc.--all for a fraction of what it would cost to buy them . . . call the head of the firm (Paul Arroyo) directly at 1.800.735.3660 and mention my name . . . that way, you'll be sure to pay even higher prices . . . NOT.

5. TV alert

A. FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS is a TV adaptation of the feature film inspired by Buzz Bissinger's book . . . I liked the film and look forward to this show, particularly since it marks the return to series TV of Kyle Chandler (who plays the coach) . . . Tuesdays at 8 p.m. on NBC.

B. TRADING SPOUSES gets off to an interesting third series start as a devout Christian nurse spends a week with the family of a Jewish college professor . . . Friday at 9 p.m. on FOX.

C. Peter O'Toole plays an aging Casanova in a two-part MASTERPIECE THEATRE that begins on Sunday at 9 p.m. on PBS . . . PBS dates and times may vary, so check local listings.

6. Safety

Safety was job one at my old company, so we were told. During a safety training course, the instructor asked, "Does your company have an evacuation plan?"

"Yes," said one employee, "and it works without a hitch."

"Really? How'd you do that?"

"We practice every day at five o'clock."

7. Websites

A. For a neat birthday calendar, please click:

<http://www.paulsadowski.com/birthday.asp>

It tells you how many hours and how many seconds you have been alive on this earth, and when you were probably conceived. How cool is that?

There's a lot of other interesting information here, too, including the names of famous people who were born on the same day that you were . . . on my birthday these folks included Donald Trump, Steffi Graff and, drum roll please, Yasmine Bleeth.

B. Free hugs is the real life controversial story of Juan Mann, a man whose sole mission is to reach out and hug a stranger to brighten up their lives.

In this age of social disconnection and lack of human contact, the effects of the Free Hugs campaign became phenomenal . . . see it for you

See it for yourself with this video, including great music by the Sick Puppies:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vr3x_RRjdd4&mode=related&search

And for the full story, please click:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJC28OCYBwY&mode=related&search=>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

As always, feel free to mention this newsletter to others and have them subscribe . . . all they have to do is to go to the homepage, then see the instructions at the bottom where it says "Special Offer."

8. Computer tip

Marty in Pennsylvania:

Using your computer tip [from BLAINESWORLD #520], just type-in the main part of the Internet address you're seeking; e.g., Ford.

Follow it with pressing ctrl + enter brings the <http://www>. followed by .com

Follow it with pressing shift + enter, brings you <http://www>. followed by .net

Remember that this will take to two different websites.

9. Feeding time

A hypnotist was visiting the aquarium during feeding time. "You know," the hypnotist said to the man feeding the fierce shark, "I could hypnotize that shark."

"You're crazy! He'll rip you limb from limb," the feeder said, laughing. "But, hey, if you're so brave, be my guest."

The hypnotist jumped in, swam to the shark and stared it in the eye for a full minute. The animal paused, blinked, and then tore into him. The bleeding man slowly made his way out of the tank.

"I thought you could hypnotize him," sneered the feeder.

"I did," the hypnotist said, holding his arm. "Now he thinks he's an alligator."

10. A quote I like

My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me.--Henry Ford (1863-1947), American automaker

11. Thought for the day

Life in the 1500s

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, Don't throw the baby out with the bath water..

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained, it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall

off the roof. Hence the saying: It's raining cats and dogs.

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying: dirt poor. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying: a thresh hold.

(Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme,:
Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, bring home the bacon. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top--or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside, and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a . . . dead ringer.

And that's the truth. Now whoever said history was boring???

Author Unknown

(if you know who wrote this and/or the source, please let me know)

12. Advance planning department

A. Debbie in Pennsylvania:

Mark Your Calendar for October Events at:
Omphalos the Center for P.E.A.C.E.

* Reiki Level I with Cathy Scarpello Sunday, Oct. 8th 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Experience deeper connection to the divine and more inner peace.
Reduce or eliminate acute or chronic pain. Contribute to the good side
of life. Energize your body, mind and spirit. Be a blessing to all you meet.
Fee \$100.

* Connecting with your Guides with Dale Cunningham, N.D.
Friday, Oct. 13th 7-10 p.m.
Getting to know your Guides can bring such great assistance
in your every day life, and a deep knowing that you are never alone.
Our Guides love the opportunity to deepen their connection with us.
This energy-infused workshop will provide you not only with
an awareness of your Guides, but you will hear the messages
they want to share with you. You will be guided through three journeys
to meet your three Guides. You will learn, directly from them, what their
specific reason is in their connection with You.

To register or for more information:
OMPHALOS the Center for P.E.A.C.E.
301 Oxford Valley Road
Suite 1503
Yardley PA 19067
215-493-3456

<http://www.omphaloscenter.org/>

B. Natalie in Pennsylvania:

* John Adams, an author, is speaking on Thursday, October 12.
His talk will be entitled "How to Get your Business Off the Ground
in 73 Minutes or Less . . . for Women and Others." He will
speak at 7 p.m. in Penn 410.

If you'd like to attend, please register by calling Natalie at
215.968.8015.

* Dr. Beth DuPree, local breast surgeon and author, will be
speaking on "The Adversity of Breast Cancer: Our
Greatest Teacher" on Tuesday, October 17, at 7 p.m.
in the Fireside Lounge at Bucks County Community College.

She will focus her talk on the journey a patient takes through diagnosis
and treatment . . . in doing so, she'll educate about early detection, talk
about the new breast center that she is opening in Bucks County and tie
together with her fantastic new book (THE HEALING CONSCIOUSNESS,
reviewed in BLAINESWORLD #519).

Dr. DuPree will then be available to sign copies of her book.

Location: Fireside Lounge.

C. Cynthia in New Jersey (also see Section 1A):
I'm offering a 7-week class "Move Your Body" class on Tuesdays
from 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginning on October 17 and running through
November 28.

This is a great way to dance to music from countries around the
world, plus have a lot of fun.

Location: Elizabeth Avenue School Gym, Somerset, NJ

Cost: \$35

To register, contact Ruth at the Franklin Adult Community
Education Center: 732.873.2400, ext. 403.

D. Rebecca in Pennsylvania:
You are invited to a Dean's Reception
and a lecture by the 2005-2006
Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award Winner:

Blaine Greenfield (yours truly!)

Thursday, October 19, 2006
12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Fireside Lounge of the Rollins Center

RSVP to Terri Lovett, lovettt@bucks.edu or call
215.968.8048 by October 16.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers
back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . also, make it
a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD,
have them send an e-mail to subscriptions@blainesworld.net with "subscribe blainesworld"
as the only thing in the body of the message - email subject is optional.
New readers are always welcome, and my address is: bginbc@aol.com.

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, do the same with "unsubscribe" instead of
"subscribe".

Blaine Greenfield
19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way
Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
Phone : 828.633.1049

Contact Us at bginbc@aol.com

BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #521

9.25.2006

***** SPECIAL NOTE *****

As many of you know by now, I've switched servers . . . so this newsletter is now being delivered by a listserv, as opposed to AOL . . . hopefully, you won't notice any difference with the exception that if you have any spam filters going that block email, please make sure that you continue to make sure that you receive email from bginbc@aol.com (since from time to time, I'll still use that address for various mailings), as well as from BLAINESWORLD@blainesworld.net . . . or anything else in the future that you may receive from blainesworld.net.

In this issue:

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Motherhood
4. Reviews . . . CONFETTI, etc.
5. TV alert
6. Voices
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Library reference questions
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had another hectic but most enjoyable weekend . . . on Saturday, we visited her mother in the morning and then went with my mother, brother and sister-in-law for lunch with many of our cousins . . . from there, we headed to Pennsylvania for a party that featured both great food and friends.

On Sunday, we saw a production of PIPPIN put on by the Somerset Valley Players (908.369.7469) in Hillsborough, NJ . . . this was one of the best shows we've seen at this particular playhouse . . . the cast was excellent; in particular, we liked the work of James Houston . . . though he did not have one of the main roles, he made us laugh in virtually every scene he was in . . . we've seen Houston before; he's a riot . . . the accompanying 4-piece orchestra was also top notch, as was the enthusiastic dancing . . . add to that a moving story and you have a real winner that can still be seen through this coming weekend.

For dinner, we tried a new place for us: IL Fornello Ristorante (908.336.7700), also in Hillsborough . . . we split our two dishes, a pasta bolognese that was in a cream sauce

that Cynthia liked (but I did not much care for) and a tasty veal parmigiana entree . . . portion sizes were quite ample . . . our server, Stefanie, was pleasant and tried hard . . . however, on that particular evening, apparently some people did not show up to work, so service was slow.

B. KUDOS to Larry Hager and Joe Fluehr for their role in making the Bucks County Community College Foundation's recent golf tournament the success that it was . . . they co-chaired the committee that planned the whole event . . . they were ably assisted, as always, by members of the Foundation staff: Tobi Bruhn, Nancy Steigerwalt and Jean Holmes . . . lastly, coach Scott Bradshaw and members of his golf team at the College helped by raising additional funds at a special mini-event at one of the holes.

Not being a golfer, I only attended for the dinner . . . best of all at that event was the relaxing chair message I got beforehand from Nita Keesler (267.980.1727).

Later in the week, as a member of the Foundation's Board, I attended one of the regular meetings . . . I was quite surprised when chair Bill Brady called me up to receive a special plaque from the Foundation for having been named as this year's recipient of the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching.

C. I mention that because I'd like to extend AN INVITATION to any readers (or their friends, relatives, students, etc.) who want to quite smoking . . . with part of the prize that I received from the above, I'll be getting a smoking cessation program off the ground . . . some things that will make it unique are: 1) You will be successful if you participate; and 2) It will feature hypnotherapy.

I'm in the process of finalizing details, so stay tuned . . . in the meantime, though, mark down the dates: November 6 from 7-9 p.m., November 13 from 7-8 p.m. and November 20 from 7-8 . . . there will be NO COST.

If you're interested in participating or know of somebody who might be, please send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put in subject line: SMOKING CESSATION PROGRAM.

D. And on the subject of invitations, in case you missed seeing this in last week's missive:

Cynthia would like to take this opportunity to invite you to one of her Move Your Body classes . . . this is a fun, easy way to get aerobic exercise by following simple dance moves to soul-filled music from around the world . . . start with stretches to warm up and end feeling wonderfully relaxed . . . for men & women.

Choose either or both of the following:

* Saturday, September 30
3 p.m. at the Princeton Center for Yoga and Health
FREE!

Come celebrate the 10-year anniversary celebration of the above. Many other fun activities are planned, including a fire ceremony, drumming, chair massage, etc.

For more information, please call 609.924.7294 . . . or

please visit:

<http://www.princetonyoga.com>

* A 7-week class on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginning on October 17 and running through November 28.

Location: Elizabeth Avenue School Gym, Somerset, NJ

Cost: \$35

To register, contact Ruth at the Franklin Adult Community Education Center: 732.873.2400, ext. 403.

**** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD ****

This week, it goes to Blanche Batnick--one of the many great cousins that I'm blessed to have . . . and now, as a result of being so fortunate as to have married Cynthia, I consider her cousins as part of my family, too, and they're equally great.

Yet Blanche is the one who first comes to mind when thinking about this week's award because of all that she has meant to my family over the years . . . she has always been like a daughter to my mother.

When my father was alive, she and her partner Peter would frequently visit them for dinner and/or to play a game of Rummy Cube . . . I'm grateful that she is still continuing the tradition, as well as for the fact that she touches base with my mother on an almost daily basis.

The other day, she also helped my mother get out a bunch of thank you notes . . . when the printer was not working properly, Blanche then ran out to get a new cartridge and when she returned, spent nearly an hour with the customer service folks at Lexmark to figure out what was wrong.

Another thing that she does is keep me informed of what's happening with my other cousins . . . she always takes great pride in sharing their accomplishments.

THANKS, Blanche, for all that you do. I really appreciate it!

2. FYI

John Adams, a friend and author of MIRACLES AT WORK, carries a supply of post-its in his pocket at all time . . . when he comes across an idea or something he wants to remember, he writes it down--putting a person's name to the left and what he wants to remember on the right (e.g., to discuss a press release).

He then organizes the post-its so he can always see the top line . . . then, when he has spoken to the person or completed the action, he throws the post-it away . . . Cynthia does something similar, taking the post-it and putting it in her Daytimer on the particular date that she wants to use it.

**** JOHN ADAMS WILL BE AT BUCKS CO. COMM. COLLEGE ****

If you'd like to hear John speak on "How to Get your Business

Off the Ground in 73 Minutes or Less . . . for Women and Others,"
come join us on October 12 at 7 p.m. in Penn 410 . . . to register,
please call Natalie at 215.968.8015.

FYI, part 2

* Ken in New York:
Lord & Taylor
AN EXCLUSIVE VIP Savings Event
by invitation only . . .

It's a must-shop event. No complicated equations.
Just great savings that keep getting better.
(the more you spend the more you save!!)

15% off your purchase of any amount up to \$75
20% off your purchase of \$75 to \$250
25% off your purchase over \$250

All the above exclude sales tax. Exclusions apply; see
Savings Pass for details.

Wednesday, September 27th through Sunday, October 1st

TO OBTAIN:

Send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put in subject line:
SEND LORD & TAYLOR PASS.

* Dave in New Jersey:

Thank you for your wonderful note and for spreading the word
about the Villagers. Just so you know, we feature a "talkback"
on the second Sunday performance of each of our MainStage
productions.

MY TWO CENTS:

I've seen several productions at the Villagers (located in
Somerset, NJ), and they've all been excellent . . . next up
on the main stage is THE FULL MONTY, slated to run from
October 27-November 19 . . . for more information, please click:
<http://www.villagerstheatre.com>

* Denise in New Jersey:

Back talk is a wonderful activity. It's always offered IF the production
company or performer will do it. It's funny . . . some are all for meeting
and greeting and some say absolutely not. Too bad for them . . . because
the audience always feels endeared to the performers when they give
their time.

This past year Hector Elizondo, Arlo Guthrie, the family of Harry Chapin
all came out and chatted with the audience, signed autographs and
took pictures with them. They were down to earth warm people that
showed so much enthusiasm talking with their audience. Some will allow
a private meet in the green room and greet with maybe five people
that are allowed at their manager's discretion . . . and some like Joe
Piscopo will march 30 chosen people through there. They can be quirky.

* Art in Pennsylvania:

The Jewish year is a calculation that the Rabbi's agreed on
by citing the years as mentioned on the Bible. (They may be a
few billion years off.)

To figure out Jewish year:

Add 3760 to the next Gregorian year; thus, 3760+2007 = 5767.

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

Methinks I'm going to finally break down and get my teeth whitened . . . I'm most interested in the laser treatment; i.e., the one without using strips (you get it done once and then it is good for quite some time) . . . any suggestions as to where I could get this done in the NJ or Pennsylvania area? . . . I'd be particularly interested in using somebody that you may have used yourself . . . or know of somebody who did.

3. Motherhood

It's only natural that after five kids, the initial hyper-protectiveness of motherhood does tend to fade. My friend and his mother were chatting about how her mothering techniques evolved over the years from the first child to the fifth.

"Oh, I definitely mellowed," she admitted. "For example, when your oldest sister coughed, I'd panic and call the ambulance. But when your youngest brother swallowed a dime, I just told him it was coming out of his allowance."

4. Reviews

A. You may have to look a bit to find it, but do try to see CONFETTI . . . it is a very funny mockumentary about three couples who battle to win a bridal magazine contest for "Most Original Wedding of the Year" . . . I found myself laughing out loud during much of the film . . . there's an ensemble of British comedic talents . . . the cast members were afforded total creative freedom within the confines of a carefully crafted story frame . . . rated R.

B. LOOKING FOR COMEDY IN THE MUSLIM WORLD is now out in DVD . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #488 follows:

I liked LOOKING FOR COMEDY IN THE MUSLIM WORLD, but then again, I like just about anything that Albert Brooks is in . . . here he plays a hapless comedian who is called upon by the U.S. government to travel to India and Pakistan in order to discover what makes a 300-million community laugh . . . I loved the response to the one question he raises about why he was chosen: "because everybody else was busy" . . . he also had me laughing out loud with a routine before an audience that got only a few scattered laughs . . . rated PG-13.

C. M.J. Rose is one of those rare authors who keep coming out with books that seem to get better and better . . . her latest erotic thriller, THE VENUS FIX, is the third in a series of novels about Dr. Morgan Snow--one of New York's top sex therapists.

It deals with those secretly addicted to watching Internet webcam pornography . . . in particular, there's a powerful, influential man,

as well as a group of high school students . . . that their obsession leads to murder is what makes the book so interesting . . . a love story makes it even more so.

Even if you never read the first two books, you'll have no trouble following this one . . . but that said, I did enjoy the continuation of the characters who somehow are managing to grow on me . . . I really feel like I'm getting to know not only Snow, but also the others in her life: the off-and-on boyfriend, daughter, ex-husband, business partner, etc.

THE VENUS FIX is quick reading . . . it will leave you guessing until the last page, and as is the case with everything Rose has written, there's a great ending.

In addition, there's great writing throughout; among the passages that caught my attention were the following:

* Noah took a drink, put the glass down and started to play. It took almost fifteen minutes for him to slip into the zone where he was no longer conscious of his fingers flying over the keys, or the day he'd had, or the problems waiting for him at the precinct house. There was just music. And he was sailing on it.

* Being a detective was part of him. It was what his dad did. What he always wanted to do. But he played piano from inside. He needed it for balance, for beauty. For the sliver of soul he still had intact. That's what the music had salvaged.

* As long as she would let me sit on the side of her bed and talk to her, as long as she would listen, as long as she took what I said in, that was all I could ask for. It was so much more than so many parents had.

And this one that contained great advice that is something I now try to do as a result of reading it:

* Ever since she [the main character's daughter] was little, it's been our tradition at dinner to talk about what had happened that day, but with caveats. For everything that had gone wrong or that you complained about, there had to be one thing that had gone right or that had made you happy. Always a balance.

D. I just finished the taped version of AN INCOMPLETE EDUCATION by Judy Jones and William Wilson, a 1995 completely updated edition of the book that was first published in 1987 . . . my only regret is that this taped version only keyed-in on film, music and literature . . . the actual book also covered such subjects as science, political science, American history, and philosophy.

So I now find myself tempted to go back and read the original in its entirety . . . or see if there's now an even more current update . . . perhaps I'll even try some of the literary works that were mentioned here (but had always appeared too intimidating).

Regardless, I'm sure to pick up something that I missed when I was an undergraduate in college . . . AN INCOMPLETE EDUCATION gave me what might be called a READER'S DIGEST version of a liberal arts curriculum, but in a fashion that was both fun and engaging.

I learned some new things, too, that are sure to impress the folks that I encounter at the next party that I attend . . . for example, I just can't wait for anybody to just try discussing Keats or Shelly . . . when they do, I'll hopefully remember this wry observation: "Keats is the one you'd play racquetball with. He wasn't happy, exactly, but he was better adjusted and less the outcast than Shelly and it shows."

5. TV alert

A. Ted Danson is funny in almost any comedy he does, so I'll be watching HELP ME HELP YOU on Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m. on ABC . . . in this one, he plays a group therapist who may need a shrink of his own.

B. UGLY BETTY, starring America Ferrera, is supposed to be one of this season's best shows . . . it is about a homely sweetheart swimming with the underfed, over-the-top sharks at a fashion magazine . . . Thursdays at 8 p.m. on ABC.

C. Alfred Hitchcock comes alive on Thursday at 8 p.m. on TCM . . . first, there's a rebroadcast of a 1972 DICK CAVETT SHOW interview . . . following is a trio of three of his classics: SUSPICION, FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT and NORTH BY NORTHWEST . . . and filling out the package is the 1973 documentary HITCHCOCK.

D. The second series of EVERYBODY HATES CHRIS premieres on Sunday at 7 p.m. on THE CW (in New York, that's the old Channel 11) . . . Whoopi Goldberg guest stars.

***** SPECIAL CONTEST *****

If you're "into" TV, then please click:

<http://www.brilliantbutcancelled.com/deathwatch/>

You get to guess the first show axed each week . . . doing so enters you into a weekly sweepstakes to win a video iPod; the grand prize winner gets a flatscreen HDVT.

Right now, MEN IN TREES is the favorite at 3:1; that's too bad, in that I personally think the show is a good one . . . least likely shows to go include SHARK, SMITH, KIDNAPPED and THE NINE--all at 292:1.

6. Voices

One of our patients at the counseling center had complained of hearing voices. So the doctor gave him medication. When the man came back for a follow-up, I asked if the prescription helped. "I don't know," he answered. "Now I'm having hallucinations."

"Well, make sure to tell the doctor so he can change the medication."

"I don't know if I want to change," he joked. "Finally, I get to see who's talking to me."

7. Websites

A. You've heard that the use of generic drugs can save you money . . . that is true . . . what you may not have known is that the price of generics can vary widely . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.snopes.com/medical/drugs/generic.asp>

Scroll down to see the actual TV show that was the basis of the information provided in this website . . . also, though I do not belong to Costco (and you don't have to either), reading will give you information about how you can use this superstore without joining as a member.

NOTE:

As can be seen, I obtained the above from snopes.com . . . this is the website I use to check virtually all such rumors . . . if you use it, also, you won't be disappointed!

B. As the celebration of the Jewish New Year concludes this coming Monday with Yom Kippur, I thought some music would be appropriate to help both Jews and non-Jews alike celebrate . . . feel free to join in by clicking:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=QZxKIL8RUHU>

But when you do, make sure you turn up your sound so you can enjoy.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

As you may know, you can find a link to all the many books that I have read and enjoyed over the past several years . . . just go to "Blaine's Best" on the left, then the second part of letter O.

Should you want to find any review helpful, here's all you need to do to register your vote:

1. Go to:

<http://www.amazon.com>

2. Search books and type-in any recent book I reviewed; e.g., EVERY PERSON ON THE PLANET by Bruce Eric Kaplan.

3. Find my review. (It will probably be near the top.)

4. If you found what I wrote helpful, then click YES.

5. Doing so will enable me to move up in the ratings . . . I'm currently 383 in the country, based on 2,726 helpful vote votes of the 559 books that I've reviewed.

8. Computer tip

When using email, beware of tooooo many question marks

in your subject line . . . it seems that if you include them (as I have done in the past), what you write may show up as spam and not go through to the intended user . . . so that said, if I ever sent you mail and it did not get through to you, you now know why . . . got that?????

9. Library reference questions

The following were all questions asked of American and Canadian reference librarians:

"Do you have books here?"

"Do you have a list of all the books written in the English language?"

"Do you have a list of all the books I've ever read?"

"I'm looking for Robert James Waller's book, 'Waltzing through Grand Rapids.'" (Actual title wanted: "Slow Waltz in Cedar Bend.")

"Do you have that book by Rushdie: 'Satanic Nurses?'" (Actual title: "Satanic Verses.")

"Where is the reference desk?" This was asked of a person sitting at a desk who had, hanging above her head, a sign saying "REFERENCE DESK!"

"I was here about three weeks ago looking at a cookbook that cost \$39.95. Do you know which one it is?"

"Which outlets in the library are appropriate for my hair dryer?"

"Can you tell me why so many famous Civil War battles were fought on National Park sites?"

"Do you have any books with photographs of dinosaurs?"

"I need a color photograph of George Washington (Christopher Columbus, King Arthur, Moses, Socrates, etc.)"

"I need a photocopy of Booker T. Washington's birth certificate."

"I need to find out Ibid's first name for my bibliography."

"Why don't you have any books by Ibid? He's written a lot of important stuff."

"I'm looking for information on carpal tunnel syndrome. I think I'm having trouble with it in my neck."

"Is the basement upstairs?" (Asked at First Floor Reference Desk.)

"I am looking for a list of laws that I can break that would send me back to jail for a couple of months."

10. A quote I like

Animals are meant to move. And we are really animals. You walk your dog, your cat stretches, you get a wheel for your hamster. You have to move, you have to get off your butt and dance. I'm always putting on music and dancing. I do housework to dancing.--Marilu Henner, American actress and author of six books on diet and health

11. Thought for the day

Just a dime

Can one dime make a difference? Here is a woman who turned a dime into millions of dollars.

Her name was Martha Berry. This clever woman founded the Berry School in Rome, Georgia. She scraped together funds from every source possible. One day she approached Henry Ford, of Ford automobile fame, and asked for a contribution. Patronizingly, he reached into his pocket and pulled out a dime.

Rather than be insulted or discouraged by the "gift," Miss Berry bought a package of seed peanuts with it. The seeds were planted and tended, and they eventually yielded a large crop which she later sold.

Again she called on Mr. Ford. "Here's the dime you gave me last year," she said, handing him a coin. Then she told him of the return she had realized from his token investment.

Ford was so impressed that, in the years to come, he gave millions of dollars to the school.

Can one dime make a difference? Yes, if we invest it well.

How about one hour of your time? Can it make a difference? Or how about the life of one person? Can a life like yours or mine REALLY make a difference? The answer to each of these questions is the same. Yes, if we invest it well.

Now . . . how are your investments doing?

Author Unknown

(if you know who wrote this and/or the source, please let me know)

12. Advance planning department

A. Natalie in Pennsylvania:
Answering the Twin Crises of Peak Oil & Global Warming

Arcadia University Stiteler Auditorium
450 S. Easton Rd.
Glenside, PA
Saturday 9/30/06 . . . 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Quiet Riot, representing The Earth Policy Institute, will perform to introduce the conference initiatives and participants will take away a "1st action step" for their chosen initiative.

Registration fee Includes locally produced organic buffet!

Register by September 15 for \$26.00.
Register after September 15 and at the door for \$35.00.

For information and registration, please click:
<http://www.poex.org>

B. Amy in Pennsylvania:
SECOND NATURE, my group, next appears at Washington Crossing Inn in Washington Crossing, PA on Saturday, October 7, from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. . . . for more information, please call 215.493.3634.

As many of you know, The Washington Crossing Inn is a GREAT place to eat as well. If you are planning to have dinner, please call in advance for reservations, and request seating by the bar for the band.

If you can't make it in October, here are some additional dates that we'll be performing at the Inn: Saturday, 11.11 and, also, 12.2.

About our band:
SECOND NATURE--Celebrating music from the 60's thru today's future standards, featuring talented "seasoned" musicians who cover an eclectic mix of tunes from The Beatles to Bonnie Raitt, Santana to Joe Jackson, and Joss Stone to Los Lonely Boys. Members include Amy Baker (lead vocals), Bill Corfield (guitar/vocals), Brian Schiefer (bass/vocals), Kenny Pesile (drums), and Richie Petronio (keyboards and vocals).

C. Meaghan in Pennsylvania:
How about putting together a group of your students for either a matinee or evening performance? Student tickets are just \$10 each for our fall productions.

On Thursday, October 12, at 8 p.m. there will be a special presentation of our Grand Season Opener, AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS . . . the performance will be followed by a talk back session between artistic director Keith Baker and the cast.

For other show dates and information, please click:
<http://www.BRTstage.org>

D. Kim in Pennsylvania:
Gilda's Club Delaware Valley invites you to a magical evening of fine dining, live music, dancing, and spectacular auctions at the 8th Annual Gilda's Gala. Reserve the date: Friday, November 10th, 2006 from 7:00 p.m. to Midnight to dance

the night away at the Fabulous Buck Hotel, 1200 Buck Road, Feasterville. All proceeds remain local to benefit Gilda's Club Delaware Valley, a non-profit cancer support community dedicated to providing emotional and social support for individuals, children, and families living with cancer--all stages, all ages, any outcome.

Expect the unexpected at this black-tie (optional) event filled with fun and live music by the ERA 2000 band. Ticket prices are \$150 per person, Tables of 12 are available for \$1,800. We are still looking for sponsors and table captains!

To purchase Gala tickets or sponsor a table, please call Gilda's Club Delaware Valley at 215.441.3290, ext. 105 or email: Kim@gildasclubdelval.org

Charity raffle tickets are now available for a chance to win a 2006 Volvo S40 2.4 ASR. Ticket prices for the raffle are \$100 and will be limited to 500 (first-come, first-serve basis). Get yours today before they are gone! Please contact Gilda's Club Delaware Valley at 215.441.3290, ext 105 or Jeff Green, Keystone Motors of Doylestown Volvo at 1.800.351.1154. The lucky ticket will be pulled at the Gala and the winner will be announced that evening. (Winner need not be present to win.)

For more information, please click:
<http://www.Gildasclubdelval.org>

PS. Here's hope that all my Jewish friends and readers fast well on Monday, which is Yom Kippur (see also Section 7B), the most sacred Jewish holiday and the Day of Atonement . . . on that day and all others, please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . also, make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them send an e-mail to subscriptions@blainesworld.net with "subscribe blainesworld" as the only thing in the body of the message - email subject is optional. New readers are always welcome, and my address is: bginbc@aol.com.

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, do the same with "unsubscribe" instead of "subscribe".

Blaine Greenfield
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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #520

9.18.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I recently saw the play DIAL M FOR MURDER at the Villagers Theatre (732.873.2710) in Somerset, NJ . . . it was very suspenseful and well-acted, as productions typically are at this playhouse.

What we particularly liked: After the show, they had something called "Back Talk" . . . the actors, as well as director, all stayed to answer questions from the audience . . . it was fantastic and something I wish was offered more often.

One other part of the whole experience caught my attention . . . when I called for tickets, I was asked where I wanted my seats . . . fair enough . . . however, I was then asked whether I wanted aisle seats . . . ok, that was fine too . . . yet what really blew my mind was the fact that I was then asked what aisle I wanted my foot to be on . . . that was a first!

Should you want to see DAIL M FOR MURDER, it runs through September 24.

After the show, we went around the corner for dinner at O'Connor's Beef N Chowder Restaurant (732.873.3990) . . . my Hawaiian chicken was tasty; Cynthia liked her crab cakes . . . we both enjoyed the plentiful salad bar.

B. Cynthia would like to take this opportunity to invite you to one of her Move Your Body classes . . . this is a fun, easy way to get aerobic exercise by following simple dance moves to soul-filled music from around the world . . . start with stretches to warm up and end feeling wonderfully relaxed . . . in a safe atmosphere, leave your thinking mind and come into the joy of moving your body . . . the result will leave you feeling renewed

and invigorated . . . for dancers and non-dancers alike . . . for women, as well as men.

Choose from any and/or of the following:

* Saturday, September 30

3 p.m. at the Princeton Center for Yoga and Health

FREE!

Come celebrate the 10-year anniversary celebration of the above.

Many other fun activities are planned, including a fire ceremony, drumming, chair massage, etc.

For more information, please call 609.924.7294 . . . or please visit:

<http://www.prinetonyoga.com>

* 7-week class on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginning on October 17 and running through November 28.

Location: Elizabeth Avenue School Gym, Somerset, NJ

Cost: \$35

To register, contact Ruth at the Franklin Adult Community Education Center: 732.873.2400, ext. 403.

* Wednesday, November 15, from 7-8:15 p.m. at the Capitol Health System in Hamilton, NJ

Cost: \$5

To register, please call 609.588.5050 or 609.394.4512 and ask for Marsha Rudolph.

C. My semester has gotten off to a great start . . . I'm truly blessed to be working with such interesting AND interested students . . . in addition, my night classes at Bucks County Community College are working with some great folks who have agreed to serve as the "clients" for the students to study and use as the basis for marketing strategies they are developing.

The Tuesday class is working with Man Wong and his Concerto Fusion Restaurant (215.428.2899) in Morrisville, PA . . . its goal is to help Man get more groups to use this fantastic restaurant . . . the Thursday night class is working with Fran Stengel at Vita Education Services (215.345.8322) . . . its goal is to help more groups become aware of and utilize an excellent decision-making program for teens.

I'll be looking forward to see what ideas are developed!

D. \$100 CASH REWARD!

Help my mother sell the following item, and the reward is yours:

One motorized Rascal 600 scooter, less than a year old and hardly used by my father . . . it is a three--wheeled vehicle that is in perfect condition and great for any person who needs help in getting around . . . he paid nearly \$4,000 for it, but we'd consider any reasonable offer from anybody willing to get it from where it now is in Floral Park, NY . . . email me at bginbc@aol.com if you're

interested in this item or know anybody who might be.

**** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD ****

This week, it goes to Dan Focarelli--owner of Headways (609.588.4944), a salon in Hamilton, NJ.

I've known Dan for many years and can attest to the fact that he runs a fine shop . . . his stylists are both enthusiastic and talented, and many of them have been with him for several years.

Dan is also the stylist who cuts my hair . . . I look forward to seeing him every 6-8 weeks, in that our chats are always interesting . . . in fact, I still remember one particular bit of advice that he gave me when I was first divorced (and long before I ever met Cynthia):

He said he learned it from the TV show HAPPY DAYS . . . specifically, it was advice Richie got from Fonzie in dealing with women . . . there are just two things he was told to remember: 1) If your date likes something, you love it; and 2) If your date doesn't like something, you hate it!

Dan told me something else the other day that has really made another strong impression . . . he said during soccer season, he no longer cuts hair on Saturdays . . . what he has instead started doing is spending the day with his family . . . he coaches his daughter's soccer team, then his one son's team . . . the family then goes for lunch before it all goes to see his other son play football.

He then added that nothing could be finer!

Turns out that Dan--to serve the customers who may have seen him on Saturdays--has now taken to being open on Sundays, too.

2. FYI

If you ever have difficulty finding a number in your phonebook, here's a simple tip to help you find it again . . . just underline or highlight it the first time you look it up.

That way, the next time you go to the phonebook, turn to what you're looking for (whether it be a business or person), and the name just practically hits you in the face.

FYI, part 2

Several readers were kind enough to write with ideas for Halloween costumes; among them:

* Marie in Indiana:

My husband and I have dressed as Thurston Howell and Lovey from GILLIGAN'S ISLAND. Fairly easy costume and fun all evening.

Or a magician and showgirl assistant . . . but then you need a rabbit or magic quarter.

As always, I enjoy your newsletter.

* Verna in New Jersey:

Methinks the two of you should go as Anthony and Cleopatra . . . or to be really silly, go as Elmo and the new Abby Cadabby SESAME STREET . . . be pretty cute, you have to say....make sure you take lots of pictures.

Love to read you newsletter.

* Geri in Pennsylvania:

My neighbor and I are the queens of Halloween. The biggest hit with the kids and all of the neighbors was the rotten tooth fairies. We got Billy Bob rotten buck teeth, magic wands, tu tu's, striped socks . . . hmmm, that might be good for your beautiful bride but maybe not for you.

Here was what we did last year: We wrapped up like mummies, wore a cap sideways and were wrap stars.

Then there was the year we were cereal killers, wore black sweat shirts and pants . . . hot glued mini cereal boxes to the shirt with knives stuck through the boxes . . . voila, "cereal killers."

* Julien in Maryland:

We had an adult Halloween party a few years ago and here were some of the costumes:

1. Man, vintage cop uniform; Woman, flapper.

2. Fruit of the loom people

Both the man and woman wore green leotards and tights and blew up purple balloons, tied them on string close together and then wrapped the entire chain of balloons around their bodies from a bit above the knee to below the neck. Took felt and made hats (similar to a green beret).

The only problem with the costume was that you can't sit down, so they had to "wrap themselves" outside before they came into the party.

3. You might also visit a costume shop in the area. It is amazing the variety that they do have and it makes it much easier to coordinate the man's and woman's costumes together.

Have fun; I love Halloween!

* Terry in Florida:

I once saw very simple yet unforgettable costumes that were very cleverly done:

Brown material . . . sewn on as a pillow case, vertically. Written on it was Hershey bar on hers, on his....Hershey bar . . . with nuts!

3. Always be truthful

When my daughter was 18, she began hunting for her first real job. I remember that she spent an afternoon filling out application forms, leaving them on the kitchen table to finish later. As I walked by, a section of the application on top jumped out at me. Under "Previous Employment" she wrote, "Baby Sitting."

In answer to "Reason for Leaving," she replied,
"Parents came home."

4. Reviews

A. Ben Affleck is terrific in HOLLYWOODLAND, a movie about the rise and fall of George Reeves--the character who played the original SUPERMAN in the TV series . . . had the film just stuck with his character, it would have been great . . . but Adrian Brody is thrown into the mix as a low-rent private detective who investigates the death of Reeves, and his story line begins to wear thin about halfway through HOLLYWOODLAND . . . I also thought it was about half an hour too long, though the presence of Diane Lane (as Affleck's girlfriend) made things at least watchable . . . rated R.

B. FRIENDS WITH MONEY is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #499 follows:

Enjoyed FRIENDS WITH MONEY, an ensemble dramedy about three wealthy married women and their single, money-strapped friend . . . it contained both funny and touching moments, and the dialogue was very realistic . . . Jennifer Aniston, Frances McDormand, Joan Cusack, and Catherine Keener were all excellent . . . you may have to search a bit to find this film, but your efforts will be worth it . . . rated R.

C. Loved EVERY PERSON ON THE PLANET, a short but touching book written and illustrated by Bruce Eric Kaplan . . . he's a cartoonist for the NEW YORKER and a former writer for both SEINFELD and SIX FEET UNDER.

Reading his book was like reading a comic book for adults . . . there are delightful illustrations on almost every page, and the accompanying story about a Brooklyn couple who decide to throw a party--while just a tad bit farfetched--was one I could nevertheless relate to . . . it seems that in having this bash, they faced the dilemma of who to invite and who not to invite, so to be safe, they just everyone in the whole world.

And amazingly, everyone in the world decided to attend.

What was fun was looking at the illustrations and then reading Kaplan's accompanying commentary, which included such marvelous passages as the following:

* But if you don't invite all the cousins,
that's all you ever hear about from
your parents and that's the last thing
Edmund and Rosemary needed.

So they invited each and every one
of them and sadly, their spouses who
they didn't care for in any way.

Particularly Edmund's cousin
Helen's husband, Joe,
who was always
irate about something

no one ever cared about.

* A billion people ran into their exes, which was awkward for them, and everyone else. It was a real argument for staying in touch with your exes, but not one that was convincing enough to make any significant amount of the population do it in the future.

* And my favorite:

Edmund had an epiphany. He realized he had the power to feel connected to anyone, but it was all up to him. He determined to make this his life's work, starting tomorrow. Of course, when he woke up the next morning, he forgot all about it. He continued to have spiritual crises periodically as he always had, which was one of the things about him that Rosemary had just learned to live with.

If you're looking for the ideal gift to give somebody, do consider EVERY PERSON ON THE PLANET . . . I had such a good time with it that I'm now looking forward to reading the other books that the author has written.

D. I sometimes have trouble sleeping . . . not so much getting to sleep, but staying asleep . . . so when I saw RESTFUL SLEEP by Deepak Chopra, I jumped at the opportunity to listen to the program.

Subtitled THE COMPLETE MIND/BODY PROGRAM FOR OVERCOMING INSOMNIA, it delivered a great deal of information . . . but this was not surprising because Chopra tends to do that with every book and/or tape he comes out with . . . in my opinion, this was one of his best.

I particularly liked how he backed up his ideas with insights from Ayurveda, the ancient Indian science of life.

There were many tidbits I gained from listening; among them:

* You can't force yourself to sleep.

* Trying to sleep will not help; it will actually aggravate the insomnia.

* Turn your clock to the wall. Don't be concerned with the time.

* The solution to all sleep problems is making the period of being awake totally dynamic and satisfying.

* Lunch should be your heaviest meal of the day.

* Supper should be light and eaten early.

* Take a short stroll after dinner.

* Avoid watching TV at night. If you must, stop by 9 p.m.

* Best to go asleep before 10 p.m., according to the rhythms of nature.

* Rising earlier will lead to an earlier time for going to bed.

- * Wake up at a regular time every day.
 - * Do reading in a room other than the bedroom.
 - * Making your bed each day creates an orderly and harmonious impression when you go to sleep.
 - * Extract of lavender is considered helpful for sleep.
 - * Ask yourself: Do you love your job? Are you really happy? If "yes" to both those questions, then it is likely to will avoid most heart and other health problems.
-

5. TV alert

A. On Mondays, I always try to catch two funny comedies on CBS. . . TWO AND A HALF MEN is on at 9 p.m., followed by NEW ADVENTURES OF OLD CHRISTINE . . . both get me laughing--a lot.

B. I'm not a big fan of CSI, but I may watch the season premiere on Thursday at 9 p.m. on CBS . . . the plot about a Cirque du Soleil member being murdered sounds interesting, and musician John Mayer has a cameo in this first of a two-parter.

C. Saw the first episode of MEN IN TREES and liked it . . . starring Anne Heche (who is always excellent in anything she does), it is about a relationship who fails to follow her own advice . . . Fridays at 9 p.m. on ABC.

D. BROTHERS AND SISTERS debuts on Sunday at 10:01 . . . I don't know how good it will be, but what a cast: Calista Flockhart, Rachel Griffith (another of my favorites), Sally Field, Ron Rifkin, and Tom Skerritt, who guest stars as the patriarch who brings the family together . . . Sundays at 10:01 p.m., which leads me to:

***** PET PEEVE DEPARTMENT *****

I hate when programs don't begin at regular times, such as in the above case . . . it almost bugs me as much as others running longer than they are supposed to . . . this makes taping difficult, if not impossible . . . I consequently almost always now allow for extra time.

6. My dentist

Some professionals drum up business by advertising on TV or in newspapers. Not my dentist.

Recently, I endured hours of surgery to have cavities filled. Afterward, as I groggily headed for the door, I passed a large dish of candy on the receptionist's desk. A small sign above it read: "Why delay? Start new cavities today!"

7. Websites

A. Do you want to find an atlas, dictionary and encyclopedia all in one spot? If so, please click:

<http://www.brainyencyclopedia.com>

There's a lot more good stuff here, including a translation service that can translate words into Afrikaans, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Latin, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish. Just choose the word in English.

B. For a funny look at what ordering pizza in the year 2010 will be like, please click:

<http://www.adcritic.com/interactive/view.php?id=5927>

I hope this never happens, but methinks we're headed in that direction. This could be scary if it wasn't funny. Be sure that your speakers are on, and the volume is turned up.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

Thanks to Dan Becker, my ace webmaster, you can always find past issues of this missive . . . just go to "Newsletter" on the left, then "Past Issues."

Doing so will enable you to find past jokes, including one of my favorites that was run in BLAINESWORLD #450 . . . if you want to see if for yourself, go to Section 3.

8. Computer tip

When using an Internet browser, you typically no longer have to type "http," "www" or even "com" . . . just type-in the main part of the web address that you're seeking.

If you've been to that site before, you'll see choices drop down as you type them . . . choose whatever one is the most appropriate.

If you've never been to the website before, you can still just type-in a company name . . . you'll then be taken to information that you can then check out further.

I did just that for both "Staples" and "Ford" when using Google . . . at the top of the my search list were the websites for these respective companies.

9. Caution: They walk among us!

* Some guy bought a new fridge for his house. To get rid of his old fridge, he put it in his front yard and hung a sign on it saying: "Free to good home. You want it, you take it." For three days the fridge sat there without even one person looking twice at it. He eventually decided that people were

too untrusting of this deal. It looked too good to be true, so he changed the sign to read: "Fridge for sale \$50." The next day someone stole it.

* While looking at a house, my brother asked the real estate agent which direction was north because, he explained, he didn't want the sun waking him up every morning. She asked, "Does the sun rise in the north?" When my brother explained that the sun rises in the east and has for sometime, she shook her head and said, "Oh, I don't keep up with that stuff."

* I used to work in technical support for a 24/7 call center. One day I got a call from an individual who asked what hours the call center was open. I told him, "The number you dialed is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week." He responded, "Is that Eastern or Pacific time?" Wanting to end the call quickly, I said, "Uh, Pacific."

* My colleague and I were eating our lunch in our cafeteria when we overheard one of the administrative assistants talking about the sunburn she got on her weekend drive to the shore. She drove down in a convertible, but "didn't think she'd get sunburned because the car was moving."

* My sister has a lifesaving tool in her car. It's designed to cut through a seat belt if she gets trapped. She keeps it in the trunk.

* My friends and I were on a beer run and noticed that the cases were discounted 10%. Since it was a big party, we bought two cases. The cashier multiplied two times 10% and gave us a 20% discount.

* I was hanging out with a friend when we saw a woman with a nose ring attached to an earring by a chain. My friend said, "Wouldn't the chain rip out every time she turned her head?" I explained that a person's nose and ear remain the same distance apart no matter which way the head is turned.

* I couldn't find my luggage at the airport baggage area. So I went to the lost luggage office and told the woman there that my bags never showed up. She smiled and told me not to worry because she was a trained professional and I was in good hands. "Now," she asked me, "has your plane arrived yet?"

* While working at a pizza parlor, I observed a man ordering a small pizza to go. He appeared to be alone and the cook asked him if he would like it cut into 4 pieces or 6. He thought about it for some time before responding. "Just cut it into 4 pieces; I don't think I'm hungry enough to eat 6 pieces."

They walk among us . . . AND reproduce!

10. A quote I like

You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips.--Oliver Goldsmith (1728-1774), Irish writer

11. Thought for the day

Blessings come In disguise

The only survivor of a shipwreck washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming.

Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements and to store his few possessions. But then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with the smoke rolling up to the sky.

The worst had happened; everything was lost. He was stung with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me!" he cried.

Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

Never forget blessings do come in disguise!

Author Unknown

(if you know who wrote this and/or the source, please let me know)

12. Advance planning department

A. Mandy in Pennsylvania:

Getting your foot in the door, a job search workshop, is being presented by Career Services at the College.

It is FREE and designed for students, alumni and Bucks County residents.

Master job seeking skills for life as you learn to:

- * Write a professional resume and cover letter.
- * Network to discover the hidden job market. (This session will be conducted by YOURS TRULY.)
- * Prepare for a stellar interview.
- * Dress for success for the interview and beyond.

Date: October 4, 2006

Time: 12-4:30 p.m.

Location: Tyler Room 128

Seating is limited; you MUST pre-register. To do so, call Carol Brandt at 215.968.8195.

B. David in Pennsylvania:

Folk Concert in an Easy Environment

Princeton Center for Yoga & Health Hosts Local Folk Singer,
David Brahinsky and Friends

In what has become a popular bi-annual event, Princeton Center for Yoga & Health (PCYH) hosts local folk musician, David Brahinsky, Saturday, October 7 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15. PCYH is located at the Montgomery Professional Center, 50 Vreeland Drive, Suite 506, in Skillman, and one half mile from the intersections of Route 206 and 518W.

Popular singer, songwriter, storyteller, and longtime friend of PCYH, David Brahinsky, is known for his deep, soothing and powerful voice that evokes rich and varied emotions and thoughts.

This year's fall concert of the Hermes Music Project (a.k.a., David Brahinsky and Friends) introduces three new musicians. Jennifer Sherry is an exciting young vocalist, whose clear, crisp voice shines with expressiveness during her lead vocals and harmonies with David. After the tragic death of Denny Kronmeyer, Brahinsky recruited Guy Troichuk on mandolin and his wife Bev, who plays upright string bass. Two regulars will also appear: Mark McCusker on harmonica and Gail Frantz on fiddle. David plays guitar and sings in a rich baritone (in the style of Stan Rogers and Gordon Bok).

This year's fall concert will include a mix of traditional songs from the British Isles arranged by such artists as Kate Rusby and Tim O'Brien, songs by singer-songwriters such as Nanci Griffith, Cheryl Wheeler, Bill Staines, Tom Paxton, Joni Mitchell, and Gordon Bok, bluegrass tunes from Doc Watson and Tim O'Brien, and blues from Leadbelly and others.

"The main theme is just fun, but some serious notes will be sounded, including an amazing anti war song written by John McCutcheon," Brahinsky says. "I perform at PCYH because the philosophy and atmosphere there fit perfectly with my own philosophy and the kind of performance atmosphere I love. I've played at smoky coffee shops and bars and large concert halls, but this venue is the one I find most conducive to my music."

Copies of David's CD, Radiance Revealed, recorded live at PCYH last year, will be available.

For tickets, directions and/or a full schedule of classes and workshops, call the Center at 609.924.7294 or visit:
<http://www.princetonyoga.com>

C. Natalie in Pennsylvania:

* John Adams, an author, is speaking on Thursday, October 12. His talk will be entitled "How to Get your Business Off the Ground in 73 Minutes or Less . . . for Women and Others." He will speak at 7 p.m. in Penn 410.

If you'd like to attend, please register by calling Natalie at 215.968.8015.

* Dr. Beth DuPree, local breast surgeon and author, will be speaking on "The Adversity of Breast Cancer: Our Greatest Teacher" on Tuesday, October 17, at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge at Bucks County Community College.

She will focus her talk on the journey a patient takes through diagnosis and treatment . . . in doing so, she'll educate about early detection, talk about the new breast center that she is opening in Bucks County and tie together with her fantastic new book (THE HEALING CONSCIOUSNESS, reviewed in last week's issue).

Dr. DuPree will then be available to sign copies of her book.

Location: Penn 410.

D. Rebecca in Pennsylvania:
You are invited to a Dean's Reception
and a lecture by the 2005-2006
Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award Winner:

Blaine Greenfield

Thursday, October 19, 2006
12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Fireside Lounge of the Rollins Center

RSVP to Terri Lovett, lovett@bucks.edu or call
215.968.8048 by October 16.

PS. Saturday marks the start of the Jewish New Year . . . if you're like me and celebrate ALL holidays, then let me wish you and yours: Shana Tova (Hebrew for "a good year") . . . and here's how to make some big bucks from any of your Jewish friends . . . do what a non-Jewish friend of mine used to do . . . he'd say, "I bet you a nickel that you don't know what the what year is now beginning" . . . very few people ever know the answer to that one; it will be 5767.

I don't know about you, but it seems like only yesterday we marked the beginning of 5766!

Also, please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . and make it a great week!

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In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, do the same with "unsubscribe" instead of "subscribe".

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #519

9.11.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a great day this past Saturday with friends . . . we first went to Mother's Restaurant & Wine Bar (215.862.5857) in New Hope, Pennsylvania, for great burgers and sweet potato fries . . . we enjoy the food almost every time we go there, and the service is usually excellent.

From there, we went to the Bucks County Playhouse (215.862.2046) production of THE FULL MONTY . . . this is a musical version of the movie of the same name . . . it is the tale of a bunch of unemployed workers who when they can't find work, turn to stripping . . . we've seen several other productions at this theater, but this was far and away the best . . . the music and dancing were both great, and the cast was most energetic . . . Scott Laska was outstanding in the lead role, and we liked the work of Peter Martino as one of the guys who can't find regular work . . . we've seen him before in other productions--most recently in ROSE'S DILEMMA at The Off-Broadstreet Theatre--and it is fun to see him grow in everything that he does.

THE FULL MONTY runs through this coming weekend . . . do catch it if you can.

We concluded the evening by taking a walk down the street to Thomas Sweet's, where the ice cream is always delicious.

Perhaps the best part of the evening was that we did something with these friends that we are trying to do with others; i.e., celebrate fun events together . . . they had very graciously gotten me the show tickets as a birthday gift, and so we then decided that we wanted to again celebrate the occasion--several months later--together . . . we've done this same type thing at various restaurants.

B. The next day, we joined other friends for a movie and dinner at a new diner--or at least it was for me . . . the Jersey Diner (908.707.1222), formerly the New York Diner I think, reopened not too long ago on Route 206 in Somerville . . . my turkey entree was excellent, as was Cynthia's turkey reuben . . . Lina, our server, was very friendly . . . portions were huge and reasonably priced . . . for dessert, they do something I've never seen before . . . you can choose virtually any item on the menu . . . I had a huge, very tasty Linzer Torte . . . on our way out, we then had a nice chat with George, the owner, who seemed delighted that we had chosen his place to eat . . . we'll be back.

C. MR. CURIOUS DEPARTMENT:

Halloween is rapidly approaching . . . we have some ideas for costumes for the two of us, but we're still seeking others . . . anybody have something a bit different to recommend?

D. HEADS UP DEPARTMENT:

Through the work of my skilled webmaster, Dan Becker, it appears likely that I will be soon switching how this newsletter will be delivered in the future . . . so please continue to make sure that bginbc@aol.com is NOT blocked by any spam filters (see also Section 8), and if you would, please ADD the following: BLAINESWORLD@blainesworld.net

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

This week, it goes to Takiya Palmer--a Verizon Wireless representative.

Cynthia and I just got new cellphones . . . the manuals that accompanied them were of little help when it came to using the Navigator system.

This is such a neat option . . . for a few bucks a month, you can now avoid ever getting lost again . . . from what we have seen thus far, it works well . . . actually, even better than the systems that now come with many cars.

Yet until Cynthia was able to work with Takaiya, we were not able to fully realize how great the system was . . . and how easy it is to operate, once you know how.

Cynthia told me that Takaiya very patiently answered all her questions and spent nearly an hour with her . . . such service is rare to find!

2. FYI

Online dating

A friend/reader recently asked me for "tips" on using match.com (or any other online dating service) . . . in no particular order, what follows is what I sent her based on my previous experiences, discussions with lots of single folks, etc. . . . feel free to share these with others, especially those who are currently in the dating scene.

1. Get advice on your ad, emails, etc. from members of the opposite

sex--preferably folks who are single.

2. Make sure you use the subject line. When you do, make it unique. And don't just run the same subject line all the time.

3. Tailor each communication to the person you are writing to, as opposed to making it generic.

4. View the experience as a fun thing, in which you'll get to meet some nice folks. You don't have to view every encounter as a potential marriage candidate.

5. Take what you are told with a grain of salt. Unfortunately, some folks don't always tell the truth--or at least not all of it.

6. On your end, tell the truth. Remember the Twain (Mark, not Shania) quote: "Better to tell the truth, less to remember that way."

7. The system can work. I met Cynthia, my beautiful bride, via match.com. Our best friends also met via match.com and are also married. Other good friends, though not married, have been going out for well over a year.

8. Don't automatically exclude people; e.g., Cynthia wanted somebody within 10 miles of her. I was 24 miles away at the time.

9. Don't be toooooo choosy; e.g., with respect to looks, age, etc.

10. Give folks a second chance. Sometimes, on a first date or call, they may be nervous.

11. The key is to move from match.com to emailing . . . to calling . . . to meeting. Some folks spend too much time on just the emailing.

12. Read all you can on the subject. There are a lot of good books out there.

13. Send thank you notes after dates. What I did when I was dating: If I liked a person, I asked something to this effect: What would you think about getting together a second time?

14. Don't take rejection too personally. Move on.

15. It is often a game of numbers. I once read that for every 100 people out there, 10 will like you, 10 will not like you, and the rest are somewhat in-between. You just need to concentrate on those who like you and who you like back.

16. Every month, ask the person you are dating: What's going well? What's not going well? Anything we can do to improve things?

NOTE:

I'd naturally be interested in any of your ideas; e.g., to add them to this list so that others could benefit.

FYI, part 2

* Joyce in New Jersey (with tickets to sell):

I have two tickets for:

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE

New Jersey Performing Arts Center

Tuesday, October 3, 2006

8 p.m.

Tier 4 - Seats G132 & 133

Cost: \$55.00 (total) for the two tickets. This is exactly what I paid.

I can be emailed at Joylit@aol.com or called at 973.736.8089.

* Denise in New Jersey:
WHO YOU CALLING SCRUFFY?

We are looking for a local dog to take a walk-on role in our presentation of CAMELOT, Friday, September 29 at 8 p.m. The producers of the show are looking for a cute, scruffy dog with a pleasant demeanor. We also will choose an understudy. Think that's a potential star over there sprawled out on your couch, making lunch out of your sensible shoes? Enter our contest today!

IN ADDITION TO BEING A STAR, THE WINNER AND HER HUMANS WILL RECEIVE: 2 tickets to Camelot and to the Gala Theatre Benefit, A Night in Camelot; overnight accommodations (Sept. 29) at Summerfield Suites in Bridgewater with a welcome basket from The Clinton Book Shop and the Clinton pet boutique Fur Majesty; and all will arrive at the theatre in grand style in a stretch limousine provided by Prince Car & Limousine Service of Bridgewater.

THE UNDERSTUDY AND HIS HUMANS WILL RECEIVE:
4 tickets to CAMELOT.

The pups below (pictured in their current roles) belong to theatre staff and are therefore ineligible to enter this contest. But we thought we'd give you an idea of what we are looking for in a headshot. Just email us a picture of your pooch (500x500 max, please) with the future star's name, your name, your email address and a daytime phone number. Send to: theatre@rvccArts.org.

We will take entries through 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19 and invite online voting all day, Wednesday, September 20. A small group of finalists will audition in downtown Clinton, the evening of Thursday, September 21 and a final selection will be made. If you would prefer, drop off a photo of your contestant, with the requested information printed on the back of the image, at the theatre office during regular business hours (weekdays, 8-5), or mail to AUDITIONS, THEATRE AT RVCC, PO BOX 3300, SOMERVILLE, NJ 08876-1265. To be considered, entries must be in our office by 5 p.m., September 19.

For the pictures, please click: <http://www.rvccarts.org/index1.htm>

and then click, toward the top, "A CASTING CALL."

* Tom in New Jersey:
Loved INVINCIBLE. I'm a total Philly sports fan (my father started it), and I managed comic book and baseball card stores for years. One of the stores was in South Philly for 3 years. The film's scenes were very realistic. The best scene was when he watched TV with the old Italian lady next store. He was immediately presented with a bowl of homemade pasta. Just like I remember it!

* Terri in Pennsylvania:

Sandy's has been around ever since I can remember, although in different locations. It is truly the best roast beef sandwich! But if you like ham, they also have the best, by far, ham sandwich. I don't even really like ham all that much, but love this sandwich! . . .

[and commenting on the closing of Goodnoe's] This is very sad! This past week I felt that I had to get there almost every night. I still have a couple of half-gallons of chocolate chip in my freezer! And I thought of you when I purchased a pint of Muddy Sneakers. I just wish there would have been someone to keep up the tradition!!

* Debbie in New York:

My personal addition to excuses . . . since I am a consultant, I sometimes have what is called "downtime" in which case I am expected to go to the office and hangout--most times with nothing to do . . . this past Tuesday, I got bored and decided to entertain myself . . . I left the office at 11:30 and returned at 3 . . . upon my return, my boss ask me where I had been . . . so instead of lying, I told him the truth . . . I said I was at the movies . . . LOL . . . he looked at me in disbelief and asked, "What movie did you see and how was it?" . . . I said THE ILLUSIONIST, and it was great. I highly recommend it.

I know it's not always the best idea to tell the truth . . . and most people in this case would not have . . . but I always feel "cleaner" when I do.

* Warren in New Jersey (also on excuses):

What an incredible coincidence--or maybe not . . . but this week alone, I had one of our employees leave for lunch and not return, and another who was out the entire week due to a bowling accident that reportedly occurred last weekend.

Coincidence? Or are they regular readers of careerbuilders.com?

MY TWO CENTS:

Or maybe regular readers of BLAINESWORLD, the newsletter?

3. How to deal with an attack

Q: What do you do if you're attacked by a troupe of circus performers?

A: Go for the juggler.

4. Reviews

A. So far this year, THE ILLUSIONIST is my choice for best film of the year . . . I loved everything about it . . . the story about a mysterious magician combined elements of both politics and romance . . . it had me mesmerized from the beginning . . . Edward Norton, as usual, was superb as the main character . . . Paul Giamatti was also effective as the detective who is torn between upholding the law and doing what's right . . . I also loved the accompanying soundtrack, but that's no surprise because it was written by one of my favorite composers (Phillip Glass) . . . rated PG-13.

B. GLOOMY SUNDAY is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #410 follows:

GLOOMY SUNDAY is one of those films whose title perfectly describes it; i.e., it is gloomy . . . I had been in no great rush to see it . . . yet when my folks told me that a lot of their friends had thought it was great, I decided to go against my initial instincts.

It is billed as a romantic melodrama . . . set in pre-World War II Budapest, GLOOMY SUNDAY tells the story of a haunting melody of the same name that is fabled to have caused over one hundred suicides in the 1930s.

The first half was very talky . . . the movie came alive, though, in the second half when war breaks out, and I became interested in the what was going to happen to the three main characters (a Jewish restaurant owner, his lover and a brooding composer who becomes part of a ménage-à-trois) . . . a third suitor, a German industrialist, then makes things even more interesting.

The ending was one of the best I have ever seen!

Not rated and neither appropriate nor interesting for anybody under 18.

C. Loved the book, THE HEALING CONSCIOUSNESS, by Dr. Beth DuPree . . . she is a breast cancer surgeon in Bucks County in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who has come to the conclusion that Western medicine (surgery, chemotherapy and radiation) is just part of what is needed to cure patients . . . so she has now incorporated Eastern healing modalities (Reiki, yoga, massage, meditation, guided imagery, diet, and wellness) to complete the mind, body, spirit connection.

I found Dr. DePree's story fascinating . . . it was both forthright and moving, and I felt as if I was with a friend who was sharing her life with me . . . yet that's not surprising, since she believes that "everyone has a story, and I believe it is important to listen to the details" . . . now when was the last time you heard a doctor say something like that!

She then continues to observe that "each person is the star of his or her own full-length feature movie. I've realized that listening to my patients' stories is as important as the surgery I perform on them. Validation of their life and their journey is an incredibly important part of the healing process."

I also liked getting to know her patients and friends, though I was saddened when some of them did not make it through their illnesses . . . one other thing I enjoyed was hearing about how Dr. DuPree went about setting up her practice . . . in particular, I found valuable her technique of always seeking the opinion of nurses first because they "will give you the real dirt on someone if there is any dirt to find."

There were several other memorable passages in THE HEALING CONSCIOUSNESS; among them:

* The perennial garden needs love and attention, as does the entire property. I choose not to focus on the list of things that are broken and need repair; instead I choose to focus on what is right and healing and perfect about this place. As I do with my patients, I see the wellness in the land and the buildings. We will tend to the “disease” of the property just as I do with my patients, healing one person at a time, always focusing on what is healthy about each individual.

* When I have the great fortune to give a benign diagnosis (that the results are not cancer), I remind my patients that the Universe has just given them a whisper, and they should evaluate things in their lives they would have changed had I told them they had cancer. Every woman or man who experiences a breast biopsy has a time when they think, “What will I do differently if I have cancer?”

* Treating cancer in my patients has taught me to be truly present in the moment. Making a connection with another human being is the ultimate gift medicine gives to both the patient and the physician. We must stop the constant chatter in our minds long enough to become present and connect with another human being. This allows us to access the healing consciousness. If we utilize this higher consciousness while working with patients to attain holistic healing, we are using our healing consciousness—a powerful and positive energy—in its purest form. I have awakened to my healing consciousness and would like others to experience this awakening as well.

***** SPECIAL OFFER FOR BLAINESWORLD READERS *****

If you purchase this book, and I strongly recommend that you do, please consider purchasing it from this source: <http://www.thehealingconsciousness.com>

If you do and then email Dr. DuPree, she will donate the normal S&H charge to a foundation that she has set up to support all of the healing services that insurance doesn't cover.

Dr. DuPree can be reached at this e-mail address: dupreehealingdoc@aol.com

D. HAPPINESS IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM by Dennis Prager, a Los Angeles talk show host, had such a great title that I just had to proceed to listen to the book . . . and I'm glad I did, in that it made me smile at times (the author is a very engaging personality)--but it also made me think about the topic.

And in doing so, I came away with the belief that too many people see themselves as victims . . . this does not help anybody reach his or her desires; rather, if you buy into Prager's thinking, it is imperative that we take responsibility for our life rather than just blame others.

There are 31 short chapters, each of which could be taken alone as a separate essay . . . together, they come together as a message that should be read or heard by many who could benefit from Prager's insights.

Among the many that I found valuable were the following:
* Happiness cannot be the most important thing in your life. Happiness is always a byproduct of other things in your life. You must aim for these other things to attain happiness.

* Prozac does not make you happy. It makes you capable of being happy.

* We can't make our loved ones happy.

* I am happy as long as I'm not miserable.

* How many people can say, "I lead a blessed life."

* The only happy people are those I don't know well. (This comparison stuff is nonsense.)

* If you are excited about your world, that's success.

* Fun should be part of life.

* The secret of happiness is gratitude.

* The more you love, the happier you will be.

* Don't put all your happiness eggs in one basket.

* Always have something to look forward to.

And this final tidbit, which really got me thinking:

* Live as if you have a terminal illness; e.g., by asking, "What would you do if you had a year to live?"

5. TV alert

A. DANCING WITH THE STARS returns for a new season on Tuesday at 8 p.m. on ABC with results on Wednesday at the same time . . . without seeing any of the performers, my initial prediction is that Harry Hamlin will take it all . . . I have my doubts about the abilities of two other contestants, Jerry Springer and Emmitt Smith.

B. JIMMY KIMMEL'S ALL-STAR SALUTE TO JIMMY KIMMEL LIVE! airs at time that I may actually be up; i.e., 10 p.m. on Wednesday on ABC . . . I'm hoping that they show clips from the "This week in Unnecessary Censorship" segment.

C. 2006 FALL TV PREVIEW begins with a two-hour overview of the entire season, followed by looks at the networks' top titles . . . Saturday at 7 p.m. on TV GUIDE CHANNEL.

6. The trouble

Working at the post office, I'm used to dealing with a moody public. So when one irate customer stormed to my desk, I responded in my calmest voice, "What's the trouble?"

"I went out this morning," she began, "and when I came home I found a card saying the mailman tried to deliver a package but no one was home. My husband was in all morning. He never heard a thing!"

After apologizing, I got her parcel.

"Oh, good," she gushed. "We've been waiting for this for ages."

"What is it?" I asked.

"My husband's new hearing aid."

7. Websites

A. Do you think you could pass the third grade? See for yourself by clicking:

http://www.pibmug.com/files/map_test.swf

Let's just say that I am glad that I no longer have to repeat the above experience!

B. And now that you've worked so hard, methinks it is a time for a break . . . if you agree, please click:

<http://www.hurtwood.demon.co.uk/Fun/copter.swf>

Be forewarned: This can be addicting.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

If you've always wondered what Cynthia and I look like, click Blaine's Best on the left, then Pictures . . . when you do, make sure you have your sound card on so you can hear that is arguably the greatest rock song of all time.

D. Art, a longtime reader and friend, wrote to share the following information:

As you know, Shofar is my passion. Torah Aura published two books, and I have created two websites. I invite you and your readers to visit these websites:

<http://www.geocities.com/afinkle221/>

<http://www.geocities.com/shofar221/>

8. Computer tip

Sometimes, new junk mail filters (e.g., applied through Microsoft Office updates) block important mail that you might want to receive . . . so check what is not going through, every so often, before you delete anything . . . in the Microsoft program, all you need to do is right click on the message and select the correct option.

AOL also has a span filter that needs to be checked on a fairly regular basis . . . if you find stuff that is "not span," just indicate that and the email will be sent back to you again.

9. Oops!

When CNN's LIVE FROM show carried a live speech by President Bush, host Okra Phillips took a break to go to the bathroom . . . however, her audio technician failed to turn off her wireless microphone, so what she said to an unidentified stallmate was instead on the air . . . she said her husband "is handsome," and so is her brother, but "his wife is just a control freak" . . . CNN issued an apology; Phillips, on the other hand, went on the LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN to offer these "Top Ten Excuses" on why the mistake happened:

10. Still haven't mastered complicated on/off switch.

9. Larry King told me he does this all the time.

8. How was I supposed to know we had a reporter embedded in the bathroom?

7. I honestly never knew this sort of thing was frowned upon.

6. I couldn't resist a chance to win \$10,000 on AMERICAN'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS.

5. I was set up by those bas*ards at Fox News.

4. Like you've never gone to the bathroom and had it broadcast on national television.

3. I just wanted that hunky Lou Dobbs to notice me.

2. OK, so I was drunk and I couldn't think straight.

1. You have to admit, it made the speech a lot more interesting.

10. A quote I like

Looking back, my life seems like one big obstacle race, with me being the chief obstacle.--Jack Parr (1918-2004), American radio and talk show host

11. Thought for the day

Which are you?
by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

There are two kinds of people in the world today,
Just two kinds of people, no more I say.

Not the good and bad, for 'tis well understood
The good are half bad and the bad are half good.

Not the happy and sad, for the swift flying years
Bring to each man his laughter and each man his tears.

Not the rich and the poor, for to count a man's wealth
You must first know the state of his conscience and health.

Not the humble and proud, for in life's busy span
Who puts on vain airs is not counted a man.

No! The two kinds of people on earth I mean
Are the people who lift and the people who lean.

Wherever you go, you will find the world's masses
Are ever divided in just these two classes.

And strangely enough, you will find, too, I ween
There is only one lifter to twenty who lean.

This one question I ask: Are you easing the load
Of overtaxed lifters who toil down the road?

Or are you a leaner who lets others bear
Your portion of worry and labor and care?

12. Advance planning department

A. Do join me at my next presentation . . . I'm speaking on
"Positioning: How to Differentiate Yourself from the Competition"
on Thursday, September 14 at Bucks County Community College at
6:30 p.m. in Penn 410; repeated on Tuesday, September 19
at the same time and location.

B. Debbie in Pennsylvania:
Crystal Journeys Series runs on Tuesday nights

Join us for any one Tuesday night or all the remaining weeks:
September 12 & 26, October 17, and November 7 & 21
7-9 p.m.

Taught by Cathy Scarpello.

Connect deeply with the mineral kingdom in mystical ways.
Learn how crystals can enrich your life and deepen your
spirituality. Learn about the therapeutic properties of crystals,
and how to apply that knowledge to your life.

\$35 each class.

Call today to reserve your space:
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301 Oxford Valley Road Suite 1503
Yardley PA 19067

215.493.3456

For more information, please click:
<http://www.omphaloscenter.org>

C. Natalie in Pennsylvania:
My friend John Rasiej is doing a special performance at the Newtown
Theatre on Wednesday, October 4 of COME BLOW YOUR HORN

with his wife, Luisa in a starring role. Tickets are \$25.00 (reserved seats) and \$15.00 (general admission).

In addition, John will be directing THE ODD COUPLE and Luisa will be performing in it as well in the Newtown Theatre, Wednesday, October 11. Tickets are same price. THE ODD COUPLE will also be performed at Crossing Community Church in Yardley on weekends in October.

This is a new venture for the Newtown Theatre, sponsored by the Newtown Arts Company.

D. WANT TO QUIT SMOKING? OR KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOES?
Bucks County Community College in Newtown, PA will be offering a FREE smoke cessation program in the near future. I'll be helping with it, working with the sponsoring group: PA-S.W.A.T. (Students Working Against Tobacco).

For further information, please call 215.968.8254 . . . if you get a machine, please leave your contact information and speak slowly.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . also, make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #518

9.4.2006

In this issue:

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I often visit our respective families over the weekend . . . her mother, who is at Daughters of Israel in West Orange, NJ, is somehow managing to hang in there . . . my mother, on the other hand, is doing remarkably well . . . she is keeping busy and has even started to resume her golf game.

My brother and I are both helping her whenever and wherever we can . . . I'm primarily the one helping her pay her bills . . . what's interesting to me is the unfortunate fact that what I've often heard about is often true; i.e., there are many folks out there who attempt to take advantage of people after they reach a certain age.

I remember a few years ago, when my father was alive, my parents had been sold a most inappropriate investment in an offshore drilling deal . . . needless to say, the company went broke, and my parents lost quite a sum of money . . . my only regret is that they had not discussed this with me.

The other day I noticed that my mother was writing a check to some charity that I had never heard about . . . when I asked why, my mother replied, "They do good work." . . . when I researched the charity, I found out that it was little more than a scam . . . fortunately, my mother had not sent in a lot of money--but she had been sending in regular checks for nearly a decade.

I guess the key, regardless of age, is to become--as my friend Courtney Yelle used to say--a canny consumer.

B. Not that I want to sound old here, but Cynthia and I are

now starting to go with each other to our respective doctors . . . actually, when you think of it, this is not a bad idea and one that I learned about from my parents . . . you can usually never go wrong when you have two sets of ears listening to what is being said.

Recently, she switched dentists and joined me in seeing Dr. Levine at the Eastern Dental Center (609.587.0600) in Hamilton, NJ . . . Dr. Levine is the director of that facility and has been my personal dentist for some 15 years.

I've gotten to know him and have appreciated the care and service that he has provided me . . . in addition, his staff has been quite professional over the years, and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend the Center to anybody looking for dental care in Central Jersey.

Cynthia was also impressed with Dr. Levine after her first visit . . . best of all, her dental work will be entirely covered under the dental plan I have at work--something that would not be the case with most any other coverage.

I even remember when Risa, my daughter, had braces . . . all the work she had done, too, was covered . . . we paid NOTHING!

C. A friend recently introduced me to one of his favorite places, Sandy's Beef & Ale (215.757.9250) in Langhorne, PA . . . he had been talking about it for years, saying the best roast sandwich was the best he's ever had . . . I can now say that I agree--100% . . . it is oh so tasty, as well as reasonably priced . . . I'll be back, especially if my friend again pays.

D. It is with sadness that I bid farewell to Goodnoe's in Newtown, PA . . . this famed ice cream/restaurant just closed after serving the community for 50 years and will certainly be missed by me, as well as its many other fans.

I unfortunately wasn't able to get there on the final day . . . yet from what I heard, so many past customers and employees came by that people at times had to wait up to two hours for a table.

My thanks to Skip Goodnoe, the owner, for being such a friend over the years to me, my students and Bucks County College . . . I hope that he finds success in whatever he next undertakes.

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

This week, it goes to Chuck Reilly--a longtime Educational Service Bureau representative for THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Chuck has serviced Bucks County Community College, off and on, for over 10 years . . . during that time, I have gotten to know him quite well . . . he is both helpful and friendly, and he has gone out of his way to help me numerous times.

Most recently, I needed some papers for my classes . . . though Chuck has been suffering from a herniated disc, he actually went to THE JOURNAL's plant and put what I needed in his car and then made the delivery to my home at night . . . now that's what I call service!

Chuck has also made himself available to my students for various marketing projects they have done over the years, including one that even involved THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

A few years ago, Chuck's territory was divided up, and he no longer called on Bucks . . . though his replacement was just fine, I was glad when Chuck was reassigned to the College last year . . . it was and is our gain.

2. FYI

My kind of news!

PIGS in blankets? "They're back with a vengeance!" said Sean Driscoll, an owner of the silver-tray catering company Glorious Food in Manhattan. Though they never disappeared from the bar mitzvah circuit (where they are often called franks in jackets, the way Katz's Delicatessen, being kosher, labels them), they had been disparaged as a cliché for too many years. The classiest caterers kept their distance.

But now you can forget caviar and sushi. Without pigs in blankets, it seems, no black tie cocktail hour is complete. They are more than acceptable; they are again being seen for what they are: perfect finger food, delicious and surrounded by the same aura of affection enjoyed by all comfort foods. . . .

"They're acceptable guilt food," he [Driscoll] said. "They're not like buying a hot dog from a street vendor, and besides, the pastry is a good blotter for alcohol."

Helene Cisek, the catering director for Eli's Vinegar Factory, said that pigs in blankets are always the first things to be "gobbled up" and that for catered parties they always plan to have extras on hand. . . .

Marcy Blum, a wedding and party planner, said they had become essential at parties again, like at the black tie wedding last week at Cipriani Wall Street. . . .

A few weeks ago they were even served at a reception after a memorial service for a member of the board at Lincoln Center. "The family requested them because the deceased loved them," said José Fong, the director of catering for Restaurant Associates, which handled the event. . . .

And you can be sure, as this fall's party season gets under way, that pigs in blankets will be on all the right trays and platters. "They used to be like a joke," said Ms. Blum, the party planner. "But everyone takes them seriously now."

SOURCE:

Excerpted from "The kings of the cocktail hour once again" by Florence Fabricant in THE NEW YORK TIMES, 8.30.2006

FYI, part 2

* Shirley in New Jersey:

I just wanted to let you know that I enjoy your newsletter. And that

I received an email earlier this year about free college textbooks from McGraw Hill see information below.

I ran across an article on my company (McGraw Hill) website this morning, concerning the price of college textbooks and how students may be able to get some titles for free. Apparently this small company can offer the books for free because they incorporate ads as a part of the book. Just like magazines do. The companies are actually paying for the price of the book, the student can get it for free by filling out a survey with Freeload Press. It's worth looking into, especially with the outrageous prices the publishers charge for even the smallest text book or workbook. Please pass this website along to anyone that you know is in school:

<http://www.freeloadpress.com>

It won't hurt to check it out.

* Andrea in Pennsylvania:

Send this note to Sandy [who wrote an email that appeared in last week's issue] and tell her to get the ice cream she wants next time. She only lives once. No point in depriving herself.

* Barbara in Pennsylvania:

We saw THE WICKER MAN in preview last night. Save yourself two hours and the cost of tickets. It was perfectly AWFUL.

Ellen Burstyn was very good in her role, but Nicholas Cage recited his lines without conviction—and if the star (who is also the producer) doesn't believe a word of what he's saying, how can we possibly be expected to enjoy watching the disjointed story unfold?

3. Snow White, the update

Snow White bought a new camera. She happily took pictures of the dwarfs and the forest, and dropped off her first roll of film to be developed. A few days later, she went to pick up the finished photos.

"I'm sorry," the clerk told her. "They aren't back yet."

Disappointed, Snow White started to cry.

"Don't worry," the clerk said, "Someday your prints will come."

4. Reviews

A. You don't have to be a football fan to love INVINCIBLE . . . it's the true life story of Vince Papale, a guy who never played the game in college and at the age of 30, decides to try out for the Philadelphia Eagles . . . you just know he's going to make the team, yet you'll still find yourself cheering for him at the end . . . I'm not sure how realistic the scenes in South Philly were (I'll be curious to hear from any readers who grew up there); however, I did find the football action to be very realistic . . . the accompanying soundtrack was also great . . . Mark Wahlberg scores a touchdown as Papale, as does Greg Kinnear as coach Dick Vermeil . . . rated PG.

B. TAKE THE LEAD is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #497 follows:

Cynthia and I loved TAKE THE LEAD; so did friends who joined us . . . inspired by a true story, the feel-good film revolves around an acclaimed ballroom dancer who volunteers to teach in the New York City public school system . . . the music is great, as is the dancing . . . Antonio Banderas seems like he was born to play the leading role, Alfre Woodard (always one of my favorites) is believable as his principal, and the actors who play the students all seem to be having fun . . . rated PG-13.

When I really like a movie, I'll often check the ROTTEN TOMATOES website to find out more about it via Production Notes . . . to see it for yourself, please click:

http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/take_the_lead/about.php

C. Though I never had the personal pleasure of having Ron Clark as my teacher, he is quickly becoming one of my favorites--in part because of his first book, THE ESSENTIAL 55 . . . then recently, I enjoyed a film about his life (THE RON CLARK STORY) on TNT.

And so when I saw that he had another book out, THE EXCELLENT 11, I naturally got hold of it as quickly as I could . . . its subtitle particularly caught my attention: QUALITIES TEACHERS AND PARENTS USE TO MOTIVATE, INSPIRE AND EDUCATE CHILDREN.

What if there were ways to motivate children? Even better, what if they could be learned by reading a book?

So I attempted to answer these questions by reading Clark's latest and am happy to report that I did come across several tidbits that should prove helpful to any teacher . . . in spite of the fact that he taught on an elementary level, what he has to say applies to almost any age.

Also, I liked the author's many examples in THE EXCELLENT 11 . . . he not only describes a quality, but he also shows countless real examples of how he used it in his teaching.

For example, there was this one: Don't be afraid to abandon a set plan or to scrap a lesson if an opportunity for learning presents itself that will be to the child's advantage. This is applicable whether you are a parent or a teacher, or both.

Clark also says that as a parent or teacher it's also important that we remember not to take ourselves too seriously at times. We may have to laugh, dance, sing, make funny faces, or do the unusual, but we have to be willing to let down our guard and have fun with education. Sometimes it takes creativity, something different, something dramatic to catch the attention of students, to earn their admiration, and to get them to respect what you have to say.

Lastly, what Clark has to say has relevance to life outside the classroom, too. In talking about his friend Bith, he mentions how she always talks about how there are "good dinner guests" and "bad dinner guests." She says good guests will show up empty-handed. They always have a dessert, flowers, wine,

or some other item to show gratitude. As soon as the meal begins, she says, good guest will immediately make a comment about the quality of the good. Bith says she is always nervous that they won't like what she has prepared, and the longer she has to sit there without their telling her they are enjoying the meal, the more anxious she becomes. The best guests, Bith adds, will even say they enjoy something so much they would like to have the recipe.

The relevance of that last point to education was when Clark taught his students to go out of their way to show appreciation to those that help them. That is why he would always invite custodians out for a special lunch prepared just for them by the students.

That's a great idea that can be implemented in just about any school!

D. Heard the taped version of WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE by Harold Kushner, a Jewish rabbi . . . although written some 25 years ago, it is still amazingly relevant . . . and, in fact, it was reissued in 2001 with a new preface by the author.

Kushner originally wrote the book when faced with his own child's fatal illness . . . it deals with death and, also, with other situations where evil enters our life . . . though it gives no easy answers, WHEN BAD THINGS got me thinking about with this one particular bit of advice . . . he urges people not to ask why all the time, but instead ask this question: What can I do now?

What Kushner has to say applies to people of all religious faiths . . . I urge you to get a copy of this short book . . . like me, you'll want to go through it more than once.

There were many worthwhile tidbits; among them:

- * God never gives you more than you can bear.
- * We can't make sense of God's thoughts by saying it is God's will.
- * Things of nature don't make exceptions for good people.
- * We suffer because we misuse our power to choose.
- * God intervenes when in a tragedy, he takes ordinary people and has them behave in an extraordinary way.
- * If you know somebody who has been hurt, reach out to him or her.
- * People don't want theology, they want reassurance.
- * When we most need it, God gives us more strength.
- * You have no control of the past. You have a lot of control over the future.

And, lastly, this one:

God has given us the tools to live meaningfully in an unfair and unpredictable world.

5. TV alert

A. NIP/TUCK has its season premier on Tuesday at 10 p.m. on FX . . . I'm glad that we will no longer have to deal with the Craver and instead can look forward to guest appearances in upcoming shows by such notables as Larry Hagman, Brooke Shields and Richard Chamberlain.

NOTE:

NIP/TUCK is on each Tuesday night at the above time and the episode is repeated on the same night at 11 p.m. . . . typically, FX then runs repeats throughout the week; this week, they will be on Friday at 10 p.m. and Sunday at 10 p.m.

B. DICK CAVETT features writer-director comic genius Mel Brooks in a new interview . . . Thursday at 8 p.m. on TCM, followed by two of Brooks' funniest films: 1968's THE PRODUCERS and 1987's SPACEBALLS.

C. Kim Bassinger stars in THE MERMAID CHAIR, an original film based on the best seller by Sue Monk Kid . . . Saturday at 9 p.m. on LIFETIME.

D. THE WIRE returns for its fourth season on Sunday at 10 p.m. on HBO . . . it will expand its focus to include a look at the role of the educational system in an urban environment . . . Walter in New Jersey tells me this is a "must" show to see, so though I haven't seen any of the first three seasons, methinks I'll take his recommendation and give it a shot this time.

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

The new TV season is upon us . . . so I can decide what shows I want to catch (and miss, too), please share with me any feedback of what you like and/or dislike . . . I'll then share this with others, so we can continue doing what we do best in this missive; i.e. help each other!

6. Everybody's a comedian

I called my local home-improvement store for a simple piece of advice. "I know the sheetrock is nailed to the studs," I said to the guy who answered the phone, "but how do I find the studs?"

"Put an ad in the personals column," he suggested.

7. Websites

A. Can you different effect from affect, who from whom, biannual from biennial? If not or you ever have trouble with such distinctions, please click:

<http://www.ConfusingWords.com>

This informative website clarifies more than 3,000 other words.

B. If you're in the mood for some mindless fun, please click:
<http://members.iinet.net.au/~pontipak/redsquare.html>

You'll get to play a game called Escapa! that looks easier than it actually is.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

You can also view past issues of this missive by going to Newsletter (on the left), then Past Issues . . . thanks to the great work of Dan Becker, my webmaster, you can catch up anything you may have missed or want to again see.

For example, you might want to see the website mentioned in Section 7 of BLAINESWORLD #489 . . . it will provide you with information on how to get a live operator, as opposed to being placed into voicemail he*!.

D. Two friends were gracious enough to share the following websites with me:

* [from a press release describing the work of Douglas Ferguson]:
Douglas Ferguson's transdisciplinary career spans over twenty five years. Whether working in film and video, still photography, theatrical mise-en-scene, costume and fashion design, or product development, Ferguson's inventive spirit finds its own lyrical expression in each artistic media.

Highlights of Ferguson's career include designing costumes for the Joffrey Ballet's Square Deal in 1984, which marked the beginning of a long-term artistic collaboration with Ballet Frankfurt Choreographer William Forsythe. More recently, Forsythe commissioned Ferguson to create the film/ballet Full Quote Bergman to premiere at Das TAT, Frankfurt, Germany in February 2004.

Most recently, Ferguson has made a miniature video portrait Balls in collaboration with Forsythe. His films Full Quote Bergman and Thankyou were Official Selections the GenderBender International Film Festival in 2005 in Bologna, Italy. Ferguson's feature-length film portrait, Free Fall, documenting theatre artist Ron Vawter, was an Official Selection at the 1994 Filmfest München and the New York Film Festival.

In 2003, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, selected several of his haute couture designs in enamel-painted metal mesh for inclusion in the exhibition Goddess: The Classical Mode. To see, please click:
http://www.metmuseum.org/special/Goddess/myth_pop_1.htm

These pieces, designed by him in 1985, also toured with the Goddess exhibition to the MoMu museum in Antwerp, Belgium in January 2004.

For the last three years, Douglas Ferguson has been building body still and motion digital images--some of which can be viewed on his website:
<http://www.iamalwayshere.com>

This is his response to the rapid malling of the world is a paeon to the ephemera of an era in its last gasps of plenty. His films, Full Quote Bergman and Thankyou, can be seen here.

And to note: As of August 2006, Ferguson is certified to laugh and lead classes in laughter for absolutely no reason.

* Jean in Pennsylvania:

When you have time to goof off and are looking for a fun website, go to:

<http://www.barleyjuice.com/theBand.html>

My friend's brother is in it. Click on Press Kit and watch the video for "What's Up Yours?" There's also funny lyrics (I'm in Love with a Priest . . . you must read until the end).

8. Computer tip

Beware of any emails from a bank, brokerage service or PayPal--even if you have an account. Often times, you'll be told to log onto a website to "verify" your information . . . when and if that happens, phone the company you got the email from . . . or manually call up its website.

I'd suggest doing this even if you just performed an online transaction . . . you may well be asked to verify it . . . do so as I suggest above.

One other suggestion: You can often test a link by running your cursor over it . . . so for example, if I wanted to direct you to my website, I could present it as follows:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

If you run your cursor over the website without clicking it on, you'll see it actually takes you my website . . . but instead, it you did this and you actually saw something like this:

<http://www.youaregoingtogetscammedifyouclickhere.com> . . . well, I'll let you draw your own conclusions.

9. Excuses

It's that time of the year—the days are getting shorter and the weather's getting cooler. That means only one thing: time to call in sick, so you can get an early jump on shopping for the holidays. (Don't forget 40R, by the way. Hint-hint.)

But I digress. Here are some actual, road-tested excuses collected in a survey from the job site careerbuilder.com:

* I forgot to come back to work after lunch.

* I hurt myself bowling.

* I was spit on by a venomous snake.

* I had to be there for my husband's grand jury trial.

* My monkey died.

10. A quote I like

Those who love deeply never grow old; they may die of old age, but they die young.--Dorothy Canfield Fisher (1879-1958), American educational reformer, social activist and best-selling author in the early decades of the Twentieth century

11. Thought for the day

Fishing

There was a rich industrialist who was disturbed to find a fisherman sitting lazily beside his boat. "Why aren't you out there fishing?" he asked.

"Because I've caught enough fish for today," said the fisherman.

"Why don't you catch more fish than you need?" the rich man asked.

"What would I do with them?"

"You could earn more money," came the impatient reply. "And buy a better boat so you could go deeper and catch more fish. You could purchase nylon nets, catch even more fish and make more money. Soon you'd have a fleet of boats and be rich like me."

The fisherman asked, "Then what would I do?"

"You could sit down and enjoy life," said the industrialist.

"What do you think I'm doing now?" the fisherman replied as he looked placidly out to sea.

Author Unknown

(if you know who wrote this and/or the source, please let me know)

12. Advance planning department

A. Do join me at my next presentation . . . I'm speaking on "Positioning: How to Differentiate Yourself from the Competition" on Thursday, September 14 at Bucks County Community College at 6:30 p.m. in Penn 410; repeated on Tuesday, September 19 at the same time and location.

B. Only a few spots remain for the BCCC Foundation's 12th annual Golf Classic on September 18. Don't miss your opportunity to play Commonwealth National Golf Club, the #1 course in the region (PHILADELPHIA BUSINESS JOURNAL, Oct. 2005). Make your reservations today by contacting the Foundation office at 215.968.8224 or foundation@bucks.edu. Corporate sponsorships are still available.

C. If you're a faculty member at Bucks CCC (past or present), you should have already received your invitation for our union's beginning of semester bash/contract ratification celebration to be held on September 30 . . . hopefully, you can make it . . . if you did not

yet receive this invite, please immediately let me know by sending an email to: bginbc@aol.com.

D. On October 4 from 12-4:40 p.m., Bucks County Community College's Career Services office presents another "Get Your Foot in the Door" Job Search Workshop for students, alumni and Bucks County residents. Yours truly will be one of the speakers. To reserve your FREE seat today, call Carol Brandt at 215.968.8195.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . also, make it a great week!

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If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #517

8.28.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had the pleasure of seeing my daughter Risa who was in from Florida for a few days . . . we caught a movie, then I was excused while she and Cynthia went shopping at a local White House | Black Market store.

This is the chain where Risa works in Florida; in fact, she was recently promoted to be an assistant manager (way to go, Risa!) . . . they seemed to have a good time, and since I had given them my credit card, I was not needed.

About an hour and several filled bags later, I was allowed to rejoin them for dinner at TGI Friday's in Princeton, NJ (609.520.0378) . . . Cynthia and I split an order of ribs; they were quite tasty . . . Risa said her strip steak was excellent . . . Jessica, our server, was both friendly and competent.

B. Cynthia and I got to host a meeting of her family circle on Sunday . . . this is a neat organization that she helped start with her sister Joyce and cousin Carol.

They got the idea several years ago when attending the funeral of one of their cousins . . . the guy was only 50 at the time . . . so everybody in attendance agreed that it made little sense to only get together for funerals . . . a better idea would be to meet, say twice a year, at happier occasions.

Thus the members of her family rotate their homes for some food and friendship . . . since many had not yet seen the residence of "the Greenfields of Belle Meade," we had everybody over for a barbecue . . . and changed the normal routine a bit by also inviting the members of my family.

My cousin Blaine won the one contest we had that day; i.e., guess how many Hershey Kisses were in a large jar . . . he was closest to the 598 total, though that said, his answer to the tie-breaker question of how many calories would you consume if you ate them all was even better . . . he put down, "too many," which is ironic because he'll now get a chance to see if that's true since his prize was the jar with the Kisses.

My friend Michael did a fine job--as he often does--with the grilling, and he was ably assisted by Carrie (somebody who is his friend and rapidly becoming ours).

Risa was able to join us at this event, too . . . that's her on the left, along with her best friend Honey who finally gets her wish; i.e., having her picture in BLAINESWORLD:



C. The best news we heard recently was that we both checked out just fine with visits to Dr. Judith Stenn ((609.443.4500), our dermatologist in East Windsor, NJ.

I've been going to Dr. Stenn for quite some time . . . she is the doctor who fortunately noticed something between my toes on my last visit . . . it subsequently was diagnosed as melanoma

and because it was treated right away, no complications ensued . . . it does not seem to have come back!

This was Cynthia's first visit with Dr. Stenn . . . she was impressed with the thoroughness of her exam.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to Jim Sell, my longtime friend, who returns to Bucks County Community College as executive director of the Bristol Center . . . I'm sure he will do his usual fine job, and I look forward to working with him again.

CONGRATULATIONS, also, to Maureen Keller . . . she is retiring from Thomas Edison State College on August 31 from her position as Prior Learning Assessment Specialist . . . she will be missed.

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

This week, it goes to Stephen Moser--a technician with Cooper Pest Solutions (1.800.949.2667).

We recently had a problem with ants at our place . . . so we called Cooper, an excellent company I've dealt with in the past, and was pleased to be able to make an appointment right away.

Stephen came on time, he asked a lot of questions to determine just what our problem was and then conducted a thorough search of our home . . . I was particularly impressed by the fact that he told us he loves his job, and that he welcomed the many questions that we had.

He then did his thing and voila, our ant problem seems to have been solved . . . during the same visit, he noticed that we were having a problem with wasps and he took care of that at no extra charge.

Also, he shared this information with me that will help prevent further problems:

To keep ants away, take some distilled vinegar and water and use it to clean any surface where you see ants; and

If you see ants around, spray some Windex on them within eight seconds and they will die.

This was as good a service call as I've ever had . . . Cooper Pest Control is lucky to have Stephen Moser working the company!

2. FYI

If you have to buy a textbook for yourself or child/grandchild, check your college's bookstore . . . make sure you look at the used texts, too.

Then check online for the same book . . . most often, you can get it cheaper if not very much so--even including any shipping charges. And you'll usually have a wide variety of used books to choose from as well.

As an example, I am requiring that my online Internet Marketing purchase three paperback books . . . they show a list price of

a certain amount at amazon.com, then a much lower price if you want to actually purchase it . . . in addition, there were many opportunities for buying a used copy.

Although amazon.com isn't always the lowest price, I do like the service that the company provides . . . it has always been excellent . . . so my recommendation is that you check here first:
<http://www.amazon.com>

For comparison purposes, it might not be a bad idea to further check:
<http://www.half.com>

If you have any other such sources you check for textbook purchases, please let me know so I can share with others.

FYI, part 2

*** LAST CHANCE DEPARTMENT:**

there are still some seats available in the following courses I teach at Bucks CCC: Marketing on Tuesday nights on campus, Marketing on Thursday night on campus and Internet Marketing (online) . . . my other classes are completely filled.

Should you want to sign-up for either of these courses that are still open, your best bet is to call the Business Department at 215.968.8227.

*** Also, don't forget about this SPECIAL OFFER:**

As many readers know, I require THE WALL STREET JOURNAL in many of my courses . . . but if you're not currently enrolled and would still like to get the fine paper at a reduced faculty and/or student rate of about half the regular price, here's what you need to do:

1. Send me an e-mail with the words JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION in subject line.
2. Include your name, street address including zip, phone number, and e-mail address.
3. Tell me how long you want your subscription to run:
15 weeks, \$19.95; 26 weeks, \$32.95; 52 weeks, \$59.95

In return, you'll be billed directly by THE JOURNAL . . . and you'll get online access at no extra charge!

*** REQUEST FOR HELP:**

My mother is interested in the possibility of spending some of this coming winter in Florida, either in West Palm Beach or Palm Beach . . . she's looking to possibly stay between 4-6 weeks . . . does anybody have any suggestions for rentals during that time framework, preferably with maid service? . . . if you can let me know, I'd be most appreciative; so would my mother.

*** FOR SALE:** One motorized Rascal 600 scooter, less than a year old and hardly used by my father . . . it is a three--wheeled vehicle that is in perfect condition and great for any person who needs help in getting around . . . he paid nearly \$4,000 for it, but we'd consider any reasonable offer from anybody willing to get it from where it now is in Floral Park, NY . . . e-mail me at bginbc@aol.com if interested in this item.

* Walt in New Jersey:

Got to tell you even I had to swallow twice when I caught that show [LUCKY LOUIE]. They crushed every sex, religion or belief that they could. The language with the use of MF and the C word were shocking, especially when a woman says it.

Better you watch the premier of THE WIRE on HBO. It is very well done and gets into politics, corruption and the finer things in life.

* Sandy in Pennsylvania:

I went to Maggie Moos today for the first time at Susquehanna Marketplace. I had the no carb raspberry ice cream, but I really wanted the Twizzler and the Cotton Candy. Wow!

The store is everything you say it is and then some. No wonder you love it.

* Pat in Pennsylvania:

Put the shoe on the other foot [commenting on my being upset about having to pay \$1.50 for a newspaper that sells for 60 cents]. If you were the innkeeper, don't you think you would need to charge some mark up for this? And not even a dollar more? Look at the entire package.

[and about having to wait over 60 minutes for being served]

I would have complained big time. In fact, I would have used the most obnoxious, unfriendly, least understanding approach to getting the food out. It's tough, but usually gets the food out!

MY TWO CENTS:

As I e-mailed back to Pat, I don't buy his newspaper explanation. I've stayed in a lot of places and most often, there is no charge for the paper. When I do get charged, I don't ever recall paying more than the cover price. I had no problem with the inn's rate, which was certainly not inexpensive. But give me a break; for what I paid, at least include a paper!

As for having to wait a long time at a restaurant (and with a waitress who had a lousy attitude, too), on that point I agree with Pat. Big time. In retrospect, my only regret is that we didn't just walk out of the place.

3. Yankees vs. Red Sox

"I am a Yankees Fan," a first-grade teacher explains to her class.

"Who likes the Yankees?" Everyone raises a hand except one little girl.

"Janie," the teacher says, surprised. "Why didn't you raise your hand?"

"I'm not a Yankees fan."

"Well, if you are not a Yankees fan, then what team do you like?"

"The Red Sox," Janie answers.

"Why in the world are you a Red Sox fan?"

"Because my mom and dad are Red Sox fans."

"That's no reason to be a Red Sox Fan," the teacher replies, annoyed.

"You don't always have to be just like your parents. What if your mom and dad were idiots? What would you be then?"

"A Yankees fan."

4. Reviews

A. I liked SCOOP, a comedy about a woman pursuing a mass murderer in England . . . Scarlett Johansson and Hugh Jackman are both good as the leading characters; however, I liked the fact that writer/director Woody Allen also starred as a bumbling magician . . . every time he was on screen, the film came alive for me . . . there's nothing brilliantly original here, but SCOOP nevertheless provided for a fun evening's entertainment . . . rated PG-13.

B. AKEELAH AND THE BEE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #501 follows:

A. If you're going to see one movie in the next few weeks, make it AKEELAH AND THE BEE . . . it is the best film I've seen in quite some time, and my hope is that it gets people talking about it so that it stays around for a long time.

AKEELAH is a heartwarming drama about a precocious 11-year old girl who is encouraged to enter the Scripps National Spelling Bee . . . she is helped along the way by a tutor, her principal and residents of her community . . . Keke Palmer is outstanding as the young speller, and as always, I liked the work of both Laurence Fishburne and Angela Bassett . . . rated PG, but don't be put off by that rating . . . you'll love it, as will members of any other age category.

C. Though the Atlanta Braves will probably not make the playoffs this year after having done so the previous 14 seasons, I am still amazed by the team's success . . . and wanted to find out more about how it was made possible.

So when I saw that the Braves' GM, John Schuerholz, had a book out--BUILT TO WIN (see also Section 11), written with Larry Guest--I obtained it with the hope of learning even some of his secrets . . . after reading it, methinks I came across with several ideas that I can apply not only in my teaching but in life as well.

Schuerholz uses many baseball examples, which may turn off some potential readers . . . however, what he says applies to virtually any company or organization . . . in particular, I liked his five principles for building a winning team in any endeavor:

1. Create a new vision.
2. Establish organizational goals.
3. Develop a roadmap, or game plan, if you prefer, for success.
4. Inspired the staff.
5. Provide the leadership.

I also liked his advice on how to tell a winner from a loser: A winner says, "Let's find out." A loser says, "Nobody knows."

When a winner makes a mistake, he says, "I was wrong." When a loser makes a mistake, he says, "It wasn't my fault."

A winner says, "I'm good, but not as good as I ought to be." A loser says, "I'm not as bad as a lot of other people."

A winner tries to learn from those who are superior to him. A loser tries to tear down those who are superior to him.

A winner says, "There ought to be a better way to do it." A loser says, "That's the way it's always been done here."

Winners encourage innovations, creativity and passion for their work, for their life.

Lastly, I'll value BUILT TO WIN for the following passage:
I left them with one of my favorite sayings, "Winners make commitments. Losers make excuses." I reminded the people at that meeting there had been enough excuses offered to the Atlanta area and our great fans about why we haven't succeeded, why this team hasn't won, why the seats were dirty, why the ballpark food wasn't very good, why the ushers and parking attendants weren't more attentive or pleasant. Why, why, why . . .

I pledged we were no longer going to offer excuses for those things. Instead we were going to make commitments to fixing all of it. After all, winners make commitments.

My feeling is that if you make the commitment to buy this book for any baseball fan, he or she won't be disappointed!

D. Enjoyed listening to LIFE IS NOT A GAME OF PERFECT by Dr. Bob Rotella, written and read by the author . . . he is a sports psychologist who believes talent, as it is usually defined, only plays a secondary role in determining our fate . . . what's more important is something he coins as "real talent," a combination of character, attitude and devotion that makes greatness possible.

Best of all, Rotella contends that anybody can develop such real talent--and he gives some ideas for doing so in this book.

One key is to choose a career doing something you love or develop the ability to love what you do.

In addition, he shares such other valuable tidbits as the following:

- * People who are successful surround themselves with people who support their dream.
- * Half an hour or so is enough time to discuss what happened at work. After that, it is up to you to make sure your spouse enjoys the evening.
- * People with real talent compete primarily amongst themselves. Their quest is to see how good they can get.
- * Don't waist your enthusiasm or passion for a company that won't appreciate it. But if you're a manager, you must appreciate what people can do for you and your organization.

5. TV alert

A. WHO WANTS TO BE A SUPERHERO concludes its first season with the two finalists sitting down with Stan Lee, the comic-book titan, to explain why they are worthy of the title . . . Thursday at 9 p.m. on SCI FI.

B. E! is running a marathon of 101 GUILTIEST GUILTY PLEASURES on Friday at 4 p.m., which is slated to toast tons of 80s embarrassments and the timeless David Hasselhoff.

C. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF TELEVISION: A MUSEUM OF TELEVISION & RADIO SPECIAL will be narrated by Dennis Haysbert . . . it will take a look at the production of 12 prominent network, cable and syndicated shows, including TODAY, CSI: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION and ELLEN . . . Saturday at 8 p.m. on CBS.

6. Coolness under pressure

"What should I do?" yelled a panicked client to the receptionist at our veterinarian's office. "My dog just ate two bags of unpopped popcorn!"

Clearly not as alarmed as the worried pet owner, the receptionist responded coolly, "Well, the first thing I would do is keep him out of the sun."

7. Websites

A. Previously, I ran "The Dash," an inspirational piece . . . there's now another version of it that you can enjoy by clicking:
<http://www.thedashmovie.com>

Make sure your sound is on when you view it.

B. Microsoft in 2004 commissioned parody "training videos" to be shown only to Microsoft employees . . . they've been leaked to the Internet, and you can now see them by clicking:
<http://www.video.google.com>

Then search for "Gervais" . . . by doing so, you'll see two very funny videos featuring the loathsome boss David Brent (from THE OFFICE, the British television comedy).

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click: <http://www.blaineworld.net>

New subscribers are always welcome . . . presently, there are some 741 readers (give or take 17) . . . if you'd like to be added to the FREE list or know somebody who does, just have them go to the above website and follow the "Special Offer" directions at the bottom of the homepage.

8. Computer tip

I've been getting a lot of e-mail lately from that is not legitimate; i.e., it contains a "spoof" or "phished" message that attempts to collect personal or financial information.

Here is what I do with such e-mail when it comes from eBay (and keep in mind that a similar approach can be followed for other such bogus cr*p):

1. Open a new Web browser and type www.ebay.com into my browser address field to go directly to the eBay site.
2. On eBay, sign into my account and click the "My eBay" button at the top of the page.
3. Check the My Messages section located at the top of the My eBay page. If an email affects my eBay account, it's now in My Messages. Any e-mail sent to my registered eBay e-mail address from eBay or from another eBay member via eBay's member-to-member communication system will now appear in My Messages.

According to eBay, "If you have already entered sensitive personal information, financial information or your password into a Web site based on a request from a spoofed email, you should take immediate action to protect your identity and all of your online accounts. We have developed an eBay Help page with valuable information regarding the steps you should take to protect yourself." It follows:

<http://pages.ebay.com/help/tp/isgw-account-theft-reporting.html>

To review eBay's new tutorial about Spoof Emails (that provides good information on the subject, in general), please click:

<http://pages.ebay.com/education/spoofutorial/>

9. Gripe sheets

It takes a college degree to fly a plane, but only a high school diploma to fix one--a reassurance for those of us who fly routinely in their jobs. After every flight, Qantas pilots fill out a form, called a "gripe sheet," which tells mechanics about problems with the aircraft. The mechanics correct the problems, document their repairs on the form and then pilots review the gripe sheets before the next flight.

Never let it be said that ground crews lack a sense of humor. Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by Qantas Pilots (marked with a P) and the Solutions Recorded (marked with an S) by Maintenance Engineers.

By the way, Qantas is the only major airline that has never had an accident.

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.

S: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.

S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.

S: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.

S: Live bugs on back-order.

P: Auto pilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 feet per minute descent.

S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.

S: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.

S: DME volume set to more believable level.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

S: That's what they're for.

P: IFF inoperative.

S: IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.

P: Suspected crack in windshield.

S: Suspect you're right.

P: Number 3 engine missing.

S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

P: Aircraft handles funny. (I love this one!)

S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

P: Target radar hums.

S: Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics.

P: Mouse in cockpit.

S: Cat installed.

And the best one for last:

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel . Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer.

S: Took hammer away from midget.

10. A quote I like

It is never too late to be what you might have been.--George Eliot (1819-1888), the masculine pen name of the writer Mary Ann Evans, one of Victorian England's leading novelists

11. Thought for the day

A small boy walks into the room where his dad is reading a newspaper. The youngster tugs on his father's shirtsleeve and says, "Dad, I need to talk to you. Can you talk to me just a minute?"

The man is consumed by what he is reading and hardly acknowledges his son. Without looking up, he waves the boy away. Only after the lad

persists, does he gain his father's attention. "Dad, I really do need to talk to you," he repeats. At that moment, the father had turned to a large picture of the globe in the newspaper. He proceeds to tear the photo into a hundred little pieces and hands the pile of scraps to the boy, saying, "Here, when you put this picture of the globe back together, I'll talk to you." The child departs, barely able to carry all the pieces of paper in his hands. The father figures he'll have his peace and quiet for most of the day.

Remarkably, within just a few minutes, his son is back holding up the picture of the globe, Scotch tape everywhere. "Here, Dad, I've put the picture back together. Will you talk to me now?"

Astonished, the father blurts: "That's impossible! How did you do that so fast?"

"Well," the boy says, "I didn't put the picture of the globe together. But on the other side was a picture of a small boy and his dog. And I put that picture together."

The moral of the story is clear; if we take care in putting our children together properly, the world will take care of itself.

SOURCE:

BUILT TO WIN (see also Section 4C) by John Schureholz
with Larry Guest

12. Advance planning department

A. WANT A CHANCE TO WIN \$500?

Plus, you'll get to hear me present on the topic of "Marketing yourself."

Dates: Thursday, August 31; repeated on Tuesday, September 5

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Bucks County Community College, Newtown, PA

RSVP: Via e-mail to bjinbc@aol.com, so I can get you the exact room location . . . please put down **MARKETING YOURSELF** in subject line.

B. Only a few spots remain for the BCCC Foundation's 12th annual Golf Classic on September 18. Don't miss your opportunity to play Commonwealth National Golf Club, the #1 course in the region (PHILADELPHIA BUSINESS JOURNAL, Oct. 2005). Make your reservations today by contacting the Foundation office at 215.968.8224 or foundation@bucks.edu. Corporate sponsorships are still available.

C. On October 4 from 12-4:40 p.m., Bucks County Community College's Career Services office presents another "Get Your Foot in the Door" Job Search Workshop for students, alumni and Bucks County residents. Yours truly will be one of the speakers. To reserve your FREE seat today, call Carol Brandt at 215.968.8195.

D. WANT TO QUIT SMOKING? OR KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOES?

Bucks County Community College in Newtown, PA will be offering a FREE smoke cessation program in the near future. I'll be helping with it, working with the sponsoring group: PA-S.W.A.T. (Students Working Against Tobacco).

For further information, please call 215.968.8254 . . . if you get a machine, please leave your contact information and speak slowly.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . also, make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #516

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I just got back from a recent program of Laughter Yoga (I kid you not!) at the Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health in Lenox, MA . . . we had a fun time and learned that we ALL need to laugh more because quite simply, it's good for us.

The program leader, Bruce Katlin, was excellent, and we'd both recommend that if you can find a similar program anywhere near you that you take it . . . most importantly, you don't have to worry about it being a yoga course; believe me, if I can handle it, anybody can . . . only those having current heart disease, high blood pressure or a history of epileptic seizures need to consult their physicians before participating--and just because you'll be laughing so hard!

For more information about Bruce (and the other training he does), please click:

<http://www.katlinconsulting.com>

For more information about laughter yoga, please click:

<http://www.laughteryoga.org/index.php>

B. While there, we chose not to stay at Kripalu . . . but instead lodged at the nearby Apple Tree Inn (413.637.1477)--also in Lenox . . . we were glad we did, too, in that the rooms were lovely, and every morning you get a quite ample continental breakfast . . . there's also a restaurant there, which we heard very good things about; however, we didn't get the chance to dine there this time around . . . we will the next time around . . . however, we won't get a daily newspaper . . . they ask you if you want one when you check in and don't mention anything about the price . . . when we got the bill, we were amazed that we were billed \$1.50 or 90 cents more than the newsstand price.

When in Lenox, we naturally found an ice cream place: SoCo Creamery (413.637.9192) . . . the Smores flavor that we ordered was outstanding, as was the oatmeal cookie that we ordered with it.

We even got to meet Cynthia's cousins, Barbara and Howie, for a nice dinner one night . . . we went to a restaurant called Napa (413.637.3204) . . . the food was fine; i.e., when we got it . . . after being seated, we had to wait over 90 minutes before being served . . . our waitress wasn't very friendly, either.

C. A highlight for the week was getting to celebrate my mother's birthday, along with my brother Ken and sister-in-law Lavelle . . . we dined at the Post House (212.935.2888) in New York City, and I had an excellent filet mignon . . . see below for a picture of my mother with Lavelle:



The funniest part of the evening took place when my brother gave my mother a very special gift: several decks of cards that contained a picture he had drawn (of my mother) when he was six years old . . . she kept laughing, saying it was one of the best gifts she has ever received.

D. I can't believe that my classes at Bucks County Community College start next week . . . there are still some seats available in the following courses: Marketing on Tuesday nights on campus, Marketing on Thursday night on campus, Marketing (online), and Introduction to Business (online) . . . unfortunately, no seats remain in my Creativity (online) course.

Should you want to sign-up for any of the courses that are still open, your best bet is to call the Business Department at 215.968.8227.

SPECIAL JOURNAL OFFER:

As many readers know, I require THE WALL STREET JOURNAL in many of my courses . . . but if you're not currently enrolled and would still like to get the fine paper at a reduced faculty and/or student rate of about half the regular price, here's what you need to do:

1. Send me an e-mail with the words JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION in subject line.
2. Include your name, street address including zip, phone number, and e-mail address.
3. Tell me how long you want your subscription to run:
15 weeks, \$19.95; 26 weeks, \$32.95; 52 weeks, \$59.95

In return, you'll be billed directly by THE JOURNAL . . . and you'll get online access at no extra charge!

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

This week, it goes to Carole Stiller--an amazing woman who is president of the Mercer County Million March Chapter, as well as president of the New Jersey Million Mom Chapters of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

As such, she tirelessly gives her time to be part of a national organization (the Brady Campaign) with chapters in 43 states.

The Mercer County Million Mom March is an all-volunteer (NO paid salaries) gun violence prevention group. Organized in August of 2000, after the original national Million Mom March on Washington, DC on Mothers Day, its main thrust is outreach and education: participating at adult and youth meetings, religious gatherings, and community events year round to inform parents/kids/teens how they can better prepare themselves to avoid gun violence.

The group also works with victims/survivors of gun violence, providing local and national resources as well as activities to bring them together with others going through the same trauma. Legislatively, it works on both the state and federal level in getting sensible gun laws passed.

I've had the pleasure of interviewing Carole a few times on various radio shows that I have hosted . . . she is both dynamic and enthusiastic, along with being an excellent spokesperson.

For more information, please visit the national organization's website:

<http://www.millionmomsmarch.org>

And if you'd like to get involved with Carole on the local level, she can be reached at this e-mail address: mercermmm@comcast.net

2. FYI

Albert Schweitzer always believed that the best medicine for any illness he might have was the knowledge that he had a job to do, plus a good sense of humor. He once said that disease tended to leave him rather rapidly because it found so little hospitality inside his body.

The essence of Dr. Schweitzer was purpose and creativity. All his multiple skills and interests were energized by a torrential drive to use his mind and body. To observe him at work at his hospital in Lambarene was to see human purpose bordering on the supernatural. During an average day at the hospital, even after he turned ninety, he would attend to his duties at the clinic and make his rounds, do strenuous carpentry, move heavy crates of medicine, work on his correspondence (innumerable letters each day), give time to his unfinished manuscripts, and play the piano.

"I have no intention of dying," he once told his staff, "so long as I can do things. And if I do things, there is no need to die. So I will live a long, long time."

And he did—until he was ninety-five.

SOURCE:

ANATOMY OF AN ILLNESS AS PERCEIVED BY THE PATIENT (see also Section 11) by Norman Cousins, a book I strongly recommend that you read if you've never done so

FYI, part 2

* REQUEST FOR HELP:

My mother is interested in the possibility of spending some of this coming winter in Florida, either in West Palm Beach or Palm Beach . . . she's looking to possibly stay between 4-6 weeks . . . does anybody have any suggestions for rentals during that time framework, preferably with maid service? . . . if you can let me know, I'd be most appreciative; so would my mother.

* FOR SALE: One motorized Rascal 600 scooter, less than a year old and hardly used by my father . . . it is a three--wheeled vehicle that is in perfect condition and great for any person who needs help in getting around . . . he paid nearly \$4,000 for it, but we'd consider any reasonable offer from anybody willing to get it from where it now is in Floral Park, NY . . . e-mail me at bginbc@aol.com if interested in this item.

* Holly in Pennsylvania, commenting on BOYNTON BEACH CLUB: My girlfriends' kids were in the movie. Brenda V played their grandmother, and I was in the opening part of the movie in the airport!

I thought it was cute, I would have rather seen a few different actors play in it! All in all, it was fun to watch, though a little seemed slow.

I agree Dyan Cannon was hot.

* Ken in New York, also on the same film:

BBC great movie but Dyan Cannon looks like shi*! Over surgeried to death. But, that being said, she stole the movie . . . funny as hell.

He then added:

THE ILLUSIONIST a must!

* Dan in Pennsylvania:

I cannot disagree with you more about the latest SUPERMAN movie. I saw it with my son (who is an authority on the comic book genre) at the 3-D IMAX theater in King of Prussia. We were both blown away by the experience!

He and I rarely agree so totally about movies we see. Both of us loved it, me for my picayune attitude toward technical stuff such as special effects, and he because of his knowledge of the Superman history.

When one sees a movie like that, it cannot be compared to films of other genres like normal dramas, mysteries, etc. It must be compared to others of its type. I wouldn't be surprised if it was nominated (at least) for editing awards and special effects awards. After all, that is why you see a movie like it, not for its dramatic or acting components.

* Nate in New Jersey:

Please notify your readers of an excellent website to air their complaints on cruises. It is:

<http://www.cruisecritic.com>

This is a good way of notifying cruise travelers of the good, bad and in-between.

* Mel in Pennsylvania, responding to my recent question about what could be finer than sitting on a bench, eating ice cream and listening to music?

He replied:

Sitting in shul for a boring Friday night service, followed by Entemann's cookies? Sorry, couldn't resist.

NOTE:

Shul is the Yiddish term for synagogue. Also, Mel is a rabbi who happens to have a great sense of humor.

* Arlene in Pennsylvania, adding to my thoughts of the days when AOL used to charge an arm and a leg:

Me too. I remember one bill for \$300; yikes!

11 years later . . . now free.

* Mandy in Pennsylvania:

If you are ever in the neighborhood, The Purple Cow Creamery in Easton, PA has OUTSTANDING homemade ice cream in interesting assorted flavors. It is located next door to the Crayola Factory and directly across from the Easton State Theatre.

Could be a good date destination for you and your beautiful bride Cynthia.

For more information, please click:

<http://www.statetheatre.org/>

3. Advice

I asked my banker for a statement, and he said, "Get a better job."

4. Reviews

A. If you think you're from a dysfunctional family (or know somebody who is), then see LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE . . . this hysterical satire will have you chuckling throughout . . . that said, I'd recommend it for anybody else in need of a good laugh . . . I

thoroughly enjoyed this film for its script, the acting done by its perfectly-cast ensemble, and the surprisingly touching message about being obsessed with winning . . . the ending is as good as one you'll ever see . . . weeks after seeing LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE, I can still see many of the scenes in my mind . . . rated R.

B. I was surprised that I liked POSEIDON as much as I did . . . it's a remake of THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE, the 1972 thriller about a ship that crashes . . . though I preferred the latter version, I nevertheless liked this one too . . . the special effects kept my interest--or at least for most of the film . . . and the cast (including the always watchable Kurt Russell, Josh Lucas, Kevin Dillon, and Freddy Rodriguez) were believable in a disaster film type way . . . the female cast members, however, didn't come across quite as well . . . and I missed not seeing the Shelly Winters character, so important to the success of THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE . . . rated PG-13.

C. I've long been a fan of Randy Cassingham, creator of thisistrue.com--a very funny and popular website . . . so when I saw that he came out with a book, THE TRUE STELLA AWARDS, I knew that it was something that I'd want to read, in large part because of what the subtitle promised; i.e., HONORING REAL CASES OF GREEDY OPPORTUNISTS, FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS AND THE LAW RUN AMOK.

I also wanted to know more about the Stella Awards, named after the woman who filed a lawsuit against McDonald's for dumping a cup of coffee that she was carrying . . . what I did not know:

Coffee is supposed to be served in the range of 185 degrees! The National Coffee Association recommends coffee be brewed at "between 195-205 degrees Fahrenheit for optimal extraction" and drunk "immediately." If not drunk immediately, it should be "maintained at 180-185 degrees Fahrenheit" (Source: NCAUSA Web site). Exactly what, then, did McDonald's do wrong? Did it exhibit "willful, wanton, reckless or malicious conduct"--the standard in New Mexico for award punitive damages?

Furthermore, I did not realize that most of what I read on the Internet about the Stella Awards is just not true; e.g.,:

The "winner" every year: In November, Mr. Grazinski purchased a brand new 32 foot Winnebago motor home. On his first trip home, having joined the freeway, he set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the driver's seat to go into the back and make himself a cup of coffee. Not surprisingly, the Winnie left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Mr. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not advising him in the handbook that he could not actually do this. He was awarded \$1,750,000 plus a new Winnebago.

What Cassingham does--and does quite well--is present actual cases that have become frivolous lawsuits . . . he thoroughly researches them, documents them, presents them in terms that anybody can understand and comments on them in a humorous way, such as the following one:

[Wanna-be Vampire v. Prison] As for the sexual favors of any female vampires, "Without any question we do not have conjugal visits in Utah," says a prison spokesman. Proving once again that prison life sucks.

There's a great chapter, in which he lets the reader decide how he or she would vote if they were on the jury . . . and the conclusion on "What happens is really up to you" is almost worth the price of the entire book . . . his analysis of various things happening in the legal system really got me thinking, as when he comments:

If a company is only partially at fault, it should only have to pay the judged percentage of awarded damages. Taking deep pockets out of the picture will force lawyers and plaintiffs to more realistically judge the merits of their case, and will drastically cut down on frivolous suits.

For more information and a FREE subscription to his Stella Awards newsletter, please click:
<http://www.stellawards.com>

And while you're at it, you might want to check out his other website:
<http://www.thisistrue.com>

D. I loved THE FOUR AGREEMENTS by Don Miguel Ruiz, in which he shared wisdom from his Toltec ancestors . . . it helped me and I'm sure countless others develop a simple, yet effective code of personal conduct.

So when I had the chance to listen to his follow-up book, THE MASTERY OF LOVE, I naturally was intrigued by the possibility of gaining some more valuable insights from the author--this time dealing with the subject of both developing and maintaining a loving relationship.

Perhaps my only disappointment in this title was that it was too short . . . I gained so much from it that after one listening, I immediately felt the need to go back and listen a second time . . . methinks that if you were reading it, you'd do the same, if just to master this one concept:

To try to change somebody is to try to change a dog or cat. You love them for who they are. If you're with somebody, don't try to change him or her.

Also, there were these other valuable tidbits:
Let go of the past and begin every day with a high level of love.

If you don't love yourself, you can change your belief and your life will change.

When you hear your heart guiding you to happiness, make a choice and stick to it.

Forgive others, and you will see miracles happen in your life.

And lastly, there was this one that really struck home:
If your choice is to be in a relationship and your partner is playing the same game . . . what a gift!

5. TV alert

A. Spike Lee's two-part documentary WHEN THE LEVEES BREAK: A REQUIEM IN FOUR ACTS takes a critical view of the government's

response to Hurricane Katrina . . . Monday at 9 p.m. on HBO with the second part the next night at the same time.

FOR OTHER TIMES:

If you miss the Monday showing, please click this link for additional showings:

http://www.hbo.com/apps/schedule/ScheduleServlet?ACTION_DETAIL=DETAIL&FOCUS_ID=631100

B. Finally, a program clearly aimed at me: AMERICAN EATS has an episode that looks at the history of barbecuing . . . Thursday at 10 p.m. on HISTORY.

C. Conan O'Brien hosts the 58th ANNUAL EMMY AWARDS on Sunday at 8 p.m. on NBC . . . I'll probably watch, if only to see whether Charlie Sheen or Jon Cryer take statues for their work in the very funny TWO AND A HALF MEN.

D. Two of my favorite shows have their season finales on Sunday night on HBO . . . ENTOURAGE is first at 10 p.m., followed by LUCKY LOUIE AT 10:30 p.m.

6. Brilliance

The DVD player had conked out and we weren't going to be able to watch the movie we'd rented. Then my husband had a brilliant idea: "Why don't we use the PlayStation?"

We pushed all the buttons, but couldn't get it to work, so we gave up and went upstairs.

We were reading in bed when our 17-year-old son appeared in our doorway. "Someone left a DVD in my PlayStation," he said.

"We were trying to watch a movie on it," my husband admitted, "but we couldn't get past the parental control screen."

"What a shame," our son said as he smiled and closed the door.

7. Websites

A. Do you know if it is OK to call a friend who lives in Sweden or will you be waking him or her up? What if you're trying to figure out when would be timely for you to receive a response to your e-mail?

To answer these questions, please click:

<http://www.timeanddate.com>

In addition, you'll find calendars for any year, as well as countdown timers, and you'll even be able to calculate the number of days between two different dates.

B. Information on ad placements on everything from eggs to air-sickness bags can be found at this website:

http://www.businessweek.com/innovate/content/aug2006/id20060801_825212.htm?chan=search

And to really stand out, companies might want to consider this website's

other examples:

http://images.businessweek.com/ss/06/08/guerrilla_ads/index_01.htm?campaign_id=aol

I especially liked the example of what McDonald's did to advertise its quick breakfast meals to overworked professionals in fast-paced Hong Kong; it placed a bed in a subway station and had a model sleep there!

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

To see the many books I've reviewed and generally enjoyed, go to Blaine's Best (on the left) and then letter "O" . . . check the second paragraph there, and you'll be taken to my reviews that have been posted at amazon.com's website.

If you like any of my reviews and/or find them helpful, please indicate that is the case by clicking the "Yes" option . . . doing so will enable me to move higher up in amazon's list of "Top 500" reviewers . . . currently, I'm #384 based on 2,666 favorable comments on my 549 reviews.

To do the above, all you need to do is:

1. Go directly to the amazon.com website:

<http://www.amazon.com>

2. Go to that site's website to find book I recently reviewed; e.g., THE OTHER SIDE OF ME by Sidney Sheldon.

3. Find my review (currently, I think it is third from the top).

4. Read my review. If you find it helpful, and I hope you do, then click "YES" at the bottom when asked if this review was helpful to you . . . that's all you need to do!

8. Computer tip

If you've never used a computerized calendar before, you may want to check out this FREE one from google.com:

[https://www.google.com/accounts/ServiceLogin?](https://www.google.com/accounts/ServiceLogin?service=cl&passive=true&nui=1&continue=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Fcalendar%2Frender)

[service=cl&passive=true&nui=1&continue=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Fcalendar%2Frender](https://www.google.com/accounts/ServiceLogin?service=cl&passive=true&nui=1&continue=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Fcalendar%2Frender)

It is easy to use and if you get mail in a Gmail account, adding appointments is as simple as clicking on the "Add to Calendar" option . . . moving an appointment is also easy; you just drag it, as you do in many traditional calendar programs (such as Outlook).

9. Royalty treatment

Servers at Disney World's Cinderella Castle treat you like royalty--literally. After lunch our waiter asked, "Is there anything else My Lord wishes?"

"Yes," I joked, "I'd like my wife to treat me like this at home."

He then bowed to my wife and said, "My Lord desires to be treated like a king in his castle. May I suggest a reply?"

“Sure,” she replied. “Tell him he’s spent a little too much time in Fantasyland.”

10. A quote I like

My parents told me, “Finish your dinner. People in China and India are starving.” I tell my daughters, “Finish your homework. People in India and China are starving for your job.”--Thomas L. Friedman, American journalist and three-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize

11. Thought for the day

Albert Schweitzer employed humor as a form of equatorial therapy, a way of reducing the temperatures and the humidity of the tensions. His use of humor, in fact, was so artistic that one had the feeling he almost regarded it as a musical instrument.

Life for the young doctors and nurses was not easy at the Schweitzer Hospital. Dr. Schweitzer knew it and gave himself the task of supplying nutrients for their spirits. At mealtimes, when the staff came together, Schweitzer always had an amusing story or two to go with the meal. Laughter at the dinner hour was probably the most important course. It was fascinating to see the way the staff members seemed to be rejuvenated by the wryness of his humor. At one meal, for example, Dr. Schweitzer reported to the staff that, “as everyone knows, there are only two automobiles within seventy-five miles of the hospital. This afternoon, the inevitable happened; the cars collided. We have treated the drivers for their superficial wounds. Anyone who has reverence for machines may treat the cars.”

The next evening, he passed along the news that six baby chicks had been born to Edna the hen, who made her home near the dock. “It was a great surprise to me,” he said solemnly, “I didn’t even know she was that way.”

One night at the dinner table, after a particularly trying day, he related to the staff an account of his visit to the Royal Palace in Copenhagen some years earlier. The invitation was for dinner, the first course of which was Danish herring. Schweitzer didn’t happen to like herring. When no one was looking he deftly slipped the herring off the plate and into his jacket pocket. The next day, one of the local newspapers, reporting on the life at the Royal Palace, told of the visit of a jungle doctor and of the strange eating habits he had picked up in Africa. Not only did Dr. Schweitzer eat the meat of the fish, the newspaper reported; he ate the bones, head, eyes and all.

I noticed that when the young doctors and nurses got up from the table that evening, they were in a fine mood, refreshed as much by the spirit of the occasion as by the food. Dr. Schweitzer’s fatigue, so palpable when he first came into the dining room, now gave way to anticipations of things that had to be done. Humor at Lambarene was vital nourishment.

SOURCE:

ANATOMY OF AN ILLNESS AS PERCEIVED BY THE PATIENT
(see also Section 2) by Norman Cousins

12. Advance planning department

A. Deb in Pennsylvania:

Please mark your calendars for a concert with California troubadour Scott Kalechsstein.

Friday August 24th at 7:00 p.m.

\$20 advance registration; \$25 at door.

OMPHALOS The Center for P.E.A.C.E.
301 Oxford Valley Rd. Suite 1503
Yardley PA

Call 215.493.3456 to reserve your space.

About the performer:

Scott is a modern-day troubadour and magical mischievous musical minstrel. (Think of a cross between Robin Williams, Eckhart Tolle and John Denver.) He has a unique ability to transform stress, frustrations and conflicts into improvisational musical comedy. He is an international recording star (with nine CD's being distributed internationally) and an amazingly electric and funny musician who has performed on stage with such notables as Deepak Chopra, John Gray, Ram Dass, Byron Katie, Joan Borysenko, Alan Cohen, and Marianne Williamson, among others.

Visit him and sample wit, wisdom, and songs at:

<http://www.scottsongs.com>

Expect to laugh loudly, lighten up, get silly, and leave walking on air. His CDs will all be available for purchase.

Scott will also offer a workshop and concert on Saturday, August 26 at the home of Cathy Carpenter-Scarpello in Forest Grove, just 10 minutes from Doylestown. Call 215.262.2273 to reserve your space for this enjoyable event; space is limited.

B. Natalie in Pennsylvania:

Looking for some Summer fun and willing to support a good cause?

Come to Dancin' for Peace with the rock 'n roll sounds of Brother to Brother.

It will be Saturday, August 26, 2006, from 8-11:30 p.m. at the Langorne American Post 148 Hall, 115 West Richardson Ave. in Langhorne, PA.

Please come and bring your friends.

\$20/couple donation; \$15 for current Peace Center members.

If you need more information, call 215.750.7220.

C. WANT A CHANCE TO WIN \$500?

Plus, you'll get to hear me present on the topic of "Marketing yourself."

Dates: Thursday, August 31; repeated on Tuesday, September 5

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Bucks County Community College, Newtown, PA

RSVP: via e-mail to bginbc@aol.com, so I can get you the exact room location.

D. WANT TO QUIT SMOKING? OR KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOES?

Bucks County Community College in Newtown, PA will be offering a FREE smoke cessation program in the near future. I'll be helping with it, working with the sponsoring group: PA-S.W.A.T. (Students Working Against Tobacco).

For further information, please call 215.968.8254 . . . if you get a machine, please leave your contact information and speak slowly.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . also, make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

Blaine Greenfield
19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way
Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
Phone : 828.633.1049

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #515

8.14.2006

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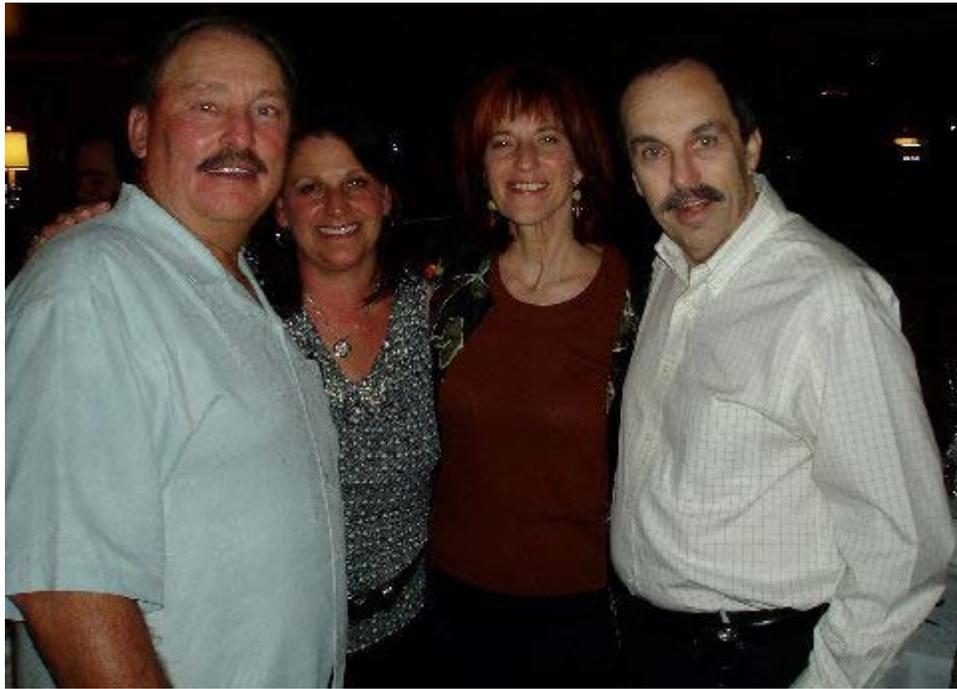
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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had quite a Saturday . . . in the morning, we went to the funeral service of my friend Andy Wargo's wife Joan . . . we were touched to learn of her life and how she raised five children while pursuing a long career in home-care nursing . . . we were moved by the lovely singing of the soloist at Saint Luke's Church in Glenside, PA, as well as by the playing of the bagpipes as we left.

That evening, we had the pleasure of attending a surprise birthday party for our friend Jody at the Yardley Inn in Yardley, PA . . . the food was great, but even better was seeing the love of all in attendance for Jody . . . her husband Barry did a great job in pulling off the event.

See below for a picture of the four of us (we're on the right):



B. On Friday, we spent just a lovely day in Princeton, NJ . . . we went for pizza, then a movie . . . afterwards, we had ice cream at Thomas Sweet's (609.683.8720)--always a treat . . . best of all was the fact that on Fridays at least, there's a singer/guitarist outside the store . . . I ask you: What could be finer than sitting on a bench, eating ice cream and listening to music?

We then concluded our evening by taking a walk around the town and stopping at some of the many interesting stores that have sprung up over the past few years.

C. Earlier in the week, our friend Edina came over to help us sort through the many clothes that I got from my father . . . I'm lucky that he and I were the same size, in that it now appears that I won't need to buy anything new for quite some time . . . fortunately for me, my father had excellent taste when it came to what he wore; in fact, in his earlier days, he was something of a clothes horse.

I mention Edina because she is an amazing woman . . . if you are EVER in the need for somebody to help you sort through what's in your closet, then make recommendations on what to keep and what to discard, she's the one to contact . . . she also offers a shopping service, in which she will go shopping with you (or even do the shopping for you) . . . Cynthia and I have both used her services, and we've always found her right on target.

If interested in working with Edina, she can be reached at:
edinah23@hotmail.com

NOTE:

She is sooooo talented . . . aside from helping you shop, she can assist with such other activities as cooking, decorating, organizing, and packing . . . stay tuned for details on an upcoming seminar she'll be offering in Central New Jersey.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to Edina's husband, Tunc . . . he was just named a vice president for Sarar . . . he often can be found in the

newly-opened Secaucus, NJ store (201.866.8800) . . . or if you live elsewhere in the country, please click this link for a location near you:
<http://www.sarar.com/indexeng.htm>

**** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD ****

This week, it goes to Stacy Olkkola--a supervisor with the Staples Rewards program.

This program enables you to get points for every time you make a purchase at Staples and once a quarter, you get a reward check that you can use at any Staples of your choice . . . or at least that's how the program is supposed to work.

However, I just recently realized that I had been going to Staples for a long time and never received anything back . . . so I wrote and was pleasantly surprised when Stacy called in an attempt to find out more about the problem.

She did a lot of digging and found out that somehow, I had been using a card that wasn't properly registered in the program . . . at the same time I was using mine, somebody in California was using a card with a similar number.

She promised to resolve the problem, even offering to call me back if I wanted her to do so.

I was most impressed with her both her professionalism and thoroughness . . . it's too bad that more companies don't have such outstanding employees as Stacy Olkkola.

2. FYI

Remove a splinter

Is a splinter too tiny or too deep to remove with tweezers? Avoid the agony of digging it out with a needle. Instead, cover the splinter with adhesive tape. After about three days, pull the tape off and the splinter should come out with it.

SOURCE: EXTRAORDINARY USES FOR ORDINARY THINGS (see also Section 4C), published by Reader's Digest

FYI, part 2

* FOR SALE: One motorized Rascal 600 scooter, less than a year old and hardly used by my father . . . it is a three--wheeled vehicle that is in perfect condition and great for any person who needs help in getting around . . . he paid nearly \$4,000 for it, but we'd consider any reasonable offer from anybody willing to get it from where it now is in Floral Park, NY . . . e-mail me at bginbc@aol.com if interested in this item.

* Dana in Pennsylvania:
Does your business have a website? If not, it should.
I offer great design services at reasonable prices!

Webpage design/redesign

PowerPoint Presentation Design
Advertisement Design
Other creative services upon request

E-mail me today for an estimate based on what your project entails: dana.christine@comcast.net

* Jim in Pennsylvania:

I have a student in my evening class, Harry McGinnis, who has started a bookkeeping business for small businesses with his wife. Their business is starting to expand and they are looking for people to work for their company.

They are looking for people who have some bookkeeping experience and are familiar with Quickenbooks software. If you know of anyone who is qualified and might be interested in this opportunity, could you have them get in touch with them.

Contact: Harry McGinnis
Bookkeeping Solutions, LLC
103 Morningside Circle
Chalfont, PA 18914
215.997.5032
<http://www.LisasBookkeeping.com>

And then there were these two e-mails in Nathan's recent difficulties with a cruise line:

* Pat in Pennsylvania:

This guy should be writing lots and lots of letters to this cruise line and its president. If he was so passionate to write what he did, he needs to take this to another level. Tell him to go to the cruise line's website and gather as many high level executives names as he can find and write to them about this bad experience.

And I would write a few to presidents of different travel agency organizations, etc. I would also suggest he writes to the Hawaii Congress and senators out there and copy senators locally. Hawaii depends on these tourism dollars to support their economy out there. Copy everyone with the letters to the congress and senators. Write to the local newspaper for the cities in Hawaii. The word has to get out on something as horrible as this.

Plus the cruise line is not a small company that doesn't have the resources to do something about this. They are big time! The mucky-mucks at the top of this organization may not even have a clue that your friend's experience was so bad as the locals on the ship would probably hide or not tell the big shots what happened.

If your friend is a good writer, I would also highly suggest he writes to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. Find a writer there who specializes in these types of leisure topics. They look for these types of stories and it would certainly get the big shots attention at the cruise line! And who knows, the cruise line may even try to refund or give your friend a perk to make up for his bad experience. People waste time writing to small organizations when they get lousy service. Sadly, most small companies don't have the resources to do much about it. Big companies like this do.

Ask your writer how good he would feel if someone tipped him off at the bad experience they had and they helped him avoid wasting his money on a horrible experience. Getting the word out what happened may help others from falling prey to this. Maybe he should start a website called something like "rate your cruise" where people can write and post about their experiences. Good and bad. Surely a good way to keep the cruise lines in check in the future, Think of all the people he would be helping! And all the neat tips people could learn about with cruise lines, etc. Turn it from a bad experience to a good one!

* Megan in New Jersey:

A note to your reader championing Celebrity Cruise Line: I think that each cruise is a very individualized experience based on the crew, itinerary, time of the year, etc. I went on a disastrous cruise on Celebrity that got rerouted the day before we left due to Hurricane Fabian.

I can guarantee that everyone on the boat was miserable. We were given no advance notice of our new itinerary (on the phone the night before departure I was told we would either go "north or south - pack for both"), had Bermuda beach towels set out for us to purchase for our day at the beach on the day that our new itinerary had us stopping off at a beach-less locale in Rhode Island. The staff knew nothing of our new ports of call (when I inquired about what we could do when we docked, I was told "I don't know because no one ever goes there").

Granted, the weather is no one's fault; however we were re-routed alongside other cruise lines who had offered free drink happy hours and other perks to soften the blow and we were instead "treated" to poor service and lazy attitudes. After FOUR complaint letters sent to them over the course of the six months following the cruise, we were sent a certificate for \$100 off our next Celebrity Cruise!

3. Dinner conversation

Man to his wife: The bad news is that we owe \$100,000 in college loans for the kids, a month's salary in back taxes and our retirement fund is tanking.

Wife: What's the good news?

Husband: Our identity has been stolen.

4. Reviews

A. Loved THE BOYNTON BEACH CLUB, a romantic comedy about life in an "active adult" community in Florida . . . my only hope is that it finds the audience that it deserves, in that methinks that not too many folks under 50 will be rushing to see this film . . . and that's a shame . . . there were many moments that made me smile, as well as others that brought a tear to my eyes . . . Dyan Cannon (looking

fabulous) and Joseph Bologna head a terrific ensemble cast . . . Unrated, but if it had one it would be a mild PG-13.

B. L'ENFANT (THE CHILD) is now out on DVD . . . it is a heartbreaking Belgian film about a young couple who have little money and a new baby . . . so the small-time crook sneaks away to sell hisson, thinking his girlfriend will forgive him . . . she doesn't . . . Jeremie Renier and Deborah Francois were outstanding as the two main characters . . . the cinematography was also excellent . . . rated R.

C. I often see ads that promise you all sorts of money-saving secrets . . . one, though, did catch my attention to the extent that I even sent away for it: EXTRAORDINARY USES FOR ORDINARY THINGS (see also Section 2), published by Reader's Digest.

The top of the book promises "1,200 money-saving secrets," and while I don't know that I will be able to use all of them, there were quite a lot that caught my attention--and that I might even someday try.

For example, there was this one:

To keep ice cream smooth and free of those annoying, yucky ice crystals that form once the container has been opened--rewrap the container completely in plastic wrap before you return it to the freezer. Or put the container inside a large seal-sealing plastic bag.

And here's another that I liked:

To fix tiny holes in your window screens, just dab some clear nail polish over the holes. It will stop those tiny (and often biting) insects in their tracks.

I was amazed that there were so many other products that I could use for a whole host of purposes, including bread, dental floss, mayonnaise, oatmeal, sandpaper, and straws.

Several boxed inserts added to my enjoyment of EXTRAORDINARY USES, such as this one that gave me background on the development of a shampoo icon:

One of the longest-running advertising campaigns in history, "the Break Girl," was the brainchild of Edward Breck, a member of the family that started Breck Shampoo Co. The ads, featuring wholesome, beautiful girls with gorgeous hair, began in 1936, during the Great Depression, although they didn't go national until 1947. Only two artists were used during the 40-year campaign. The best known was Ralph William Williams, who took over the job in 1957. Among the models for Williams's Breck girls were Cybill Shepherd, Kim Bassinger and Brooke Shields--all unknowns at the time. The campaign ceased soon after Williams's death in 1976.

Lastly, I've always heard that vinegar could be used for many reasons other than cooking--but the total of 188 surprised me . . . yet that said, I will now know to use the product to steam-clean my microwave:

To clean your microwave, place a glass bowl filled with 1/4 cup vinegar in 1 cup water inside, and zap the mixture for five minutes on the highest setting. Once the liquid cools, dip a cloth into it and wipe off stains and splatters.

What an idea. What a book!

D. Heard the taped version of TO AMERICA: PERSONAL REFLECTIONS OF AN HISTORIAN, the late Stephen Ambrose's last book.

It got me thinking that it's too bad that I never had him as my history teacher . . . I enjoyed his enthusiasm for the subject, as well as his optimism for this country.

He covers a lot of territory in this relatively short book, but there was just enough on each topic (including several presidents, the journey of Lewis and Clark, the building of the transcontinental railroad, and the soldiers of World War II) to want me to continue learning more--always a good sign.

In addition, I perhaps most enjoyed his story on how he became interested in the profession . . . and what he has learned from being a historian, as well as the mistakes he has made along the way.

I also liked his tips on how to vivid historical writing that could well be applied to other types as well . . . specifically: keep your narration in chronological order, keep the reader guessing and never use the passive voice.

Lastly, he made me realize that President Grant was a lot more than just a great war hero, and that if weren't for President Truman, World War II wouldn't have ended as quickly as it did . . . as "I tell my students, thank God for Harry Truman for his courage and decisiveness."

5. TV alert

A. SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE has its season finale on Wednesday at 9 p.m. on FOX, while AMERICA'S GOT TALENT concludes its season on Thursday at 9 p.m. on NBC.

My favorites: Benji in the former and though I think a magician named Nathan should have made the finals in the latter, I'm now pulling for a juggling act called the Passing Zone (though I don't think they have any chance).

B. THE FANTASIA BARRINO STORY: LIFE IS NOT EASY airs on Saturday at 9 p.m. on Lifetime . . . the title role is actually played by Barrino, AMERICAN IDOL's third-season champ.

C. ROAST OF WILLIAM SHATNER on Sunday at 10 p.m. on COMEDY CENTRAL should be fun . . . Jason Alexander is roast master and among those administering the ribbing are George Takei, Betty White and Fred Willard.

6. Creativity in action

On her first full day working at a discount store, my niece encountered her first cranky customer. The man had brought over mouse poison and demanded to know why it cost so much. "What's in there?" he said sarcastically. "Steak?"

"Well, sir," said my niece, "it is their last meal."

7. Websites

A. Sue in Pennsylvania shared this website with me that, according to her, has some good tips in it on attracting wealth:

<http://www.mindpowernews.com/CreateMillionsFreeGift.pdf>

I just skimmed it and was impressed . . . best of all, there's NO CHARGE to read this material (you don't have to buy anything; just start scrolling down).

One method, in particular, I liked: #29, Pay yourself first . . . take the first 10% of your income each week and invest it right from the beginning.

B. WARNING: Click this website only if you dare: <http://www.shibumi.org/Eotl>

If you chose to take me up on my dare, the good news is that you'll now have much more time on your hands!

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

As always, you are invited to share this newsletter with others and to make life easier for YOU, tell them that they can easily get their own subscription . . . all they have to do is go to the bottom of the homepage and click "Special Offer."

And in case you're wondering, there are presently some 743 subscribers . . . my goal is to hit 1,000; i.e., with your help.

8. Computer tip

Please read if you're an AOL user, know somebody who is or if you just want to get AOL for FREE . . . here's the scoop:

If you have Internet access, you no longer have to pay for standard AOL software with e-mail and messaging . . . also included is security software with virus and software protection.

If for some reason you want to pay \$9.95 a month (an expense I don't recommend), you get unlimited customer support, 10 hours of dial-up access and a premium security package.

If you need Internet access, for \$9.95 a month, you get the

AOL software package and security package with unlimited dial-up access and customer support.

For \$25.90 a month, you get all the features of the \$9.95 plan, plus 50 gigabytes of backup storage and additional security offerings.

To take advantage of the above, your best bet is to call Member Services at 800.984.6207 . . . current AOL broadband members could go to keyword "Change Plan," though the company has cautioned that this option may be shut off when call volumes have subsided.

BLAINE'S TWO CENTS:

This is unreal; I still recall the days when you had to pay for AOL by the hour . . . and the bills that I racked up!

9. Flying chickens

Scientists at NASA built a gun specifically to launch standard 4-pound dead chickens at the windshields of airliners, military jets and the space shuttle, all traveling at maximum velocity.

The idea was to simulate the frequent incidents of collisions with airborne fowl to test the strength of the windshields.

British engineers heard about the gun and were eager to test it on the windshields of their new high speed trains.

Arrangements were made, and a gun was sent to the British engineers. When the gun was fired, the engineers stood shocked as the chicken hurled out of the barrel, crashed into the shatterproof shield, smashed it to smithereens, blasted through the control console, snapped the engineer's back-rest in two, and embedded itself in the back wall of the cabin, like an arrow shot from a bow.

The horrified Brits sent NASA the disastrous results of the experiment, along with the designs of the windshield and begged the US scientists for suggestions.

NASA responded with a one-line memo:
"Defrost the chicken."

(True story . . . supposedly.)

10. A quote I like

If the marriage needs help, the answer almost always is have more fun. Drop your list of grievances and go ride a roller coaster.--Garrison Keillor, American author, storyteller and humorist best known for A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION (his radio program)

11. Thought for the day

A life

A life is like a song we write
In our own tone and key,
Each life we touch reflects a note
That forms the melody.

We choose the theme and chorus
Of the song to bear our name,
And each will have a special sound,
No two can be the same.

So when someone we love departs,
In memory we find
Their song plays on within the hearts
Of those they leave behind.

Author Unknown

(if you know who wrote this and/or the source, please let me know)

12. Advance planning department

A. WANT A CHANCE TO WIN \$500?

Plus, you'll get to hear me present on the topic of "Marketing yourself."

Dates: Thursday, August 31; repeated on Tuesday, September 5

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Bucks County Community College, Newtown, PA

RSVP: via e-mail to bginbc@aol.com, so I can get you the exact room location

B. If you're a present or retired BCCC faculty member, please HOLD the following date:

Saturday, September 30

We'll be having a beginning of year/contract ratification party at MEI Catering in Tullytown, PA.

Look for details in the near future . . . or call our union office, 215.968.8254, and ask for the information . . . you can also e-mail this request to: hughesbr@bucks.edu

C. Getting your foot in the door, a job search workshop, is being presented by Career Services at the College.

It is FREE and designed for students, alumni and Bucks County residents.

Master job seeking skills for life as you learn to:

* Write a professional resume and cover letter.

* Network to discover the hidden job market. (This session will be conducted by YOURS TRULY.)

- * Prepare for a stellar interview.
- * Dress for success for the interview and beyond.

Date: October 4, 2006

Time: 12-4:30 p.m.

Location: Tyler Room 128

Seating is limited; you MUST pre-register. To do so, call Carol Brandt at 215.968.8195.

D. WANT TO QUIT SMOKING? OR KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOES?

Bucks County Community College in Newtown, PA will be offering a FREE smoke cessation program in the near future. I'll be helping with it, working with the sponsoring group: PA-S.W.A.T. (Students Working Against Tobacco).

For further information, please call 215.968.8254 . . . if you get a machine, please leave your contact information and speak slowly.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . also, make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

Blaine Greenfield
19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way
Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
Phone : 828.633.1049

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #514

8.7.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I often wonder what makes some few movies or plays great--and why most others fail to reach that level.

To attempt to find out why, she sometimes will have us think about this question (which she learned when participating in the Landmark Forum):

What is missing, the presence of which would make a difference?

We found ourselves asking that after leaving a recent production of MR. HOBBS' VACATION . . . it was put on by the Somerset Valley Players (908.369.7469) in Hillsborough, NJ, and we've enjoyed other plays done by this group.

However, we found this production to be completely flat . . . in part, the story about a guy on a vacation from hell just wasn't funny . . . the actors, though well cast, also didn't seem to connect well with each other.

This play runs through August 13, but my recommendation is to wait for PIPPIN . . . that will be the Players' next production; it runs from September 8 until October 1.

B. Ironically, we had a similar experience when meeting friends for dinner at Ruby Tuesday's (908.231.0555) in Bridgewater, NJ . . . our meals weren't bad; I enjoyed my chopped steak and Cynthia liked her pasta dish . . . but the salad bar was not overly extensive . . . and--unlike Charlie Brown's--you have to pay extra for it . . . furthermore, service was adequate at best, which seems to always be the case whenever we go there.

Yet our saving grace for the evening was dessert . . . we ventured down the road to Branchburg, NJ, where we went to a small place called Sundae's Ice Cream (908.218.999) . . . they have 48 flavors, many of which appear to be very tempting . . . we both loved our choice of outrageous oatmeal.

C. The best news for me, personally, was that the contract at Bucks County Community College was overwhelmingly ratified by the faculty . . .the vote was 97% in favor; 3% opposed, by far the largest percentage in favor of any contract in the 20 years I've been involved with negotiations.

D. CONDOLENCES to Andy Wargo, my good friend and teaching colleague . . . his wife Joan died this past week . . . on this coming Saturday, August 12, there will be visitation at 10:30 a.m., followed by a liturgical service at 11 at St Luke's in Glenside, PA.

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

This week, it goes to Janet Baker--director of the allied health program at Bucks County Community College.

In addition to the fine work she does with the above, Janet offers various health-related programs to the entire College community from time to time . . . Cynthia and I recently had the pleasure of taking a CPR course with her, and it was excellent . . . we learned a great deal and got certified, too.

Janet was both enthusiastic and informative . . . we also appreciated her follow-up on details.

I was so impressed with the course that I'm now encouraging all my colleagues to take it as well . . . and I'm **STRONGLY REQUESTING** school officials (and readers of this newsletter) to make sure that emergency procedures are placed for all to see wherever anybody works.

2. FYI

If you walk, run or bike by yourself, please carry some sort of identification . . . even if you're in the neighborhood around your house, this will make it possible for others to help you if you're ever in an accident.

I once knew a professor at Bucks who had a heart attack while exercising . . . because nobody knew who he was, it wasn't possible to contact his family for some eight hours.

FYI, part 2

MANY THANKS to all who sent me cards, e-mails, etc. after my father's death . . . it meant a great deal to me, as did this letter that my cousin Brian Land wrote to my mother (reprinted with the permission of both of them):

Dear Aunt Muriel,

I am so sorry I will be unable to attend The Champ's send off. I know and fully understand it was your wish that I stay on holiday with Lisa and enjoy ourselves. That, though, is not what my heart said to do, but I was unable to make arrangements that would work, so your request will be honored, but with great sadness in my heart.

My heart breaks for you, when I think how your life will change; I am only now married less than one year and can't imagine what my life would be without Lisa, so I can only wish you strength and courage, as you go through this time. Do know though how very much YOU, Aunt Muriel, mean to me and my family, and how very much you are loved.

When I think now about the Champ, which I know one person always thought was a disrespectful way to refer to him, but to me that's always what he was, and the way I will remember him. I think of him as such a strong, strong man; a champ in the truest sense of the word. My memories of him can't begin to compare to the treasure trove of memories you will have, and be strengthened by, but for me they are so fond and fresh.

I remember as a kid working for him at 777 Third Avenue and how always supportive of me he was and how, even as I toiled away in the mailroom, he always made me feel so important, and that what I was doing was always so important to him and the company. When I had to walk on a hot summer's day in a gorilla suit up Third Avenue to assist in a presentation at Lorillard, how he said I was the best looking monkey he had ever seen.

Even back then, he would take me to his, what seemed to be secret closets in the office full of clothes, and ask me what I wanted, as back then our clothes seemed to be the same size. I would joke with him how I would always take his clothes, but he would never want any of mine. He would always laugh, but to me, he always looked so well-dressed--right out of a magazine. He would, though, always try to pass off his odd color clothes. In reflection, I think he himself wondered why he bought his Kelly green blazer or the pink one, and I always took them, just because I knew it made him feel good, and more often than not I ended up with clothes that were gorgeous.

I also remember going kayaking with him, 6-7 years ago when his health then wasn't the greatest (he had to have been over 80) and going down the river, really having just a great time. We could talk forever. Coming to a small waterfall, which he knew about prior to going down the river and knowing that we were told to get out of the kayak, go to shore, and pull the kayak from shore over the 6 foot water fall, and then get back in . . . well Champ, being the champ, had his own ideas, which there was no talking him out of. He decided to get out of the kayak, but rather than come to shore, he wanted to climb down the falls.

Every time I tried to help him, he would kick me, and he came over the falls by himself, splashing in the water! As he fell, he got up and laughed and just seemed so happy and free, like a kid all over again. It reminds me that even last week when we saw you how he kept telling me, he only wished he could go for a swim once more. And like a kid on a great ride, he only wanted me for years to take him to that river again. And again, and to this day, I only wish I had.

Lastly, I remember many car rides and times with him here or there, when he and I would just talk and talk, and talk. He was always the best listener

and always so supportive . . . when I had my problems in business, when I went through my divorce, he was always there. He would talk to me in the garage in Florida about the proper ways to shine and clean and keep your shoes, how always to wash your golf shoes and put the milky white shoe cleaner on them--all of which I knew was so important to him.

He to me was always so honest to me about his own life, and what a life it was. He was humble, and so matter of fact about it all, and I suppose what I took from it was that though life can often be hard, that you screw things up yourself sometimes, and to take responsibility for that and move on.

He also taught me that life can be so wonderful and to just get on with it and don't get hung up in the misery it can bring, but acknowledge it, deal with it, and move on and enjoy. That is what I learned, and I hope and pray I too can live my life like the Champ, end up with a love like yours of 66 years, and if I do, I know I will be so very lucky.

Aunt Muriel, I wish for you Kenny and Blaine, the strength and the courage of Uncle Bernie at this most difficult time because I know if you have that, everything will be OK. May you be comforted in the love of your family around you now, and the memories that I know you will all take with you forever. I love you, I am with you in my heart, and I will most definitely see you on Wednesday.

Love,
Brian

3. Compromise

Flossing my teeth is a giant pain. But my dentist insists upon it. "It's just so hard to reach some of my teeth," I complained.

"All right, let's compromise," he finally offered. "Just floss the teeth you want to keep."

4. Reviews

A. Do try to track down WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR?, a thought-provoking documentary that will remind you of a murder mystery with its multiple suspects.

I remember when EV1, as it was then called, first came out in the 1996 . . . it was a revolutionary modern car, requiring no gas, no oil changes and no muffler . . . the only maintenance check-up entailed replenishing the windshield washer fluid and a tire rotation . . . in fact, in one great scene, you see a mechanic showing his clean hands at the end of the day.

Yet the vehicle failed and WHO KILLED ELECTRIC CAR? attempts to answer the question . . . though no easy answers are given, you'll join me in wondering aloud how come you can't buy an EV1 now . . . rated PG; however, me thinks not particularly appropriate for anybody under the age of 10.

B. *INSIDE MAN* is now out in DVD format . . . my review from *BLAINESWORLD #496* follows:

Spike Lee's latest, *INSIDE MAN*, is a bank-heist thriller that has gotten great reviews--but didn't do much for either Cynthia or me . . . it is well done, and the acting by both Clive Owen and Denzel Washington is fine . . . Jodie Foster, usually terrific, is wasted in her role, as is Christopher Plummer in his . . . we felt it was overlong, and by the end, just wanted to get out of the theater without having to endure still another twist to the already convoluted tale . . . however, that said, the ending was well done . . . rated R.

C. When I saw that Murray Raphel--my longtime friend/marketing guru--had written a new book (*SPEAKING RULES!*), I obtained a copy as soon as I could and read it shortly thereafter . . . you'll want to do the same, even if you think you're not interested in the subject.

Murray presents much useful advice to anybody, but most particularly those who are not professional speakers . . . I also liked the fact that much of what he had to say applied to life in general . . . for example, in Rule #6, he encourages you to find a speaker mentor:

There will come a time when you will hear an interesting and confident speaker at a local group where you are a member. Or you attend a convention where you are amazed at the speaker's ability to capture an audience. Or you pay for a seminar where the speaker entertains, educates, and enthralls the audience.

Approach these speakers after they are finished and ask if you can talk to them or write them for some guidance on speaking.

There are only 51 other rules, yet each one of them is presented in a clear, often humorous fashion that will actually want to make you want to go out and practice them . . . illustrations by Dave Drotleff added to my enjoyment of the book.

I know when I REALLY like what I'm reading when I find it difficult to present just a few other ideas worth sharing in this mini-review, in that there were so many other useful tidbits . . . to cite just a few of them:

* Send your one page double spaced in capital letters introduction ahead of time for the person introducing you. And bring a copy! Otherwise you'll find many will say. "Do you have anything special you want me to say when I introduce you?" When you say you sent it to them they'll answer, "I never saw it . . . "

* Someone once asked me how to make an audience of 200 people react favorably to a speech. My answer: "Put them in a room with a low ceiling that only holds 150 with extra chairs along the wall to handle the overflow."

And this final one that any teacher could use, too:
You can make the audience more comfortable and quicker to accept who you are and what you do if you take the time before your speech to meet audience members. Speak to a dozen or so, asking questions like "Where do you work?" and "How long have

you been in business?" and "What's your responsibility in the business? Thank them for the information. They'll respond warmly to this conversation and you'll start off having several people in the audience who like you even before they hear your first story.

Another advantage: You may be able to find a spot in your presentation where you can refer to one of these conversations. When you include the name of one or two of the people you spoke to earlier in a flattering way, you will make them feel important, smile more often and applaud more loudly.

SPEAKING RULES! is currently available from this website:
http://raphelmarketing.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=51

D. I've always been amazed by Sidney Sheldon's writing and how he keeps cranking novels out--even at the age of 89 . . . what I did not know too much about was the rest of his life.

I found much about it in listening to THE OTHER SIDE OF ME, his entertaining memoir that traces his life from a suicide attempt at the age of 17 to the writing of his first book in 1969 . . . he went from being an RKO theater usher to a struggling songwriter, then a top-flight Hollywood screenwriter in just a few short years . . . thereafter, Sheldon he wrote and directed films and created several classic TV shows, including I DREAM OF JEANNIE.

Along the way, he had to live with constant self-doubt and depression, along with bipolar disorder . . . yet what most impressed me about Sheldon was how he managed to keep going in spite of many setbacks . . . as he notes, "Careers in Hollywood are like elevators, up and down. The trick is not to leave when down."

In addition, I liked the gossipy parts in the book--all presented in a way that was not mean-spirited . . . it was fun to learn more about Cary Grant, Groucho Marx, Kirk Douglas, Judy Garland, Patty Duke, and a whole host of other performers that Sheldon worked with over the years.

I also liked how Sheldon described these two pieces of advice given to him by Harry Cohen, head of production at Columbia Pictures:

* Before I hire a producer, I always look at his golf score. If he has a low score, I don't want him. I want producers who are only interested in producing for me.

* Do you know when I hire an expensive director? When he's just had a flop. His price comes down.

5. TV alert

A. The LAST COMIC STANDING finale airs on Wednesday at 8 p.m. on NBC . . . it is live, so watching the results should prove interesting.

B. AMERICAN EATS addresses the sweet history of chocolate on Thursday at 10:30 p.m. on HISTORY.

C. THE RON CLARK STORY features Matthew Perry in a 2006 original film about a North Carolina teacher who takes a position in New York City and faces the challenge of breaking through to disadvantaged kids in a tough Harlem school . . . Sunday at 8 p.m. on TNT.

6. Pretend heart attack

Although this married couple enjoyed their luxury fishing boat together, it was the husband who was behind the wheel operating the boat. He was concerned about what might happen in an emergency.

So one day out on the lake he said to his wife, "Please take the wheel, dear. Pretend that I am having a heart attack. You must get the boat safely to shore."

So she drove the boat to shore.

Later that evening, the wife walked into the living room where her husband was watching television. She sat down next to him, switched the TV channel, and said to him sweetly,

"Please go into the kitchen, dear. Pretend I'm having a heart attack. You must set the table, cook the dinner, serve it and wash the dishes."

7. Websites

A. Could you pass the 8th grade? To see for yourself, please click:
<http://reference.aol.com/back-to-school>

The questions range from English to geometry, and all I can say is that I'm glad I no longer have to take such an exam!

B. If you're interested in FREE tickets to TV shows, please click:
<http://www.tvtix.com/>

Most of them are available for Los Angeles shows, but if you look at the bottom, you'll see information on how to get tickets for stuff taped in New York City or Chicago

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

On the left, you'll see "Radio Show" . . . go to that link if you want to see a history of my radio career . . . you can also hear one of my shows.

As you may have read in a past issue, a recent management change

at WWFM has resulted in my show being taken off the air . . . but, hopefully, I'll resurface soon again . . . on another station and/or even with my own cable show.

Please do keep me in mind if you have any media contacts for me to pursue with respect to the above possibilities.

8. Computer tip

If you take more than five seconds to load the next page when you click a link, it could be your Internet connection . . . there's a FREE way to run your own speed tests; to access it, please click:

<http://www.bandwidthplace.com/speedtest/>

Do so when your computer is running both slow and well to see if there's a dramatic difference in modem and bandwidth speeds . . . you might also want to click this link to check forums to see if people in your areas have the same issues:

<http://www.broadbandreports.com/memory>

Lastly, run both anti-virus and anti-spyware programs to make sure your computer is clean . . . and as a last resort, call your Internet Service Provider's tech support line and ask for your speeds to be checked.

9. Letter to a senator

July 31, 2006

The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Senator Sarbanes,

As a native Marylander and excellent customer of the Internal Revenue Service, I am writing to ask for your assistance. I have contacted the Immigration and Naturalization Service in an effort to determine the process for becoming an illegal alien and they referred me to you. My reasons for wishing to change my status from U.S. Citizen to illegal alien stem from the bill which was recently passed by the Senate and for which you voted.

If my understanding of this bill's provisions is accurate, as an illegal alien who has been in the United States for five years, what I need to do to become a citizen is to pay a \$2,000 fine and income taxes for three of the last five years. I know a good deal when I see one and I am anxious to get the process started before everyone figures it out.

Simply put, those of us who have been here legally have had to pay taxes every year so I'm excited about the prospect of avoiding two years of taxes in return for paying a \$2,000 fine. Is there any way that I can apply to be illegal retroactively? This would yield an excellent result for me and my family because

we paid heavy taxes in 2004 and 2005.

Another benefit in gaining illegal status would be that my daughter would receive preferential treatment relative to her law school applications. If you would provide me with an outline of the process to become illegal (retroactively if possible) and copies of the necessary forms, I would be most appreciative.

Thank you for your assistance.

Your Loyal Constituent,
Samuel F. Chatman

10. A quote I like

I'm so unfamiliar with the gym, I call it James--Chi McBride, actor,
on THE ELLEN DEGENERES SHOW

11. Thought for the day

Rabbi Katz read this poem at the conclusion of my father's
recent funeral:

Afterglow
by Carol Mirkel

I'd like the memory of me
To be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an after glow
Of smiles when life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo
Whispering softly down the ways.
Of happy times and laughing times
And bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve
To dry before the sun.
Of happy memories that I leave
When life is done.

12. Advance planning department

A. Debbie in Pennsylvania:
Internationally recognized Kenton David Bell presents:
"Divine Connections . . . You and Your Essence:
A profound two days of Source and You!"

August 12 & 13, 2006
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Held at:
OMPHALOS, The Center for P.E.A.C.E.
301 Oxford Valley Road

Suite 1503
Yardley, PA 19067

Fee for this 2-day workshop is \$300.

Learn to connect directly to Source Energy.
Discover and strengthen your own healing light.
Move into new expressions of Self.
Learn how to direct Source Energy to that which needs healing.
Create from the Point of your Essence.

For more information, please click:
<http://www.omphaloscenter.org>

To register, call 215.493.3456.

Also, there's a special introduction to the above on
Thursday, August 10
7-9 p.m.

To be held at the Doylestown Wellness Center.

Fee is just \$25. To register, call 215.918.5995.

B. Meaghan in Pennsylvania:
I'd like to tell you about an event that will be a lot of fun for you
and yours.

As you may know, I've been collaborating with Bucks County
Riverboat (now docked behind BRT). I'm putting together a group of people
for a BLUES CRUISE at 8 p.m. on August 19 (rain date 8/26).

Tickets are \$45 per person and include a 3 hr. cruise on the Delaware
River, live blues music by Joe Zook and the Blues Deluxe,
complimentary appetizers, and full service bar with your first beer or wine
served free.

This is going to be a great time. I hope that you can make it!

For more information, please call Meaghan Crawford, group sales
manager at the Bristol Riverside Theatre: 215.785.6664.

C. Tobi in Pennsylvania:
Business "Boot Camp" for Women
A Guide to Reward & Recognition

Hosted by internationally recognized speaker,
executive coach and author Marjorie Brody

November 15, 2006
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Library Auditorium – Newtown Campus
Bucks County Community College

Tickets: \$295 per person:
* Interactive workshop
* Opportunity to network with other business leaders
* Complimentary breakfast and lunch

Or take advantage of a \$1,000 Corporate Sponsorships and receive:

- * 3 tickets
- * Your logo on all marketing literature
- * The opportunity to promote your organization to various business leaders attending the event.

For more information and to reserve your tickets today, call 215.968.8224, e-mail: foundation@bucks.edu, or visit: www.bucks.edu/foundation

D. WANT TO QUIT SMOKING? OR KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOES?

Bucks County Community College in Newtown, PA will be offering a FREE smoke cessation program in the near future. I'll be helping with it, working with the sponsoring group: PA-S.W.A.T. (Students Working Against Tobacco).

For further information, please call 215.968.8254 . . . if you get a machine, please leave your contact information and speak slowly.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq and that peace soon resumes in Israel . . . also, make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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Phone : 828.633.1049

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #513

7.31.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are saddened to share with you the following obituary:

Bernard Greenfield

In loving memory of a most unique man who lived his life fully and well. His wife, Muriel; sons, Kenneth and Blaine; and grandchildren, David, Risa and Shannon will miss him deeply, as will his many friends.

B. My father (see also the part after Section 1D, Sections 10 and 11) was 87 at the time of his death . . . he will surely be missed; however, if the last few days are any indication, he will be remembered by many in ways that shall always touch my heart.

I saw this, beginning on Sunday, at the funeral services held at the Riverside-Nassau North Chapels in Great Neck, NY . . . Rabbi Katz, our longtime family friend and rabbi, spoke eloquently and read several touching poems, including the one he wrote that can be found in Section 11 . . . Kenny, my brother, and David, my nephew, also spoke in ways that moved the many family and friends who were in attendance . . . as incredible as it may sound, many have told us it was the "nicest" funeral they have ever attended.

From there, the immediate family went to lunch at La Gioconda (516.466.2004)--also in Great Neck . . . the food was great, but even better was the celebration of my father's life that took place . . . many in the room got up to tell "Bernie stories," one often funnier than the other . . . there were even some that I hadn't heard.

Afterwards, the family returned to my mother's house, where we've been sitting shivah the past few days . . . this is

a traditional period of mourning the dead that is observed in Jewish homes . . . there is some sadness, of course, but again, the great experience for me has been the sharing of still more stories about my father and his life . . . we've also all gotten a kick out of reviewing the picture albums that my father so painstakingly put together of his life with my mother.

C. Ordinarily, I'm not real big "into" yoga; in fact, I've only gone to classes once or twice in my life--largely because Cynthia invited me, and I wanted to spend more time with her.

Yet maybe my thinking will change . . . last week, I attended a restorative yoga session taught by Mecquel Geng and found it quite enjoyable.

To quote from the course offering sheet:

This is a gentle practice that invites you into the realization of your own spaciousness. By fully "letting go" through the use of props and then holding the postures for several minutes we meet our own expansive deep waters of stillness and rejuvenation. This practice is appropriate for those who live busy lives, and those who want to rejuvenate physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually.

For more information, please click:

<http://www.princetonyoga.com>

Next on the agenda is a full course in Laughter Yoga--I kid you not--in a few weeks at the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health in Lenox, Massachusetts.

Who knows? At this rate, ,maybe in my next life, I'll take up permanent residence in an ashram and come back as Baba Greenfield, a Siddha master.

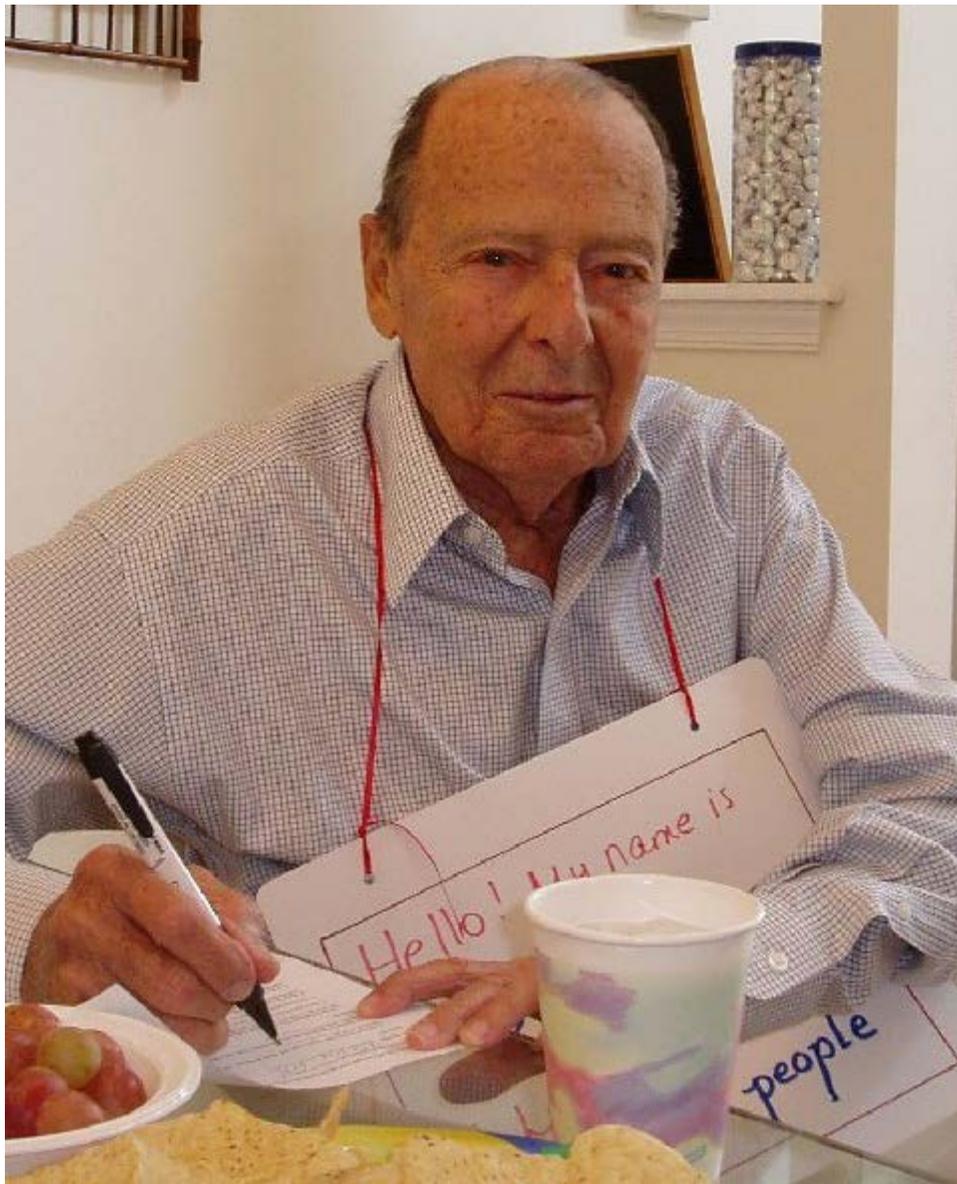
D. CONGRATULATIONS to Lisa in Pennsylvania on the recent birth of her son, Eric Thomas Jaffee. He weighed in at 9 lb. 8 oz. (no, not a typo) and is 21 1/2" long. In the department of perhaps too much information, but I know some will ask . . . although Lisa was ready to be induced, she delivered naturally after only 36 minutes of real labor. Baby Eric, mom, dad, and the whole clan are doing well.

CONGRATULATIONS, also, Tunc--a good friend . . . his company's newest store recently had its grand opening in Secaucus, NJ . . . for more information about this fine clothing store, please feel free to call 201.866.8800 . . . or for a store location near you, please click:

<http://www.sarar.com/indexeng.htm>

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

This week, it goes to Bernie Greenfield--my father.



He was an amazing guy who lived a great life . . . he had been an officer in the navy, an advertising executive who headed his own company, an avid golfer and passionate bridge player, as well as a guy who truly loved his family and wide circle of friends.

I got to know him best over the past 10 years of his life, much of it he spent in pain . . . however, you'd never know it by asking him . . . if you asked him, he'd typically reply he was "97% perfect and 3% not so good" or was more often the case, he'd switch the subject around to ask how you were doing.

Many have told me that my father was their hero . . . they'd visit him and no matter how they felt beforehand, they always felt better after seeing him.

I always looked forward to visiting him, whether by phone, e-mail or in person . . . his jokes, no matter how many times I heard them, never failed to put a smile on my face . . . I loved listening to and learning from his business stories . . . and his advice was always on target and given freely--but for the most part, only when I asked for it.

Perhaps what I'll remember most about my father, though, was his

love for my mother . . . he often told me about it, and it brought me joy whenever I saw them hold hands--even after 66 years of marriage!

2. FYI

Shortly after my father died, my mother gave me a beautiful gold watch he owned--but hardly used. It looked in good shape except for the fact that the battery was apparently run down.

So when I went to get the battery replaced, I was told that the watch hadn't been worn for quite some time. The person at the jewelry store (Lisa Pogach, a helpful sales associate at Mayfair Jewelers in Newtown, PA; 215.579.1900) could tell because the battery had started to leak.

She told me that when and if a watch every stops running because of a battery that needs replacing, you need to take care of it right away. Or you may have real problems in the future.

From what I've seen, this applies to appliances as well; i.e., I have noticed that batteries sometimes also leak in them. So I now plan to replace batteries when they go dead or at least remove them if I don't intend to use the watch, appliance, etc.

I also plan to wear my father's watch on a regular basis, in that when I do, it reminds me of him . . . and I feel as if he's almost in my presence.

FYI, part 2

* Ward in Pennsylvania (with an offer to ALL readers):

I, Ward Vinson, have a standing offer of \$10 thousand US dollars for anyone who can show me the law that says it is illegal to pray in school. I have no fear about having to pay because there NEVER was such a law, and I'd be the first to take up arms against anyone foolish enough to propose such legislation.

Every time I hand out a test in class, I can feel the silent prayers going up from about half the class. Try to legislate against that sort of prayer. Then go to the Bible and hear what it says about prayer.

When so moved, go into thy closet and pray in silence. Any prayer said in unison with others will be ignored. All the Christian Evangelists are trying to do is proselytize children so they can steal the country out from under us.

Try to find a Constitutional right to do that.

BLAINE'S TWO CENTS:

This is a legitimate offer from Ward, a professor emeritus of history at Bucks County Community College and longtime friend . . . should anybody want to take him up on his challenge, reply to him at: wardprof@aol.com and, also, send me a copy of your e-mail.

* Nate in New Jersey:

I would be curious on any feedback from your readers. My wife and I just returned from a Hawaiian cruise on NCL (Norwegian Cruise Line) Pride of America. This is approximately our eighteenth cruise, and it was

the worst experience we encountered. The ship was beautiful, the shows were tremendous, the specialty restaurants were great; however the service and the way all the guests were treated was disastrous.

I have never been on a cruise where 2,400 guests were more dissatisfied, and I would be curious to see your readers' perception.

At this juncture I can assuredly state that all their marketing efforts are futile.

Any feedback, would be greatly appreciated.

And the next time you decide upon a cruise, think of Celebrity. I am sure both you and your beloved will enjoy a highly positive experience.

* Barbara in Pennsylvania:

Few people realize (or know) that Ben Stein--whose piece appeared in last week's issue--also holds a doctorate in economics and was a speech writer and adviser to President Nixon.

* Pat in Pennsylvania:

Not sure if you have been following this or not, but they have these same "duck boats" in Philly. Apparently, there are two different types. And they feud over rights to use a ramp that one built for access to the river.

Lots of publicity on the fighting in the newspapers. Maybe someday you could check out the "ducks" in Philly? They are parked in the area of Independence Hall on 6th street or 5th Street, off of Market. Pretty sure they are the same as the ones you rode in Boston.

* Marty in Texas:

I really do apologize to you Ginger in Florida

It occurred to me that maybe, just maybe, it was not what I said that offended you, but how I said it. I never meant any disrespect.

3. Parking problems

One dentist in town was sick and tired of people parking their cars in his parking lot. So he took matters into his own hands. The sign he posted read:

"Parking Reserved for Patients and Employees. All violators will be given an appointment."

4. Reviews

A. Four words come to mind when I think about the movie MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND: better than SUPERMAN RETURNS . . . that's certainly not a ringing endorsement, but I at least had fun with the former film; the latter did little for me.

MY SUPER is a sometimes amusing spoof on the superhero genre . . . it involves a guy who finds it difficult to break up with a gal who can fly, lift cars and do other spectacular things.

Uma Thurman was funny in the title role; Luke Wilson was a little too bland for me as her boyfriend . . . I did like the work of the supporting cast, and I loved the cheesy special effects . . . rated PG-13.

B. TYLER PERRY'S MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION is a bit of a lot of things: comedy, melodrama and romance that somehow works . . . it centers on two half-sisters who are struggling to overcome the oppression of their mother . . . grandma Madea, a very funny Perry, is the glue that helps to make sure that everything turns out all right . . . the rest of the ensemble cast is excellent, including both Cicely Tyson and poet Maya Angelou who show up as old relatives at a funeral . . . rated PG-13.

C. Sometimes, the truth is so obvious, yet we never see it . . . that was obvious to me when I read Jeffrey Gitomer's THE LITTLE RED BOOK OF SELLING.

He makes it clear that too many salespeople concentrate on how to sell . . . rather, they should focus in on why customers buy . . . and perhaps most importantly, why do YOUR customers buy.

As for the answer, it is simple--though very few people ever do this . . . you have to ask them!

Gitomer's small but insightful book is full of other such tidbits of advice that sound equally simple . . . for example, he says that being liked is even more important than being trusted . . . as he notes:

Can you imagine the CEO of the company making a buying decision, saying, "I trusted that guy, but I sure didn't like him." Like leads to trust. Trust leads to buying. Buying leads to relationship.

I further liked that his advice applied to more than just sales situations; they also applied to life . . . he urges readers to:

Make the right friends. Stay away from poison people--the ones who can't seem to get anywhere. Have a mentor or three. Who do you hang around with? That is who you are likely to become. How successful are the people you associate with.

And he says not to whine that the company won't give you a laptop. They sell them at the local computer store.

Lastly, I loved the accompanying cartoons, as well as Gitomer's sense of humor (that often has a great deal of truth to it, too) . . . this one idea in particular made the whole book worthwhile to me:

Can't get your voicemail returned? You suck! Everyone has a voicemail strategy and very few of them work. One of the reasons is that voicemail screens out unwanted calls and unwanted people. You may be among the unwanted. Certainly you're among the unknown. In THE SALES BIBLE, there's a strategy of leave half a message, pretend like you're cut off and hang up. Go get THE SALES BIBLE. In my seminars I tell people to have their kid leave a message when someone persistently will not return your call. If you use the kid message it will be returned in 20 minutes, guaranteed. But the object of voicemail is to use it to convey some kind of valuable reason to get a call returned, or it won't get returned. That's not a difficult concept to understand. If you give

someone a proposal and leave a voicemail saying, "I hope you got my proposal, if you have any questions call me," that voicemail is not going to get returned. Because it's stupid. You know it's stupid, I know it's stupid, and the customer knows it's stupid. The secret to voicemail is be slightly daring and take risks. If you're humorous and creative you've got a shot at it, if you're not you don't.

D. I recently had the pleasure of listening to LIVING AN EXCEPTIONAL LIFE, a Better Life Media presentation delivered by Jim Rohn . . . though it's only 48 minutes long, there's a lot of useful information in the program from this business philosopher who has authored over 25 books and audio/video programs.

I also liked how he used real-life examples, often from his own life, and how it inspired me to want to do more with my life on a daily basis.

Among his many useful suggestions:

* If a good idea comes your way, write it down.

* Set goals that will elevate you.

* Each person needs all of us.

* The ultimate essence of life: Learning to live a good life.

* Take special care of your inner circle of relatives and special friends. And make sure the mailbox is not empty. (In other words, keep in touch with these people.)

What makes Rohn so much fun to listen to is that he frequently adds humor, such as when he commented that good friends know all about you--and still like you!

This fine program is available for purchase or rental . . . if you want to get it, please click:

<http://www.achievement.com/>

Above is the tape rental club I belong to; i.e., the Achievement Tape Library . . . this a great way to hear CDs and/or audio cassette tapes, view videos, etc.--all for a fraction of what it would cost to buy them . . . call the head of the firm (Paul Arroyo) directly at 1.800.735.3660 and mention my name . . . that way, you'll be sure to pay even higher prices . . . NOT.

5. VCR alert

A. A NIGHT AT THE OPERA airs on Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. as part of TCM's daylong Marx Brothers salute, which includes ANIMAL CRACKERS, MONKEY BUSINESS, HORSE FEATHERS, and A DAY AT THE RACES.

B. I WANT THAT! TECH TOYS enables ordinary citizens to try out the latest gadgets, then talk about them . . . Wednesday at 9 p.m. on HGTV.

C. OUTRAGEOUS AND CONTAGIOUS: VIRAL VIDEOS will be running

a four-episode marathon on BRAVO on Friday at 9 a.m., repeated on Saturday at both 4:30 and 9 a.m. . . . these media video--think 1996's "Dancing Baby"--are the new chain letter, often proving funnier than anything you should be doing at work.

6. Social skills

Our catering manager lacks certain social skills—like knowing when to keep her mouth shut. While discussing a baby christening party with a young couple, she told the mother, "You look like you've lost most of your pregnancy weight."

"Thanks," came the clenched-teeth reply. "We adopted."

7. Websites

A. Here's a website devoted to vegetarian recipes:

<http://www.vegweb.com>

What makes it unusual is that there's also a section for Personal ads.

If you're only interested in the vegetarian scene (for dating purposes) or know somebody else who might be, please click any and/or all of the following: <http://www.veggieconnection.com>

It won the 2005 VegNews Magazine Award for Top Spot to Find a Veggie Mate, but members can join to meet friends or pen pals in addition to romantic partners.

<http://www.veggiedate.org>

The site features personals, a chat room and roommate finding service.

<http://www.veggiematchmakers.com>

This service is based in England, but boasts worldwide membership.

<http://www.greensingles.com>

Green singles is devoted to singles looking for partners interested in environmental issues, animal rights and/or vegetarianism.

<http://www.veggielove.com>

This site was created by the founders of Green Singles as a way for vegetarians to meet other vegetarians.

<http://www.greenfriends.com>

This Canadian-based website includes blogs, some personal ads, and instant message service and daily vegetarian news.

<http://www.vegconnect.com>

This free website includes vegetarian personal ads from around the world.

SOURCE:

Based on information contained in "Where veggies find love,"
COURIER NEWS, 1.18.06, p. D3

B. If you're looking for the unique, useful or unobvious, then

please click:

<http://www.PatentlySilly.com>

The man behind this website is an engineering major turned stand-up comic . . . incredibly, what you see here is no joke . . . so if you're in the mood to exercise from your recliner without getting up, then check the current posting . . . in addition, I liked the multi-purpose headgear that can:
(1) serve as a hat or headgear, (2) it can amplify a user's voice, (3) it can be used as a hearing aid, (4) it can be used as a carrying utensil, (5) it can serve as a banner to advertise a logo, (6) it can be used as a traffic safety cone, and (7) it can serve as a Christmas ornament.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

You can check past issues of this missive there, too . . . go to "Newsletter" on the left, then "Past Issues" . . . to see a photo of my father and mother together, when we celebrated their 66th anniversary, check out BLAINESWORLD #508.

8. Computer tip

By now, you probably know and/or use many of the supposed discount travel sites: Travelocity, Expedia, etc. . . . but here's one that might surprise you:

<http://www.aol.com>

Or AOL members can go there directly via keyword Travel.

When you see the opening screen, look for "last-minute weekends" toward the top . . . methinks you'll find good if not great deals that can't be matched elsewhere.

For example, when Risa and JP came in for my father's funeral, I looked around and could only find last-minute flights in the \$500 range . . . but when my brother suggested the AOL website, I took his advice and got fights for them for some \$300 that also included a car rental!

9. Doozies

Why is it that when some people get stopped by the law, they choose that moment to practice acting like a moron? Officer Jay Johnson of the University of Tennessee Police Department has heard such doozies as the following:

"No! No! No! That's not how they did the DUI tests on COPS."

"Here's my ID. It's not my fake one."

"Man, you don't have to arrest me for this. I learned my lesson the first time I got arrested for this."

"Officer, could you follow me through the drive-through while you write my ticket? I don't want to lose my place in line."

10. A quote I like

If he [Bernie Greenfield] got frequent flyer miles for all the time he's spent in hospitals or rehab centers, he'd own his own private jet.--David Greenfield, speaking at his grandfather's funeral on July 30, 2006

11. Thought for the day

To those who loved him
by Rabbi Reuben M. Katz

What does remain
When long at last
The sun has set on one we've loved
And we attempt to stand--
Though crushed in sorrow--
Erect, serene,
As he would want us to--
Accepting the final word
Without complaint?

Is this the end
To a noble soul?
A mind alert?
A heart that cared?
A true friend?
A fountain of love?

Cold, calculating, clever,
We know there is nothing else,
Death is so final--isn't it?

And yet--
There is a face
That rises in our recollection,
A voice our ears have heard before--
There is a human heart
That has fed upon his goodness,
There is a soul that had been
Honed upon his pure selfless love.
There is someone
Still led by his hand.
There are children
Unconsciously touched
By his tenderness.

And shouldn't we--
Who know it all--
Accept the ray of faith and hope
That someday, somehow,
In that better world to be,
A world fashioned by the untainted,

Molded by the unblemished,
He will be there?

A foundation stone,
A guiding star,
An inspiration.

SPECIAL THANKS:

To Rabbi Katz for allowing me to use this lovely poem that he read at my father's funeral . . . it originally appeared in his book of poetry, MUSINGS, and has been reprinted with permission.

12. Advance planning department

A. Debbie in Pennsylvania:
Internationally recognized Kenton David Bell presents:
"Divine Connections . . . You and Your Essence:
A profound two days of Source and You!"

August 12 & 13, 2006
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

OMPHALOS
The Center for P.E.A.C.E.

Held at:
OMPHALOS, The Center for P.E.A.C.E.
301 Oxford Valley Road
Suite 1503
Yardley, PA 19067

Fee for this 2-day workshop is \$300.
Register by August 5th and pay only \$275!

Learn to connect directly to Source Energy.
Discover and strengthen your own healing light and "allowing
balance to occur."
Moving into new expressions of Self.
Learn how to direct Source Energy to that which needs healing.
Seeing the body and energy field as a whole.
How to Create from the point of your Essence.

For more information, please click:
<http://www.omphaloscenter.org>

To register, call 215.493.3456.

Also, there's a special introduction to the above on
Thursday, August 10
7-9 p.m.

To be held at the Doylestown Wellness Center.
Fee is just \$25.

Same procedure for registration; i.e., call 215.493.3456.

B. Meaghan in Pennsylvania:
I'd like to tell you about an event that will be a lot of fun for you

and yours.

As you may know, I've been collaborating with Bucks County Riverboat (now docked behind BRT). I'm putting together a group of people for a BLUES CRUISE at 8 p.m. on August 19 (rain date 8/26).

Tickets are \$45 per person and include a 3 hr. cruise on the Delaware River, live blues music by Joe Zook and the Blues Deluxe, complimentary appetizers, and full service bar with your first beer or wine served free.

This is going to be a great time. I hope that you can make it!

For more information, please call Meaghan Crawford, group sales manager at the Bristol Riverside Theatre: 215.785.6664.

C. Nancy in New Jersey:
NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY, NEW JERSEY LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION AND BARNES AND NOBLE PRESENT:

Second Annual
New Jersey Library Appreciation Days
A Statewide Book Fair to Support New Jersey's Public Libraries

Friday, September 8 and Saturday, September 9, 2006
Participate at all New Jersey Barnes and Noble Stores

Events at Barnes & Noble Princeton

Friday, September 8
11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Miss Amy's Musical Birthday Party Celebration
Children's Entertainer Miss Amy will celebrate her birthday with us and entertain us with songs from her CD's for young children

Special Guest at 11:30 a.m.
Howard Zogott, Director of the Cranbury Public Library,
with a special Birthday storytime.

Live Snake Party at 7:00 p.m.

Scott Prior "The Snake Man" will entertain us with an educational program featuring his live snake collection. Turn in your Summer of Unfortunate Events Reading Journals this weekend and receive a free book. September 9th is also the deadline to enter our Summer of Unfortunate Events Essay Contest.

Saturday, September 9
Librarian Storytime Festival, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Our local children's librarians will read stories in our Children's Department with a special appearance by Little Nut Brown Hare from Guess How Much I Love You!

Also, Barnes & Noble is partnering with The New Jersey State Library and New Jersey Library Association for the second year, to present a new program designed to help fund New Jersey libraries' 2007 summer reading program. Barnes and Noble will donate a percentage of every sale from every customer who presents a book fair voucher at every Barnes and Noble store in New Jersey for two days: Friday, September 9 and Saturday, September 10. The funds raised from

this two-day event will benefit the children and young adults who participate in next year's summer reading program.

How to participate:

Present a book fair voucher at any Barnes and Noble store in New Jersey on September 8 and 9 when you make a purchase.

How to obtain a voucher:

* Ask your local librarian

* Download from New Jersey State Library website:

http://www.njstatelib.org/LDB/Library_Appreciation/

Download from New Jersey Library Association website:

<http://www.njla.org>

Barnes and Noble Stores: Vouchers will only be given out on September 9 and 10, and only to those customers who request a voucher at the cash registers at all New Jersey Barnes & Noble stores.

Local libraries, schools, and other organizations wishing to support this initiative are invited to contact: Bonnie Kunzel, MLS, Youth Services Consultant New Jersey State Library, 609-943-5246 or Nancy Nicholson, MA, Community Relations Manager, Barnes & Noble Princeton, 609.716.1570.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #512

7.24.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a marvelous mini-vacation in Boston this past week . . . we went for the purpose of my attending the annual national convention of the American Federation of Teachers, but fortunately, I was not too busy with meetings so we had a lot of free time.

Our hotel, The Boston Westin Waterfront, was nice enough . . . it had only opened a month before, so they were still working some kinks out . . . furthermore, it was next door to the Convention City, but far away from much of the rest of Boston . . . also, it is definitely NOT on the waterfront . . . you can barely see the closest water; it is at least several miles away.

B. We had a blast on a Boston Duck Tour (see also the BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD section) . . . on this, we boarded an authentic, renovated WW II amphibious landing vehicle where we then proceeded to see much of the city via both land and sea.

We even got to take the helm for a bit:



C. It was hard to top that, but we came close when we visited Cambridge for the day . . . there we saw an outstanding show, JAY JOHNSON: THE TWO AND ONLY . . . if the name sounds familiar, it is perhaps because you may have seen him years ago on SOAP . . . he's a very funny ventriloquist who had us laughing throughout the afternoon . . . but we also got a bit teary at times when he shared the story of his life.

Johnson will be in Massachusetts through August 6, prior to a Broadway appearance . . . do catch him if you can . . . for more information, please click:
<http://www.thetwoandonly.com>

In Cambridge, we also had dinner at the Mr. Bartley's Gourmet Burgers (617.354.6559) . . . it was tough choosing from some 30 different burgers, but we managed to do so and thoroughly enjoyed them . . . in fact, we both thought our hamburger was just about the best we've ever had.

On another evening, we saw Frank Santos--billed as the R-rated hypnotist, who is at the Comedy Connection (617.248.9700) every Thursday night . . . the show was funny; however, there is no way it should be considered R-rated; it definitely deserves an X-rating . . . so if you go, be forewarned.

I volunteered, naturally, to go on stage to be hypnotized and was chosen . . . my rendition of "You Ain't Nothin But a Hounddog" was something that you had to hear to believe . . . the only saving grace was that at least Cynthia seemed to approve . . . or maybe she was just being kind?

D. Another thing I got a kick out of was eating dinner at Durgin-Park (617.227.2038), billed as the place where "your father, grandfather and perhaps great-grandfather dined with us" . . . it was a place I had gone to as a kid and still fondly remembered . . . our ribs were excellent, and Cynthia said the same thing about her clam chowder . . . the cornbread

was equally outstanding.

Before we ate, we had fun walking around the area--known as Quincy Market . . . there are a lot of neat shops there, as well as street performers who put on mini-shows that are amazing to watch.

**** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD ****

This week, it goes to Judy Johnson (aka Penny Wise), the guide for our Boston Duck Tour described in Section 1A.

I have personally been on a lot of tours, over the years, but Judy was perhaps the best guide I've ever encountered . . . she was enthusiastic, funny, personable, knowledgeable, and made our too-short 90 minutes just fly by.

Being in her presence was like you were at a one-person performance that you loved.

I don't usually repeat such experiences in life, but when I next get to Boston, I'll again take this tour--if I can get Judy as our guide . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.bostonducktours.com>

2. FYI

Cynthia and I have taken to eating some more organic foods lately . . . we just tried a new one (for me) and found it quite tasty: Amy's Cheese Pizza, made with organic tomatoes and flour . . . it is even made with wheat flour, which is supposedly better for you.

I had trouble telling the difference between this pizza and the kind you find in any pizzeria.

We purchased it at ShopRite, so methinks you can probably find the product at your local supermarket . . . and while there, you might want to check out such other Amy's products as soup, chili, burritos, cheese lasagna, refried beans, etc.--all both organic and vegetarian.

For more information, please click:

<http://www.amys.com>

FYI, part 2

* Deb in Colorado (with a REQUEST FOR HELP):

On Sunday morning, October 29th, 2006, thousands of friends, families and co-workers will gather at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Princeton for the 13th Annual New Jersey Race For The Cure®. And I'll be there again, hoping to be supported by all of you who have been so generous to this cause which is so dear to my heart and so very important

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Central & South Affiliate hopes to raise over \$1.7 million. Seventy five percent of the proceeds will benefit medically underserved men and women

through programs including free or low cost mammograms and support programs for the medically underserved.

The balance of money will be applied to The Komen National Grants program for research dedicated to finding a cure for breast cancer. The Komen Breast Cancer Foundation is the nation's largest private funder of research dedicated solely to breast cancer.

I thank you always for your strong support of me as I work with may others to eliminate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease.

I hope you'll visit my web page and see what's been happening:
<https://www.kintera.org/faf/donorReg/donorPledge.asp?ievent=182370&lis=1&kntae182370=14D412D61F3B4E96BF7E2054708D9F6D&supId=138718830>

* Ginger in Florida (commenting on what somebody wrote in last week's issue):

Why is it that when someone is opinionated and narrow-minded, everyone assumes they are republican? I'm a Republican, intelligent, educated, hard-working, patriotic, open-minded, maybe a little opinionated and love the jokes you send.

We're not all tight asses! In fact, I'm extremely active in a Republican club and currently forming a Republican Business Network (soon to go national), and have NEVER heard anyone use a derogatory comment about Democrats. They may disagree with Democrats' policies, but at least the groups I'm affiliated with never attack Democrats personally.

The same doesn't seem to be true of Democrats to Republicans. We all have different ideas of how the country should be run, but we're still one country with so much to offer that people are fighting to get in! We need to learn to have more respect for each other. We don't judge all of you Democrats by a few radicals; please don't judge us by the same.

* Jerry in Pennsylvania:
We need new blood at Gross Financial. This very organized and enthusiastic person will market Gross Financial Services. We will be calling existing clients as well as potential clients and organizing speaking and other marketing events.

This will start out as part time and could lead to full-time. Hours are negotiable and starting salary is \$9 per hour plus incentives.

For more information, please call Jerry Gross at 215.355.4544.

3. Analyze this scenario

You are driving in a car at a constant speed. On your left side is a valley and on your right side is a fire engine traveling at the same speed as you.

In front of you is a galloping pig, which is the same size as your car and you cannot overtake it.

Behind you is a helicopter flying at ground level. Both the giant pig and the helicopter are also traveling at the same speed as you.

What must you do to safely get out of this highly dangerous situation?

Answer:

Get off the children's Merry-Go-Round, you're drunk!

4. Reviews

A. Saw SUPERMAN RETURNS, an overlong and not particularly involving comeback for the Man of Steel . . . Brandon Routh is OK in the title role, though he bears an eerie resemblance to Christopher Reeve . . . Kevin Spacey looked like he was having a blast as Lex Luthor and provided what enjoyment I got from the film . . . the special effects were well done, but not something you should rush out to see . . . rated PG-13.

B. Bruce Willis stars in 16 BLOCKS, an action thriller now out on DVD . . . it is about a troubled NYPD officer who's forced to take a fast-talking convict (Mos Def) from jail to a courthouse that's 16 blocks away . . . nobody, however, wants the duo to make it there . . . both Willis and Def were fine in their roles, and this film's plot twists kept my interest until the very end . . . rated PG-13.

C. I've loved two of Jennifer Weiner's other books, GOOD IN BED and IN HER SHOES . . . so when I saw she came out with something new, GOODNIGHT NOBODY, I knew I'd want to at least give it a chance--and I'm glad I did.

It is a bit different than what else she has written, in that it is a mystery . . . but I give her credit for trying something new, as well as for succeeding with it.

This story is about a young mother who moves to Connecticut after she has been mugged in New York City . . . she is having some trouble adjusting and things get worse when she happens to come across a fellow mother who has been murdered.

With little else to do, she turns to investigating the murder and in doing so, she begins to discover secrets and lies in her quiet town.

GOODNIGHT NOBODY kept my interest until the very end, in large part because of Weiner's excellent writing . . . her characters were all interesting, and I got to feel like I got to know them better as I got more into the story . . . in addition, there was much humor that put a smile on my face; e.g., the following:

"No, it's my turn," said Sam, kicking his sneakered feet against one of the half-dozen perfectly spherical pumpkins beside Kitty's front door. Halloween was a week away, and we'd only gotten around to carving our single jack-o'-lantern the night before. It had come out crooked and its right side had rotted and caved in overnight, and it looked like we had a sadistic stroke victim parked on our porch. When I'd lit the candle, all three kids had cried.

Also, I liked these passages:

* "I've always loved that picture, " I murmured, pointing at the mantel, realizing that while I'd been staring at the walls and pictures, Philip Cavanaugh had been staring at me. More specifically, he'd been staring at my chest, shown off to eye-popping advantage in Janie's too-small sweater. I crossed my legs, wishing for Lisa's sweatpants. When I looked up, Philip's watery gaze had drifted down to my thighs. His jaw hung open, and I could hear him breathing through his mouth. Ick. Philip wasn't a bad-looking guy. All of the elements were there: the blue gray eyes, the silvery blond hair, the solid cheekbones and the height, the narrow hips and broad shoulders, but it was all a little soft, a touch unfocused, a little blurred around the edges. He'd probably spent his whole life hearing Oh, you look just like Robert Redford! But up close, he didn't. He looked like Robert Redford's younger, not-terribly-bright second cousin, the one who'd have a few too many cocktails at your grandfather's birthday party and think it the height of hilarity to slip an ice cube down your back when it was time to dance.

* We. He'd said We. My heart soared, then sank just as quickly. There was no we. I was married. Married with three kids, and a house in the 'burbs. No we. I shouldn't even think of the letters W and E in combination.

* "Some days," I said sweetly. "I take the kids to the Red Wheel Barrow in the morning, do three loads of laundry, pick up your dry cleaning, get the oil changed, swing by the grocery store, pick the kids up again, and feed them lunch in the car so we can get to Craft Circle at one-thirty. It's all about time management. If you told me I had to throw a murder in these somewhere, I'm sure I'd figure out how." I gave him a big, cheesy grin and turned back to my computer.

D. Heard EVERYBODY LOVES OPRAH: HER REMARKABLE LIFE STORY, an unauthorized biography by Norman King . . . it was a fascinating account of what might be described as her early years; i.e., the period up until 1988 (when the book was written) . . . I found out about her painful childhood, her rise to fame and her role in THE COLOR OF PURPLE.

My only regret is that now I'm going to have to find a second book on Oprah--one that will take me through the present.

I learned that her father had a significant impact on her life . . . he once told her that there three different kinds of people: 1) Those who make things happen; 2) Those who watch things happen; and 3) Those who did not know what was happening . . . and that Oprah did not like the last two kinds.

Her father also told her, after she had come home with a "C" grade, that this was unacceptable because she could do better.

Other tidbits that I gained from reading:

* Once in a contest, everybody was asked "What would you do if you won a million dollars?" The first person replied that she would buy cars and homes for her family. The second person said she would give it to charity. Knowing that she could not top those responses, Oprah said, "I'd be a shopping fool." Her sheer audacity helped her win the contest.

* She always attempted to handle herself on television "like Barbara Walters did."

* And once a month she had a luncheon with viewers who hated her, in which she asked them all sorts of questions.

Ruby Dee's narration added to my enjoyment of the program.

5. VCR alert

A. TABLOID WARS, a six-episode unscripted docu-reality show, debuts on Monday at 9 p.m. on BRAVO . . . it follows life behind the scenes of the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS as reporters hustle to make deadlines and break stories (competing against the NEW YORK POST).

Since you will probably be reading this after the 7.24 showing, please click this link for other times it will be shown this week:

<http://www.bravotv.com/Schedule/search.bravo?month=2006-12&keyword=Tabloid%20Wars&start=today>

B. The AMERICAN MASTERS documentary, "Walter Cronkite: Witness to History" airs on Wednesday at 9 p.m. on PBS . . . since PBS times and dates vary, make sure you check your local listings.

C. 30 DAYS returns for its second season on Wednesday at 10 p.m. on FX . . . documentarian Morgan Spurlock's reality show takes a look this season at such topics as immigration (a Minuteman moves in with a family of illegals), outsourcing (a downsized American worker takes a telemarketing job in India and prison reform (Spurlock serves hard time in a Richmond jail).

6. Scam alert (from one female reader to ALL other females)

I don't how many of you shop at Sam's Club or Costco, but this may be useful to know. I became a victim of a clever scam while out shopping. This happened to me and it could happen to you!

Here's how the scam works: Two seriously good-looking 30 year-old well-built guys come over to your car as you are packing your shopping in the trunk.

They both are shirtless and start wiping your windshield with a rag and Windex with their highly-defined chest muscles and rock-hard abs exposed. It's impossible not to look.

When you thank them and offer them a tip, they say "No" and instead ask you for a ride to another Sam's Club or Costco.

You agree, and they get in the back seat. On the way, they start talking dirty about what they want to do to you. Then one of them climbs over into the front seat and begins kissing your neck and begs you to pull over so he can make love to you! While this is going on, the other guy steals your purse!!

I had my purse stolen last Tuesday, Wednesday, twice on Thursday,

again on Saturday, and also yesterday and most likely tomorrow.

I'm now running out of purses . . .

7. Websites

A. You ever wonder what ACTUALLY happens when you bring your car in for service? If so, please click:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=hDosAK4Q4ms&mode=related&search=jiffy%20lube>

This video rips Jiffy Lube, but I've often wondered if this doesn't happen at other shops too.

B. Want to make a million dollars? All you have to do is prove you have "super" powers. Find out more by clicking:

<http://www.randi.org/>

This is the website of the James Randi Educational Foundation, an educational resource on the paranormal, pseudoscientific and supernatural . . . at the top, click "Commentary" for some of Randi's interesting insights.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

On the left, you'll see "Radio Show" . . . go to that link if you want to see a history of my radio career . . . you can also hear one of my shows.

As you may have read in a past issue, a recent management change at WWFM has resulted in my show being taken off the air . . . but, hopefully, I'll resurface soon again . . . on another station and/or even with my own cable show.

Please do keep me in mind if you have any media contacts for me to pursue with respect to the above possibilities.

8. Computer tip

To close several programs quickly, go to Windows Task Manager (Alt-Control-Delete) . . . highlight the programs you want to end by holding down your Shift key . . . then if you click "End Task," you can often end the several programs at once.

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

The above works sometimes . . . other times--particularly when I'm having trouble with just one program and am getting the dreaded "program not responding" error message--I try Alt-Control-Delete to no avail . . . does anybody have suggestions as to the best and/or quickest way to end such a program?

9. Political correctness, part 2 of 2

HOW TO SPEAK ABOUT MEN AND BE POLITICALLY CORRECT

1. He does not have a "BEER GUT" - He has developed a "LIQUID GRAIN STORAGE FACILITY."
2. He is not a "BAD DANCER" - He is "OVERLY CAUCASIAN."
3. He does not "GET LOST ALL THE TI ME" - He "INVESTIGATES ALTERNATIVE DESTINATIONS."
4. He is not "BALDING" - He is in "FOLLICLE REGRESSION."
5. He is not a Cradle Robber He prefers "GENERATIONAL DIFFERENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS."
6. He does not get "FALLING-DOWN DRUNK" - He becomes "ACCIDENTALLY HORIZONTAL."
7. He does not act like a "TOTAL ASS" - He developed a case of "RECTAL-CRANIAL INVERSION."
8. He is not a "MALE CHAUVINIST PIG" - He has "SWINE EMPATHY."
9. He is not afraid of "COMMITMENT" - He is "RELATIONSHIP CHALLENGED."
10. He is not "HORNY" - He is "SEXUALLY FOCUSED."
11. It's not his "CRACK" you see hanging out of his pants - It is "REAR CLEAVAGE."

10. A quote I like

The mind and body are connected. When Nixon was lying through his teeth, he got phlebitis in his leg. The body expresses what the mind is trying to suppress. But if you have a positive attitude, and the faith and love of people around you, you heal faster.--Christopher Reeve (1952-2004), American actor/author/humanitarian

11. Thought for the day

The following was written by Ben Stein, the quirky actor/comedian who talks in a monotone (who also happens to be a very intelligent attorney):

Herewith at this happy time of year, a few confessions from my beating heart:

I have no freaking clue who Nick and Jessica are. I see them on the cover of People and Us constantly when I am buying my dog biscuits and kitty litter. I often ask the checkers at the grocery stores. They never know who Nick and Jessica are either. Who are they? Will it change my life if I know who they are and why they have broken up? Why are they so important? I don't know who Lindsay Lohan is, either, and I do not care at all about Tom Cruise's wife.

Am I going to be called before a Senate committee and asked if I am a subversive? Maybe, but I just have no clue who Nick and Jessica are. Is this what it means to be no longer young. It's not so bad.

Next confession: I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled trees Christmas trees. I don't feel threatened. I don't feel discriminated against. That's what they are: Christmas trees. It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, "Merry Christmas" to me. I don't think they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu. If people want a creche, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away.

I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship Nick and Jessica and we aren't allowed to worship God as we understand Him?

I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where Nick and Jessica came from and where the America we knew went to.

SOURCE:<http://www.benstein.com/stein2.html>

(click on "Stuff Ben Wrote," then 12.18.2005)

12. Advance planning department

A. Tom in New Jersey:

As many of you know, our good friends, George Hartpence and Carol Thompson, are the quintessential Henry Higgins and Eliza Doolittle in the beloved MY FAIR LADY for ActorsNET at the scenic Washington Crossing Outdoor Theatre. After a great opening last Wednesday, we were rained out the rest of the weekend. Rainouts are a financial hardship to the theatre. (Especially after all the money ActorsNET spent on George's great set!)

If you missed the March's production in Morrisville, now is your chance to show your support! The good news is there are still 5 performances left (weather permitting), one of them just being added, a make-up performance this Sunday.

So far the weather is looking the best for Wednesday and Sunday, but I think we will get them all in! Bring a pillow and enjoy Lerner and Loewe's music under the stars with a large orchestra, George and Carol, and a large supporting cast!

I should also mention that the average ticket at the park is just \$8.00, so have a lovely night out that won't hurt your budget! Click here for more details: <http://www.actorr.com/next.htm>

BLAINE'S TWO CENTS:

Tom is Tom Orr, a very talented actor who also stars in the above production . . . Cynthia and I love both him and the show in March.

B. Natalie in Pennsylvania:

On Thursday, July 27, 7:00 p.m. at the Langhorne Presbyterian Church, 125 E. Gillam Avenue, Langhorne, The Peace Center will present Susanne Sulby's new play SANCTUARY, exploring the human tragedy of war and the roles and responsibilities of individuals in the conflict of nations. A discussion of the play moderated by Ms. Sulby will follow. Suggested donation is \$20. (Peace Center members pay \$15.)

C. Tobi in Pennsylvania:

Business "Boot Camp" for Women
A Guide to Reward & Recognition

Hosted by internationally recognized speaker,
executive coach and author Marjorie Brody

November 15, 2006

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Library Auditorium – Newtown Campus
Bucks County Community College

Tickets: \$295 per person:

- * Interactive workshop
- * Opportunity to network with other business leaders
- * Complimentary breakfast and lunch

Or take advantage of a \$1,000 Corporate Sponsorships and receive:

- * 3 tickets
- * Your logo on all marketing literature
- * The opportunity to promote your organization to various business leaders attending the event.

For more information and to reserve your tickets today,
call 215.968.8224, e-mail: foundation@bucks.edu, or visit:

www.bucks.edu/foundation

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #511

7.17.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I celebrated our first wedding anniversary last Monday . . . it seems like only yesterday that we met, and every day I feel blessed that this wonderful woman has become a part of my life.

For several weeks, we had been discussing how to mark the occasion . . . Cynthia kept asking me about doing something "special," but my response was and is that we should continue to make every day like our anniversary . . . in fact, as many of you probably know, we already have a monthly celebration of the day we first met.

So it turns out we went out for Thai food--using a gift certificate that friends had given us as a wedding gift--at Thai Kitchen III in Hillsborough, NJ (908.904.8038) . . . the food was good, though portions were on the small side . . . and we were not too impressed by the fact that they would not make any dishes quite the way we wanted them . . . from there, naturally, we went to MaggieMoo's for dessert.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NEW TO BLAINESWORLD:

If you'd like to know more about how Cynthia and I met, our wedding reception at MaggieMoo's, etc, please click either and/or both of these links:

<http://c-n.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050814/NEWS/508140332>

<http://www.c-n.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050731/FEATURES02/507310310/1023>

The original articles had pictures; unfortunately, these Internet versions don't.

B. Continuing our celebration, we've made it a point to go together this summer for massages on a weekly basis . . . hey, it's a tough life, but

we might as well be the ones living it!

We get them at the Attadgie Wellness Center, which has offices in both Newtown and Southampton, PA . . . there are several fine massage therapists on staff (we typically use the services of Kelly), and to schedule an appointment, call 215.355.9337.

Immediately after our massages, we then get adjusted by my favorite chiropractor: Dr. Wendy Attadgie . . . she can also be reached at the above number.

C. On Friday night, we went with Cynthia's sister and brother-in-law to the American Idol tour concert at the Continental Arena in East Rutherford, NJ . . . it was, searching for the term, an experience . . . make that, a loud experience.

And we're not even talking about the band or the performers . . . there were a lot of kids there, and it seemed they were all screaming at the top of their lungs--especially the ones behind us . . . that wouldn't have been so bad, however, had they not also been screeching.

We all thought Mandisa was great . . . Chris, who was also very loud, seemed to be the most popular Idol . . . Elliot was a disappointment; he just didn't seem into it . . . Taylor, pretty much the headliner, did his usual Taylor shtick, which I happen to like very much . . . and Katherine was not there because of laryngitis.

I did not like the fact that there were no backup singers and as a result, hearing them in the background was a bit disconcerting . . . to me, it also seemed that there was at least some lipsyncing.

The worst part of the evening: It took us nearly 90 minutes to get out of the Meadowlands complex because traffic was so backed-up.

On Sunday, we went with friends to Philadelphia to see Cirque du Soleil . . . this particular show was called QUIDAM . . . it was a bit on the "dark" side, yet we were still mesmerized by some of the acts . . . our only regret was the fact that we saw it on what was just about the hottest day of the year . . . despite the fact that the tent was air conditioned, we were still quite uncomfortable.

From there, we went for dinner to a place called the Pop Shop (856.869.0111) in Collingswood, NJ . . . it features 30 different varieties of grilled cheese sandwiches . . . we shared a Swiss cheese on sourdough bread with bacon and tomato; it was delicious . . . one of our friends had a grilled cheese sandwich on a pretzel, and the other had hers with spinach . . . they liked their choices, too . . . and we all liked the heaping, tasty order of French fries that we ordered . . . desserts were equally excellent; Cynthia and I shared an apple pie a la mode.

But the high spot of our weekend was a barbecue we had on Saturday at our place, the official residence of "the Greenfields of Belle Meade" . . . some 40 of my former students were in attendance, along with my parents and the professor who got me into teaching (Dr. Al Sternberg from Rider University) . . . we loved every minute of it.

See below for a picture of Cynthia with my mother:



SPECIAL THANKS to Michael Lazanski, my longtime friend, who did such a fine job manning the grill . . . he was ably assisted by Carrie Ortiz, who helped with the serving duties.

D. In large part because of the tireless efforts of both Maureen McCreadie and Joann Corn, aided by Bunny Conn (the College's provost), the language for our contract at Bucks County Community College has at long last been finalized . . . Cara Schollenberger and Bridget Hughes then did a fine job on getting out word to all our faculty members . . . so if hopefully a major vote YES for ratification and if the Board of Trustees approves the agreement, we will be all set for the beginning of the coming school year.

SPECIAL REQUEST:

If you're a BCCC faculty member reading this, please submit your ballot in a timely fashion . . . if you know others who are faculty members, please encourage them to do the same . . . and I'm recommending the YES vote for ratification, if only because I believe that it is the best contract we could have gotten in what are relatively tough times for negotiations.

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

This week, it goes to Art Mayhew--former publisher of the BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES.

Since his retirement in 2003, he has continued to stay active with Vita Education Services, a United Way agency active in adult and teen learning programs . . . he's also involved with the Algonquin Film Festival, as well as with church work.

I'm especially grateful to Art for his help in suggesting various organizations willing to be "subjects" for my marketing class projects . . . he has become a real supporter of the work that I do at the College.

2. FYI

My Xerox laser printer needed a replacement cartridge . . . I was all set to buy it at Staples, but the price threw me a bit--some \$130 for a name brand and \$110 for a non-brand name.

So I checked eBay and found a really good deal; however, I got outbid on that at the last minute . . . I then found a "Buy Now" option via eBay and eventually bought the cartridge through this online retailer:

<http://www.tonerinstock.com>

It came quickly and the price--less than 1/2 of what it would have cost me at Staples--was of particular appeal . . . in going to the website, I found out that the company carries supplies for almost every laser printer, and it offers a choice of OEM (original equipment manufacturer's), brand new compatible and highest quality remanufactured toner cartridges.

In addition, there's an exchange program that enables you to save even more money if you recycle your old cartridges.

FYI, part 2

Several weeks ago, I mentioned that a reader found much of the humor in this newsletter offensive and unsubscribed as a result . . . I then asked for your reaction, and here's just a small sampling of the e-mails that I received:

* Sharee in Florida (formerly from New Jersey):
Good riddance to Jean who unsubscribed from your newsletter!
Your newsletter is informative, and I love skimming through it every week. I can only feel sorry for someone who would even think to be offended by the joke from last week. She certainly has a big problem and doesn't deserve to be your reader.

* Chris in Pennsylvania:
From Webster's Seventh Collegiate Dictionary (copyright 1969):
"joke - the humorous or ridiculous element in something." Most jokes poke fun at one thing or another . . . no? Seriously, different strokes for different folks . . . uh, I mean, uh . . . hmmm . . . ;)

Love your newsletter! Keep up the good work!

* Karen in New Jersey:
Jean in Pennsylvania needs to smile and loosen up. We're adults. A distasteful joke here and there causes no harm in any way. If a reader

doesn't like the joke of the week in the newsletter, scroll down to the next section. There are more vulgar statements made on radio and TV than in BLAINESWORLD. Keep the jokes coming; we enjoy them.

* Lee in Pennsylvania:
I think the jokes are great!! It's a shame some people don't appreciate humor.

* Alicia in Pennsylvania:
I really enjoy your jokes. They give me a good laugh after a tough day at work!

* Jeannie in Indiana:
I think your jokes are cute. Keep up the great work.

* Marty in Texas:
Sounds like a TIGHT A*S REPUBLICAN to me.
Vulgar? Not to me.
I say it's your newsletter, print as you wish.
Unsubscribe is her vote against vulgarity.
She's probably a nice person but I'm sorry, I won't miss her.
I would miss not having the weekly, "Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I."

* Dana in Pennsylvania:
I hope this is NOT the Jean I met through you! [It isn't.] I have no issue with any type of humor as we both know. I even sent you the one joke you did use! (Not that I expected you to use it in your newsletter.) Keep them comin'! You can't please everyone all the time, Blaine.

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

I'm still looking for the "best" credit card to use; e.g., something that pays you five cents every time you go to a supermarket, get gas or use a drugstore . . . are there any that also do this for restaurant visits?

Ideally, the card would offer you the option of getting cash back OR use it for air mileage . . . if you care to share what you use and your reaction(s), I'll share this information in a future issue.

3. Creation

God is talking to an angel about creating the world. "I just made a 24-hour period," God explains. "It will be half-light and half-dark and will keep repeating itself until the end of time."

"Wow," says the angel. "What are you going to do next?"

"Well," God answers, "I think I'll call it a day."

4. Reviews

A. I never would have thought a documentary about crossword puzzles would be fun to watch, but was I ever wrong . . . catch WORDPLAY if you possibly can; you'll love it . . . you'll get to meet many players, including such famous ones as Jon Stewart (who is particularly funny), Bill Clinton and Mike Mussina . . . in addition, you'll get a behind-the-

scenes look at the 28th annual American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, an event that was quite suspenseful to watch . . . rated PG.

B. EIGHT BELOW is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #493 follows:

EIGHT BELOW, inspired by a true story, is a PG-rated film that the whole family can enjoy . . . it is the tale about a risky expedition in the Antarctic that turns even more dangerous because of an approaching storm . . . when circumstances force the guide to leave his dogs behind, you'll hope that they will soon be rescued--but that just doesn't happen.

Paul Walker, Bruce Greenwood, Jason Biggs, and Moon Bloodgood are all fine in their respective roles; however, the dogs--each with a distinct personality of their own--are even better . . . in addition, the photography is spectacular.

C. "Those who don't remember the past are condemned to repeat the eleventh grade," notes James W. Loewen in LIES MY TEACHER TOLD ME--an entertaining look at what passes as history.

According to Loewen, not one history text does a decent job of making history interesting or memorable . . . furthermore, the books contain much misinformation, and they omit almost all the ambiguity, passion, conflict, and drama from our past.

Only lately have I become somewhat of a history buff . . . methinks that is largely because the way I was taught the subject . . . I often had to memorize dates and/or facts; rarely was I given the opportunity to appreciate the relevance of what I was learning.

Loewen, however, suggests that this does not have to be the case . . . for example, teaching history could be done differently--and better, too, as exemplified by this approach:

Teaching history backwards from the present also grips students' attention. The teacher presents current statistics on high school seniors' life chances, analyzed by race, sex, social class, and region—their prospects for various levels of educational achievement, divorce, incarceration, death by violence; their life expectancy, frequency of voting, etc. Then students are challenged to discuss events and processes in the past that cause these differences.

LIES MY TEACHER TOLD ME truly opened my eyes with respect to Vietnam (the United States dropped three times as many tons of explosives there as it dropped in all theaters of World War II), Ponce de Leon, Woodrow Wilson, Abraham Lincoln, and a whole host of other events and personalities.

There were several memorable passages; among them: Under Wilson, the United States intervened in Latin America more often than at any other time in our history. We landed troops in Mexico in 1914, Haiti in 1915, the Dominican Republic in 1916, Mexico again in 1916 (and nine more times before the end of Wilson's presidency), Cuba in 1917, and Panama in 1918. Throughout his administration Wilson maintained forces in Nicaragua, using them to determine Nicaragua's president and to force passage of a treaty preferential to the United States.

Christopher Columbus introduced two phenomena that revolutionized race relations and transformed the modern world: the taking of land, wealth, and labor from indigenous peoples, leading to their near extermination, and the transatlantic slave trade, which created a racial underclass.

Compared to Douglas. Lincoln was an idealistic equalitarian, but in southern Illinois, arguing with Douglas, he too expressed white supremacist ideas. Thus at the debate in Charleston he said, "I am not, nor ever have been in favor of bringing about the social and political equality of the white and black races (applause)—that I am not nor ever have been in favor of making voters of jurors of Negroes." Textbooks authors protect us from a racist Lincoln. By doing so, they diminish students' capacity to recognize racism as a force in American life. For if Lincoln could be racist, then so might the rest of us be. And if Lincoln could transcend racism, as he did on occasion, then so might the rest of us.

D. Ron Clark is an award-winning educator, having previously been named the 2000 Outstanding Teacher of the Year at Disney's American Teacher Awards . . . I was also impressed by an interview Oprah Winfrey had conducted with him, and so when I saw a taped version of THE ESSENTIAL 55--his book--I jumped at the opportunity to listen to it.

Was I ever glad I did . . . though designed to present a series of 55 rules that can be used to discover the successful student in every child, much of what is presented applies to adults as well . . . and though many of them may seem basic, I kept thinking to myself that I wish I had learned all these rules much earlier in my life.

For example, here are just a few of them:
If asked a question, ask one in return.

Do a random act of kindness at least once a month. For example, teachers can invite custodians to lunch.

Allow people to call you at any time. It shows you care.

If asked in a restaurant, "What dressing would you like?" . . . ask, "What are my options?"

Mrs. Clinton replies to people she meets by name and then ends her conversations with them by name.

If you visit somebody's home, issue a compliment.

Live so you never have regrets.

Accept that you're going to make mistakes. Learn from them and move on.

Everybody has a reason for the way they act.

The biggest compliment you can give anyone is to ask for help.

Kids need and like structure.

And perhaps my favorite tidbit was this one that Clark shared at the end when asked his personal philosophy:

Life is all about the experiences you make for yourself and others.

The fact that the author was also the narrator added to my enjoyment of this fine program.

5. VCR alert

A. TIME MACHINE has modern-day marksmen trying to replicate the trick shots of Annie Oakley, "Wild Bill" Hickock and John Wesley Hardin, each of whom is profiled on TIME MACHINE on Friday at 8 p.m. on HISTORY.

B. TV GUIDE calls the pilot for MIAMI VICE one of the finest ever . . . it airs on Saturday at 8 p.m. on NBC, in part to drum up interest in the big-screen version starring Colin Farrell and Jamie Foxx that opens on July 28 . . . Farrell and Foxx also host the evening, and they'll be showing a clip from their upcoming movie.

C. I've always enjoyed the work of Tom Skerritt (particularly in FENCES), so I'll be watching FALLEN--a cable movie based on the book by Tom Sniegowski about a truly angelic young man who begins to experience extraordinary occurrences after his 18th birthday . . . Sunday at 8 p.m. on ABC FAMILY . . . I'll also be looking for him in BROTHER AND SISTERS, a show ABC has such high hopes for that it gave it the Sunday post-HOUSEWIVES slot that had been occupied by GREY'S ANATOMY.

6. Dreaming

"You've gotta help me," the man said to the psychiatrist. "Every night this week I've dreamed I'm playing in a badminton tournament. Then I wake up tired and sweaty."

"Okay, here's your medicine," the doctor said. "Drink this right away, and you'll be cured in no time."

"Can't I wait and drink it tomorrow?" the dreamer wanted to know.

"Why?" the doctor asked.

"It's our championship game tonight."

7. Websites

A. Do you find it difficult to replace a part for an old appliance or consumer electronic item? Join the crowd. However, there's now hope from these websites:

<http://www.partstore.com>

Operated by Partsearch Technologies Inc. You'll find items ranging from washer drier knobs to projector lamps to cell batteries.

<http://wehaveparts.com>

Operated by Tritronics Inc. Specializes in consumer electronics like computers, cameras and home appliances.

<http://sears.com/parts>

Operated by Sears Holding Corp. More than six million parts for home appliances, lawn equipment, portable electronics, and power tools. Best of all: You can find detailed product diagrams to help identify the precise part you need.

B. Randy Cassingham has graciously allowed me to share the following website with you:

<http://www.thisistrue.com/bearcat.html>

For more such stories, subscribe for free to THIS IS TRUE (his weekly missive) . . . I'm a long-time reader and like it so much that I actually subscribe to the premium version, which gives me even more stories and laughs each week.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

As you hopefully know by now, you should ALWAYS feel free to mention this newsletter to your friends, relatives, etc. . . . should they want to subscribe (AT NO COST), all they have to do is go to my homepage . . . then click on "Special Offer" at the bottom . . . it's that simple!

D. IP maven Ron Coleman, a friend and reader, has his own very interesting blog . . . he writes on such topics as developments in trademark, copyright, new media, and free speech . . . to view it yourself, please click:

<http://www.likelihoodofconfusion.com>

CORRECTION:

Last week, I mention a website that contained a sample test that prospective citizens must take . . . when I sent my mention to the website, here's the response that I got back:

Thanks for your input. It is much appreciated. The test you were looking at is an older version, of which we had a date wrong in #80. It read 1737; should be 1787. If you go to our site, the correct version is there. Thank you.

Here it is:

http://www.immigrationaid.org/immigrationaid_004.htm

8. Computer tip

To get the best rental-car discount, research prices at websites like:

<http://www.expedia.com>

<http://www.orbitz.com>

<http://www.travelocity.com>

Then check rates at:

<http://www.hotwire.com>

(this website only has airport rentals)

Take the best rate you can find and bid a price 10% lower at:
<http://www.priceline.com>

You have nothing to lose, and you'll be amazed at how often you can beat what some other website indicated was a best price.

SOURCE:

Based on material from "Cruising the web for rental cars"
by Ron Lieber in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL,
4.29.2006, p. B1

9. Political correctness, part 1 of 2

Due to the climate of political correctness now pervading and invading America . . .

Kentuckians, Tennesseans and West Virginians will no longer be referred to as "HILLBILLIES." You must now refer to them as APPALACHIAN-AMERICANS.

And furthermore:

HOW TO SPEAK ABOUT WOMEN AND BE POLITICALLY CORRECT

1. She is not a "BABE" or a "CHICK" - She is a "BREASTED AMERICAN."
2. She is not a "SCREAMER" or a "MOANER" - She is "VOCALLY APPRECIATIVE."
3. She is not "EASY" - She is HORIZONTALLY ACCESSIBLE."
4. She is not a "DUMB BLONDE" - She is a "LIGHT-HAIRED DETOUR OFF THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY."
5. She has not "BEEN AROUND" - She is a "PREVIOUSLY-ENJOYED COMPANION."
6. She is not an "AIRHEAD" - She is "REALITY IMPAIRED."
7. She does not get "DRUNK" or "TIPSY" - She gets "CHEMICALLY INCONVENIENCED"
8. She does not have "BREAST IMPLANTS" - She is "MEDICALLY ENHANCED."
9. She does not "NAG" you - She becomes "VERBALLY REPETITIVE."
10. She is not a "TRAMP" - She is "SEXUALLY EXTROVERTED."
11. She does not have "MAJOR LEAGUE HOOTERS" - She is "PECTORALLY SUPERIOR."
12. She is not a "TWO-BIT HOOKER" - She is a "LOW COST PROVIDER."

(to be continued)

10. A quote I like

Don't worry that children never listen to you. Worry that they are always watching you.--Robert Fulghum, American essayist (his ALL I REALLY NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED IN KINDERGARTEN is one of my all-time favorites; do read it if you've never had the chance to do so)

11. Thought for the day

See you at the top

Once upon a time there was a bunch of tiny frogs who arranged a running competition.

The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower.

A big crowd had gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on the contestants.

The race began. Honestly, no one in the crowd really believed that the tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower.

You heard statements such as:

"Oh, WAY too difficult!"

"They will NEVER make it to the top."

or:

"Not a chance that they will succeed. The tower is too high!"

The tiny frogs began collapsing. One by one. Except for those, who in a fresh tempo, were climbing higher and higher.

The crowd continued to yell, "It is too difficult! No one will make it!"

More tiny frogs got tired and gave up. But ONE continued higher and higher and higher.

This one wouldn't give up.

At the end, everyone else had given up climbing the tower. Except for the one tiny frog who, after a big effort, was the only one who reached the top!

THEN all of the other tiny frogs naturally wanted to know how this one frog managed to do it?

A contestant asked the tiny frog how he had found the strength to succeed and reach the goal?

It turned out . . . that the winner was DEAF!

The wisdom of this story is:

Never listen to other people's tendencies to be negative or pessimistic because they take your most wonderful dreams and wishes away from you--the ones you have in your heart!.

Always think of the power words have. Because everything you hear and read will affect your actions.

Therefore, ALWAYS be POSITIVE!

And above all:

Be DEAF when people tell YOU that you cannot fulfill your dreams.

Always think:

God and I can do this!

Author Unknown

(if you know who wrote this and/or the source, please let me know)

12. Advance planning department

A. I was fortunate enough to see MY FAIR LADY when Actors' Net of Bucks County put it on recently in Morrisville, PA . . . you'll be able to see the production at the Open Air Theater in Washington Crossing State Park, NJ, on the following dates: July 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, and 29 . . . for more information, please click:

http://actorsnetbucks.org/on_stage/coming_soon.html

B. Kitty in New Jersey:

Come see THE MUSIC MAN!

Friday, July 21, 2006 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, July 22 at 2 and 8 p.m.

Sundays, July 23 at 2 p.m.

The Yardley Players present this hometown family musical, which follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize – this despite the fact he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. \$16 adults; \$12 seniors; \$10 students, children

For more information, please click:

<http://www.mccc.edu/kelseytheatre>

C. Debbie in Pennsylvania:

* Please join us to learn about Indigo Children and CosmiKids!

OMPHALOS The Center for P.E.A.C.E. (People Everywhere Acting Consciously and Evolving) presents:

INDIGO EVOLUTION, a documentary by James Twyman

Saturday July 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

* Panel discussion presented by CosmiKids on Indigo Children

Sunday July 23rd at 3:00 p.m.

* Franchise Reception

Sunday July 23rd from 6-8 p.m.

CosmiKids is creating a new and innovative kind of child enrichment center designed to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of our children in a dynamic and complex world. Most child enrichment companies focus in one of two primary areas, either Academics or Motor Skills. At CosmiKids, we work with children of all ages

in the areas of:

Emotional intelligence or how to deal with anger, fear and stress;
Cooperation and non-violent conflict resolution;
The power of our imaginations that what we think about we can make
real; and
Self-esteem, self-image and character building.

AND what really sets us apart is that we do all of this through Play. The name
of our curriculum is Empowerment Through Play! It will forever change
the way we enrich our youth in powerful and positives ways.

CosmiKids is featured in the INDIGO EVOLUTION movie.

Call Debbie Burns at 215.493.3456 to reserve your space.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers
back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

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have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are
always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the
same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #510

7.10.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I went with friends this past weekend to see NO WAY TO TREAT A LADY at the Edison Valley Playhouse in Edison, NJ . . . this is a very funny musical comedy thriller, based on the 1968 movie of the same name.

The songs were catchy, and the acting was excellent . . . we had a good time, and you will too if you catch it before its limited run ends on July 22 . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.evplayhouse.com>

Prior to the show, we dined at the Longhorn Steakhouse in Piscataway, NJ (731.981.8200) . . . though Cynthia had always spoken well about the food at this place, this was the first time we went to it together . . . it won't be the last.

She enjoyed her ribeye steak; I liked my chopped steak . . . however, the best part of the meal was the sweet potato that came with a delicious cinnamon/butter combination that made it heavenly . . . our fine service from Kevin made things even more pleasant.

B. On the subject of food, I'd be remiss if I did not mention two other "finds" we made during the week . . . the first was Emack & Bolio's (732.422.1700) in North Brunswick, NJ . . . this is billed as a place where you can get "ice cream and coffee for the connoisseur," and we both are in agreement that the description is an apt one . . . we had an oatmeal ice cream that was out of this world . . . in addition, we got a kick out of a promotion that they have . . . if you and somebody else can consume this monster concoction of some 25 different scoops of flavors of your choice within 33 minutes or less, you get it for free . . . Cynthia did not try to do this--or make that . . . at least not yet.

A few days later we went to the Chocolate Bar (908.389.9000) in Westfield, NJ . . . there we had a very creamy caramel gelato,

reminding us of our trip to Italy . . . as you might imagine from the name, this place had great chocolates as well . . . we naturally couldn't go there without at least trying something, so we bought a delicious chocolate-covered pretzel that we added into the gelato.

C. On Sunday, we went to a lovely barbecue at the lakeside home of Gail and Mark--our good friends in Lake Hopatcong, NJ . . . the weather was great, as was the camaraderie . . . it was a real pleasure to watch Mark do the grilling, as he really knew what he is doing (as opposed to yours truly) . . . and I'll remember the day for what happened when other friends were inside watching the World Soccer finals . . . they had been looking sooooo forward to the game and just as it went into overtime, the cable system shut down . . . they were crushed.

D. During the week, Cynthia and I had a productive meeting with Ed Kohlhepp (see also Section 12C), our investment guru . . . we were joined by his son, Ed Kohlepp, Jr.

CONGRATULATIONS, by the way, to the latter Kohlhepp . . . in May, he earned his Certified Financial Planner designation, and in the same month, he and his wife Jennifer became the proud new parents of an adorable baby boy: Brett Mallik Kohlhepp.

For more information about Kohlhepp Advisors, please click: <http://kohlheppadvisors.com/>

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

This week, it goes to Eula Feagia--a delightful woman we met last week when we visited Cynthia's Aunt Irene and Uncle Milton.

Irene and Milton had recently moved into a new home in the adult community of Greenbriar at Wittingham in Monroe Township, NJ . . . we were impressed with both their new home and the whole development, as well as with the role Eula is playing in their lives.

She was initially hired to help Irene, who is recovering from a fall . . . however, she has quickly become a friend of the family, as well as its cook.

And what a cook!

Cynthia and I had originally planned to bring dinner with us . . . but Milton insisted that we should do no such thing . . . so when we got there, we found that Eula had prepared a feast of chicken, meatloaf, vegetables, salad, and many other items.

We left thinking that it was a good thing that such meals wouldn't be a regular occurrence . . . or else it would be good-bye to our svelte figures.

2. FYI

A few issues back, I wrote about a speeding ticket and asked you for your experience(s); e.g., with respect to plea bargaining . . . here's what I found out; this applies to the South Bound Brook, NJ

court and probably elsewhere in New Jersey . . . if I pleaded guilty, I got two points and a fine of \$91, including court costs . . . the two points would come off my record if I didn't have any other tickets in a year . . . I could do this via the mail.

If I pleaded not guilty, I'd have to come to court . . . assuming the officer was agreeable, I could plead guilty to a lesser charge . . . there'd be no points, but the fine would be around \$500 . . . that's how New Jersey gets you.

I chose the first option.

FYI, part 2

* I had the chance this past week to catch-up with Joanna Decker, the woman who used to do such a fantastic job cleaning my house when I lived in Washington Crossing, PA . . . she said she's doing well and is presently looking to add clients anywhere in the Newtown, Churchville, Southampton or surrounding towns . . . if interested in using her services, give her a call at 215.547.1406 . . . you won't be disappointed, nor would you go wrong if you contacted her husband Allen at the same number for any painting that you need done. (We were most pleased on the inside painting he did on the present residence of "the Greenfields of Belle Meade!")

* Jessie in California:

Before you cover the grill with aluminum foil take an onion, split it in half and run it across each rung of the grill. This actually helps clean the grill of stuff that might have been left behind, as well as making it easier to clean afterwards.

* Ginger in Florida:

I just finished Leadership Coral Springs and have previously done Leadership Boca Raton. I'm scheduled for Leadership Broward County.

Your mentioning it reminded me that you might want to recommend to your readers that they support their local Chambers of Commerce. We moved to Coral Springs in December from Boca. Our company is still in Boca, and we maintain an active membership in the chamber there, but we really want to expand our business in this area.

We joined the chamber and got active. In spite of the real estate market being extremely slow right now in South Florida, I have sold two homes, listed one and have the sale of a large building in the works as direct result of my chamber membership. That's for a total of almost \$3,000,000 in business!

Actually, we've met so many nice people and made so many friends in the chamber, that it would have been worth it even without the business. It's really helped in the transition to a new town.

* Sandy in Oregon:

I really enjoyed your mention of Chester [NJ].

I lived there for a few years when it was still a very small town and loved every minute . . . to show how small it was, when the first supermarket opened, it made headlines in the local paper and was quite a happening.

It was such a big affair that they had the volunteer police directing traffic, and it seems a VW refused to turn right when the volunteer policeman asked them to and the next day's headlines read, "Police shoot Volkswagen."

I also remember walking to town with my little red wagon to get groceries at the local markets. Thank you for the memories.

* Andrea in Pennsylvania:

I was catching up from my e-mails after vacation and I noticed you were curious about the Blue Man Group. My handsome Groom and I went to see them while we were in Las Vegas last year. It was a very eclectic show, and I got more than I was prepared for. I thought that they were mainly a musical act because of the commercials and things on TV I had seen often involved the music. But they are much more than that. It's more like performance art, heavy on the music. There is even action going on in the auditorium before the show starts. If you go, which I recommend you do, just stay aware of what is going on around you. I don't want to give too much away because I don't want to spoil the experience!

* Debbie in New York:

I have seen Blue Man Group several times, and would go another 10 times if I had the opportunity. They put on an amazing show and I would highly recommend it. The first time I saw the show, I was in a very down mood and was very tired. But we had tickets that I didn't want to waste, so we went. When I left the theater after the show, I had a big smile on my face and was totally energized. This is not to be missed. The group is three performers who do not speak. They use lights and percussion to act out different skits. There was audience participation at some of the shows.

My advice is do not sit in the first 3 rows of the audience but try to get seats as close to the stage (behind that) as you can. This is a show NOT to be missed. If you do not see it in Boston, then definitely see it in NY.

Have a great time on the trip.

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

I'm looking for the "best" credit card to use; e.g., something that pays you five cents every time you go to a supermarket, get gas or use a drugstore . . . are there any that also do this for restaurant visits?

Ideally, the card would offer you the option of getting cash back OR use it for air mileage . . . if you care to share what you use and your reaction(s), I'll share this information in a future issue.

3. Poll results

During a recent poll, everyone was asked to vote on a particular issue, and here's what the results were:

"Thirty-three percent said that illegal immigration is a serious problem. The other 67 percent said, 'No hablo Ingles.' "

4. Reviews

A. THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA is a comedy that I just didn't find

very funny . . . it stars Meryl Streep as a high-powered fashion magazine editor who must deal with her new assistant, Anne Hathaway, a small-town girl in her first job . . . Steep is as effective as she can be with the material and Hathaway holds more than holds her own . . . Stanley Tucci, usually one of my favorites, wasn't particularly good--but blame it on the film . . . rated PG-13.

B. SYRIANA is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #480 follows:

SAVE YOURSELF MONEY DEPARTMENT:

Miss SYRIANA, billed as a political thriller yet probably the worst film we saw this past year . . . despite what you may have thought from seeing the trailers (that actually made it look fairly interesting), this is a boring, incoherent mess about oil in a fictional Middle East nation that also had scenes in Geneva, Spain, Washington, and probably other locales that we missed because we walked out after 45 minutes . . . much of the dialogue that we did hear was muddled and difficult to decipher . . . we cared nothing about any of the characters . . . and from what we heard afterwards, we were fortunate to have missed a violent torture scene . . . the only good thing was that we got our money back! . . . rated R.

C. M.J. Rose has become one of my favorite authors . . . so whenever I see that she has a new book out, I try to read it as quickly as possible.

LYING IN BED, her latest, did not disappoint . . . it is billed as an "erotic fiction novel," and though it is a different from her earlier efforts (that fit more in the suspense category), I still was drawn-in by the strong story line.

This one features a woman who ghostwrites erotic letters for others . . . when a mysterious client enters her life, the letters all of a sudden become real to her--especially after her first lover reappears.

Though the book is seemingly directed more to women, men will enjoy it too.

There were several passages that caught my attention; among them:

* "It's not success that I'm talking about. It's interaction. When we paint or sculpt or assemble a collage, we're using our senses and our souls to make something out of thin air. We're saying something. And the act of saying it, and the process we go through in presenting it, doesn't teach us everything we need to know until we can discuss it and argue about it and listen to other people talking about it."

* But a first kiss is none of those things. It is an invitation to a sensate world that is yet unknown. It is dark in the light and light in the dark. It is foreign in its tastes and smells. It may begin with your lips but it moves along your body in a way that brings your blood to the surface. It turns you inside out so that you become your feelings and your thoughts retreat, bowing to the physicality of the kiss's moment. The rest of you withdraws to allow the coming together of a mere two inches of flesh that fly you to an unknown place—the way you can travel to a new city or town and recognize that you are in its center without knowing the

particular buildings, foliage, storefronts.

* I knew better than to be fooled by a man's passion. Or my own. Lust is so fickle, motivated by so many of the wrong impulses. Fooling us into thinking it has some significance when it has none.

D. Somehow I missed reading THE TOM PETERS SEMINAR when it first came out in 1994 . . . it is a version of what he charges business executives \$2,000 or so to attend.

I just heard the taped version and though it is some 12 years later, the material is still surprisingly contemporary--if you can overlook the examples of corporations that are no longer around . . . this is made possible because of the fact, to quote the subtitle, CRAZY TIMES CALL FOR CRAZY ORGANIZATIONS . . . methinks that is true not only in 2006, but will still be the case another 12 years from now.

As Peters notes, "Do something. Make things happen. It's inaction that kills you." But what makes this author so outstanding is that he just doesn't state a management philosophy; rather, he shows by the use of real-life companies and organizations how it can be implemented.

This particular program was narrated by Peters, which added to my enjoyment . . . he is a dynamic speaker and, as such, listening to him is even better than reading him.

By doing so, you'll gain some valuable insights as these:

* Once people don't know each other, it's time to break up the company. Typically, that's at around 50-60 people.

* The average company suffers more from dullness than eccentricity.

* Interview 25 customers. Ask: What's it like to do deal with us?

* Update your resume twice a year. Forever.

* Do you keep asking yourself: What can I learn next?

* You must retool every 4-6 years.

* You're as good as your Rolodex.

* When you hire, look for passion, flexibility and excitement. And for somebody WITH some glitches in his or her resume.

* When you go to work, consider it from the viewpoint of a fearful, first-time employee.

* Continually ask customers: Did you have a good time?

* Be able to answer this question in 25 words or less: What makes you unique?

* New products at Ben & Jerry's must pass this test: Is it weird enough?

5. VCR alert

A. NIGHTMARES AND DREAMSCAPES, based on short stories by Stephen King, debuts on Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on TNT . . . it features such movie stars as William Hurt, Tom Berenger, William H. Macy, and Claire Forlani (so fine in MEET JOE BLACK and hardly seen since then).

B. Bruce Springsteen plays tribute to Pete Seeger on GREAT PERFORMANCES on Wednesday at 10:30 p.m. on PBS . . . dates and times may vary, so check your local listings.

C. I've started watching IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN PHILADELPHIA and have found it to be quite amusing . . . the storyline sounds like FRIENDS meet CHEERS as four young friends with big egos and slightly arrogant attitudes work in an Irish bar in Philadelphia . . . Danny DeVito heads a fine ensemble cast . . . Thursdays at 10 p.m. on FX.

D. CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER: TAKING YOU HIGHER has the comedian in his first HBO special . . . Saturday at 10 p.m.

6. Living to be 80

I recently chose a new primary care physician. After two visits and exhaustive lab tests, he said I was doing "fairly well" for my age. A little concerned about that comment, I couldn't resist asking him, "Do you think I'll live to be 80?"

He asked, "Do you smoke tobacco or drink alcoholic beverages?"

"Oh no," I replied. "I don't do drugs, either."

Then he asked, "Do you eat ribeye steaks and barbecued ribs?"

I said, "No, my other doctor said that all red meat is unhealthy!"

"Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, sailing, hiking, motorcycling or bicycling?"

"No, I don't," I said.

He asked, "Do you gamble, drive fast cars or have a lot of sex?"

"No," I said. "I don't do any of those things."

He looked at me and said, "Then why do you give a sh*t?"

7. Websites

A. To see what folks have to go through to become legal citizens, take a look at the sample questions that are asked by clicking: <http://www.immigrationaid.org/citizenship.htm>

I'm just grateful that I was never asked to answer some of those!

B. Just think, if Elvis had lived, he would have been 70 this year . . . and methinks he would have rewritten "Are You Lonesome Tonight" along these lines: <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/jwwaller/elvis>

Make sure you turn up your speakers and sing along!

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

Thanks to the efforts of my talented webmaster, Dan Becker, you can now access past issues of BLAINESWORLD, the newsletter . . . just go to the above link, click Newsletters to the left and then Past Issues . . . #453 has a joke that is now surprisingly timely; you can find it in Section 6.

8. Computer tip

Looking to buy a new car? The first challenge is figuring out which car is the best fit for your lifestyle.

In an effort to make car buying less stressful and less complicated, AAA provides an online step-by-step process that you can access by clicking:

http://www.aaamidatlantic.com/automotive/carbuying/lifestyle_step1.asp

There's a lot of other useful advice here, too . . . for example, you can also get a listing of the best family cars, information on rebates and incentives, etc.

You don't even have to be an AAA member to access much of what you'll find . . . however, if you do belong to this fine organization (and I strongly recommend that you join if not already a member), you can access everything at the website.

9. When you must miss work

Concocting excuses for missing work is a time-honored tradition. And the folks at CareerBuilder.com have collected some beauts:

"My boyfriend's snake got loose, and I'm afraid to leave the bedroom until he gets home."

"I'm too drunk to drive."

"I forgot I was getting married today."

"My cow bit me."

"I was watching a guy fixing the septic pump, fell in the hole and hurt myself."

ONE MORE NOT ON THE LIST:

You could always say, "I was so mesmerized by reading BLAINESWORLD that I just lost track of the time."

10. A quote I like

In the stress and complexity of our lives, we may forget our deepest intentions. But when people come to the end of their life and look back, the questions they most often ask are not usually, "How much is in my bank account?" or "How many books did I write?" or "What did I build?" or the like. If you have the privilege of being with a person who is aware at the time of his or her death, you find the questions such a person asks are very simple: "Did I love well?" "Did I live fully?" "Did I learn to let go?"--Jack Kornfield (whose books, audio tapes and teachings have acted as an inspiration for countless Western students of Buddhism) in A PATH WITH HEART

11. Thought for the day

More space

There was a man who lived in a small hut with his large family of six, including his wife, mother-in-law and three children. He was praying to God one day and begged God to help him create more space in his house. He said everyone was tripping all over each other, and it is was just impossible to live that way.

So the next day, God spoke and said, "Take all of the chickens you have in your yard, then bring them into the hut with you and your family."

The man asked, "Are you crazy?"

And God said, "Just do as I say!"

So the man brought all of the chickens into the hut. The next day he said to God, "God, this is awful . . . it is so much worse than before. What were you thinking?"

To that, God replied, "Now bring in all of the cows in your fields."

The man thought that God must have lost his mind, but he did as he was told.

The next day, the man thought he was going to lose his mind and told God exactly what he thought.

God said, "Now bring in all of the goats in the field."

The man did what God asked, and there was not an inch of space left in his small hut. The man began to question if God knew what He was doing and thought about asking someone else for advice.

The following day, God finally said, "OK, now you can take all of the animals out of your hut."

The man did so, and from that day on, he thanked God for the spacious, blessed hut that was his to live in with his family. He also appreciated all that he had and remembered what it was like to have much less.

Author Unknown
(if you know who wrote this and/or the source, please let me know)

12. Advance planning department

A. LAST CHANCE TO RESPOND:

Are you a former BCCC student of mine? If so, you should have already received an invitation to a summer barbecue I'm having at our place . . . please RSVP (hopefully, YES), if you haven't already done so . . . in the unlikely event you have NOT received your invite yet, please let me know, so I can make sure you're on my mailing list for this upcoming event.

B. Meaghan in Pennsylvania:

Bristol Riverside Theatre (BRT) presents the 2nd Musicale of their 2006 Summer Series, WAR SONGS, running July 6 - 16, Tickets \$27 (Groups 10+ Save) & \$10 for students.

Not to be mistaken for a political statement, WAR SONGS celebrates the richest music of the Vietnam War Era--with 8 Vocalists and 5 Band Members --Created by Artistic Director, Edward Keith Baker.

If you enjoyed the music from the film, FORREST GUMP, you will love WAR SONGS at BRT! Celebrate the times when being young meant being able to change the world!

Also, THE AMAZING WORLD OF MAGIC--July 19 to 23 at BRT. Mind-Boggling Illusions! Whirlwind of Colorful Magic & Hilarious Audience Participation! Family Fun for Ages 5 to 95!

Tickets \$20 & \$10 for Students.

To order tickets for either event, call the Box Office: 215-785-0100, or order online:

<http://www.BRTstage.org>

C. Ed in Pennsylvania:

You are cordially invited to an Estate Planning Seminar
Tuesday, July 11

7:30-9 p.m.

Spring Mill Manor
171 Jacksonville Road
Warminster, PA

You'll hear Anthony L. Loscalzo, Esq. Tony is a tax attorney who specializes in tax and estate planning.

Light refreshments will be served.

You are welcome to bring a friend or another couple with you.

Please RSVP at your earliest convenience to Kelly McDonnell by phone at 215.340.5777, ext. 305 or e-mail directly to:
kellym@kohlheppadvisors.com

NOBODY ASKED ME, BUT:

Ed Kohlhepp (see also Section 1D) has been my longtime financial adviser . . . Tony Loscalzo has been the tax attorney who has done both my wills and estate planning . . . they both know their stuff!

D. Natalie in Pennsylvania:

* On Thursday, July 27, 7:00 p.m. at the Langhorne Presbyterian Church, 125 E. Gillam Avenue, Langhorne, The Peace Center will present Susanne Sulby's new play SANCTUARY, exploring the human tragedy of war and the roles and responsibilities of individuals in the conflict of nations.

A discussion of the play moderated by Ms. Sulby will follow. Suggested donation is \$20.00. (Peace Center members pay \$15.00.)

* The Peace Center Presents

Dancin' for Peace with the good-time rock 'n' roll sounds of Brother Too Brother—Come on out for a rockin' good time and help keep the Peace in Bucks County!

Saturday, August 26, 2006 8-11:30 p.m.
Langhorne American Legion Post 148 Hall
115 West Richardson Avenue—Langhorne

Admission: \$20 Donation
(Current Peace Center Member \$15)

Free Snacks!
All Proceeds Benefit
The Peace Center

For more information call 215.750.7220.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #509

7.3.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I attempt to make every day like a birthday . . . so this past week, we got to do this a few times . . . Tiger's Tale (609.924.0262) in Skillman, NJ, offers you a coupon that is good for one free entree anytime the month of your birthday . . . so we again got to celebrate my special day with Cynthia having the ribeye steak, and I had the London broil; both dishes were excellent . . . we've always enjoyed this restaurant; however, it has gotten even better since all smoking in New Jersey eateries has been banned . . . a few days later, we used another birthday coupon at Dolce Carini (215.579.2972) in Newtown, PA . . . we split our meals this time, and so we got to both enjoy the chicken francese and a particularly tasty lasagna . . . Cynthia also liked her Caesar salad, while I got another of my favorites there--the string beans.

On Saturday, we actually used our grill for a second time; can you believe it? . . . we had Cynthia's sister, brother-in-law and niece over, along with other friends, and served hamburgers, franks, chicken, corn, and salad.

See below for a picture of the two of us hard at work:



I even did some limited grilling, but must give credit where it's due and so must express my appreciation to Marty for doing most of the work . . . he is a true master and showed us all a thing or two, including this tip that everybody laughed at but then agreed that it made sense:

Before beginning, Marty covers the grill with aluminum foil . . . he then punches holes into it . . . boy, does this make clean-up easy!

And one more tip, while I'm at it . . . this one is from Cynthia . . . she made a delicious barbecue sauce, combining 1/2 of the original Saucy Susan (peach-apricot sauce) and the other 1/2 with any barbecue sauce (she used Masterpiece Original) . . . and who would have ever thought that you'd be getting cooking information from this newsletter?

B. Sunday was another great day . . . we went with other friends to shop in Chester, NJ . . . this is a quaint little town in the north central part of the state, about 40 minutes from the official residence of "the Greenfields of Belle Meade" . . . they have many cute shops there, including one of Cynthia's favorites, the Quest Gallery (908.879.8144) . . . it is an American craft gallery representing 250 nationally known craftspeople in jewelry, clay, glass, wood, lamps, furniture, and Judaic art . . . I also got a kick out of seeing a doll hospital, a bird store, a dog and cat treat store, and an old-fashioned candy shop with over 700 different candy items in a nostalgic atmosphere . . . there's also Taylor's Ice Cream Parlor (908.879.5363), which naturally we had to check out . . . we were not disappointed, particularly with the fact that is the only time I ever saw something called "The Buddy System" for cones . . . it is a piece of plastic you put under your ice cream, so it doesn't drip like crazy.

For more information on the fine shopping in Chester, please click:
<http://www.chesternj.org>

From there, we went a few blocks to see BLOOD BROTHERS at the Black River Playhouse (908.879.7304) . . . this is a powerful musical about twins who are separated at birth . . . it

was probably the best show we have seen for quite some time.

There's a great score, and the cast was outstanding . . . our only regret is that Lynn Hart, who had the leading role, isn't appearing in anything else this summer . . . we would have gone out of our way to see her, she's that good.

We were also amazed by the orchestra, particularly given the fact that the four musicians managed to squeeze into just about the smallest pit any of us has ever seen.

DO YOURSELF A FAVOR:

If at all possible, catch BLOOD BROTHERS, though be forewarned to bring some tissues with you when you do . . . it runs until July 16 with performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.chestertheatregroup.org>

You won't be disappointed. Guaranteed!

For dinner, we went to a place that Cynthia has been telling me about for years: The After (973.584.6564), a charbroil/ice cream parlor in Flanders, NJ . . . it is nothing fancy, but the food is good--and, in particular, the sweet potato fries are excellent . . . the prices are also very reasonable.

C. Negotiations have pretty much concluded at Bucks County Community College, which means that we should soon have an agreement to present to our membership . . . we, the Union that is, did not get everything that we wanted . . . but overall, I'm relatively pleased and given the nature of what is happening with respect to benefits, I don't believe that we could have done too much better; in fact, we are lucky that we did not do a lot worse.

I'm soooo blessed to have been able to work with such a dedicated, hard-working team, which included Joann Corn, Bill Yorke, Earle Meyers, John Murray, Mary Lannetti, and Ralph Hunsburger.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to Dana in Pennsylvania on her recent marriage, and the same to Joyce in Pennsylvania . . . to quote from one of my favorite toasts, "May be best days of your past be the worst days of your future!"

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

My folks live in North Shore Towers, a high rise apartment building in Floral Park, NY . . . they have everything they could want, in that downstairs is a restaurant, movie theater, dry cleaner, grocery store, drug store, beauty parlor, bank, etc., plus an indoor pool . . . there's an outdoor pool, too, as well as a golf course.

Virtually all the personnel are both helpful and friendly . . . they seem to go out of the way to make you feel welcome.

Over the years, I've found one doorman--Neil Tradelli--to be particularly nice to both Cynthia and me . . . he always has a smile on his face and is just a pleasure to see whenever we go there . . . in addition, he has a great haircut--but that's a whole different story.

2. FYI

I use this subtle and diabolical technique all the time. The key to using qualifiers is the word "how." Above, the subtitle asks: "How soon will you start using this pattern?" Let's examine this sentence. If I had asked, "Will you start using this pattern?" you could reply with a simple yes or no. But because the question began with the words "How soon . . .," you focus on something entirely different. Instead of pondering whether or not you'll use this pattern, you concentrated on when you'd start using it.

SOURCE:

WIN THE CROWD (see also sections 4C, 8 and 10) by Steve Cohen

FYI, part 2

* Steve in Pennsylvania (with a request for help):

I did not know if you were aware that Ellen Prato and her family live in a low-lying neighborhood in Yardley Boro just off River Road in Pennsylvania. They have been flooded badly for the third time now. Flood insurance covers much less than most of us assume, and they have in all probability been hammered financially, now for the third time.

Susan sent an e-mail to the department asking if anyone knew of a house that might be available for the next couple of weeks, people going on vacation, etc.

If you could send something out to the much wider Union list and to other lists or groups, that could be a big help.

Readers who have any suggestions should feel free to respond to me at this e-mail address: coupecs@aol.com

* Joyce in Pennsylvania:

A reminder to all of your readers out there. There are many of us who make our living in river towns such as New Hope. Some are damaged by the water, but all of us are hurt by the loss of revenue when our towns are forced to close down for a few days. Getting the customers back is always difficult.

Please show your support of these hardworking merchants, me included, by coming back as soon as possible. Have a cone of ice cream, eat a nice dinner, shop at any and all of the eclectic stores.

We appreciate it, you'll have a great time, and you'll be helping to maintain these wonderful towns.

Joyce Berger
Le Chateau Exotique
27 W. Mechanic Street
New Hope, PA

For more information, please click:

<http://www.fetishwear.com/>

* Ginny in Pennsylvania:

I just had to tell you about my visit yesterday to Bed Bath and Beyond in Newtown as I know you have mentioned them in BLAINESWORLD

and how pleased you were.

About two months ago, I purchased a small wine rack, a wine bottle opener and wine bottle identifiers for a neighbor off her bridal registry. They offered to wrap them but I was going to add some other items to the gift. I purchased wine glasses from another bridal registry that she had requested and added a bottle of Asti and put them into a large oval basket. But now I needed a large bag. I went to customer service yesterday, told an associate about my dilemma and after consulting with someone as to their location, she gave me the bag without even requesting to see any proof that I had actually purchased the items from the store. (I had it with me.) A second associate then said there are larger bags--better to be safe than sorry--stopped what she was doing and gave me the largest bag they had.

Next, since they were busy and there was an available associate right nearby, I asked if they had a product that I had seen in the Linens and Things catalog (which I had with me and could show him the picture). He said they did and called over to another associate who brought the product over to me and was then instructed by the first associate to open a register for me to pay and to make sure I used the Linens and Things discount coupon, even though I had my Bed Bath & Beyond coupon for 20% right with me.

I swear this all took place in about 5 minutes, and I unfortunately didn't get any of their names. Talk about customer service. I always enjoy going into that store because everyone is so friendly, but WOW this visit was amazing.

MY TWO CENTS:

I almost always have a similar experience while shopping at Bed Bath & Beyond; hence, I am such a loyal customer . . . one additional comment, if I may (that I already suggested to Ginny) . . . when and if you receive similar service from any store or individual, please do write a complimentary letter . . . too often we complain when treated poorly; it's nice when this trend can be reversed!

* Colleen in Massachusetts:

My favorite spot in Boston is Quincy Marketplace. Lots of small shops to explore during the day. At night, don't miss the comedy club!

We made reservations before going and got to sit right up front. Two different comedians used me in part of their acts; the crowd went wild. It was hysterically funny . . . my friends and I had a fantastic time.

Faneuil Hall is in the Marketplace, too. Although I can no longer recall the names of any of the restaurants, there are some very good ones in Little Italy. Naturally, being Italian, I'm partial to that area and food.

Hope you and Cynthia have a fantastic time in Boston!

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

THANKS to Colleen for providing the above information . . . we've since uncovered the fact that a show featuring Blue Man Group will be playing . . . do you know anything about this and/or the group? . . . and, if so, is it something you'd recommend?

Naturally, we're looking for still more suggestions as to places to visit, restaurants, entertainment, etc. in Boston in mid-July, at which time I'll be there for a teacher's conference . . . so please continue

to share anything else that you think might be of interest.

3. Three sisters

There are three elderly sisters living together. The eldest is 96, the middle sister is 94, and the youngest is 92.

One night, two of the sisters are sitting at the kitchen table having tea; the oldest is upstairs in the bathroom taking a bath. She yells down to her two sisters, "Wait a minute! Am I getting in or out of the bath?"

Her 94 year old sister yells back upstairs, "I'll be right up to help you". As she is going up the stairs, she calls down to her sister, "Wait a minute! Am I going up or down the stairs?"

The 92-year-old sister says to herself, "Thank God, I'm not like them" and knocks the wood on the table three times for luck. Shortly after, she yells back upstairs to her two sisters "Wait a minute! I'll be right there after I see who's knocking at the door."

4. Reviews

A. THE LAKE HOUSE is a convoluted romance that involves time travel, ordinarily one of my favorite themes . . . it held my interest, but fell somewhat short of being a great or even a very good film.

Two characters live in the same house, but two years apart from each other . . . yet somehow they manage to start corresponding to each other via mail, and that's my biggest problem with THE LAKE HOUSE . . . it just didn't seem overly plausible.

I did like the acting of both Sandra Bullock and Keanu Reeves . . . in addition, the accompanying soundtrack was great . . . rated PG, though methinks it wouldn't be of interest to any child under the age of 13.

B. THE MATADOR is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #489 follows:

Pierce Brosnan plays an international hit man who has seen better days in THE MATADOR, a dark comedy that has a few laughs but isn't something you should run out to see (or even rent when it becomes available on DVD) . . . it was funny to see him playing against type; i.e., being radically different from his dashing James Bond performances . . . but Greg Kinnear, usually one of my favorites, added little to the role of the average Joe who goes along with some of Brosnan's escapades . . . and Hope Davis was virtually wasted as Kinnear's wife . . . rated R.

C. You don't have to be a magician to love WIN THE CROWD (see also Sections 2, 8 and 9) by Steve Cohen because it applies to virtually any profession and/or thing that you may do in life.

Cohen, aka The Millionaires' Magician, entertains celebrities,

tycoons and aristocrats at private events the world over . . . he also performs his public show, CHAMBER MAGIC, at New York's famous Waldorf-Astoria Hotel . . .and as a result of reading his book, I'm going to try to make a performance in the near future.

I want to see how commanding, convincing and charismatic he is--all traits he shows you how to develop in CHAMBER MAGIC . . . now if this sounds like a bit much to promise, consider the following game that the author plays:

As quickly as you can, answer the following questions:

1. How many fingers does one man have on his hands?
2. How many fingers on ten hands?

If you're like most people, you answered "ten" and "one hundred." The first answer is correct. The second answer is wrong. Go back and read it again. (If you still can't figure it out, I'll help; it is "fifty.")

This shows what misdirection is all about. It moves you down a particular path and puts you in a certain state of mind. You'll learn this technique and many, many others as well.

You won't become an accomplished magician; in fact, there's only one trick that he actually shows you how to do. However, you'll gain many other valuable tidbits that you can use in countless situations . . . among them:

* When I read the previous sentence to a friend of mine, a successful businesswoman, she said, "That is so true!" She lives by the following aphorism: "Don't ask first; just apologize later." Instead of running a new idea by her boss, she just goes ahead and tried it out. According to her, too many "managers" are entrenched in their ways of doing things and are likely to say no to something new. She just plows ahead and does it on her own.

* If you're supershy, start in a nonthreatening, location such as an elevator. The next time you are on the elevator with a stranger, break the silence and compliment her. That's right. Find something noteworthy about that person and say, "That's a nice (sweater/hat/watch) you're wearing. I like it." This simple act forces the person to react. You've taken a risk, and you've taken control of the situation. You've done something bold. Bravo! If the stranger ignores you, or thinks you're a creep, don't worry. You'll both be getting off the elevator soon enough. The pain of rejection will come and go so quickly that you'll never even notice it. If you're not in the habit of speaking to strangers, you'll be pleasantly surprised at how easily people will chat with you. If you're shy, challenge yourself to compliment five people daily. This is your first step toward conquering shyness.

* When I was a student at Tannen's Magic Camp, professional magician Tom Ogden explained how he handles incoming phone calls. When someone calls for a potential booking, he taught us:

1. Say, "One moment, let me check my date book."
2. Put down the phone.
3. Go make a sandwich.
4. Come back.
5. Pick up the phone and say, "Yes, I'm available that day."

If you jump quickly at someone's offer to buy from you, you appear desperate. Never appear too eager to make a sale. Ogden was clearly joking about the sandwich, but it served as a lesson, reminding us to hesitate before saying yes.

D. Sometimes I've enjoyed books by David Baldacci (WISH YOU WELL and THE WINNER come to mind); others, such as THE LAST MAN STANDING did little for me . . . add SPLIT SECOND, which I just heard, to that latter list . . . it was a disappointing mystery thriller about two disgraced Secret Service agents who come together to solve two campaign-trail crimes . . . I cared little about any of the characters, and there were far too many subplots floating around for my taste . . . the ending also didn't do much for me, as it brought too many separate threads together in too quick a fashion . . . lastly, I did not particularly "buy" the man behind the crimes; he just wasn't all that believable.

5. VCR alert

A. Coney Island's 91st annual HOT DOG EATING CONTEST airs on Tuesday at Noon on ESPN.

Takeru Kobayashi of Japan is the five-time defending champion and event-record holder (53.5 dogs and buns in 12 minutes). Challengers include Joey Chestnut, 100-pound Sonya Thomas and 60-year-old Rich LeFevre.

USEFUL INFORMATION:

If you ever miss a show and want to see when it is run again, you can check the particular station's website . . . or I find that going to this website and using the search option (at the top) is even more helpful:

<http://tvguide.com/>

B. MONK begins its fifth season with Stanly Tucci playing a Hollywood star who loses himself in character when he's cast as Monk in a movie . . . Friday at 9 p.m. on USA.

C. A two-hour block of the classic quiz show, WHAT'S MY LINE?, begins on Saturday at 9 a.m. on GSN with appearances by Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, Jackie Robinson, and Willie Mays.

D. CHAPPELLE'S SHOW: THE LOST EPISODES has the first of three completed episodes Dave Chappelle taped before he broke his multimillion dollar contract . . . Sunday at 9 p.m. on COMEDY CENTRAL.

6. Custom

Custom at Duquesne University dictated that if a professor was ten minutes late, class was canceled. One professor arrived early for a 9 a.m. lecture. He placed his hat on his desk, and went to the faculty dining room.

Before he knew it, it was 9:10. By the time he got back to his classroom, it was empty.

The next day, he let his students have it. "When my hat is here," he fumed, "I'm here!"

The following day, the professor arrived at 9 a.m. He was met by the sight of 28 caps on 28 desks—and no students.

7. Websites

A. Creativity in education

View this entertaining video by Ken Robinson at a Technology Education Design conference. The presentation may inspire you to take a creative leap and inspire students to mine all areas of their brains:

http://www.ted.com/tedtalks/tedtalksplayer.cfm?key=ken_robinson&flashEnabled=1

To note: "If you are not prepared to be wrong, you will not do anything original."

B. For a comprehensive listing of all theatres in New Jersey, please click:

<http://www.funnj.com/arts/theatres/index.htm#B>

If any reader knows of a similar listing for Pennsylvania, please share that with me . . . I'll tell all other readers about it.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

Several photos have been added by Dan Becker, my ace webmaster . . . so if you want to see them or if you've never seen them previously, please click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Pictures" . . . make sure you have your sound card because in the background, you'll hear arguably the greatest rock song of all time.

D. For the latest on Trisha Gallagher, a person I've long admired, please click her website:

<http://www.teamofangels.com>

There's a great gift item here, too: a team of angels pin.

8. Computer tip

In e-mails, many people neglect to use names. It really doesn't make a difference, especially in such an impersonal, digital format, where every e-mail looks like every other one that arrives in your in-box. Simply remember to write, for example, "Dear Roman" or "Hi Alex" at the top of your e-mails. A simple gesture like this turns a generic e-mail into something inviting.

SOURCE:

WIN THE CROWD (see also sections 2, 4C and 10) by Steve Cohen

9. Deliberations

After a laborious two-week criminal trial in a very high profile bank robbery case, the jury finally ended its 14 hours of deliberations and entered the courtroom to deliver its verdict to the judge.

The judge turns to the jury foreman and asks, "Has the jury reached a verdict in this case?"

"Yes we have, your honor," the foreman responded.

"Would you please pass it to me," the judge declared, as he motioned for the bailiff to retrieve the verdict slip from the foreman and deliver it to him.

After the judge reads the verdict himself, he delivers the verdict slip back to his bailiff to be returned to the foreman, and instructs the foreman, "Please read your verdict to the court."

"We find the defendant NOT GUILTY of all four counts of bank robbery," stated the foreman.

The family and friends of the defendant jump for joy at the sound of the "not guilty" verdict, and they hug each other as they shout expressions of divine gratitude. The defendant's attorney turns to his client and asks, "So, what do you think about that?"

The defendant looks around the courtroom slowly with a bewildered look on his face and then turns to his defense attorney and says, "I'm real confused here. Does this mean that I have to give all the money back?"

10. A quote I like

You know I REALLY like a book when I mention it four separate times in BLAINESWORLD . . . such was the case with Steve Cohen's book, WIN THE CROWD (see also Sections 2, 4C and 8), from which I took the following quote:

Don't fall into the trap of saying, "I'm just a housewife" or "I'm just a clerk." You are not "just" anything. Forget any stereotypes people may have about you or your occupation. When you believe in yourself, your actions become more definite. People observe your actions, and they see that you take yourself and your work very seriously.

11. Thought for the day

Two Friends

Two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey, they had an argument and one friend slapped the other one in the face.

The one who got slapped was hurt, but without

saying anything,
wrote in the sand:

Today my best friend
slapped me in the face.

They kept on walking,
until they found an oasis,
where they decided
to take a bath.

The one who had been
slapped got stuck in the
mire and started drowning,
but the friend saved him.

After he recovered from
the near drowning,
he wrote on a stone:

Today my best friend
saved my life.

The friend who had slapped
and saved his best friend
asked him, "After I hurt you,
you wrote in the sand and now,
you write on a stone. Why?"

The other friend replied,
"When someone hurts us,
we should write it down
in sand where winds of
forgiveness can erase it away.

"But, when someone does
something good for us,
we must engrave it in stone
where no wind
can ever erase it."

Learn to write
your hurts in
the sand and to
carve your benefits in stone.

Author Unknown
(if you know who wrote this and/or the source, please let me know)

12. Advance planning department

A. Are you a former BCCC student of mine? If so, you should have already received an invitation to a summer barbecue I'm having at our place . . . please RSVP (hopefully, YES), if you haven't already done so . . . in the unlikely event you have NOT received your invite yet, please let me know, so I can make sure you're on my mailing list for this upcoming event.

B. Ed in Pennsylvania:
You are cordially invited to an Estate Planning Seminar
Tuesday, July 11

7:30-9 p.m.

Spring Mill Manor
171 Jacksonville Road
Warminster, PA

You'll hear Anthony L. Loscalzo, Esq. Tony is a tax attorney
who specializes in tax and estate planning.

Light refreshments will be served.

You are welcome to bring a friend or another couple with you.

Please RSVP at your earliest convenience to Kelly McDonnell
by phone at 215.340.5777, ext. 305 or e-mail directly to:
kellym@kohlheppadvisors.com

NOBODY ASKED ME, BUT:
Ed Kohlhepp has been my longtime financial adviser . . . Tony
Loscalzo has been the tax attorney who has done both my
wills and estate planning . . . they both know their stuff!

C. Debbie in Pennsylvania:
Mark your calendar for these amazing events at OMPHALOS,
The Center for P.E.A.C.E., in Langhorne, PA:

July 9th
Shamanic Astrology Insights with Sao
2-5 p.m.

August 12th, 13th
Divine Connections . . . You and Your Essence with Kenton David Bell

Take advantage of pre-registration discounts. Private sessions
are also available. Call 215.493.3456 for more information.

D. Several years ago, I participated in something called Leadership
New Jersey . . . to quote from literature provided by that organization,
it "seeks out, honors and challenges a select group of New Jerseyans
who have the potential to provide the leadership needed to solve
problems of statewide significance."

I gained a great deal from my participation . . . if you'd be interested
in having me nominate you for the Class of 2007, please get
additional information by clicking:

<http://www.leadershipnj.org>

Then drop me an e-mail, indicating you'd like such a nomination . . . it
would be my pleasure.

PS. Enjoy your Fourth of July celebration, but please be safe . . . and
to get you in the mood, make sure you turn on your sound as you click:
<http://greetings.aol.com/view.pd?i=78175863&m=2010&source=aold999>

Also, please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great rest of the week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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Phone : 828.633.1049

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BLAINESWORLD

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Issue #508

6.26.2006

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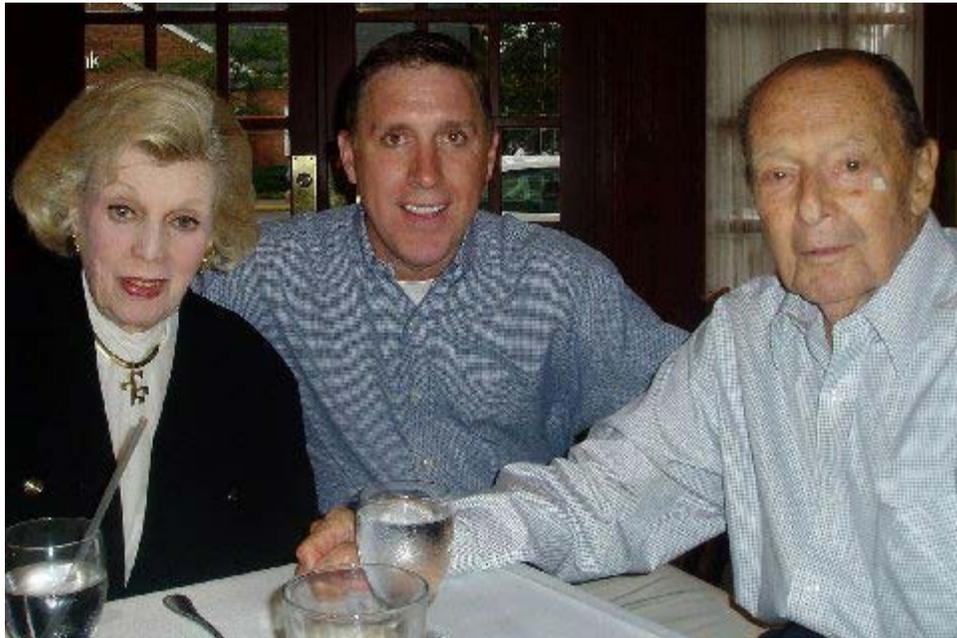
1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a great Saturday this past weekend as we celebrated with my folks their 66th anniversary . . . we love sharing such joyous events and look forward to celebrating many more in the future.

We all went to a restaurant that is quickly becoming one of our favorite places: Gebhardt's (516.354.8190) in Floral Park, NY . . . from the time you come into the place and are greeted by Michele, the manager, you feel you are with friends . . . everybody is just so friendly.

The food is always excellent . . . I enjoyed the pot roast, and Cynthia said her lobster was delicious . . . everybody at the table also had potato pancakes that were as good as we've ever tasted . . . Bob Manning, the owner, was especially gracious--bringing over a "surprise" dessert sampler, complete with candle . . . we had all thought we were full, but somehow managed to find room for this combination of decadent delights.

See below for a picture of my folks; that's Bob in the middle:



Cheryl, our server, was pleasant and efficient . . . and an added nice touch is the music from Vladimir, the pianist.

For more information about this fine restaurant, please click:
<http://gebhardtsrestaurant.com/frames.html>

B. On Sunday, we did something that will surely become a tradition; i.e., we had a "Kripalu Day" . . . for those not familiar with Kripalu, it's a center for yoga, holistic health and self-discovery in Lennox, MA . . . it is one of Cynthia's favorite places, and I had a nice time the one time I joined her.

But since we could not get away for the weekend, we decided just to hang at our place . . . we didn't go anywhere, nor did we even get in the car . . . we also made it a point to take or make very few phone calls.

Instead, we spent the day just taking it easy . . . reading, doing some catching up, taking a walk, etc. . . . it was great . . . and perhaps best of all, we had nothing planned . . . so we did pretty much whatever we wanted to do whenever we wanted to do it.

We both said we had to have more of such days!

C. Still another highlight of my week was going to the retirement luncheon of Tom Farrell, a longtime friend/mediation colleague . . . it was at Mastori's Restaurant (609.298.4650) in Bordentown, NJ and as is always the case, the food is bountiful as well as tasty . . . no matter what you do, you MUST save some room for the magnificent loaves of huge loaves of both cinnamon and cheese bread that accompany every meal.

Tom was roasted by over 100 people for his 32 years of service in the field . . . a fun time was had by all . . . though that said, he will certainly be missed and by the thousands of others he has trained and/or helped.

D. In case you missed it in Section 12 last week, I'm moving up this following notice:

Are you a former student of mine at Bucks County Community College? If so, you should have already received an invite to a summer barbecue I'm having at our place . . . please RSVP (hopefully, YES), if you haven't already done so . . . in the unlikely event you have NOT received your invite yet, please let me know, so I can make sure you're on my mailing list for this event.

I would love to have many former students there.

**** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD ****

This week, it goes to goes to Blind Luck Inc. (908.359.0500), a blind designer company in Hillsborough, NJ.

Several months ago, we got all the drapes and blinds there for our home--the official residence of "the Greenfields of Belle Meade."

We were most impressed with the service that we received, as well as the many choices that were afforded us . . . prices seemed reasonable, too, but what do I know.

Ralph Lombardi, the owner of the firm, personally met with us several times to help us make our selections . . . he was both knowledgeable and friendly and not at all pushy . . . Howard Graff, his installer, then came out to put up everything . . . he came when he said he would and did an excellent job.

I'd certainly recommend Blind Luck to others!

2. FYI

Last week, I mentioned that Cynthia made me one of her specialties for my birthday . . . it was sooooo good . . . since there were requests for the recipe, I asked her to share it with you . . . here goes:

Orange chicken

Serves 3-4

2 eggs
2 tsp's. water
1 cup bread crumbs
1/8 tsp. pepper
1 tsp. salt
1 lb. chicken breasts
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 cup hot water
1/4 cup honey
1 cup orange juice
3/4 tsp. ground ginger

Beat eggs and water. Dip the chicken in the egg.
Mix the bread crumbs, salt, pepper,
brown chicken in oil.

Put browned chicken in baking dish with cover.
Mix hot water and honey. Add orange juice
and ginger.

Pour mixture over the chicken.
Heat at 325 for 45 minutes.

FYI, part 2

* Ralph in Pennsylvania:

During the last several months there has been an increase in TV advertisements and news stories about prostate cancer. These articles prompted me to tell my story.

About 15 years ago, I began to have regular (semi-annual) PSA tests and check-ups by a urologist. He discovered an enlarged prostate and PSA levels higher than normal. We began a series of biopsies every three years. The first two were normal but the biopsy three years ago showed a slight abnormality that was technically called a hit. My PSA also increased slightly. My last biopsy in March 2006 showed a small cancerous cell. Upon consultation with the urologist, we decided on radical prostate surgery. The pathologists' report did show that the right side of the prostate was cancerous but that the surrounding glands and lymph nodes were not affected. I am now in recovery. I attribute the success of the operation and recovery to those semiannual checkups that detected the cancer early.

Therefore, every male over fifty should have at least an annual check-up with a certified urologist.

* Nate in New Jersey (with a REQUEST FOR HELP):

My wife has a cousin who is in charge of the Jewish Community of Nuremberg Germany where many Jewish immigrants of Russia have settled.

In that community, there is a 20-year-old Jewish girl who just passed the equivalent of her high school graduation and is frustrated with life there. She wants to move on with her life and wants to know if there is any agency in the USA who can help her relocate to a new plateau.

Do you know anywhere or anyone she can turn to for advice? If so, e-mail me; my address is: drhimel@comcast.net

* Carole in Pennsylvania:

Wonderful news . . . I've just found out that my husband is returning home tomorrow after an 18 month deployment, 1 year of which was spent in Iraq. Thanks to everyone for their prayers and support. Thank you for always including that thought in ending BLAINESWORLD. It always touched my heart as I read your words.

For Alicia in Pennsylvania who just found out that her husband will be sent to Iraq in September, my prayers will be with her and her husband as they face this difficult separation. My advice to her is to reach out to others who are also experiencing the deployment. The mutual support found in networking with others is so helpful.

* Robyn in Pennsylvania:

I thought this might be a good thing to pass along to your readers. I checked on snopes.com and its true. Merck is donating \$1 for the fight against cervical cancer for each free bracelet kit that is ordered. There's no shipping costs included, and there's a phone number on the website if anyone's uncomfortable ordering online. I checked, and its a secure website too.

The first link has more information on ordering, and the second link is the reference to snopes.com.

https://www.maketheconnection.org/order_beadkit/default.asp

<http://www.snopes.com/inboxer/charity/merck.asp>

* Catherine in Massachusetts:

Re: outside pesky critters . . . I have found that planting spearmint and peppermint in pots on my deck helps to keep mosquitoes and gnats away in the summer.

I also use those new smoke lamps made by OFF when it gets really bad.

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

I'm going with Cynthia to a conference in Boston in mid-July . . . it has been many years since I've last been to that fine town . . . any recommendations restaurants, shows to see, places to visit, etc.?

3. Encore time

Residents of a local nursing home loved our karate school's demonstration. We could tell because they gave us a big hand at the end. After the applause died down, everyone remained seated, so we showed off a few more moves. When our encore ended and again no one budged, we launched into our second encore.

"I didn't expect karate to be so popular here," I whispered to one resident.

"It's not," she said with a kindly smile. "We're waiting for you to leave so we can get on with our bingo game."

4. Reviews

A. Saw A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION (see also Section 5C), a comic/musical tale about a fictitious radio show that has somehow managed to survive in the age of television . . . yet when the radio station is sold, the show comes to an end and the movie depicts its final night . . . Meryl Streep and Lily Tomlin star as country singers who have somehow managed to survive over the years . . . I particularly liked the pairing of John C. Reilly and Woody Harrelson as a singing cowboy act; their one song together is a hoot . . . and Lindsay Lohan's version of "Frankie and Johnny" had me laughing, too . . . even Garrison Keillor makes an impressive movie debut as the host of the show, something that he has actually done on PBS for more than a quarter of a century . . . overall, I found A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION a bit slow, and it dragged in spots . . . but if you are a fan of the actual show or of director Robert Altman, then methinks you'll want to catch this film . . . rated PG-13.

B. FAILURE TO LAUNCH is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #494 follows:

FAILURE TO LAUNCH did not get very good reviews from the

critics, but Cynthia and I both liked it--a lot . . . we laughed throughout the film and were joined by most in the audience.

It is a comedy about a slacker (Matthew McConnaughey) who still lives with his parents . . . his parents (Kathy Bates and a very funny Terry Bradshaw) hire a woman (Sarah Jessica Parker) to get him out of the house, but things don't go quite as they expect . . . we also liked the work of Zooey Deschanel as Parker's offbeat roommate . . . rated PG-13.

C. Some books grow on you . . . such was the case with PULL YOURSELF UP BY YOUR BRA STAPS (see also Sections 10 and 11) by Jeanne Bice, creator of the Quacker Factor.

For those not familiar with the company, it is a clothing firm that is one of the most popular lines sold on QVC . . . you won't find a lot of specific information on how the company got to be so successful; rather, you'll get some homespun advice on life, in general . . . and several heartwarming stories about how Bice managed to overcome some of the adversaries in her life.

By the end of this brief book, you'll have a smile on your face . . . as the author points out in the Afterword, there's a recipe to follow to help you get there with one key point being to:

Be happy

Choose to be happy. Happiness is a decision you make, not an emotion you feel. Always find the joy in the day. What comes out of your mouths is what we live. Nobody's perfect; enjoy who you are!

I also liked the following sentiment that Bice shared:
Today I wish upon you ordinary miracles . . .

A call from an old friend
A great parking spot
when you go shopping
The fastest line in the grocery store
Green lights all day
Your favorite 50's song on the radio
to sing along with
A day of peace . . . happiness and joy

D. Loved HOW TO NOT SUCK IN SALES, a Better Life Media CD (and DVD) starring Jeffrey Gitomer . . . it has the NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author giving a live seminar about what works in selling--and what doesn't . . . the latter encompasses much of what is presently being done, including giving out crappy business cards . . . he actually encourages those in attendance to rip up what they are using.

What's so great about this program is that you can watch it, then for reinforcement, listen in the car while you drive to work . . . my only disappointment is that there wasn't an accompanying manual/summary sheet that summarized all the great ideas.

Among them:

* You could put the words "up yours" on your brochure and nobody would ever find them!

* Sales is all about having fun.

* The best way to get a referral is to give one.

* The secret of selling is engagement. Three words must precede it: Intelligent, emotional, friendly.

* People don't like to be sold, but they love to buy.

* Liking leads to trusting. And if you're not likable, get out of sales.

* The customer doesn't care about you [the salesperson]. They care about themselves.

* To find out motive . . . ask your best customers why they buy. It is not about your selling skills.

* There's a three-word definition of cold call: waste of time.

* Power questions make your customer stop and think; e.g., what would you do if you lost 2 of your top 10 customers? And what are you doing to keep them?

* Your job is to have 25 such questions.

HOW TO NOT SUCK IN SALES is available for purchase or rental . . . if you want to get it, please click:

<http://www.achievement.com/>

Above is the tape rental club I belong to; i.e., the Achievement Tape Library . . . this a great way to hear CDs and/or audio cassette tapes, view videos, etc.--all for a fraction of what it would cost to buy them . . . call the head of the firm (Paul Arroyo) directly at 1.800.735.3660 and mention my name . . . that way, you'll be sure to pay even higher prices . . . NOT.

5. VCR alert

A. MY FIRST TIME chronicles the early days of TV's biggest names . . . it debuts on Wednesday at 10 p.m. on TV LAND, at which time you'll see Katey Sagal and Henry Winkler share tales of their guest spots on THE MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW.

B. I WANNA BE A SOAP STAR features a tutorial on love scenes . . . Thursday at 11 p.m. on SOAPNET.

C. GREAT PERFORMANCES has Meryl Streep joining Garrison Keillor (see also Section 4A) for his "Independence Day Special: A Prairie House Companion at Tanglewood" . . . Sunday at 9 p.m. on PBS . . . time and date may vary in your area, so check local listings.

6. Strong words

A man goes to church one Sunday and hears a sermon about the Ten Commandments. He has an epiphany and goes to confession.

"Forgive me, Father for I have sinned," he begins.

"Go ahead, son," the priest says.

"Well, I lost my hat and I came to church to steal one. But then I heard your sermon and I changed my mind."

"That's great," the priest replies. "'Thou shalt not steal' is a powerful commandment."

"True," the man says. "But it was when you said, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery' that I remembered where my hat was."

7. Websites

A. Imagine jamming with rock idols from bands such as the Cars and Journey . . . or having the Who's Roger Daltry accompany you? . . . if interested in this type thing, check out:

<http://www.rockandrollfantasycamp.com/home.html>

There are now camps in both Los Angeles and New York.

Or if you're more interested in what it's like being on a shuttle mission, please click:

<http://www.spacecamp.com>

B. Fill in your first name at the prompt, turn on your sound and watch what happens:

<http://www.chezclodio.com/divers/Hi.html>

There also is an option to send cards to others; unfortunately, when I tried to do so, it did not seem to be working.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

To see the many books I've reviewed and generally enjoyed, go to Blaine's Best (on the left) and then letter "O" . . . check the second paragraph there, and you'll be taken to my reviews that have been posted at amazon.com's website.

I've presently #395 on amazon's list of "Top 500 reviewers," having recently just cracked the 400 barrier . . . this is based on the fact that I've received 2,548 comments on my 535 reviews.

To add your opinion:

1. Go to:

<http://www.amazon.com>

2. Look up any book I've recently reviewed, say the excellent TEACHER MAN from last week's issue.

3. You'll find my review (presently, it is fifth from the top).

4. Read my review. If it is helpful to you, and I hope that is the case, then click YES.

D. Dr. Michael Gorman, a Bucks County chiropractor who is also my friend and reader of this missive, has website that you can view by clicking:

<http://www.GormanOptimalHealth.com>

There's a particularly informative article (on the left) that deals with natural solutions to asthma and dealing with stress.

8. Computer tip

I've recently had trouble sending e-mail to msn.com and hotmail.com addresses . . . they've gone through and show up as being sent, but soon thereafter, I'll get an error message.

When this happens, what I typically do is resend my original e-mail message . . . it often goes through the second time.

However, if the problem happens more than once, I'll attempt to contact the person I'm sending the e-mail to, in an attempt to find out if the problem is on his/her end . . . in addition, I sometimes contact the postmaster at the other website (though rarely do I get a response) . . . such postmasters can typically be reached by trying postmaster@msn.com or adminsitrator@msn.com . . . or postamster@hotmail.com or adminstrator@hotmail.com . . . you could also try webmaster at either of those two domains.

And if you did not get BLAINESWORLD #507, please let me know at once . . . do likewise if you don't get any future issue; typically, I try to get out this missive on or before Wednesday of any particular week.

9. Excuses

The drawer was filled with samples of American talent never mentioned in song, story or scholarly study. How could I have ignored this treasure trove, these gems of fiction, fantasy, creativity, crawthumping, self-pity family problems, boilers exploding, ceilings collapsing, fires sweeping whole blocks, babies and pets pissing on homework, unexpected births, heart attacks, strokes, miscarriages, robberies? Here was American high school writing at its best—raw, real, urgent, lucid, brief, lying:

The stove caught fire and the wallpaper went up and the fire department kept us out of the house all night.

The toilet was blocked and we had to go down the street to the Kilkenny Bar where my cousin works to use their toilet but that was blocked too from the night before and you can imagine how hard it was for my Ronnie to get ready for school. I hope you'll excuse him this one time and it won't happen again. The man at the Kilkenny Bar was very nice on account of how he knows

your brother, Mr. McCord.

Arnold doesn't have his work today because he was getting off the train yesterday and the door closed on his school bag and the train took it away. He yelled to the conductor who said very vulgar things as the train drove away. Something should be done.

His sister's dog ate his homework and I hope it chokes him.

Her baby brother peed on her story when she was in the bathroom this morning.

A man died in the bathroom upstairs and it overflowed and messed up all Roberta's homework on the table.

Her big brother got mad at her and threw her essay out the window and it flew away all over Staten Island which is not a good thing because people will read it and get the wrong impression unless they read the ending which explains everything.

He had the composition you told him to write but he was going over it on the ferry and a big wind came and blowed it away.

We were evicted from our apartment and the mean sheriff said if my son kept yelling for his notebook he'd have us all arrested.

SOURCE:

TEACHER MAN by Frank McCourt, one of the finest books on teaching that I have ever read . . . check last week's issue of BLAINESWORLD for my review.

10. A quote I like

Hanging on to resentment is letting someone you despise live rent-free in your head.--Jeanne Bice in PULL YOURSELF UP BY YOUR BRA STRAPS (see also Sections 4C and 11)

11. Thought for the day

I began to study forgiveness. The anger and hate were driving me crazy. Hating partners who had screwed me, hating employees who screwed me! All this hate seemed to just be screwing me up. I needed it to end, I needed to forgive. But how?

I asked for help and this is what I found. A friend suggested that every time I felt the hate and anger come up toward a person, to say the following:

Dear God,

I asked them to forgive me for any hurt I may have caused them in their life. I forgive them for all the hurt they have caused in my life. I give it all to you. God. I release it. I let it go.

In the beginning I had days where repeating this was all I had time to do. But over time it worked. The anger is gone. Now whenever I am hurt I

use this prayer and the anger never has a chance to fill my life. I can better use that energy elsewhere. I also like to use it on myself, because sometimes I don't forgive me, either.

Try it yourself. Go ahead, forgive and forget. Clear that road and get ready to receive the blessings that life has in store for you.

SOURCE:

PULL YOURSELF UP BY YOUR BRA STRAPS (see also Sections 4C and 10) by Jeanne Bice

12. Advance planning department

A, Kitty in New Jersey:
2006 SUMMER THEATRE FESTIVAL

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS, THE MUSIC MAN and GREASE--get all three shows for only \$26 adults, \$20 seniors, \$17 students, children. Call the box office at 609.570.3333 or get an e-ticket at:
<http://www.kelseytheatre.net>

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS
June 30, July 1, 7, 8, 2006 at 8 p.m.; July 2, 9 at 2 p.m.

A shipwreck, lost jewelry, mistaken identity, and two sets of twins are just a few of the ingredients in Shakespeare 70's production of one of The Bard's earliest and funniest comedies. Taking place in just one whirlwind day in the magical land of Ephesus, this farce will truly have you reeling. Tickets: \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors/Students/Children

THE MUSIC MAN
Fridays, July 14 & 21, 2006 at 8 p.m.
Saturdays, July 15 & 22 at 2 & 8 p.m.
Sundays, July 16 & 23 at 2 p.m.

The Yardley Players present this hometown family musical, which follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize . . . this despite the fact he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. \$16 adults; \$12 seniors; \$10 students, children

GREASE
Fridays, July 28, Aug. 4, 2006 at 8 p.m.
Saturdays, July 29 & Aug. 5 at 2 & 8 p.m.
Sundays, July 30 & Aug. 6 at 2 p.m.

A-wop-bam-a-lu-mop-a-wop-bam-BOOM! Stars in The Park will rock your socks off this summer as they capture the look and sounds of the 1950s in this rollicking musical that salutes the rock 'n' roll era. \$16 adults; \$12 seniors; \$10 students, children.

B. Debbie in Pennsylvania:
Mark your calendar for these amazing events at OMPHALOS,
The Center for P.E.A.C.E., in Langhorne, PA:

July 9th
Shamanic Astrology Insights with Sao
2-5 p.m.

August 12th, 13th
Divine Connections . . . You and Your Essence with Kenton David Bell

Take advantage of pre-registration discounts. Private sessions are also available. Call 215.493.3456 for more information.

C. I was fortunate enough to see MY FAIR LADY when Actors' Net of Bucks County put it on recently in Morrisville, PA . . . you'll be able to see the production at the Open Air Theater in Washington Crossing State Park, NJ, on the following dates: July 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, and 29 . . . for more information, please click:
http://actorsnetbucks.org/on_stage/coming_soon.html

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #507

6.19.2006

In this issue:

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I celebrated my 57th birthday in style this past week . . . on Wednesday the 14th (the actual date), she made me a delicious home-cooked meal featuring one of her specialties, an orange-coated chicken that has my mouth watering as I type this . . . she then gave me several gifts, including two beautiful jackets from our friend Tunc's company, Sarar . . . for a store location near you, please click:

<http://www.sarar.com/indexeng.htm>

She next gave me a plaque that cited the Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award I recently received from Bucks County Community College and, also, mentioned one of my favorite quotes:

Service is the rent we pay for living on Earth.--Shirley Chisolm

I'm going to have a tough time deciding whether to hang it at Bucks or in my home office!

Lastly, Cynthia had a touching poem created for me . . . it moved me, but not as much as her reading it to me . . . she provided the background information and a talented poet/writer named Fran took it from there . . . should you want something similar done, please click:

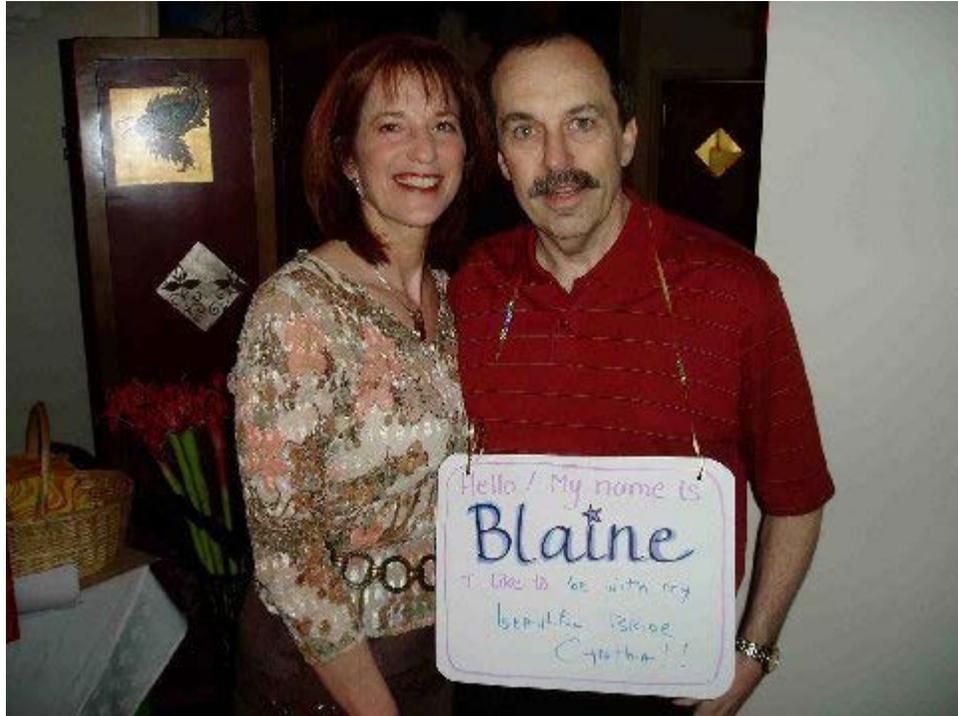
<http://www.rhymeniks.com>

B. Cynthia outdid herself a few days later . . . we were slated to meet a few local friends for dinner at our favorite Thai restaurant: Thai Garden in Hillsborough, NJ (908.874.0155) . . . however, instead of being just the regular thing we do with these friends every so often, it instead turned into a surprise birthday party for me--the first one I've ever had!

The food was great; the camaraderie better . . . from there, we returned back to our home, the residence of "the Greenfields of Belle Meade," for a make-your-own sundae desert with ice cream from Maggie Moo's and cake . . . in addition, there was a special guest appearance from "Midnight Mary," a bag lady/comedy stripper from:

<http://www.monkeybusinessinc.com>

She was a lot of fun . . . however, since this is a family publication, I won't share any of those pictures . . . instead, you'll just have to settle for this one:



IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING:

I often comment that it is a shame that more parties don't have nametags--and ones that you can read . . . so Cynthia, keeping that in mind, had the above nametag made just for me . . . methinks it was something that could be read by all, including those in every part of the restaurant!

C. Capping a lovely week was the fact that we got to spend time with our relatives on Father's Day . . . we had a delightful brunch with my parents, along with my brother and sister-in-law, at a restaurant called Jonathan's (516.742.7300) in Garden City, NY . . . our bananas forester French toast was superb . . . from there, we went to see Cynthia's mother and were joined by another friend who graciously joined us . . . the three of us then met Cynthia's nephew Benjamin, in from California, for a pleasant dinner at the Ritz Diner (973.533.1213) . . . I enjoyed my roast pork sandwich on garlic bread, something I can get only at a few places, and Cynthia said her salad with fresh salmon was quite good . . . we then declared a moratorium on eating anything else for the rest of the day!

D. I LOVE hearing good news about friends, relatives and readers of this missive . . . so I was delighted to hear

recently of the wedding of Michael in Pennsylvania . . . then, this past weekend, Lynn in Pennsylvania also got married . . . CONGRATULATIONS to them both.

Also, Cynthia and I were very pleased to hear of the accomplishment of her cousin Jeff's daughter . . . Diana raised over \$2,500 for the Avon Walk 2006, and she completed the 40-mile walk too.

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

This week, it goes to goes to Kim Klipfel--a library assistant at the Mary Jacobs branch of the Somerset County Library System in New Jersey.

I've always been big fan of libraries, having loved using them when I previously lived in Mercer County, NJ, and then Bucks County, PA . . . so when I moved to Belle Meade, I just had to check out what Somerset County had to offer . . . and to date, I've not been disappointed.

I've been to several branches . . . their collections are quite extensive, and I've been particularly impressed with the service . . . since I'm most often in the Mary Jacobs branch, it has been my pleasure to have been helped by several of the employees.

Kim seems to be the one most often at the front when I'm at the Library . . . she is always both helpful and friendly, and she makes my library-visiting experience an enjoyable one.

2. FYI

The following was taken from TEACHER MAN (see also Sections 4C, 10 and 11):

At nine, teachers punching out at the time clock are talking about going round the corner for a drink at the Gas House. We sit at a table in the back and order pitchers of beer. We're dry from talk talk talk. Jesus, what a night. I tell R'lene Dahlberg and Connie Collier and Bill Tuohy that in all my years at Stuyvesant only one parent, a mother, asked if her son was enjoying school. I said yes. He seemed to be enjoying himself. She smiled, stood up, said, Thank you, and left. One parent in all those years.

BLAINE'S TWO CENTS:

Isn't that enjoyment question a great one to ask, not only about education--but about life? . . . I ask it often (to students, salespeople, etc) . . . unfortunately, a great majority of the people I ask don't answer the question with any sort of affirmative response.

FYI, part 2

* Alicia in Pennsylvania:

I love seeing that you encourage your readers to pray for our troops. I just found out my husband is leaving for Iraq in September. It warms my heart knowing your readers are praying for the men and women that are fighting for our freedom.

* Mitch in Pennsylvania (with a REQUEST FOR HELP):

We are sending this Pitcairn Island fundraising appeal to everyone we know. We sincerely hope that you will be able to help by sending a donation via PAYPAL:

<http://www.pitcairner.com/donate/donate.htm>

or by check to the address at the end of this message.

Our Pitcairn friends are not child rapists. They are appealing the charges against them to the highest court in London. Because they have barely a subsistence income, most are now near bankruptcy as they struggle against the powerful British legal bureaucracy. If this appeal fails, accused islanders will never be able to see their families in New Zealand, Australia and Norfolk Island again. Islanders making a new life elsewhere will lose their jobs and may be deported to Pitcairn. Highly regarded defense attorneys are going to London from New Zealand and a prominent London attorney is also participating. They feel so strongly about this case that they are slashing their costs to the bone. However, this will still be a very expensive endeavor.

During our visit to New Zealand in January and February, we were able to have lengthy private meetings with senior university law professors, highly regarded attorneys and leading politicians. We have also read several detailed papers written in prestigious law journals which are critical of the entire procedure which has dragged on for years and is emotionally devastating.

A typical remark from one expert was that this is the most bizarre miscarriage of justice he has ever experienced as an expert in the field.

Please help these men as they (and their wives/partners) struggle to deal with this emotionally agonizing situation. Thanks in advance for your kindness and generosity.

PS. Please do not send any money to us. If you don't want to donate online, send a personal check or cashiers check by mail (\$.80) to:

Justice for Pitcairn Group
P.O. Box 576
2899 Norfolk Island
South Pacific Ocean

FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT HISTORY OF THIS CASE:

<http://www.pitcairnjustice.com/index2.php> (click TIMELINE)

* Sandy in Oregon:

Loved the notes the director of LUCKY STIFF wrote, and I could not agree more . . . when putting director's notes in my programs, I always try to include some personal information about my cast in order for the audiences to know a little bit about them, who they are and what they do out in the real world . . . after having worked in Equity theatre for many years, I have gone back to my roots in Community theatre and I never cease to be amazed at the talent that come knocking on the theatre's door . . . community theatre is a joyful experience not only for the audience but for the performers as well . . . I believe that if the actors are having a good time on stage it carries through to the audiences . . . I call theatre my Oz, meaning that no matter what may be going on in my life, the moment I open the theatre door a sense of peace comes over me, a sense of belonging and a knowing that I am exactly where I am meant to be . . . I understand the need for reality but don't we all need a little

fantasy in our lives?

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

To keep bugs from an outside area, such as our deck, my folks have recommended citronella candles . . . a friend said not to use these; they smell . . . what do you do and/or use to keep bugs away?

3. Mealtime surprise

A couple's meal had just arrived in a cast-iron pot when the top lifted. Spotting two beady little eyes, the woman gasped and the lid slammed down.

"Did you see that?" she asked her husband.

"See what?"

Just then, the top rose, again revealing two eyes. "Waiter!" the man called. "There's something strange in that pot."

"What did you order?"

"The chicken surprise," the man said.

"Oh, I apologize, sir," the waiter replied. "This is the peeking duck."

4. Reviews

A. I liked THE BREAK-UP, but did not love it . . . it's an anti-romantic comedy about a couple who meet, fall in love and move in together, all within the first few minutes of the film . . . from then on, all they do is fight and battle over who will retain ownership of their beloved condo . . . I'll laugh at just about anything Vince Vaughn is in; his work here was no exception . . . Jennifer Aniston was good, too . . . however, overall, THE BREAK-UP just wasn't the feel-good movie that I was perhaps hoping it would be . . . rated PG-13.

B. In case you missed the showing last week on the History Channel, FOG OF WAR is available on DVD . . . here's my original review from BLAINESWORLD #391:

Errol Morris scores again with FOG OF WAR: ELEVEN LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF ROBERT S. MCNAMARA . . . this documentary captured the "Best Documentary" award at the most recent Oscars, and I can see why after viewing it . . . it is an absolutely captivating interview with McNamara, Secretary of Defense in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, who discusses some of the world events he was involved in (primarily the Cuban Missile Crisis and then the Vietnam War) . . . archival footage and a mesmerizing score by Philip Glass aided to my enjoyment of the film . . . rated PG-13.

NOTE:

If you haven't seen it already, rent THIN BLUE LINE--perhaps my favorite documentary of all time . . . Morris helped get somebody off Death Row with this effort, and the score by Glass blew me away.

C. TEACHER MAN (see also Sections 2, 10 and 11) by Frank McCourt is the one of the best books I have ever read about teaching . . . it describes the author's 30-year career in the teaching profession and shows how this work shaped his present career as a writer.

I could relate to much of what McCourt writes, in that I too have been teaching for some 30 years . . . actually, make that 35--but who counts?

Parts of the book were funny; almost all of it was touching . . . I felt for many of McCourt's students (that you really get to know through his writing), and reading TEACHER MAN made me feel grateful for the fact that most of my teaching life has been at the college level.

It's not easy being a high school teacher--and particularly one of high school students!

There were many thought-provoking passages; among them:
* Professors of education at New York University never lectured on how to handle flying-sandwich situations. They talked about theories and philosophies of education, about moral and ethical imperatives, about the necessity of dealing with the whole child, the gestalt, if you don't mind, the child's felt needs, but never about critical moments in the classroom.

* Oh. I felt desperate. I blurted, I'd tell them to write a hundred-and-fifty-word suicide note. That would be a good way of encouraging them to think about life itself, because Samuel Johnson said the prospect of hanging in the morning focuses the mind wonderfully.

* I had to be careful if the dad was sitting there. If I made negative comments about Harry the dad might go home and punch him and word would get out to my other students that I was not to be trusted. I was learning that teachers and kids have to stick together in the face of parents, supervisors and the world in general.

TEACHER MAN should be required reading for any educator. . . or anybody else contemplating the profession.

D. Enjoyed the taped version of WOODROW WILSON by Louis Auchincloss . . . it is a brief account of our 28th President that gave me insight into how a professor and then college administrator could make the leap into politics . . . hearing it reminded me a bit the Classic Comics that I read when younger, in that much detail was left out . . . however, you got just enough information . . . I'd recommend this book by Auchincloss, especially for the fascinating tale it told of how when Wilson became sick, his wife practically ran the nation.

5. VCR alert

A. AMERICA'S GOT TALENT, hosted by Regis Philbin, debuts on Wednesday at 8 p.m. on NBC . . . and just when you think that's it for such programs, MASTER OF CHAMPIONS pops up on Thursday at 8 p.m. on ABC . . . this one features "gifted" people with offbeat talents, such as pizza tossing and unicycle stunt riding.

B. CELEBRITY DEATHMATCH is back! . . . this weekly show has clay caricatures battling each week, such as on Friday when godfathers Robert De Niro and James Gandolfini take on each other . . . I'll be particularly interested in watching Bruce Willis and Ashton Kutcher dues for Demi (see also Section 5D) . . . 10:30 p.m. on MTV.

C. JAMIE KENNEDY: UNWASHED has the foul-mouthed kid from SCREAM and the MTV series BLOWIN' UP in an hourlong rant against cat lovers, porn freaks and others . . . Saturday at 10 p.m. on Comedy Central.

D. Demi Moore . . . remember her? She stars in HALF LIGHT, a movie that didn't make it into the theaters; it went straight to video . . . the story involves a best-selling author who moves to a Scottish village to cope with the tragic death of her 5-year old son . . . Sunday at 8 p.m. on TNT.

TRIVIA:

I have no idea what Moore received for this film, but to her credit, she did order 20 crates of beer for the crew and then gave them the next day off to recover!

6. Speeding

A man in a hurry to get to work at the circus was speeding and got stopped by the Highway Patrol. The patrolman was suspicious and asked the driver to open the trunk for a routine search. To his surprise, there were dozens of large knives in the trunk. The driver began to explain that he juggled the knives at the circus and was running late for the show.

The patrolman asked for a demonstration to prove it, so the driver began to juggle. Just at this moment a couple passed by on the interstate and observed this strange scene.

The woman remarked, "My, my! Those sobriety tests get harder every year, don't they?"

7. Websites

A. Looking for a great online dictionary? If so, then please click:
<http://www.onelook.com>

You'll find more than 5 million words in 900 online dictionaries . . . no word is too obscure . . . and if you play crossword puzzles, you can use wildcards to help you find words.

B. Even if you don't want to lose weight, check out this website if you're in need of some laughs:

<http://www.candyboots.com/wvcards.html>

You'll find Weight Watchers recipe cards from 1974 with pictures of items that will make you wonder if people really ate them . . . even better is the accompanying commentary.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

On the left, you'll see "Radio Show" . . . go to that link if you want to see a history of my radio career . . . you can also hear one of my shows.

As you may have read in a past issue, a recent management change at WWFM has resulted in my show being taken off the air . . . but, hopefully, I'll resurface soon again . . . on another station and/or even with my own cable show.

Please do keep me in mind if you have any media contacts for me to pursue with respect to the above possibilities.

D. If your car needs servicing and you're anywhere near the Sellersville, PA area, I invite you to consider using Bodkin Automotive . . . it is run by one of my former students, Bob Bodkin . . . for further information, your best bet is to check out his award-winning website:

<http://www.bodkinauto.com>

8. Computer tip

When a program doesn't respond (e.g., when you get that dreaded hour glass), press Alternate-Control-Delete at the same time . . . you'll get the Task Manager, and from there you can try to end the program.

If that doesn't work, I often just go the top of the Task Manager and Shut Down my entire system . . . it is usually the case that I have too many programs running at the same time or I'm using a lot of memory, so by shutting down and then starting over again, I usually get the best results.

9. Last words

Talk-show host Larry King often asks his guest, "How would you like your epitaph to read?"

Some of those not floored by thoughts of their own mortality came up with the following:

"Is it me or did it just get dark in here?"
comedian Howie Mandel

"I would like to be remembered as someone who was extremely old."
Jim Davis, creator of Garfield

"And for me encore . . . "
opera singer Marilyn Horne

"Here lies Jack Carter, a famous comedian and a wonderful human being. Imagine, burying three guys in one plot!"
Jack Carter

"Lincoln is shorter in person."

10. A quote I like

Broadway audiences meet actors halfway with politeness and applause. They've paid high prices for their tickets. They cluster at stage doors and ask for autographs. Public high school teachers perform five times a day. Their audiences disappear when bells ring and they're asked for autographs only on yearbooks at graduation.--Frank McCourt in TEACHER MAN (see also Sections 2, 4C and 11)

11. Thought for the day

When I mention a book four times in any one issue of this newsletter, you can tell I really enjoyed it . . . that's certainly the case with TEACHER MAN (see also Sections 2, 4C and 10), from which this following passage was taken:

If you asked the boys and girls of Stuyvesant High School to write three hundred and fifty words on any subject they might respond with five hundred. They had words to spare.

If you asked all the students in your five classes to write three hundred and fifty words each then you had 175 multiplied by 350 and that was 43,750 words you had to read, correct, evaluate and grade on evenings and weekends. That's if you were wise enough to give them only one assignment per week. You had to correct misspellings, faulty grammar, poor structure, transitions, sloppiness in general. You had to make suggestions on content and write a general comment explaining your grade. You reminded them there was no extra credit for papers adorned with ketchup, mayonnaise, coffee, Coke, tears, grease, dandruff. You suggested strongly they write their papers at desk or table and not on train, bus, escalator or in the hubbub of Joe's Original Pizza joint around the corner.

If you gave each paper a bare five minutes you'd spend, on this one set of papers, fourteen hours and thirty-five minutes. That would amount to more than two teaching days, and the end of the weekend.

You hesitate to assign book reports. They are longer and rich in plagiarism.

Every day I carried home books and papers in a fake brown leather bag. My intention was to settle into a comfortable chair and read the papers, but after a day of five classes and 175 teenagers I was not inclined to prolong that day with their work. It could wait, damn it. I deserved a glass of wine or a cup of tea. I'd get to the papers later. Yes, a nice cup of tea and a read of the paper or a walk around the neighborhood or a few minutes with my little daughter when she told me about her school and the things she did with her friend Claire. Also, I ought to scan a newspaper in order to keep up with the world. An English teacher should know what's going on. You never knew when one of your students might bring up something about foreign policy or a new Off-Broadway play. You wouldn't want to be caught up there in front of the room with your mouth going and nothing coming out.

That's the life of the high school English teacher.

12. Advance planning department

A. Are you a former student of mine at Bucks County Community College? If so, you should have already received an invite to a summer barbecue I'm having at our place . . . please RSVP (hopefully, YES), if you haven't already done so . . . in the unlikely event you have NOT received your invite yet, please let me know, so I can make sure you're on my mailing list for this event.

B. Debbie in Pennsylvania:
Mark Your Calendar for this Amazing Event
Miracle of Sound Concert
June 23rd; 7:30-9:30 p.m.
OMPHALOS The Center for P.E.A.C.E.

Treat your Body, Mind and Spirit to this incredible experience! Astarius is coming all the way from Arizona to share his Vibrational Sound Healing and Music with us through Didgeridoo and Vocal Overtoning. We have personally experienced the impact of this transformational "Sound." Each time we have traveled to Sedona includes a visit to Astarius. The gift he shares is beyond words . . . it must be heard and experienced personally.

Take advantage of pre-registration and concert/workshop combination discounts. Private sessions are also available. Call 215.493.3456 for more information. We hope to see on the 23rd to share in this "Miracle of Sound."

This is the first event in our Summer Sedona Series. Join us for the other events, too! (See below.)

July 9th
Shamanic Astrology Insights with Sao
2-5 p.m.

August 12th, 13th
Divine Connections . . . You and Your Essence with Kenton David Bell

C. Kitty in New Jersey:
2006 SUMMER THEATRE FESTIVAL

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS, THE MUSIC MAN and GREASE--get all three shows for only \$26 adults, \$20 seniors, \$17 students, children. Call the box office at 609.570.3333 or get an e-ticket at <http://www.kelseytheatre.net>

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS
June 30, July 1, 7, 8, 2006 at 8 p.m.; July 2, 9 at 2 p.m.

A shipwreck, lost jewelry, mistaken identity, and two sets of twins are just a few of the ingredients in Shakespeare 70's production of one of The Bard's earliest and funniest comedies. Taking place in just one whirlwind day in the magical land of Ephesus, this farce will truly have you reeling. Tickets: \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors/Students/Children

THE MUSIC MAN
Fridays, July 14 & 21, 2006 at 8 p.m.
Saturdays, July 15 & 22 at 2 & 8 p.m.
Sundays, July 16 & 23 at 2 p.m.

The Yardley Players present this hometown family musical, which follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize . . . this despite the fact he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. \$16 adults; \$12 seniors; \$10 students, children

GREASE

Fridays, July 28, Aug. 4, 2006 at 8 p.m.
Saturdays, July 29 & Aug. 5 at 2 & 8 p.m.
Sundays, July 30 & Aug. 6 at 2 p.m.

A-wop-bam-a-lu-mop-a-wop-bam-BOOM! Stars in The Park will rock your socks off this summer as they capture the look and sounds of the 1950s in this rollicking musical that salutes the rock 'n' roll era. \$16 adults; \$12 seniors; \$10 students, children.

PS. Wednesday marks the beginning of summer; enjoy! . . . also, please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #506

6.12.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I, had a scare when her mother took a turn for the worse on Friday . . . she entered into what was a coma-like state, and so we rushed up to see her . . . somehow she made it through the evening and actually, has rallied since.

The only good thing about the experience was that we got to meet her sister and brother-in-law for a nice dinner at Starlite Restaurant & Pizzeria (973.736.9440) in West Orange, NJ . . . we liked the veal parmigiana and lasagna dishes that we shared and were pleasantly surprised by the entertainment provided by a very talented keyboard player, Chris Nittoli.

Unfortunately, we had to miss the Tyler Tasting event held at Bucks Community College that night . . . I heard it was great . . . KUDOS to the Foundation Office's Tobi Bruhn, Nancy Steigerwalt and Jean Holmes, as well as to Glenn and Barbara Haines (co-chairs of the event) for their role in making the it the success that it was . . . to date, over \$60,000 has been raised!

B. On Saturday, we went with friends for a delicious dinner at Concerto Fusion (215.428.2899) in Morrisville, PA . . . rather than order any one dish, we all shared a variety of appetizers . . . it turns out one was better than the next . . . I even tried something for the first time--edamame--and not only survived the experience, but would actually order it again . . . a particularly nice touch is that the owner/chef, Man Wong, makes it a point to get out from the kitchen to personally greet all the diners.

From there, we went to see MAN OF LA MANCHA at the nearby Heritage Center (215.295.3694), also in Morrisville . . . we've often seen productions there and enjoyed them; this was no exception . . . Jamie Bradley, Margo O'Moore and Joe Doyle

were all excellent in the leading roles . . . however, what is always a pleasant surprise is when we "discover" somebody else who we've seen before, yet who never had a particularly big part . . . thus we got a kick out of seeing James Petro sing several songs, and Lorraine Murray-Robinson have her first solo . . . another nice thing about plays here is that you get to interact with the performers after the show . . . and thus we learned that Bradley had lost his voice a week before the show was to begin--only to have it saved by his chiropractor!

One other reason we like going to the Heritage Center is the fact that it is right around the corner from Sweethart's (215.736.0368), an old-fashioned ice cream parlor . . . we managed to get there and back during intermission; the ice cream, as always, was fantastic.

C. On Sunday, Cynthia and I actually got to use our new grill for the first time . . . we had a combination of franks and steak, and having survived, will try some other things in the next few weeks . . . stay tuned for more details.

D. THANKS to Jean Dolan in the College's PR Office for writing a very nice article on my receiving the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching . . . to see it for yourself, please click: <http://www.bucks.edu/releases/GreenfieldWinsLindbackAward.html>

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

This week, it goes to Mark Beckerman--somebody I don't really know.

I had seen him a few times when visiting Elsie's nursing home, Daughters of Israel in West Orange . . . he always had two cute Havanese dogs with him, and I assumed he was there to visit a particular relative of his.

Turns out that is not the case . . . Mark goes just to spread cheer on a regular basis . . . at the same time, he is the quizmaster for a game of Trivial Pursuit that a bunch of the residents play with him.

He even brings a neighbor with him, so she can visit one of her friends who is in the nursing home.

2. FYI

Here's an interesting idea that I've heard before, but don't put into practice as much as I should:

I now find myself giving away personal items that I know somebody else will cherish. A coworker was admiring a hand-carved aircraft in my office. Without thinking twice I gave it to him and saw his face light up. I had enjoyed the plane for several years, it was time to spread that pleasure. Try it; it feels great to share something special with others.

SOURCE:

LIFE COULD BE SWEETER (see also Section 4C) by William Sinunu

FYI, part 2

On discounts for "seniors," here are three e-mails I've received:

* Pat in Pennsylvania:

No joke. All you need to do sometimes is ask! I was in line for the Hancock tower in Chicago. They were giving like \$3 off for AAA members and although I did not qualify at the time, pretty sure Seniors were getting like 10%? Not sure. I found out by asking!

Anyway, train yourself to ask. "Seek and ye shall find."

* Janet in New York:

Dunkin Donuts offers 10% "Senior" discounts. Every day of the week.

I have requested these discounts at the various locations; some of the personnel look at me weirdly, and the servers ask the managers "if we have that." The managers say yes. It may be a new process for the company or something that is internally not so well known.

* Natalie in Pennsylvania:

You might want to list Elderhostel in your listing of benefits for seniors that you talked about in this week's newsletter.

BLAINE'S TWO CENTS:

I am a member of this fine organization; in fact, I'm even going with Cynthia on an Elderhostel trip this summer . . . for more information, please click: <http://www.elderhostel.org>

In addition, there were these other e-mails:

* Nancy in Pennsylvania:

It is GOOD to ask a nursing home resident how they are. Sometimes they need to express their feelings; just be sure to sound and be sincere.

Also, since their experiences within the nursing home are usually quite limited (it's not like they're out partying), they like to hear about what YOU have been up to, within their individual comprehension limitations.

If it is a family member, bring photos with you to share . . . old family photos, current grandchildren photos . . . photos of scenic vacations, etc. They are nice for them to look at and can spark conversations.

I truly hope this helps you and others, Blaine.

* Sandy in Oregon:

In mentioning making decisions before the question is asked . . . one of the Fortune 500 companies . . . can't remember which one . . . would take prospective employees out to dinner as a part of the interview process and if they salted their food before tasting it, the interview ended and they were thanked for their time but told no cigar.

It is an important lesson that I have always remembered and have used from time to time . . . I tell my actors that the most important thing they need to do in order to be successful is to develop the ability to listen . . . both to the spoken word and the unspoken . . . a good lesson for all of us, yes?

How many times has someone asked you how you are feeling and you answer, not so good or I'm having a bad day . . . and their answer is, "

I am glad to hear that" . . . a perfect example of not listening.

* Chris in Pennsylvania:

Chris in Pennsylvania:

Your "class project" story is funny, but I think someone is pulling your leg.

I could be wrong, but I don't think the cactus will grow as quickly as this story indicates. In addition, I cannot believe every student in this elementary class would have the ability to paint their clown so carefully. Finally, I find it a stretch to believe the plants would all have ended up in a setting that looks more like a flea market than a school environment.

And, in my own case, I can kill a cactus faster than anyone, so for me, the cactus is NOT an easy to grow plant!

It's still a funny story.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Chris is right! . . . the story was not a true one, nor did I claim it to

be . . . if you'd like to read more, please click: <http://www.snopes.com/photos/planter.asp>

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

Jean in Pennsylvania was offended by my choice of jokes in last week's issue . . . in fact, she even unsubscribed from BLAINESWORLD as a result . . . to quote from parts of two separate e-mails she sent me:

I've lost my stomach for distasteful jokes. There's plenty of inoffensive humor out there but you just keep perpetrating the grossest jokes. It taints your entire newsletter and is not the right venue for crude humor. You should send a separate "jokes" newsletter to spare the rest of us. . . .

You should issue an apology to your readers instead of continuing to defend your use of vulgar jokes.

I'M WONDERING:

Your thoughts on the matter? By the way, in case you missed the jokes, please click:

http://www.blaineworld.net/newsletter/06.05.2006_505.asp

Then see Sections 3, 6 and 9.

3. Southern grandma

Lawyers should never ask a Southern grandma a question if they aren't prepared for the answer.

In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly, elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know me?"

She responded, "Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a young boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you never will amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you."

The lawyer was stunned! Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney?"

She again replied, "Why, yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him."

The defense attorney almost died.

The judge asked both counselors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said, "If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you to the electric chair."

4. Reviews

A. Don't be put off by the topic: global warning . . . the documentary about it, AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH, is magnificent . . . it is an account of Al Gore's one-man crusade to tell the world that we have just ten years to avert a major catastrophe that could bring killer heat waves, droughts and floods that are worse than the planet has ever experienced . . . you'll be thinking about the message a long time after you leave the theater, and you'll also never think that science (or Gore, for that matter) was boring . . . I urge you see this important film . . . rated PG, though probably not of interest to anybody younger than 13.

AFTERWARD:

After you see this inspiring film, and I sincerely hope that you do, please click:

<http://www.climatecrisis.net/>

You'll learn how you can make a difference, particularly if you click "Take action" on the right.

B. Now out on DVD is GLORY ROAD --the true story of a basketball coach, Don Haskins, his team at Texas Western who upset heavily-favored Kentucky in the 1966 NCAA championships . . . what made it noteworthy was the fact that Haskins started an all-black lineup in the final game, the first time this had ever been done . . . though the movie is formulaic, it was well-acted (particularly by Josh Lucas as Haskins), and the basketball action was thrilling . . . make sure you stay around for the credits to see interviews with the actual team members . . . rated R.

C. Sometimes, a book will catch me off guard . . . such was the case with LIFE COULD BE SWEETER (see also Section 2A) by William Sinunu . . . I had never heard of it or the author before, but when browsing in a bookstore, its jacket caught my attention . . . it promised "the secrets to living a happier, healthier, more rewarding life" by learning from our neighbors around the world.

That sounded good to me . . . turns out that I was not let down . . . this was a treat to read, and I've already enjoyed sharing much of it with Cynthia.

Some of the advice is basic, but we need to be reminded

of it; e.g., Sinunu describes one trip he was on in this passage:

“Oh no, not at Miss Daphne’s party,” our hostess scolded, shaking her finger playfully at her newfound friend. “All the watches come off baby.” Reaching toward him, she unsnapped his watch and slipped it into his pocket, then grabbed his hands and began to dance. “Life is to enjoy,” she reminded him. “Just laugh and let it all go. Make life a vacation.”

I also liked how the author cited various research studies to support his beliefs, such as:

* According to psychologist Thomas Spencer, Americans wear approximately twenty percent of the clothes they own.

* According to a study examining the effect of close relationships on health and well-being by University of Michigan psychologist Stephanie Brown, it’s better to give than receive! The study found that older adults who do not help others are more than twice as likely to pass away as those who do help out.

* According to Psychologist Paul Rozin, Pizza Hut personal pan pizzas in Europe are approximately two-thirds the size of personal pan pizzas in the United States. According to an article in the August 14, 2004 WALL STREET JOURNAL, a serving of Philadelphia Cream Cheese marketed to U.S. consumers contains fourteen percent more calories than the same size serving in Italy. A jar of Hellmann’s Mayonnaise purchased in the United Kingdom has half the saturated fat of the Hellmann’s sold in the United States. Kellogg’s All-Bran bought in the United States has three times the sodium as the same brand sold in Mexico. A standard beverage bottle for sodas in Europe is about half a pint—roughly half the amount of the standard sixteen-ounce can sold in the United States. Perhaps it’s no wonder that the United States has the highest rate of obesity in the world.

Lastly, there were these other memorable tidbits that made this book so interesting to me--and the perfect gift to give somebody:

* Running her hand along her chin, Rania said, “Well, I do have a few rules that I try to remember before every purchase. I ask myself, ‘Do I really need this? Do I really love it? Is it made well?’ ” Deep in thought, Rania went on, “But my cardinal rule,” she said, clapping her hands gently together in front of her face, “is to always go for quality. I buy the cheapest of the best, never the best of the cheapest. That way, I spend relatively little on clothes, but still have a good-looking wardrobe.”

* [at a party for friends] “To our friends,” Martine whispered as a single tear trickled down her cheek, “To the family we have the luxury of choosing. Each of you is very special to us. Thank you for joining us tonight.” . . .

As Eduoard grew misty-eyed, Martine reached out and took his hands. “Life is about cherishing and appreciating the people in our lives,” she said quietly.

* I remember rocking in the chair by his bedside, pleading with God to take him now and end his suffering. Even if euthanasia had been legal in the United States, could I have made the decision to end his life? I cannot honestly say. I was so distraught at the time that I don’t know if I was in the proper state of mind to make such a momentous decision. Nor do I know what means could be used that would guarantee no pain. What I do

know is that dying does not scare me, only the potential suffering that precedes it. I remember wondering at the time: If we put our animals out of their misery when they are in severe pain and there is no hope for recovery, why not the family member we love?

D. Heard the taped version of GOD BLESS YOU, DR. KEVORKIAN by Kurt Vonnegut . . . it is a series of "interviews" that the author initially conducted for public radio . . . some were funny; others were thought-provoking.

He managed to speak with Isaac Newtown, Clarence Darrow, Eugene Debbs, John Brown, Adolf Hitler, William Shakespeare and, among others, a guy who rescued schnauzer from a pit bull . . . my favorite was his discussion with Isaac Asimov, who is still writing--but not having to worry about being published after his death.

I also loved this one quote that came from, I believe, an interview with his Vonnegut's deceased uncle . . . when asked how he felt about being outside on one beautiful day, he replied, If this isn't nice, what is?"

This is a real short book (under 80 pages), so do see if you can find a copy in your local library . . . I'm not convinced it would be worth buying.

5. VCR alert

A. LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA, the Tony-winning 2005 musical about a childlike woman who falls in love while vacationing in Italy, airs on LIVE FROM LINCOLN CENTER on Thursday at 8 p.m. on PBS . . . check local listings because times and dates for PBS often vary.

B. Previously, I mentioned that TODAY runs weekly concerts on Fridays at 8:30 a.m. on NBC . . . GOOD MORNING AMERICA has similar programming sometime after 8 a.m., also on Fridays . . . future performers will include Prince, Mary J. Blige, Pussycat Dolls, and the Beach Boys . . . THE EARLY SHOW on CBS, around the same time, has its own concert series--but on Wednesdays . . . Pink is slated for July 12, Sheryl Crow is on July 19 and Carrie Underwood is on August 16.

C. THE FOG OF WAR, Errol Morris' Oscar-winning 2003 documentary, airs on HISTORY on Saturday at 9 p.m. . . . you'll hear former secretary of defense Robert McNamara talk about the policy decisions made as the U.S. sank deeper and deeper into the Vietnam War.

D. If you think you have it tough at work, then watch the DIRTY JOBS MARATHON, starting at 9 a.m. on Sunday and running for the next 12 hours on DISCOVERY . . . I can't guarantee that all these will be featured, but some jobs on past shows have shown the following: alligator farmer, avian vomitologist, casino food recycler, chimney sweeper, Chinatown garbage collector, hot tar roofer, micro algae man, mushroom farmer, ostrich farmer, plumber, shrimper, termite controller, and turkey farmer.

6. How to lose weight

Did you hear about the heavysset guy who had tried every diet in the world in an attempt to lose weight? He tried the Scarsdale diet, Atkins, South Beach, and many more--and none worked. One day, he was reading the WASHINGTON POST when he noticed a small ad which read:

Lose weight
Only \$1.00 a pound
Call 202.208.0238

The man decided to give it a try and called the number. A voice on the other end asked, "How much weight do you want to lose?" . . . to which the man responded, "Ten pounds."

The voice replied, "Very well, give me your credit card number, and we'll have a representative over to your house in the morning."

About 9:00 a.m. the next morning, the man gets a knock on the door. There stood a beautiful redheaded woman, completely naked except for a sign around her neck stating, "If you catch me, you can have me."

Well, the hefty fellow chased her upstairs, downstairs, over sofas, through the kitchen, all around the house for over an hour. Finally, panting and wheezing like a dog, he did catch her. When he was through enjoying himself, she said, "Quick, go into the bathroom and weigh yourself!" He did just that and was amazed to find that he had lost ten pounds, right to the ounce!

That evening he called the number again. The voice on the other end asked, "How much weight do you want to lose?" . . . to which the somewhat less overweight man replied, "Twenty pounds."

"Very well," the voice on the phone told him, "Give me your credit card number, and we'll have a representative over to your house in the morning."

At about 8:00 a.m. the next morning, the man receives a knock on the door. When he opens the door, he sees a beautiful blond dressed only in track shoes and a sign around her neck stating "If you catch me, you can have me."

The chase took a good while longer this time, and the man nearly passed out, but he finally did catch her. When he was through, she told him, "Quick, run into the bathroom and weigh yourself!" He ran to the bathroom and found he had lost another 20 pounds! "This is fantastic," he thought to himself.

Later that evening, he called the number again and the voice at the other end asked, "How much weight do you want to lose?"

"Fifty pounds," the man exclaimed.

"Fifty pounds?" the voice asked. "That's an awful lot of weight to lose at one time."

The man replied, "Listen buddy, here's my credit card number. You just have your representative over here in the morning," and he hung up the phone.

About 6:00 am. the next morning, the man gets out of bed, splashes on some cologne and gets all ready for the next representative. At about 7:00 a.m., he gets a knock on the door. When he opens the door, he sees this huge gorilla with massive arms and a sign around his neck stating, "If I catch you . . . you're screwed!"

7. Websites

A. To find worthwhile junk at low prices and then turn it into something cool, please click:

<http://www.FrugalByDesign.com/library.html>

This is a website developed by Nancy Roebke, the Frugal Decorating Lady, which will show you how to "re-purpose" things . . . for even more ideas, check out both her blog and free newsletter.

B. Put on your dancing shoes, then pump up your speakers and please click: <http://www.evolutionofdance.com/>

I dare you NOT to smile when you see this performance by Judd Laipply!

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

To see the many books I've reviewed and generally enjoyed, go to Blaine's Best on the left and then letter "O" . . . check the second paragraph there, and you'll be taken to my reviews that have been posted at amazon.com's website.

If you'd like to have me move higher up in the list of amazon's "Top 500 reviewers (I'm currently 400, based on 2,522 favorable reviews of 531 books I've read over the past several years), here's all you need to do:

* Go to this website:

<http://www.amazon.com>

* Then at search engine for books, type-in any book I have reviewed within the past few weeks; e.g., SECRETS OF GREAT RAINMAKERS.

* Find my review . . . I believe it is the second one down.

* Read it and if you find it helpful, click the "Yes" button.

D. Edwin in Pennsylvania, a longtime friend, recently had me check out his company's website for rental tents, floors, lighting generators, and climate control functions:

<http://www.eventquip.com/>

If you're anywhere within 150 miles of Philadelphia and need such products, then check out this fine firm; you won't be disappointed!

REMINDER:

If you or your company has a website that you'd like me to profile, please send me the link and a one or two paragraph description.

8. Computer tip

You can compare and contrast two copies of a Word document; e.g., to see any changes you may have made from one version to the next . . . I recently had to do this for the first time and found being able to do so quite helpful (as opposed to having to find the changes by reading the two documents).

On the Tools menu, point to Track Changes and then click Compare Documents . . . open the original document . . . you'll then be see revision marks, indicating what changed from the original . . . for more information, please go to the Help screen at the top of your Word toolbar.

9. Early retirement

It is important for men to remember that, as women grow older, it becomes harder for them to maintain the same quality of housekeeping as when they were younger. When you notice this, try not to yell at them. Some are oversensitive, and there's nothing worse than an oversensitive woman.

My name is Ron. Let me relate how I handled the situation with my wife, Julie.

When I took "early retirement" last year, it became necessary for Julie to get a full-time job, both for extra income and for the health benefits that we needed. Shortly after she started working, I noticed she was beginning to show her age. I usually get home from the golf course about the same time she gets home from work. Although she knows how hungry I am, she almost always says she has to rest for half an hour or so before she starts dinner. I don't yell at her.

Instead, I tell her to take her time and just wake me when she gets dinner on the table. I generally have lunch in the Men's Grill at the club, so eating out is not reasonable. I'm ready for some home-cooked grub when I hit that door.

She used to do the dishes as soon as we finished eating. But now it's not unusual for them to sit on the table for several hours after dinner. I do what I can by diplomatically reminding her several times each evening that they won't clean themselves. I know she really appreciates this, as it does seem to motivate her to get them done before she goes to bed.

Another symptom of aging is complaining, I think. For example, she will say that it is difficult for her to find time to pay the monthly bills during her lunch hour. But, boys, we take 'em for better or worse, so I just smile and offer encouragement. I tell her to stretch it out over two or even three days. That way, she won't have to rush so much.

I also remind her that missing lunch completely now and then wouldn't hurt her any (if you know what I mean). I like to think tact is one of my strong points.

When doing simple jobs, she seems to think she needs more rest periods. She had to take a break when she was only half finished mowing the yard.

I try not to make a scene. I'm a fair man. I tell her to fix herself a nice, big, cold glass of freshly-squeezed lemonade and just sit for a while.. And, as long as she is making one for herself, she may as well make one for me too.

I know that I probably look like a saint in the way I support Julie. I'm not saying that showing this much consideration is easy. Many men will find it difficult. Some will find it impossible. Nobody knows better than I do how frustrating women get as they get older.

However, guys, even if you just use a little more tact and less criticism of your aging wife because of this article, I will consider that writing it was well worthwhile. After all, we are put on this earth to help each other.

Signed, Ron

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Ron died suddenly on October 3rd. He was found with a Calloway extra long 50-inch Big Bertha Driver II stuck up inside of him, with only 2 inches of grip showing. His wife Julie was arrested, but the all-woman Grand Jury accepted her defense that he accidentally sat down on it very suddenly.

10. A quote I like

One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, 'What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?' "--Rachel Carson (1907-1964), author of SILENT SPRING--the book that made environmentalism respectable

11. Thought for the day

As many of you know (or can see from reading Section 1A), I'm a big fan of community theater . . . as such, I was very impressed with the following piece written in the playbill of LUCKY STIFF, a play I recently enjoyed at the Kelsey Theatre at Mercer County Community College:

From the director's chair

When it comes to choosing a show, I tend to lean toward the fun and the fantastic. I look for shows that make me smile and feel good because I think the audience, like me, is looking for an escape from the everyday grind of work and commitment. I believe it's fair to say that many of us spend too much time working at our lives and not enough time living them. Someone once said: life is what happens while you're making other plans. Wouldn't it be a shame to miss it? To not have really lived while you're alive?

I suppose that's why I was attracted to LUCKY STIFF. On the surface it promised to be a lot of fun. But the story of Harry Witherspoon was also somewhat telling. He's a man learning to live his life, learning to be alive. Community theatre is a lot like that. It gives people an opportunity to live their lives by pursuing their dreams.

Tonight you'll see ten actors enjoying life to the fullest. Their day jobs are no doubt rewarding. Our cast includes a police detective, a psychologist, a teacher, a speech and language pathologist, and a scientist, just to name a few. But tonight, they'll put that all aside and become the actors they've always dreamed of being, and they'll be more alive for it.

I encourage you to join them. Become an actor, write the novel you've been talking about, take that vacation you've been putting off, make it a point to do something exciting. Whatever it is that makes your heart race and your eyes smile, do it. That's what we're doing and we love it.

Take a tip from us. It's good to be alive.

Regards,
John Maurer
Producer & Director
Maurer Productions OnStage
(reprinted with permission)

12. Advance planning department

A. Are you a former student of mine at Bucks County Community College? If so, you should have already received an invite to a summer barbecue I'm having at the residence of "the Greenfields of Belle Meade" . . . please RSVP (hopefully, YES), if you haven't already done so . . . in the unlikely event you have NOT received your invite yet, please let me know, so I can make sure you're on my mailing list for this event.

B. WANT TO QUIT SMOKING? OR KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOES?

Bucks County Community College in Newtown, PA will be offering a FREE smoke cessation program in the near future. I'll be helping with it, working with the sponsoring group: PA-S.W.A.T. (Students Working Against Tobacco).

For further information, please call 215.968.8254 . . . if you get a machine, please leave your contact information and speak slowly.

PS. Lest you forget, Wednesday is Flag Day . . . and after you finish celebrating that, make sure you remember that Sunday is Father's Day . . . also, please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

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In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #505

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a great time this past weekend at a performance of LUCKY STIFF at the Kelsey Theatre at Mercer County Community College . . . this is a very funny murder musical, directed by John Maurer . . . everybody in the cast was outstanding; however, for us, both Keith Nielsen and Rita La Porta stood out as, respectively, a nervous dentist and his crazy sister.

This production runs through this coming weekend . . . do catch it, if you can; you won't be disappointed . . . for more information, please click:

www.kelseyatmccc.org/

Adding to our enjoyment was the fact that Stu Duncan was in the audience, and we got to talk to him during the intermission . . . Stu has for a long time been one of my favorite theater critics . . . his insightful reviews appear regularly in TIMEOFF, a Princeton Packet publication.

From there, being near where I used to live, we went to one of my favorite diners: the Americana (609.448.8544) in East Windsor, NJ . . . since it was a lovely evening, we got to eat in the outside patio area . . . although this has been open for several years, I hadn't been back for quite some time . . . and so for me it was a new experience that was quite delightful . . . because I had told Cynthia how much I used to enjoy going there and having chocolate chip pancakes with Risa, my daughter, we wound up splitting a delicious order of these . . . the other half of our meal was perhaps even more scrumptious: cinnamon French toast with sliced banana . . . best of all, the Americana is one of the few places that serves actual butter and real syrup with all meals--and not the packaged variety.

B. Cynthia and I also had a nice time visiting her mother . . . we

were particularly impressed by a group of students from nearby Congregation Ahawas Achim B'nai Jacob . . . they came to sing to the residents, then stayed around to talk with them and serve refreshments.

It got us to thinking about what's the best thing to say to somebody in a nursing home (or hospital, for that matter) . . . we're not so sure about asking, "How are you doing?" . . . often times, the person is not doing particularly well . . . so another alternative seems to us to be, "It's so good to see you" . . . or words to that effect . . . we're both curious if you have any other suggestions.

C. Negotiations at Bucks County Community College are finally beginning to show some progress . . . we've had several informal and formal meetings, and if all goes well, might just be able to wrap up things within the next month or so.

One stumbling block seems to be the union's desire to offer benefits to same sex partners . . . does anybody have that at work and/or might you have ideas as to how we might best be able to present this to the College's Board of Trustees?

D. WELCOME BACK, Jayne Venanzi . . . she was my first assistant, some 13 years ago, and I was lucky to run into her while shopping the other day . . . we got to talking, and she has very kindly consented to help me out on a part-time basis with some filing and other work out of my home office . . . Bridget Hughes continues to do an excellent job as my assistant at Bucks and for the teacher's union . . . I'm truly blessed to have these two individuals on board.

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

This week it goes to Tom Farrell--recently retired Coordinator of CDR (Complementary Dispute Resolution) programs for the State of New Jersey.

Tom was my first and perhaps best mediation teacher . . . he forever remained available for both follow-up questions and advice, not only to me--but to countless other dispute resolution practitioners throughout the country.

Tom was also a leader in the SPIDR organization that has since become ACR, the Association for Conflict Resolution . . . I had the honor of following him as president of the New Jersey chapter.

I also had the privilege of conducting several training sessions with Tom . . . he was the absolute best at such work, and I'll very much miss working with him.

2. FYI

Someone once asked Perle Mesta, the greatest Washington hostess since Dolly Madison, the secret of her success in getting so many rich and famous people to attend her parties. "It's all in the greetings and good-byes," she claimed. As her guests arrived, she met them with, "At last you're here!" As each one departed, she expressed her regrets by saying, "I'm sorry you have to leave

so soon!"

For nearly twenty years, I've used the following statement as a guideline and reminder for interacting with others: people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. It doesn't matter how much power, education or expertise you possess; people will respond to you more favorably if you first let them know that they matter to you as individuals.

SOURCE:

WINNING WITH PEOPLE (see also Sections 4C, 10 and 11)
by John C. Maxwell

FYI, part 2

Last week, I wrote about Bob Harris--a friend who has lost over 150 pounds on his own . . . when I asked him if others could inquire him about his methods, he immediately wrote back:

Happy to help. E-mail me at:
harris632@gmail.com

* Bill in Pennsylvania added:
Bob Harris has been a friend and a client for many years. His weight loss is amazing and can be inspirational to all of us.

* Sue in Pennsylvania, while impressed with the weight loss, had this to say:

Congratulations to your friend Bob Harris. That is wonderful that he lost weight--not an easy thing to do.

However, I would feel irresponsible to your readers to not respond to his method. Of course the great thing about advice is that you can take it or leave it. But it is always best to have the most information before taking action. I hope you don't mind my 2 cents.

According to Deepak Chopra, who is an Endocrinologist, you should never drink anything cold. It is one of the worst things for your digestion. He says that you should sip hot water, the hotter the better, throughout the day. It aids in digestion and can help people lose weight and overcome imbalances in the body. Digestion is a huge part of the body's process and cold beverages slow down the process.

I would also add if you want to sweeten the water, try an organic lemon (lemon also works very well as a natural laxative). Artificial sweeteners are not good for the body. Honey would be another good option. The reason to eat is to extract the intelligence from the environment, and intelligence is supplied through healthy food. You then transform that intelligence into the substance of you body. Healthy intelligent foods will give you a healthy intelligent body.

* Jack in Pennsylvania [winner of the X-MEN contest in a previous issue]:
I received the tickets in the mail on Friday and took my 22-year old son and one 6-year old and one 10-year old future step grandson to the Oxford Valley Mall AMC Theater on Saturday morning for the 12:15 showing.

My son said that it was the best of the three X-MEN movies. The 10-year old agreed. The 6-year old blurted aloud in the theater that he wished that he had wings and could fly like the guy in the movie. I then whispered about

proper theater voices during a movie, which he loudly agreed with.

This was my first viewing of an X-MEN movie. I did not see the others. However, I did enjoy the movie very much. There were no low spots in it. It is action packed. Quite a few people die in it, but there's always the possibility of them coming back.

The review is two thumbs up from a 6, 10, 22, and an almost 50-year old. Thanks again for the tickets.

* Joyce in New Jersey:

Well if you decide not to grill you can always use it as a planter.

* Danielle in Pennsylvania (with a request for help):

This upcoming fall, October 6-8, I will be walking in the Breast Cancer 3-Day, a 60 mile walk in Philadelphia whose net proceeds benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation to fund breast cancer research and community outreach.

For the walk, each participant is required to raise/contribute \$2,200 as a minimum donation. I know it's a lot of money, but maybe with a little help from everyone, I can attain my donation goal.

So please check out my website at:

<http://www.the3day.org/Philadelphia06/daniellemodafferi>

At this website, you can make a quick and easy donation, check out my progress and read about the event. Thank you all for your time in reading this and for any and all help you can give me!

Lots of love and good health to all.

Also, if anyone is interested in walking with me, PLEASE do it. I can really use some company, plus this is an opportunity to change your life. So let me know if you want in, and we can fundraise and train together. To reach me, please send an e-mail to:
dmodafferi23@hotmail.com

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE [repeated from last week] *****

I'm beginning to compile a list of places and/or organizations that give "senior" discounts . . . for example, there's Applebee's . . . you get a 10% discount if you're over 55 . . . AMC Theaters also give a discount to folks who are at least 60.

As unbelievable as it may sound, I recently joined AARP (you only have to be 50 to join that group; however, that said, I'm 56 if you can believe it) . . . one benefit I just learned about: you can get discount coupons from AARP that can be used for a 4% savings from Home Depot.

3. Class project

An elementary school class started a class project to make planters to take home to their parents.

They wanted to have a plant in it that was easy to take care of, so they decided to use cactus plants. The students were given green-ware pottery planters in the shape of clowns, which they then painted

with glaze.

The clown planters were professionally fired at a class outing so they could see the process. It was great fun.

They planted cactus seeds in the finished planters and they grew nicely, but unfortunately, the children were NOT allowed to take them home.

As to why this happened:



The cactus plants were removed and small ivy replaced them. And the children were allowed to take these home instead.

The teacher said cactus seemed like a good idea at the time!

4. Reviews

A. Saw *WATER*, the story about an 8-year old girl in India whose husband dies before she even meets him in 1938 . . . her parents then shave her head and whisk her away to a house of widows where the women sleep on the ground and beg in the streets to earn their puny portion of rice . . . as unbelievable as it sounds, women are still treated this way in modern-day India . . . and this movie took several years to complete because angry fundamentalist mobs burned the sets of Deepa Mehta, the director, and threatened her life.

This behind-the-scenes account is the most interesting part about *WATER* . . . the actual film, while interesting, did not grab me as much as I thought it would . . . the acting was not particularly compelling, and the tale--including a love story thrown in for good measure--did not ring as true as it should have . . . rated PG-13.

B. Cynthia and I love going to the movies . . . there's the big screen experience, which is different than seeing something at home, as well as no interruptions . . . also, it is fun seeing something that we both saw previously but not with each other.

When there aren't too many new releases out on DVD, we'll tape and then revisit an old favorite . . . such was the case when we recently saw WHEN HARRY MET SALLY not too long ago when it appeared on TV, as it does from time to time . . . this is one of our favorite romantic comedies, starring Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan as a couple who fall madly and deeply into a friendship--yet can't help to wonder whether love must enter into the picture.

It is perhaps most famous for this one line:

I'll have what she's having, said by a patron after Sally has dramatically faked an orgasm in Katz's Deli.

My favorite bit of dialogue, though, was the following from Harry:

I love that you get cold when it's 71 degrees out. I love that it takes you an hour and a half to order a sandwich. I love that you get a little crinkle in your nose when you're looking at me like I'm nuts.

I love that after I spend the day with you, I can still smell your perfume on my clothes. And I love that you are the last person I want to talk to before I go to sleep at night. And it's not because I'm lonely, and it's not because it's New Year's Eve. I came here tonight because when you realize you want to spend the rest of your life with somebody, you want the rest of your life to start as soon as possible.

If you can't find WHEN HARRY MET SALLY on TV, it is available in both VCR and DVD formats rated R.

C. According to John C. Maxwell, author of WINNING WITH PEOPLE (see also Sections 2, 10 and 11), "Our ability to build and maintain human relationships is the single most important factor in how we get along--in every area of our life."

Maxwell shows how this can be done in this book in this, his latest book, provided that you use the 25 people principles that he clearly presents.

In reading it, I felt like I had in front of me an updated version HOW TO WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE--the Dale Carnegie classic . . . what makes WINNING so valuable was the fact that it has many examples that can be applied to any aspect of our work lives; e.g., this one:

The best way to keep from stepping on other people's toes is to put yourself in their shoes. In the 1930's, American Airways, which later became American Airlines, had a tremendous problem with complaints from passengers about lost luggage. LaMotte Cohn, general manager of the airline at that time, tired to get his station managers to overcome this issue, but he saw little progress. Finally he came upon an idea to help the airline's personnel to see things from their customers' points of view. Cohn asked all of the station managers from across the country to fly to company headquarters for a meeting. Then he made sure that every manager's luggage was lost in transit. Afterward, the airline suddenly made a huge leap of efficiency in that area.

I also liked how Maxwell used humor to make other points, such as in the case with this story:

A middle-aged man entered a cocktail lounge and walked directly to the bar. "Do you have anything that will cure hiccups?" he asked the bartender. Without a word, the bartender reached down under the bar, picked up a wet bar rag, and slapped the man across the face with it.

"Hey! What's the idea?" the astonished man said.

The bartender smiled. "Well, you don't have hiccups anymore, do you?" he asked.

"I never did," the man replied. "I wanted something to cure my wife. She's out in the car."

Do you come to conclusions long before the problem has been laid out before you? That is a common occurrence for most of us who have strong personalities. That's why I have trained myself to follow a process to keep me from hammering people with answers before they've finished asking the question. When someone is sharing his point of view with me, I try to . . .

listen,
ask questions,
listen again,
ask more questions,
listen some more,
then respond.

Lastly, WINNING WITH PEOPLE taught me much about how to improve how to improve communication with loved ones--and especially with Cynthia . . . here's still another idea that we both picked up from reading this excellent book:

Several years after Margaret and I were married, I realized that when I got home to see her, there was no excitement in our communication. She'd ask about what had happened during the day, and I wasn't very enthusiastic about what had happened during the day, and I wasn't very enthusiastic about discussing it. Then I figured out why: during the course of most days, I had shared the most exciting events with a colleague or my assistant. So I was not all that excited about repeating it to Margaret. I knew that needed to change. My solution? Whenever something important or exciting happens during the day, I jot a note about it on a three-by-five card. And then I don't tell other people about it; I save it for the end of the day. That way, Margaret is the first to hear about it, and she is the recipient of my enthusiasm.

D. HOW TO BECOME A RAINMAKER by Jeffrey J. Fox is one of my all-time favorite books on selling . . . if you're in that field or know somebody who is, do that person a big favor and get him or her a copy . . . they'll be forever grateful.

I recently heard the follow-up, SECRETS OF GREAT RAINMAKERS--written and read by Fox . . . for this latest effort, he conducted over 50 interviews with industry leaders from a variety of field . . . he then shares what he learned in a series of short chapters that all contain very powerful messages.

The amazing thing about Fox is that he takes what can be a difficult task and makes it relatively simple, provided that you listen to his advice . . . what makes it so interesting is that much of what shares can't be found elsewhere.

For example, he tells you not to knock your competition . . . for if you do, you're telling your customer that he or she is stupid for considering somebody else.

He also presents "killer questions" that can be helpful in selling anything, such as:

* In addition to yourself, who is responsible for making this decision happen in your country? And what might be their concerns about going ahead?

* [when a customer has a question] Why do you ask? And how important is it to you?

There were many other memorable tidbits, including:

* In a sales call, the customer should do 80% of the talking.

* Play Rolodex Roulette at least once a month. Give it a spin, pick some names, call some of them.

* Always use an intriguing postscript.

* The phone call never sells anything.

* Only after you get the order can you ask a non-business question.

* 90% of salespeople don't ask for the order.

* Always ask for something on a visit; e.g., a tour of the facility. If you're the one being asked to take a tour, that's a buy signal.

* Take handwritten notes on every call. Then summarize your notes in a follow-up letter to the customer.

* Don't mail your proposal. A good proposal, well written, has a 15-18% winning percentage. Good proposals, when presented in person, have a 55-65% winning percentage.

* People who ask for the sale in person have four times the chance of getting it than those who don't.

And my personal favorite:

* In the future, some power point presenter will be arrested for boring the customer to death!

5. VCR alert

A. If you want to know what couple had the "Best Kiss" on screen, watch the MTV MOVIE AWARDS on Thursday at 9 p.m. on MTV . . . afterwards, you can watch the entire show or mix and match only the segments you're most interested in . . . furthermore, you can get backstage highlights and interviews not included in the telecast . . . all you need to do is click:

<http://www.movieawards.com>

B. Though Hugh Jackman won't be the host, I'll still probably watch the 60th anniversary of the TONY AWARDS on CBS on Sunday at 8 p.m., if just to hear songs from this year's nominated musicals (none of which I've seen yet).

C. ENTOURAGE returns for a third season on HBO on Sunday at 10 p.m. on HBO . . . I watch this ensemble comedy, largely

because of the work of both Jeremy Piven and Kevin Dillon.

D. Marcy in Pennsylvania:
VCR Alert!

On PBS stations, Independent Lens: "Music From the Inside Out."

I saw this film in the movie theater and a few of the Philadelphia Orchestra members were there to play before the show. Even without that live music, the film was amazing and the music in it was breathtaking. I have never seen anything like it. The film showcases members of the orchestra, who also discuss what music is and what it means to them individually and as part of an orchestra. To read more: <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/musicfromtheinsideout/film.html>

Check your local PBS listings for a station and time near you when it will be broadcast.

6. Getting even

One hot July day we found an old straggly cat at our door. She was a sorry sight. Starving, dirty, smelled terrible, skinny and hair all matted down. We felt sorry for her, put her in a carrier and took her to the vet. We didn't know what to call her, so we named her "Pussycat."

The vet decided to keep her for a day or so. He said he would let us know when we could come and get her. My husband (the complainer) said, "OK, but don't forget to wash her, she stinks." He reminded the vet that it was his WIFE that wanted the dirty cat, not him.

My husband and my Vet don't see eye to eye. He calls my husband "EI-Cheap-O," my husband calls him "EI-Take-O." They love to hate each other and constantly "snipe" at each other with my husband getting in the last word on this occasion.

The next day my husband had an appointment with his doctor, who is located next door to the vet. The doctor's office was full of people waiting to see him. A side door opened and in leaned the vet; he had obviously seen my husband arrive. He looked straight at my husband and in a loud voice said, "Your wife's pussy is finally clean and shaved and now smells like a rose. Oh, and, by the way, I think she's pregnant. God knows who the father is!" Then, he closed the door.

Now THAT, my friends, is getting even.

7. Websites

A. Interested in information about four-year colleges? If so, please click: <http://www.academicdirections.com>

This is a website run by Dr. Barry Sysler, my longtime friend and teaching colleague . . . it has a great deal of information about virtually any college in this country . . . in addition, you can sign up for an informative FREE newsletter.

You can also find out more about Academic Directions, a company that helps parents and their children with the college selection process . . . to quote Barry, "Every one of my senior clients this year who had an interest in receiving merit money received scholarships between \$8-\$12,000 per year, guaranteed for four years!"

B. If you want to figure out how many more years you have to live, please click:

http://moneycentral.msn.com/investor/calcs/n_expect/main.asp

You'll find an easy-to-use calculator, along with some good device for increasing the above . . . for your information, I was told that if I continue maintaining healthy habits, I can expect to have a maximum life expectancy of 97 years of more . . . so it appears you'll still be getting this newsletter for quite some time!

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

At the homepage, you can easily subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, the newsletter . . . just go to the bottom and follow the simple instructions . . . also, new readers are ALWAYS welcome, please feel free to tell your friends and relatives about the newsletter--and the website, too.

8. Computer tip

If you have a newsletter that you send out . . . or an announcement; e.g., that you want me to run in BLAINESWORLD . . . I strongly recommend that you include it in the body of your e-mail . . . that way, I don't have to download and open it . . . saves time for me and for others, too.

If you REALLY want me to see any formatting or illustrations, then and only then send as an attachment.

9. Instructions

Here is an actual sign posted at a golf club in Scottsdale, Arizona:

1. Back straight, knees bent, feet shoulder width apart.
2. Form a loose grip.
3. Keep your head down.
4. Avoid a quick back swing.
5. Stay out of the water.
6. Try not to hit anyone.
7. If you are taking too long, please let others go ahead of you.
8. Don't stand directly in front of others.
9. Quiet please . . . while others are preparing to go.
10. Don't take extra strokes.

Very good. Now flush the urinal, go outside and tee off.

10. A quote I like

You may have observed that marriage has a way of magnifying an irresponsible person's lack of responsibility. Unmarried people without children have much more freedom than people who are married or are parents. Anyone who goes into marriage expecting to maintain the same level of freedom he had when he was single is going to put his marriage at risk. To make a marriage work, both partners must be responsible. Marriage relationships mature when each partner stops asking, "What can my spouse do for me?" and starts taking the responsibility to ask, "What can I do for my spouse?"--John C. Maxwell in WINNING WITH PEOPLE (see also Section 2, 4C and 11)

11. Thought for the day

When I mention a book in four different sections of this newsletter, you know I REALLY like it . . . that's certainly the case with John Maxwell's WINNING WITH PEOPLE (see also Sections 2, 4C and 10), from which I took the following passage:

A few years ago, I had the opportunity to teach leadership to the NFL's St. Louis Rams. The team invited me to attend one of their games afterward, and I was allowed to sit with the spouses of the coaches and players. I sat next to Kim Matsko, wife of associate head coach/offensive line coach of the St. Louis Rams, John Matsko.

As we chatted, I asked her of all the cities where she had lived, what was her favorite? (She had lived in many states: Ohio, North Carolina, Arizona, California, New York, and Missouri.) Her response: "Where I am living right now."

"Oh, so you like St. Louis the best?" I said.

"No, I didn't say that. I like the place I'm currently living best," she answered. "It's a choice."

What a great attitude! If you can maintain a perspective like that, you will always view life in a positive light.

12. Advance planning department

A. Tobi in Pennsylvania:

The Tyler Tasting Party will take place on Friday, June 9, from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

The Tyler Tasting Party is the College's premier food and wine tasting event. This event raises funds to restore and maintain Tyler Hall, the French-Norman style mansion on the National Register of Historic Places and cornerstone of Bucks County Community College's Newtown campus. This building is one of the most beautiful buildings in the County. Former home of the Tyler Family, this building now houses the College's administration offices.

Now in its 18th year, the growth of this event over the years, which annually attracts nearly 500 people, remains a source of pride to the Foundation. For more information about this highly anticipated

event in Bucks County or to order your tickets (\$100 a person), call 215.968.8224, e-mail foundation@bucks.edu or visit:

<http://www.bucks.edu/foundation/events.html#tasting>

B. A friend and BLAINESWORLD reader--the very talented Joe Doyle--opens in MAN OF LA MANCHA at Actors' NET of Bucks County on this Friday . . . the show runs through June 25 . . . methinks you'll really enjoy this one; I know I'm looking forward to seeing it . . . for more information, please click:

http://actorsnetbucks.org/on_stage/index.html

C. Joe in New Jersey:

Join a free life makeover telegroup

Starts Saturday, June 17, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon

Based on life-coach Cheryl Richardson's book LIFE MAKEOVERS--52 PRACTICAL & INSPIRING WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR LIFE ONE WEEK AT AT TIME, this ongoing weekly telegroup will explore her life-changing book and support one another in defining and taking action steps toward achieving their goals.

For more details, please contact Joe at:

1.888.830.5034; or

coachingbyjoe@aol.com

You can also register online by clicking:

<http://www.coachingbyjoe.com/lifemakeovertelegroup.html>

NOTE:

I have read this several books by Richardson, including this one . . . she knows her stuff, and her writing has been very helpful to me in the past!

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

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If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #504

5.29.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I broke down and got our first grill: a Perfect Flame from Lowe's . . . THANKS to all who offered suggestions on what to buy, where to get it from, etc. . . . now all we need is somebody to come and cook for us . . . just kidding! (Or am I?)

This purchase reminds me of the infamous research study that was conducted about a woman's greatest fantasy . . . the answer: to be with two guys, one to cook and the other to clean.

SOURCE:

The Internet, so therefore, it must be true!

We have a fine cleaning person already . . . since we don't also have a cook, nor do we expect getting one in the future, I guess it's going to be up to yours truly to start grilling for the first time in his life.

B. I did get my first grilling lesson over the weekend . . . we went to a barbecue at the home of our friends, Francie and Jeff . . . the company was fantastic, as always, and the food was quite tasty . . . though Francie would not reveal her secret recipes, I at least got Jeff to show me some grilling basics.

We also got to see other friends, Ahn and Marshall, for dinner at Pal's Cabin Restaurant (973.731.4000) in West Orange, NJ . . . no matter how many times we go there, the food is always excellent . . . however, I wouldn't say the same is true of the service . . . yet it did not deter from our enjoyment of the evening.

Lastly, we got to see the opening night performance of OUT OF ORDER at the Off-Broadstreet Theatre (609.466.2766) in Hopewell, NJ . . . it is a funny comedy about a government official who plans to spend the

evening with a woman other than his wife . . . things don't go as he planned, though, and things go wrong from the beginning.

I continue to remain impressed with the work of Tom Orr (see also Section 7A) . . . he has been in many plays that Cynthia and I have seen, and he never fails to give an outstanding performance . . . he is in almost every scene in OUT OF ORDER, and his lunacy had us laughing throughout the evening . . . the rest of the cast was equally fine.

This show runs until July 1 and best of all, ticket prices include a choice of dessert, fresh fruit salad and coffee or tea.

C. I attended the groundbreaking ceremony for Bucks County Community College's Lower Bucks Campus this past Thursday . . . it was a fun event and gave me the chance to meet with many local politicians and dignitaries . . . also, it got me thinking that I've now been at the College for 30 years . . . time sure does fly when you're having fun . . . and I have had fun--and enjoyed just about every minute of my experience there.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to Jack in Pennsylvania . . . he won the contest for free X-MEN tickets . . . all totaled, there were nine entries.

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

This week it goes to Terri Lovett--sr. administrative assistant to the provost & dean of academic affairs (Dr. Annette Conn) at Bucks.

Terri has always been a big help to me in scheduling meetings and taking care of numerous details that make my union work at the College easier. She is both extremely competent and excellent on follow-up, and is one of those folks who rarely complains--but just does what's needed. And then some.

2. FYI

I recently ran into Bob Harris, a consultant who I'm honored to count as both a friend and reader of this newsletter . . . his appearance startled me, in that he has lost over 150 pounds . . . the amazing thing is that he did this all on his own; i.e., he did not undergo any surgery . . . nor did he follow an overly strict diet.

When I asked him the secret behind his success, he said it was that he drank water--a lot of it . . . 12 to 15 glasses a day . . . he mentioned that he made sure the water was cold, in that this burns even more calories . . . and to give it flavor (as well as to gain still additional health benefits), he mixes-in a little green tea . . . his favorite flavor is Lipton's mango passion fruit.

Bob has also increased his exercise regime, and he works out regularly in a gym . . . however, he said "little things" can make a difference, too . . . so he takes the stairs whenever possible . . . and as I said good-bye to him, I noticed that he parked quite far from where I had met him--providing still another opportunity to get in shape.

FYI, part 2

* Shelly in Pennsylvania:

It seems that in addition to her other wonderful traits, Cynthia has both a knack for good writing and an appreciation of your own good traits. I'm sure that translates to other people, as well. I enjoyed her essay [in BLAINESWORLD #503, Section 11], and copied it for my family and friends to read.

NOTE:

As always, if you didn't catch a particular issue, you can see it archived at:

<http://www.blaineworld.net/newsletter/past.asp>

* Carol in New Jersey:

I do not know how you feel about the current immigration situation, but if you are concerned like myself and many other Americans (especially after the recent protests), I would appreciate it if you would put this in your weekly newsletter. I would just like to state that I am not against immigrants. I am against immigrants trying to change America into where they came from.

If you do not agree with this, I hope this did not offend you. The following is truly something I feel every American should read:

Theodore Roosevelt's ideas on Immigrants and being an American, as he stated in 1907:

In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American. . . . There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag. . . . We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language . . . and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people.

* Michael in California:

My father Roland has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma and could use prayers and positive thoughts as he undergoes the chemotherapy process. I honestly believe that with lots of us praying and sending out positive vibes for him, the energy must work.

* Joyce in California:

There are several different websites for Taylor [Hicks]. I signed up on the AMERICAN IDOL message boards. There is also:

<http://www.Taylorhicksfan.com>

I am looking forward to seeing more of him.

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

I'm beginning to compile a list of places and/or organizations that give "senior" discounts . . . for example, there's Applebee's . . . you get a 10% discount if you're over 55 . . . AMC Theaters also give a discount to folks at this age.

As unbelievable as it may sound, I recently joined AARP (you only have to be 50 to join that group; however, that said, I'm 56 if you can

believe it) . . . one benefit I just learned about: you can get discount coupons from AARP that can be used for a 4% savings from Home Depot.

Those are just for starters . . . do you know of any others, particularly for anybody over the age of 55? . . . I promise to share any information that I get in future issues.

3. Prayers

A rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy: "So your mother says your prayers for you each night? Very commendable. What does she say?"

The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"

4. Reviews

A. Enjoyed KEEPING UP WITH THE STEINS, a comedy about a Hollywood agent who wants to outspend his rival when it comes to throwing a bar mitzvah for his son . . . Jeremy Piven is fine in the title role (one very similar to his work in the HBO series ENTOURAGE), but Gary Marshall is even better as his estranged father . . . rated PG-13.

B. Currently out on DVD is PRIME, a not very funny comedy starring Meryl Streep as the mother of a son in a relationship with a much older woman (Uma Thurman) . . . both Steep and Thurman are OK in their roles; however, the story was predictable and did not have me caring for any of the characters . . . rated PG-13.

C. Imagine having to cope with the death of a husband while your only child is in a coma in a hospital . . . that's the situation faced by Joan Didion, and she poignantly describes it in THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING.

Reading this book, you'll get a real feeling for what the grieving process is all about--and how this one woman dealt with it.

As she states, "Life changes fast. Life changes in an instant. You sit down to dinner and life as you know it ends."

Didion helped me realize not only that, but that we all need to never take what we have for granted . . . THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING reminded me of that fact.

I was particularly moved by many of its passages, including these:
* Because we were both writers and both worked at home our days were filled with the sound of each other's voices. I did not always think he was right nor did he always think I was right but we were each the person the other trusted. There was no separation between our investments of interests in any given situation. Many people assumed that we must be, since sometimes one and sometimes the other would get the better review, the bigger advance, in some way "competitive," that our private life must be a minefield of professional envies and resentments. This was so far from the case that the general insistence

on it came to suggest certain lacunae in the popular understanding of marriage.

* I used to tell John my dreams, not to understand them but to get rid of them, clear my mind for the day. "Don't tell me your dream," he would say when I woke in the morning, but in the end he would listen.

When he died I stopped having dreams.

* As I thought about the difference between the two sentences I realized that my impression of myself had been of someone who could look for, and find, the upside in any situation. I had believed in the logic of popular songs. I had looked for the silver lining. I had walked on through the storm. It occurs to me now that these were not even the songs of my generation. They were the songs, and the logic, of the generation or two that preceded my own. The score for my generation was Les Paul and Mary Ford, "How High the Moon," a different logic altogether. It also occurs to me, not an original thought but novel to me, that the logic of those earlier songs was based on self-pity. The singer of the song about looking for the silver lining believes that clouds have come her way. The singer of the song about walking on through the storm assumes that the storm could otherwise take her down.

D. Heard THE TRUTH ABOUT HILLARY, written and read by Edward Klein . . . methinks that how you view it will depend on how you feel about Hillary Clinton.

Those who dislike her will appreciate all the dirt in the book, and there is a lot . . . those who like her will think it is a hatchet job.

My feeling is that it was a quick read that was actually amusing in spots . . . also, though I don't know how objective the book was (it is obvious that Klein is not a big Hillary Clinton fan), I did pick up a few tidbits about the former First Lady that at least got me thinking some more whether I think she'd be an effective President.

Among them:

* She learned three life lessons from her father and mother:

1. Never allow yourself to be a victim.
2. If somebody hits you, hit him or her back harder.
3. Stay in control of your own destiny.

* She did not support John Kerry, though on the surface, it appeared she did. In fact, she was campaigning for herself.

* Clinton continually reinvents herself, so now she is the new, new Hillary. (Much like Nixon came back when he lost the race for Governor of California.)

5. VCR alert

A. GAMESHOW MARATHON features six celebrity contestants competing in an elimination tournament comprising such classic game shows as LET'S MAKE A DEAL, BEAT THE CLOCK and MATCH GAME . . . celebrity contestants include Tim Meadows, Leslie Nielsen, Kathy Najimy, and three others whose names are not

on my radar screen . . . Ricki Lake hosts . . . Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on CBS.

B. CRISS ANGEL: MINDFREAK has Criss levitating from one building to another in this season premier . . . I've seen him a few times on TV, and he is one amazing performer . . . Wednesdays at 10 p.m. on A&E.

C. If AKEELAH AND THE BEE is still playing in the movies, catch it . . . it is a feel-good drama about a child who can spell up a store; I liked it very much . . . for the real thing, see the 79th annual SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE on Thursday at noon on ESPN and repeated at 8 p.m. on ABC.

6. Weight loss secret

My sister walked into the butcher shop and ordered the biggest Porterhouse steak they had. "And please cut off all the fat," she added.

"You sure you want all the fat off?" the butcher asked.

"Yes, it's much easier to take it off here," she explained, "than after I've eaten it."

7. Websites

A. As previously indicated (in Section 1B), Tom Orr is one of my favorite local actors . . . he also has a great website:
<http://www.actorr.com/>

In particular, I like his comprehensive listing of local theaters:
<http://www.actorr.com/local.htm>

B. If you want to see the art of sand fantasy, please click:
<http://www.sandfantasy.com/videoclips/videoclips.htm>

For sample movies with sound, go about halfway down the home page . . . then click any of the pictures.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blainesworld.net>

Thanks to the efforts of Dan Becker, my webmaster, several pictures have been added to the above . . . to see them, please click:
http://www.blainesworld.net/blaines_best/pictures_2006.asp

And when you get there, make sure you have your sound on so you can listen to what is arguably the best rock song of all time!

8. Computer tip

If you're on AOL or you know somebody who is, make sure you don't send out large quantities of mail at one time; i.e., no more than 15

pieces . . . if you have more to send, wait 15 minutes before you then send out anything more.

The reason: AOL is trying to block spammers . . . this is one thing that they are doing to prevent bulk mailers from becoming even more annoying than is presently the case.

Two other points to keep in mind:

* Don't forget to use the "bcc option," which makes it so that others only see their name on e-mail (and not a bunch of other names); and

* If you have a newsletter or something similar to send, make sure you get on something known as the "AOL White list" . . . call 1.888.265.3733 for more information.

9. Professions defined

1. A statistician is someone who is good with numbers, but lacks the personality to be an accountant.
2. An actuary is someone who brings a fake bomb on a plane because that decreases the chances that there will be another bomb on the plane. (Laurence J. Peter)
3. A programmer is someone who solves a problem you didn't know you had in a way you don't understand.
4. A mathematician is a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat which isn't there. (Charles R. Darwin)
5. A topologist is a man who doesn't know the difference between a coffee cup and a doughnut.
6. A lawyer is a person who writes a 10,000-word document and calls it a "brief." (Franz Kafka)
7. A psychologist is a man who watches everyone else when a beautiful girl enters the room.
8. A professor is one who talks in someone else's sleep.
9. A schoolteacher is a disillusioned woman who used to think she liked children.
10. A consultant is someone who takes the watch off your wrist and tells you the time.

10. A quote I like

When asked for things he has learned, Jonathan Sacks (once Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of Great Britain) replied, "That the world is a book in which our life is a chapter, and the question is whether others reading it will be inspired."

11. Thought for the day

Rescuing hug

This is a picture from an article called "The Rescuing Hug." It details the first week of life of a set of twins. Apparently, each were in their respective incubators, and one was not expected to live. A hospital nurse fought against the hospital rules and placed the babies in one incubator. When they were placed together, the healthier of the two threw an arm over her sister in an endearing embrace. The smaller baby's heart rate stabilized, and her temperature rose to normal.

Let us not forget to embrace those we love.



SOURCE:

For additional versions of this story, please click:

<http://www.planetdeb.net/spirit/rescue.htm>

12. Advance planning department

A. Kitty in New Jersey:

Hope you'll find time to come and see LUCKY STIFF. It is a very funny musical, with music so good you'll want to buy the CD somewhere later. It runs June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11.

The story:

Rich Uncle Tony is killed and his nephew is set to inherit his money, but his inheritance has a stipulation --that he be taken for one last blowout visit to Monte Carlo, otherwise the money goes to the Bronx Home for Dogs. So there's this nephew, this young girl, a dedicated dog lover who wants the money for the Dog Home and, of course, there's the little matter of who killed Uncle Tony and why . . . which complicates this humorous trip through Monte Carlo.

For more information, please click:

<http://www.kelseyatmccc.com/stiff.shtml>

B. Tobi in Pennsylvania:

The Tyler Tasting Party will take place on Friday, June 9, from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

The Tyler Tasting Party is the College's premier food and wine tasting event. This event raises funds to restore and maintain Tyler Hall, the French-Norman style mansion on the National Register of Historic Places and cornerstone of Bucks County Community College's Newtown campus. This building is one of the most beautiful buildings in the County. Former home of the Tyler Family, this building now houses the College's administration offices.

Now in its 18th year, the growth of this event over the years, which annually attracts nearly 500 people, remains a source of pride to the Foundation. For more information about this highly anticipated event in Bucks County or to order your tickets (\$100 a person), call 215.968.8224, e-mail foundation@bucks.edu or visit:

<http://www.bucks.edu/foundation/events.html#tasting>

C. Diane in New Jersey:

Treat Yourself to a break at the Jersey Shore and participate in the: Working Women's Summer Retreat . . . Taking Care of You June 11-13, 2006

Do you wish for quiet time to reflect, plan, and renew? Would you like to come smell the ocean, walk the beach, relax by the pool, discover your passion, plan your dreams, share your thoughts, and gain direction?

If so, please join Diane Allen and Claudia Monte, two entrepreneurial women, who are committed to helping others realize success throughout life's passages.

Give yourself this gift of renewal and learning by summer's sea. Participate in sessions on Discovery Journaling, Finding Your Passion, Navigating Transitions, The Art of Negotiating, and Crones Don't Whine. Added by request is Nourish Your Spirit and Body with emotional wellness, chair massage, yoga, and more. Leave relaxed for your journey home. Please come and bring a friend. Let's continue to expand the circle of remarkable women that we truly are.

For more information, please contact Claudia Monte or Diane Allen at CAM Consulting Group LLC: 609.291.1937

or click:

<http://www.cam4consulting.com/retreats.html>

Space is limited. Please register by May 26, 2006.

D. Amy in New Jersey:

Second Nature, my group, will next appear on: Saturday, 06/17/05

at: THE SHAKER CAFÉ

31 Main Street

Flemington, NJ

908.782.6610

<http://www.shakercafe.com>

WE LOVE THIS PLACE! It's a BYOB with great food and a fun atmosphere. There will be a classic car night on Main Street, space

is limited, so please be sure to make reservations and mention Second Nature.

We'll also be at Washington Crossing on 8.5.06 from 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
Location: Routes 532 & 32 (River Road), Washington Crossing, PA
(215.493.3634

<http://www.washingtoncrossinginn.com>

Additional Dates at Washington Crossing Inn:
10.7, 11.11 and 12.02.

About Second Nature:

Celebrating music from the 60's through today's future standards, featuring talented "seasoned" musicians who cover an eclectic mix of tunes from The Beatles to Bonnie Raitt, Santana to Joe Jackson and Joss Stone to Los Lonely Boys. Members include Amy Baker (lead vocals), Bill Corfield (guitar/vocals), Brian Schiefer (bass/vocals), Kenny Pesile (drums), and Richie Petronio (keyboards and vocals.)

Come on out and listen to Second Nature's Rock, Funk, R&B and Soul styles and be sure to bring your dancin' shoes!

For booking information, please call Amy Baker 609.731.2944
or e-mail: secondnatureband@msn.com

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

Issue #503

5.22.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I got to see two shows this past weekend . . . on Friday night, we saw LA CAGE AUX FOLLES at Mercer County Community College's Kelsey Theatre (609.584.9444) in West Windsor, NJ . . . we thoroughly enjoyed it, particularly the work of Steven O'Kane-Murin and Tom Chiola in the two leading roles . . . I'm still humming such songs as "I Am What I Am" and "The Best of Times," probably because the 22-piece pit orchestra--conducted by Lou Woodruff--made them so memorable.

On Saturday, we saw PLAZA SUITE at the Playmasters Theatre (215.245.7850) in Bensalem, PA . . . this Neil Simon dramedy was very well-acted, but a bit heavy until the third act . . . that was one of the funniest we have ever seen . . . Joe Mattern was absolutely hilarious as the father of a bride who wouldn't come out of the bathroom.

My only regret in telling you about these shows is that they both will have ended their limited engagements by the time you get this.

B. Several readers have commented that we seem to eat out a lot . . . the truth is that we do, and it is one of our favorite activities . . . yet be that as it may, we maintain our relatively svelte figures by often splitting portions in half right when they are served . . . an added advantage: we get an extra meal out of them that way . . . furthermore, we always tell our servers to take away the bread and rolls before they are even placed down.

We've recently added Thai Garden (908.874.5088) in Hillsborough, NJ to our list of favorites . . . the decor is attractive, the food is excellent . . . on Sunday, we got pineapple fried rice and chicken made with brown rice and a tofu dish with vegetables that has me getting hungry just writing this!

We also go to Charlie Brown's Steakhouse in various locations throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania . . . there's always a plentiful salad bar, and the dish I most enjoy there is a parmesan-crust chicken . . . Cynthia likes the lobster tails . . . for the locale nearest you, please click:

<http://www.charliebrowns.com/>

C. Thursday at Bucks County Community College was quite some day . . . in the afternoon, there was the Honors Convocation, at which I was honored to get official recognition as this year's recipient of the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching . . . it was followed by a pre-graduation reception, at which time CulinArt (the College's food service) outdid itself with such items as delicious potato pancakes and a chocolate fondue for dessert.

Graduation was next, and that's always a nice event . . . Shelley Milhous, a talented colleague, got things off to a rousing start when she sang "God Bless America" . . . the commencement address was delivered by Stephen Capus, a Bucks graduate and now president of NBC News . . . he urged all to "use your power to make yourself and the planet better," citing Bono as an example of somebody who has done this . . . and to accomplish this goal, "think big!"

From there, it was on to Il Sol (215.968.5880) in Newtown, PA for another reception--this time just for faculty and friends . . . our Faculty Federation sponsored the event, and a good time was had for all--in large part because the restaurant's owner/chef, Joe Siano, provided a make-your-own pasta station for the evening.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to Seth Abbott, my former assistant, for landing his first full-time job upon graduation from Richard Stockton College . . . he is now, drum roll please: a master control operator with CN8 Comcast . . . and allow me to include a brief commercial message: he's 23 years old, single and currently "available" for any women interested in meeting a guy who lives in Lawrenceville, NJ; he can be reached at: S4brooks@aol.com

And BELATED CONGRATULATIONS to Figen Genco (see also the second part of Section 2) for getting married in January of this year . . . I just heard the news and am very happy for Figen and to quote her, "my new handsome groom."

Figen is a most talented feng shui consultant/professional organizer . . . for more information about her services, please click: <http://www.lovethewayyoulive.com>

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

This week, it goes to Murray Raphel (see also second part of Section 2)--my longtime friend/marketing guru . . . he is chairman of Raphel Marketing, a firm "dedicated to helping your business do more business."

Murray is one of the world's leading speakers and consultants on direct marketing, advertising and promotion with an emphasis on taking care of the customer . . . he writes monthly columns for four magazines and an e-mail newsletter, "The Raphel Report" . . . in addition, he has authored and co-authored 11 books on marketing (with his most recent being THE COMPLETE IDIOT'S GUIDE TO WINNING CUSTOMER LOYALTY.

I first met Murray some 20 years ago when I wrote him a letter, telling him how much I enjoyed one of his books . . . he very graciously wrote me back, and we've stayed in touch ever since then . . . whenever I go to Atlantic City, his home base, one of the high spots of my visit is meeting him for a bite to eat.

I've learned much from Murray and look forward to continuing the process . . . if you'd like to join me, please consider signing-up for his informative FREE newsletter by clicking: http://raphel.com/email_newsletter.html

For more information about Raphel Marketing, please click: <http://raphel.com/index.html>

If you look to the right, you'll see a link to "About Us" . . . you can find out more about Murray, as well as about the rest of his delightful family who are also his partners in the business: Neil, Janis, Ruth, and Shirley.

2. FYI

First impressions

I once interviewed a woman who, in 1952, received a phone call from a man she'd never heard of. He'd gotten her number from a mutual friend, and asked for a date. His efforts to sweet-talk her didn't go well. He was cocky and full of "intellectual jive," she told me. But she agreed to meet him for lunch.

When he picked her up, her first impression of him was "how short he seems" and "how unimpressive he looks." Still, she decided to set aside those first thoughts, and as she spent time with him, she saw through his wild confidence, and found a sincere sense of purpose. "He grew in stature," she said.

I've told this story to my teenage daughters when they've been quick to dismiss someone at first glance. The woman's name was Coretta Scott. The man, whom she eventually married, was Martin Luther King Jr. Had they met in 2006, at a speed-dating night, he might have offered her a two-minute burst of cockiness, and she might have rolled her eyes and rejected him.

SOURCE:

Jeffrey Zaslow, First impressions get faster, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, 2.16.2006, p. D4

BLAINE'S TWO CENTS:

This somewhat reminds me of how I met Cynthia . . . if you've never heard the details, we met via match.com . . . our story has now been posted as a "success story" by this fine service . . . to see it for yourself, please click:

<http://www.Success.Match.com>

When you get to that website, look for a Search option to the right and toward the bottom . . . then where it asks for Story ID number, type-in: 16914

FYI, part 2

* Lee in Pennsylvania:

I am graduating June 1st from a Microsoft Networking program. I am working towards several Microsoft certifications and already have my CompTiaA+ Hardware Certification. In addition to my recent education, I also have 10+years experience as the General Manager of a Video Production firm.

I bring a unique mixture of technology and business skills to the table. If any of your readers in the Philadelphia area are looking for someone in the Networking/Tech Support/Help Desk arena, I would love to talk with them.

My name is Lee White; my e-mail address is: leepwhite@comcast.net

Thank you for your assistance.

* Murray in New Jersey (see also end of Section 1)

RE: your disappointment in seating for WICKED.

You can look up your seating ahead of me for ALL New York theatres at this website:

<http://www.playbill.com/reference/seating/>

Just came back for a vacation with Ruth, our daughters and their children in London. Great time! We love London.

Anyway, saw the musical MARY POPPINS, which is coming to the New Amsterdam Theatre in NY City in a few months (where THE LION KING was playing). One of best/enthusiastic/exciting musicals we have EVER seen. And of course that great music.

Make a date. Book early. This will be a sold-out show as soon as the critics review it.

* Jody in Pennsylvania:

I am surprised you didn't say more about WICKED. I saw it last Saturday in New York for the second time and found it just as fantastic as the first time I saw it which, was one year ago. I found the story and lyrics to be clever and unique, the music riveting, and the staging everything a Broadway show should be. I haven't been able to stop playing the CD and listening to the music since I saw it the first time a year ago.

Stephen Schwartz, who wrote the lyrics and the music, is a genius because I read the book and he turned what I consider a fair novel into a spectacular show. I am sorry that your seats spoiled the show for you, but weren't you able to appreciate anything about the show?

MY ANSWER:

I went back to see what I originally wrote in BLAINESWORLD #501:
We enjoyed learning the story behind the story of the witches of Oz, Elphaba and Glinda, and appreciated both the spectacular staging of the show and many of the songs.

In revisiting that mini-critique, I realize I forgot to mention what I enjoyed most about the show; i.e., that Cynthia was with me!

* Amy in Pennsylvania:

My husband and I bought a grill last year that we are very please with. It is a BBQ PRO, Stainless Steel, with six internal burners and one on the side. After researching all of our options, we found this to be the best buy for the money and quality. We purchased it at K-Mart. Here is the link. The one shown in the picture has four internal burners. Right now it is \$100 OFF, and THE SALE ENDS [THIS PAST] SATURDAY.

<http://www.kmart.com/catalog/product.jsp?productid=116400&No=0&Ne=2297&Nao=0&pCategoryId=2297&N=2319&Nty=1&categoryId=2319&gpCategoryId=466>

Here are some of the benefits:

Having the six burners controlled separately allows you to better control the heat.

If you are cooking small amounts, you only need to use a couple of the burners, saving your propane.

Stainless Steel never rusts, and is easy to clean. We left our grill outside all winter uncovered, and it polished up like brand new.

I find that I DO use the side burner. It saves me from running between the stove and the grill trying to time everything. Some people will say it's a waste, but when you are not using it, it has a cover that becomes a counter area.

Things to keep in mind when purchasing:

Make sure it is a well-know brand, and that replacement parts are easily accessible. You will find that the electronic ignition will need to be replaced.

For the internal cooking area, I recommend stainless as well. As already stated, it is easy to clean and does not rust. Our model does not have stainless internally.

Separate controls for each internal burner is really a plus.

Upper rack is a must!

* Figen in Pennsylvania (also see Section 1D):

See David Satoris at Eastern Appliance, in Morrisville PA. Tell him you are my friend. He will help you with your grill even if you end up not buying it from there. Call 215.295.4154 and ask first if they deliver where you live.

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

Cynthia and I have been thinking for quite some time about long term nursing care and wondering if it is something we should purchase . . . we'd be curious as to your thoughts on the matter and, also, what type coverage you have if you've gone this route?

In addition, we'd appreciate hearing about any experiences you may have heard with such coverage, any recommendations with respect to companies to buy from, representatives you may have used, etc.

3. Two minute management course

Lesson One:

An eagle was sitting on a tree resting, doing nothing. A small rabbit saw the eagle and asked him, "Can I also sit on my ass like you and do nothing?"

The eagle answered: "Sure, why not."

So, the rabbit sat on the ground below the eagle, and rested. All of a sudden, a fox appeared, jumped on the rabbit and ate it.

Management Lesson:

To be sitting on your ass and doing nothing, you must be sitting very high up.

Lesson Two:

A turkey was chatting with a bull. "I would love to be able to get to the top of that tree," sighed the turkey, "but I haven't got the energy."

"Well, why don't you nibble on some of my manure droppings?" replied the bull. "They're packed with nutrients."

The turkey pecked at a lump of manure, found it actually gave him enough strength to reach the lowest branch of the tree. The next day, after eating some more dung, he reached the second branch. Finally after a fourth night, he was proudly perched at the top of the tree. Soon he was promptly spotted by a farmer, who shot the turkey out of the tree.

Management Lesson:

Bull*hit might get you to the top, but it won't keep you there.

Lesson Three:

A little bird was flying south for the winter. It was so cold the bird froze and fell to the ground in a large field. While it was lying there, a cow came by and dropped some dung on it. As the frozen bird lay there in the pile of cow dung, it began to realize how warm it was the dung was actually thawing him out. He lay there all warm and happy, and soon began to sing for joy. A passing cat heard the bird singing and came to investigate.

Following the sound, the cat discovered the bird under the pile of cow dung, and promptly dug him out and ate him.

Management Lessons:

1. Not everyone who sh*ts on you is your enemy.
2. Not everyone who gets you out of sh*(t is your friend.

3. And when you're in deep sh*t, it's best to keep your mouth shut.

This ends your two-minute management course.

4. Reviews

A. Enjoyed ON A CLEAR DAY, the true story of one man's determination to swim the English channel after he loses his job . . . Peter Mulan is excellent in the main role . . . after seeing the film, I read that he trained for 5 1/2 months; it shows . . . I also learned that he got hypothermia while filming was taking place in the frigid waters of the Irish Sea . . . rated PG-13.

B. TRANSAMERICA is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #492 follows:

Don't be put off by the fact that TRANSAMERICA is about transsexualism . . . rather, see it for the Felicity Huffman's magnificent performance as Sabrina "Bree" Osbourne--a male about to become a female . . . yet before she can make the final transformation, she must make contact with the son she didn't know she ever had . . . their reunion is anything but easy for either of them, and viewing it will make you appreciate your family more--regardless of any problems you may think it currently has . . . this is a sweet, touching film that Cynthia and I are still talking about . . . our only disappointment was that Huffman did not receive an Oscar for Best Actress for her work . . . rated R.

C. The more I read some authors, the less I enjoy them . . . Joseph Finder is an exception.

I enjoyed two of his earlier corporate thrillers, PARANOIA and COMPANY MAN--and recommend them both highly . . . however, KILLER INSTINCT is his best and leaves me anxiously looking forward to his next book.

This latest effort is about a sales executive who is doing moderately well for an electronics giant . . . however, when he befriends a Special Forces officer just back from Iraq, his luck begins to change . . . good things start happening for him; at the same time, his rivals begin having a series of unfortunate incidents.

KILLER INSTINCT had me really caring about the main characters, and I wanted to know more about them . . . it was a real page turner, right up until the very satisfying conclusion.

In addition, I liked how Finder used humor throughout the book to help defuse some of the story's tension; e.g., here's how he described one meeting:

I just stared at Kurt rapt. The scariest thing I ever faced in my line of work was a performance review.

The author also did his research into the sales process, giving you the feeling that he knew what he was writing about--as evidenced by the following:

"I'm talking about layoffs," she said, settling into her chair. I held it for her. Not that I'm such a gentleman, but I wanted to make sure she sat so that she and Duffy couldn't make eye contact without our seeing it. A basic sales meeting trick. Duffy sat where we wanted him to as well. "You guys going to be there next year?"

There were several other memorable passages; among them:

* I was finally on my way out of the office around six when my phone rang. The calls that come after five are often from people trying to

avoid talking to a human being. They want to get voice mail. We call this playing dodgeball. Actually, it's harder and harder to play dodgeball these days, what with cell phones and e-mail, so when someone tries it, it's pretty obvious.

* "Uh, sure." Can we have a talk is up there with We've found a lump as the scariest words in the English language.

* He shook his head solemnly. "As one of my vice presidents, you're going to get sick of hearing me say it, but I firmly believe you create your own luck."

D. Heard the Nightingale-Conant CD program, PIRANHA MARKETING: THE SEVEN SUCCESS MULTIPLYING FATORS TO DOMINATE ANY MARKET YOU ENTER--written and narrated by Joe Polish and Tim Paulson.

These are two guys who know what they're talking about . . . they give you real examples based on their own careers, and you get the impression that what they tell you can be applied successfully to virtually any business or service.

The key: NOT to do what most folks do; i.e., run a HALF business or one that is Hard, Annoying, Lame and Frustrating . . . but rather, seek to make it ELF: Easy, Lucrative and Fun.

This might seem easier said than done, but not really if you keep in mind such useful advice as the Three important Rules in Advertising:
One: Never do anything that you can't directly track its results.
Two: Never run an ad a second time that didn't work the first time.
Three: Never fall in love with your ad.

And that's just for starters . . . PIRANHA MARKETING further gives you step-by-step techniques for developing guarantees, getting referrals, giving customers an awesome experience, and much, much more.

My biggest problem in writing this mini-review is choosing just a few of the many fine ideas that can be gained by listening; however, that said, do consider the following:

* Statistics show that when you send a message in advance that tells customers that you'll be sending some letter with a special offer, it will increase the response significantly because then people are looking for that letter.

* In a general review of consumer reaction to businesses, 15% of them got less than they expected from their experience; 80% got exactly what they expected; and only 5% got more than they expected. The key to success in any business is to deliver more than your clients expect from companies in your industry--to set yourself completely apart from all of your competition.

* We mail out letters, we mail out Consumer Awareness Guides, and we send out Free Reports. But when we don't mail a second and third letter, we're literally leaving half of our profits behind. Half the business comes after sending out a second and third letter. You're just walking away from the business if you don't follow up.

To provide you with more information, Polish and Paulson include an accompanying workbook that is one of the best I've ever seen.

This fine program is available for purchase or rental . . . if you want to get it, please click: <http://www.achievement.com/>

Above is the tape rental club I belong to; i.e., the Achievement Tape Library . . . this a great way to hear CDs and/or audio cassette tapes, view videos, etc.--all for a fraction of what it would cost to buy them . . . call the head of the firm (Paul Arroyo) directly at

1.800.735.3660 and mention my name . . . that way, you'll be sure to pay even higher prices . . . NOT.

5. VCR alert

A. Taylor Hicks is my man and has been from the beginning, so I'll be watching AMERICAN IDOL to see if he takes the top prize . . . the last round is on Tuesday at 8 p.m. on Fox with results being announced the next night at the same time.

Yet fame can be oh so fleeting, as indicated by what Conan O'Brien had to say on a recent LATE NIGHT:

This week, it was announced that former AMERICAN IDOL winner Kelly Clarkson is now the new spokesperson for Ford cars. In a related story, Justin Guarini is now living in a Ford.

B. TODAY kicks off its summer series of concerts, beginning on Friday with a performance by Jimmy Buffett at 8:30 a.m. on NBC . . . other concerts--typically on Fridays--will feature Phil Collins, Sheryl Crow, Pink, Chicago, and Janet Jackson . . . for the complete schedule, please click: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3041478/>

C. 100 FUNNIEST MOVIES begins on Friday on Bravo at 9 p.m. and continues over the next four nights.

6. Playing poker

Two couples were playing poker one evening. John accidentally dropped some cards on the floor. When he bent down under the table to pick them up, he noticed Bill's wife, Sue, wasn't wearing any underwear under her dress!

Shocked by this, John upon trying to sit back up again, hit his head on the table and emerged red-faced. Later, John went to the kitchen to get some refreshments. Bill's wife followed and asked, "Did you see anything that you liked under there?"

Surprised by her boldness, John courageously admitted that, well indeed he did. She said, " Well, you can have it but it will cost you \$500."

After taking a minute or two to assess the financial and moral costs of this offer, John confirms that he is interested. She tells him that since her husband Bill works Friday afternoons and as John doesn't, he should be at her house around 2 p.m. Friday afternoon.

When Friday rolled around, John showed up at Bill's house at 2 p.m. sharp and after paying Sue the agreed sum of \$500, they went to the bedroom and closed their transaction, as agreed. John then quickly dressed and left.

As usual, Bill came home from work at 6 p.m. and upon entering the house, asked his wife abruptly, "Did John come by the house this afternoon?"

With a lump in her throat Sue answered "Why yes, he did stop by for a few minutes this afternoon."

Her heart nearly skipped a beat when her husband curtly asked, "And did he give you \$500?"

In terror she assumed that somehow he had found out and after mustering her best poker face, replied, "Well, yes, in fact he did give me \$500".

Bill, with a satisfied look on his face, surprised his wife by saying, "Good, I was hoping he did. John came by the office this morning and borrowed \$500 from me. He promised me he'd stop by our house this afternoon on his way home and pay me back."

Now THAT, my friends, is a poker player!

7. Websites

A. If you're "into" creativity--and I am--then please click:
<http://www.creativity-portal.com>

You'll be able to take an inventory of your creative traits and then see how each of the traits can help you be more creative . . . in addition, there are many fine articles, including "Overcoming creative neglect," "Mad genius" and "Little things can stop creativity."

B. Philips has come out with a razor that can shave spots that aren't typically shaved . . . knowing that such a product would be hard to market on TV, the company is trying a word-of-mouth campaign based on an unusual ad posted on its this website:
<http://www.shaveeverywhere.com>

Make sure you have your sound turned on when you view it!

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

On the left, you'll see "Radio Show" . . . go to that link if you want to see a history of my radio career . . . you can also hear one of my shows.

As you may have read in a past issue, a recent management change at WWFM has resulted in my show being taken off the air . . . but, hopefully, I'll resurface soon again . . . on another station and/or even with my own cable show.

Please do keep me in mind if you have any media contacts for me to pursue with respect to the above possibilities.

8. Computer tip

When using your address book to send out e-mail, double-check to make sure all the recipients are those that you want to receive what you are sending out . . . sometimes, mistakes are made; e.g., where an incorrect address is typed or copied into some group by accident . . . this happened to me recently and fortunately, no damage was done. . . but it could have been embarrassing!

9. Profound thoughts, part 2 of 2

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg,
but broke it off.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist, you'll get repossessed.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.

You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia: the LAN down under.

Every calendar's days are numbered.

A lot of money is tainted . . . t'aint yours and t'aint mine.

Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

10. A quote I like

I can't grow to the six feet tall, and I can't become a bodybuilder. The one thing I can do is work hard. AMERICAN IDOL isn't going to last forever. That's why I hustle.--Ryan Seacrest, host of AMERICAN IDOL (when asked by TV GUIDE why he doesn't slow down and enjoy the ride)

11. Thought for the day

Whether on a dime or over time
by Cynthia Greenfield (see also Section 1A)

There is something that he does that endears me to him. An ingredient, if used in its natural, authentic form, could make a great relationship amazing, a good relationship great and a dying one possibly survive.

Who can ever say that there was never a time in any of their relationships where one person feels one way about something and the other person feels the opposite. What happens next is what I am talking about.

One person feels that the house should be perfectly neat all of the time; the other leaves things all over the house in every room. One person feels that the fan in the room is just perfect; the other feels that it should be taken down. One person feels that the other person is selfish; the other person feels they are just standing up for themselves. One person feels that the lights should stay on all of the time; the other person feels that it is a waste of electricity and it is ok to come home to a dark house.

We could go on and on with examples. We all have different needs, different personalities and different histories.

This ingredient is like magic. You put it in the cake, and it becomes delicious. Without it, your stomach feels sour--slightly irritated and unpleasant.

The ingredient I am talking about is the ability to see the other person's point of view. Then (and here comes the important part) to change your mind about the issue and go over to the other person's side. And say to yourself, "Mmm . . . I can see it from your point of view, and not only that, but I am willing to change my mind. Not pretend to change my mind--but really shift."

It is curious to me the process that he went through to do this important thing. I asked him: Did it happen "on a dime" or "overtime?" Maybe it doesn't matter how it happened, but that it did. Maybe we all should practice this ingredient in our relationships more often and enjoy the delicious benefits.

If we could all practice putting this ingredient in our relationships, joy and

gratitude would abound!

12. Advance planning department

A. Want two FREE tickets to X-MEN: THE LAST STAND?

If so, send me on or before Sunday, May 28 your e-mail address and put "X-MEN" in the subject line . . . one winner will receive two tickets to this movie, which opens Friday.

B. Joe in New Jersey:

HOW FULL IS YOUR BUCKET?

To answer this question, consider participating in a 4-week telecourse/book discussion-action group on the New York Times #1 Bestseller by Tom Rath and Donald O. Clifton, Ph.D. Educators are particularly encouraged to join. The group will be facilitated by personal life coach Joe Wszolek, a former teacher.

WHEN: Four Saturdays, starting on May 27 and ending on June 17. The first session is one hour from 11 a.m. to 12 noon (Eastern Standard Time). The remaining three sessions are 90 minutes each and are held between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

COST: The first session is free, but pre-registration is required by May 26 and space is available on a limited first come, first served basis. The remaining three sessions cost \$40 total (early bird special) with registration/payment received by May 29. Registration/payment after this date is \$60.

HOW: To register for the first session (free), simply contact Joe at 1.888.830.5034 or coachingbyjoe@aol.com with your name, phone number and e-mail address.

C. WANT TO QUIT SMOKING? OR KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOES?

Bucks County Community College in Newtown, PA will be offering a FREE smoke cessation program in the near future.

It will be sponsored by PA-S.W.A.T. (Students Working Against Tobacco) and offered--depending on interest--this summer and/or in the fall.

For further information, please call 215.968.8254 . . . if you get a machine, please leave your contact information and speak slowly.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com
In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #502

5.15.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I were pleased to hear that Odyssey of the Mind students from both her school (Elizabeth Avenue School) and the Franklin Middle School have won the New Jersey state competition and are now going to the national finals . . . this is quite an accomplishment!

I mention it because we gave our support to the endeavor by attending a recent fundraiser at Vinnie & Son Pizza Restaurant (732.271.1144) in Somerset, NJ . . . this was a great event, in that we had a nice meal out . . . and the students received 30% of all proceeds from those who dined that evening . . . a real win-win situation for all involved, plus something to think about if you're ever involved in similar fundraising efforts . . . just hook-up with a similar local restaurant.

B. On Saturday, we went to a Cinco de Mayo party at the house of our good friends Jan and Bill . . . other friends met us there, plus there were a lot of other nice folks there too . . . the food was fantastic; the camaraderie was even better . . . that's us (below):



C. Sunday, though, was our high spot for the week . . . we got to celebrate Mother's Day with Cynthia's mom in the early afternoon, along with her sister, brother and their respective spouses . . . Joyce and Marty, as they often do, added to the festivities with delicious potato pancakes that they made . . . the nursing home--Daughters of Israel--provided entertainment by way of an excellent string quartet.

From there, we went to see my mom and dad and took them to dinner at Gebhardt's (516.354.8185) in Floral Park, NY . . . my pot roast was delicious, and Cynthia enjoyed her duck . . . the accompanying salads were great, as was the service provided by Cathy and the rest of the fine staff . . . Bob Gebhardt, the owner of the restaurant, stopped by to say "hello" and made us feel especially welcome . . . we'll be back.

Since Wednesday marks my dad's birthday, we celebrated that occasion at the same time via a lighted dessert that was brought out in his honor.

All in all, it was a great day--and I'm truly blessed to have been able to share it with so many of the people that I love!

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

This week, it goes to Reggie Cassion--a customer service representative with Citizens Bank (Newtown, PA; 215.860.5268).

I've been a longtime customer of this branch and have always appreciated the service I have received there . . . the other day, however, Reggie went out of his way and really impressed me . . . I had made a deposit and left the window . . . I then went to shop in the Acme, only to find Reggie had more or less tracked me down in one of the aisles.

He startled me a bit, but I didn't mind when he asked me a question that certainly caught my attention . . . something to the effect of, "Did I know there was an investment that could help me do a lot better with my money?"

It seems that Citizens Bank now has a money market fund that pays 4.25% interest, as well as a checking account that pays 2.5% interest . . . since I already had the required balances to qualify for both accounts, I signed-up on the spot.

Should you want more information, give Reggie a call at the above number . . . another friendly customer service representative, Ryan O'Dell (who has often assisted me in the past), could help also help you.

2. FYI

Apart from its beauty, dignity and fight, Mrs. King's funeral got me thinking about this: Did she know how much she was loved? It's hard for a person to know that. If only she could have gone to her own funeral, she would have known. I wonder if it wouldn't be good if somewhere along the way, just once in your life, you got to call your own funeral. Pick the church, the speakers, the music, sit in the pew, clap when they talk about how wonderful you were. Then afterwards have a long lunch and toast your memory. Then the next day you go to work as usual, but maybe in a different mood. I don't see why we don't do this.

SOURCE:

Four presidents and a funeral
by Peggy Noonan
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
2.10.2006, p. A18

FYI, part 2

* HELP REQUESTED DEPARTMENT:

I'm trying to locate readers who are also past students of mine (from Bucks County Community College) . . . if you are both a reader AND past student, please send me an e-mail to that effect . . . put in subject line: PAST BCCC STUDENT . . . thanks, in advance.

* Sue in Pennsylvania:

I found a program that will help you quit smoking, too. You do not even have to really want to quit because most people don't quit because they want to. They quit because they know they have to. You do have to commit to an hour a day. But surely we can all spare one hour since it will make your life better than it ever has been. Not only will you quit smoking, you will quit ANY addiction. You will also recover from any anxiety, depression and obsessions. You will feel better than you ever have. The program is that good! You can order FREE information and a sample at the following website. It also has a 365-day money back guarantee. No one has ever asked for a refund.

<http://www.centerpointe.com>

I highly recommend this to EVERYONE. Check out the web site and learn for yourself. I am not affiliated with this site and stand nothing to gain by referring it. I just know it's THAT GOOD and wanted to share.

* Jerry in Pennsylvania:

I saw a delightful movie over the weekend. It was called KINKY BOOTS.

Do not let the title scare you away. It was enjoyable. It is British movie about a man who inherits his father's shoe factory and needs to change to survive. I enjoyed the music, even though it is not a musical.

* Donna in New Jersey:

It's important to fight a speeding ticket if you're going to receive 3 or 4 points. Your insurance may cost more, so in the long run it may be beneficial to pay the higher fine and not receive those nasty points. There are some attorneys that seem to have the inside track on getting rid of the ticket.

* Jerry in Pennsylvania:

Go to court: you do NOT want the points. Use your marketing skills to plea bargain. Maybe even give the judge a lottery ticket.

* Maryann in Pennsylvania:

Thank you for the pictures and music.

TO SEE FOR YOURSELF:

Put on your sound and please click:

http://www.blainesworld.net/blaines_best/pictures_2006.asp

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

It look like I will finally break down here and get a gas grill . . . consequently, might you have any recommendations as to what to look for in terms of models, features (e.g., a side burner useful), books to read on subject, etc? . . . I've never grilled before and so am somewhat apprehensive about the endeavor.

3. Two guys

Two guys are walking down the street when a mugger approaches them and demands their money. They both grudgingly pull out their wallets and begin taking out their cash.

Just then one guy turns to the other and hands him a bill. "Here's that \$20 I owe you," he says.

4. Reviews

A. MARILYN HOTCHKISS' BALLROOM DANCING AND CHARM SCHOOL is the touching story about a man, trying to come to terms with his wife's suicide, who finds life again via lessons in ballroom dancing . . . you'll probably miss it in the theaters (if it isn't already gone), so mark it down as one to rent when it becomes available . . . Robert Caryle, one of my favorite actors, is excellent in the main role, and he is supported, in particular, by the work of Donnie Wahlberg who both looks and acts like somebody very different than his usual persona . . . rated PG-13.

B. THE RINGER is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #483 follows:

GUILTY PLEASURE CONFESSION: We, Cynthia and I, both liked THE RINGER . . . this is a dumb, yet funny comedy starring Johnny Knoxville as a guy who sets out to fix the Special Olympics . . . Brian Cox, virtually unrecognizable as a result of a mustache, had us laughing as his sleazy uncle . . . all you

also need to know is that the film is the latest produced by the Farrelly Brothers (THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY, SHALL HAL, etc.), which means that there are some tender moments in it too . . . rated PG-13.

C. Sometimes a title will intrigue me . . . that was certainly the case with CAT PEOPLE by Margaret and Michael Korda, in that I wanted to find out what made one a "cat person" . . . and whether I now fit the bill.

This short book put a smile on my face . . . it is the account of how the Kordas had cats before they got married, then wound up with even more after their marriage . . . it seems that they are not alone, either; many others apparently go the same route--including yours truly.

I had a cat a long time ago when my daughter was young . . . yet when I remarried, I inherited my wife's three cats who have now become "our cats" . . . and it is hard to imagine life without them.

The same thing seems to have happened to the Kordas . . . and the other cat owners they describe . . . yet to the cat, it matters little . . . as the authors note, "Generally speaking . . . cats prefer to observe human activity from the prone position, with a skeptical eye. Either you find that comforting, or you don't. It's all the same to the cat."

There were several other wry observations; among them: Perhaps this spirit of independence, and the fact that they remain, even when domesticated, essentially wild, is what gives them their remarkable powers of survival—the proverbial nine lives. When it comes to independence, survival skills, loyalty to your own kind, and unconditional love, we humans have much to learn from cats.

This may be another reason that some people dislike cats. Even sitting quietly on your lap, claws sheathed, a part of them is still wild. They may have come indoors, and agreed to accept your caresses, but there's always the sense that one eye is ever so slightly open and wary, just in case the cat changes its mind. If there's one thing you can say about cats, they like to keep their options open—not a bad thing to learn from them.

And lastly, as unbelievable as it may sound: It helps to have friends who are as crazy on the subject of cats as oneself (or crazier), and this is, very fortunately, easy enough to achieve. Complete strangers, of course, are very often even crazier. How else to explain the fact that a company called Genetic Savings & Clone, in Sausalito, California, will clone your cat for fifty thousand dollars, and is said to have a long waiting list of customers?

I think I'll pass on that cloning option . . . yet that said, don't miss CAT PEOPLE if you're a cat fancier or know of one . . . it will tug at your heartstrings, and an added plus are the many drawings that accompany the many stories.

D. Heard THE WHEEL OF LIFE by Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, the author of the classic ON DEATH AND DYING . . . here, facing her own death at age 71, she tells the moving story of her life and what makes life so worthwhile.

It is love!

As she notes, "I have never met a person whose greatest need was not love."

She then concludes with a powerful final statement, saying, "It is very important that you do only what you what you love to do. You may be poor, you may go hungry, you may live in a shabby place, but you will totally live. And at the end of your shabby days, you will bless your life because you have done what you came here to do."

It seems that doing so will make dying easier. Or so it can be hoped!

Ellen Burstyn's narration added to my enjoyment of the book . . . in addition, I liked that there was an introduction by the author.

5. VCR alert

A. WILL & GRACE shuts the door on eight season with an hour of clips on Thursday at 8 p.m. on NBC, followed by an hourlong series finale.

B. AMERICAN INVENTOR's season finale airs on Thursday at 8 p.m. on ABC with the four finalists creating ads for their inventions, followed by the winner being chosen at 9 p.m.

C. AMERICA'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS replays the Top 20 videos in the show's history, awarding the very best one with a quarter million cash prize . . . Friday at 8 p.m. on ABC.

6. Parental concern

A young couple took their three-year-old son to Doctor Cohen. With some hesitation, they explained that, although their little angel appeared to be in good health, they were concerned about his rather small penis.

After examining the child, the doctor confidently declared, "Just feed him bagels with cream cheese. That should solve the problem."

The next morning, when the boy arrived at breakfast, there was a large stack of warm bagels and cream cheese in the middle of the table.

"Gee, mom," the boy exclaimed. "For me?"

"Just take two," his mother replied.

"The rest are for your father."

7. Websites

A. Imagine being convicted for a crime you never committed . . . it does happen, as you can see for yourself by clicking:

<http://www.InnocenceProject.org>

The website, run by New York's Cardozo School of Law, has won the release of 175 people who didn't commit the crimes they were convicted of; thousands more await testing to provide the proof they need to be freed.

B. If you're a movie buff, you won't want to miss this website:

<http://ifilm.com>

By using the Search capability (in the upper right hand), you'll be able to find spoofs of trailers for such films as BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN, THE FIGHT CLUB and SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE that are often far better than what originally appeared in theaters.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

To see the many books I've reviewed and generally enjoyed, go to Blaine's Best on the left and then letter "O" . . . check the second paragraph there, and you'll be taken to my reviews that have been posted at amazon.com's website.

If you'd like to have me move higher up in the list of amazon's "Top 500 reviewers (I'm currently 402), here's all you need to do:

* Go to this website:

<http://www.amazon.com>

* Then at search engine for books, type-in any book I have reviewed within the past few weeks; e.g., DAVE BARRY'S MONEY SECRETS

* Find my review . . . I believe it is the third one down

* Read it and if you find it helpful, click the "Yes" button

8. Computer tip

Companies have now turned to real live human beings to provide results to search questions . . . three of the largest include:

<http://answers.google.com/answers/>

<http://answers.yahoo.com>

<http://www.wondir.com/wondir/jsp/index.jsp>

The companies believe that the user-submitted answers will improve the quality of their search services, tapping into knowledge not otherwise accessed . . . however, they warn that some users may submit wrong or even misleading answers.

BLAINE'S TWO CENTS:

I'd be interested if any reader has tried and/or will try

the above websites . . . and, if so, can you please share your results?

9. Profound thoughts, part 1 of 2

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

Dijon vu--the same mustard as before.

Practice safe eating--always use condiments.

Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.

Those who jump off a bridge in Paris must be in Seine.

A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes!

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

Condoms should be used on every conceivable occasion.

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.

Definition of a will: A dead give away.

(to be continued)

10. A quote I like

My wife and I live our lives by a simple mantra--to make wonderful memories every day.--Dan Brown, author of THE DA VINCI CODE

11. Thought for the day

Brighten the corner where ever you are
by Helen Steiner Rice

We cannot all be famous or be listed in "Who's Who,"
But every person, great or small, as important work to do.
For seldom do we realize the importance of small deeds,
Or to what degree of greatness unnoticed kindness leads.
For it's not the big celebrity in a world of fame and praise,
But it's doing unpretentiously in an undistinguished way.
The work that God assigned to us, unimportant as it seems,
That makes our task outstanding, and brings reality to dreams.
So do not sit and idly wish for wider, new dimensions
Where you can put into practice, your many good intentions.
But at the spot God placed you begin at once to do,

Little things to brighten up the lives surrounding you.
If everybody brightened up the spot where their standing,
By being more considerate, and a little less demanding.
This dark old world would very soon eclipse the evening star,
If everybody brightened up the corner where they are!

NOTE:

Cynthia came across the above in a program at the funeral service for Daisy "Eva" Andrews, the mother of one of her friends and colleagues (Donna Jones, a resource room teacher at the Elizabeth Avenue School) . . . according to Cynthia, the entire service--a Baptist one--was an "especially moving experience," and she liked what they called it; i.e., a celebration of life!

12. Advance planning department

A. Natalie in Pennsylvania:

On Friday evening, May 19, California-based singer/songwriter/comedian Scott Kalechstein (who is like a cross between Eckart Tolle, Robin Williams, and John Denver) will perform for us in Yardley!

Scott creates and sings lyrics and music right in the moment, just like that comedy improv TV show, Who's Line Is It Anyway?

As much of half of Scott's concerts are pure improvisation, with the audience requesting songs about spirituality, personal growth, politics, pet peeves, etc. Scott's ability to be in the moment with his music is dazzling, breathtaking, mystical, and incredibly entertaining. You can check Scott out and even hear some of his songs at:

<http://www.scottsongs.com>

Expect to laugh loudly, lighten up, get silly, and leave walking on air....

Concert starts at 7:00 PM at the new Omphalos Center for P.E.A.C.E., 301 Oxford Valley Road, Suite 1503, Yardley.

Admission: The cost for tickets in advance is \$20.00; \$25.00 at the door. You can purchase them through Omphalos, 215-493-3456.

"I haven't laughed that much in ten years!" - John Freedom, Tucson Arizona

"Scott shines! It is a pleasure to hear a musician who has not lost his sense of humor, humility, focus, or Spirit. Scott has become the consummate performer, using his music as an outlet for a greater calling." - Chuck Diliberto, Awareness Magazine

Scott is also in town the next evening, offering a workshop/concert/celebration called Where Spirit & Relationships Meet. This will take place on Saturday evening, May 20, in Doylestown at the home of Maria Starr. Call Maria at 215.489.8898 for more information.

B. Terri in Pennsylvania:

As some of you already know, a very good friend of mine, Theresa Esposito, was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gerhig's Disease) in March. I am forwarding an e-mail from her son regarding this festival.

Hey everybody,

Please join my family as we come out to support the fight against ALS / Lou Gehrig's Disease at the Phillies Phestival on Monday May 22, 2006. For more details check out the web site.

A short time ago my mother Theresa was diagnosed with this disease and we are trying to raise research money, awareness, and hope by supporting Major League Baseball in the fight against ALS. Please come and join us at the Ball Park. For more details please see: http://philadelphia.phillies.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/phi/community/phillies_phestival.jsp

Thanks to all of you for your interest! Please feel free to let me know if you can attend or not. No hard feelings if you can't make it. It will be a really fun time though with autographs and silent and spoken auctions of MLB Memorabilia.

Hope to see you there,
Nick Esposito, Jr.

C. Tobi in Pennsylvania:
The Tyler Tasting Party will take place on Friday, June 9, from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

The Tyler Tasting Party is the College's premier food and wine tasting event. This event raises funds to restore and maintain Tyler Hall, the French-Norman style mansion on the National Register of Historic Places and cornerstone of Bucks County Community College's Newtown campus. This building is one of the most beautiful buildings in the County. Former home of the Tyler Family, this building now houses the College's administration offices.

Now in its 18th year, the growth of this event over the years, which annually attracts nearly 500 people, remains a source of pride to the Foundation. For more information about this highly anticipated event in Bucks County or to order your tickets (\$100 a person), call 215.968.8224, e-mail foundation@bucks.edu, or visit: <http://www.bucks.edu/foundation/events.html#tasting>

D. WANT TO QUIT SMOKING? OR KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOES?

Bucks County Community College in Newtown, PA will be offering a FREE smoke cessation program in the near future.

It will be sponsored by PA-S.W.A.T. (Students Working Against Tobacco) and offered--depending on interest--this summer and/or in the fall.

Key details:

1. Hypnotherapy will most probably be the primary means of getting smokers to quit. Studies show that this is the best method to achieve this purpose.
2. When you enroll in the program, you agree to quit smoking, as opposed to try to quit smoking.
3. You will need one sponsor who will be your coach in helping you succeed. And you will succeed.
4. Upon completion, you will be asked to help get the next class going by helping to enroll future participants. In addition, you will be asked

to make an optional contribution to PA-S.W.A.T. to help defray future expenses.

5. This program is open to ALL past, present and future BCCC students; faculty and staff; and the parents, friends and family of anybody affiliated with the College.

What's next:

PA-S.W.A.T. needs to know that you are interested in this exciting program. Please provide this information:

Your name
BCCC status (student, faculty, staff, friend, etc.)
E-mail address
Phone #: (home) _____ (cell) _____
Name of your sponsor
When would you be interested in program: summer or fall?

Please return this information to: hughesbr@bucks.edu

and put the following in subject line: SMOKING PROGRAM

For further information, please call 215.968.8254 . . . if you get a machine, please leave your contact information and speak slowly.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody knows wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #501

5.8.2006

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1. Reflections

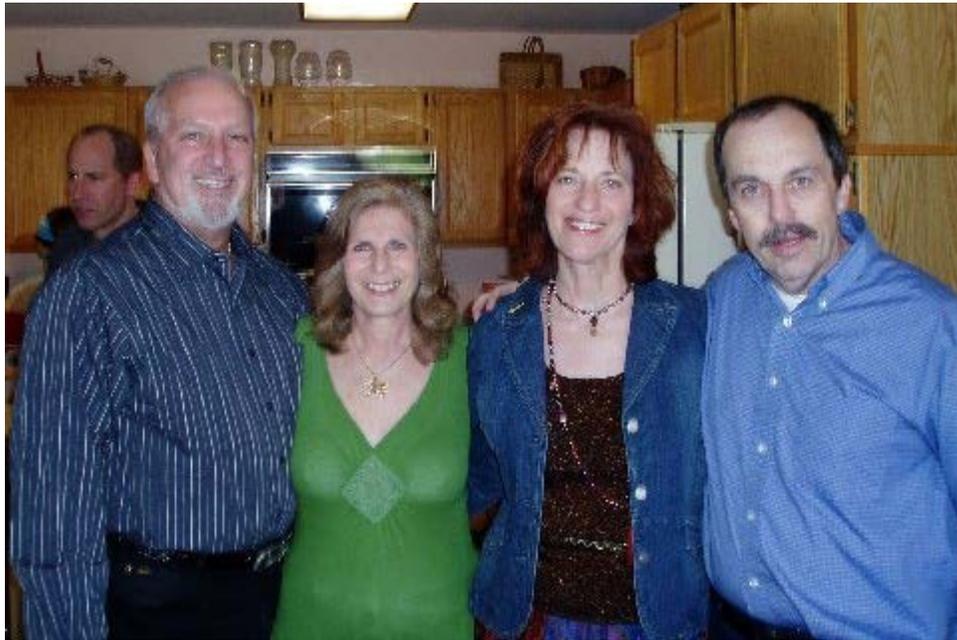
A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I saw WICKED with friends in New York City . . . we enjoyed learning the story behind the story of the witches of Oz, Elphaba and Glinda, and appreciated both the spectacular staging of the show and many of the songs . . . our only disappointment, and it was a big one, had to do with our seats . . . we got them through a bus tour with our local township's Recreation Department (Montgomery Township; 609.466.3023) and somehow missed the fact that we were going to be seated in the second mezzanine . . . in the magnificent Gershwin Theatre, that's a long way from the stage.

We don't go to that many Broadway shows, so when we do, we try to get the best seats possible . . . we'll certainly plan to do that in the future.

Prior to the show, the four of us had lunch at Sardi's (212.221.8440) . . . my pork tenderloin dish was delicious, and Cynthia enjoyed her shrimp dish.

B. Cynthia and I had another great time the next day when we attended a surprise 35th wedding anniversary celebration of our friends, the Dowburds . . . it was put together by their children, and the whole thing was just lovely . . . particularly moving was a video that was shown . . . it featured both pictures and videos and covered Chic and Joni's life from when they were married up until just a few weeks before the party.

See below for a picture of us at the event . . . from left to right, that's Chic, Joni, Cynthia and yours truly:



C. The spring semester at Bucks County Community is winding down rather well . . . my two night Marketing classes both did excellent work on their marketing strategies . . . the Tuesday night group came up with some great ideas for improving group sales for the Bristol Riverside Theatre (see also Section 12B) . . . it was a delight to work with Meaghan Crawford, Bristol's group sales manager, on the project, and I was so glad to have both Meaghan and Phyllis Porreca Slattery, education coordinator, attend my students' final presentations . . . not to be outdone, my Thursday night group developed many creative ideas for to help my friend and teaching colleague Diana Loreman (215.862.6360) market her hypnotherapy practice.

D. Lastly, our Faculty Federation had two big events this past week . . . the first was an emergency meeting that featured Pennsylvania State Rep. Larry Curry (154th District) . . . he came to campus to give us the scoop on the Academic Bill of Rights, a scary piece of legislation that, if passed, would allow politicians to have greater say in what can and can not be said in classrooms . . . Rep. Curry has been speaking to college campuses throughout the state, and to his credit, is one of the few politicians who has openly opposed the Academic Bill of Rights.

Later that same day, we had our annual End-of-Year party at Il Sol (215.968.5880) in Newtown, Pennsylvania . . . it was fantastic to get together with many of my colleagues, as well as retired faculty members, administrators and other College staffers . . . Joe Siano, the owner/chef, took care of us as he always does . . . his make-your-own pasta station is a special treat.

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

This week, it goes to Leza Perkins--legislative assistant to Rep. Curry (see Section 12D) . . . Leza was the person who helped make all the arrangements for his campus visit, doing so on very short notice . . . she is friendly and extremely helpful, as well as excellent on follow-up . . . we are lucky to have such individuals working in state government!

2. FYI

Stephen R. Covey in THE 8TH HABIT (see also Section 4D) mentions that the best way to learn something is to teach it to others . . . I've liked that idea ever since I first heard it in THE 7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE--also by Covey . . . he then goes one step further by recommending that we ask our children to teach us what they've learned that day in school . . . what a terrific way to help both children and their parents learn new material, as well as to improve communication skills!

FYI, part 2

* Arlene in Pennsylvania graciously responded to last week's mention of a smoke cessation program with the following offer:

I quit smoking over 25 years ago. Was a 3 pack-a-day smoker, and I quit two jobs because they had the nerve not to permit me to smoke at my desk (obviously the cigarette meant more to me than the job).

Yet I was able to make the transition without any problem. It's so easy if you really, really want to stop smoking.

If you're interested knowing just how easy this is, let me know. It only works if you're really sincere and have a mind-set to quit.

NOTE:

Arlene can be reached at sweetn5163@aol.com . . . also, here's the information on the program in case you missed it:

As many of you know, I'm somewhat fanatic when it comes to having people smoke . . . I have seen how difficult this habit has made things for my dad, and I am pledged to do what I can to help others kick their addiction.

Consequently, I have pledged part of my Lindback Award to help get the following program off the ground:

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Key details:

1. Hypnotherapy will most probably be the primary means of getting smokers to quit. Studies show that this is the best method to achieve this purpose.
2. When you enroll in the program, you agree to quit smoking, as opposed to try to quit smoking.
3. You will need one sponsor who will be your coach in helping you succeed. And you will succeed.
4. Upon completion, you will be asked to help get the next class going by helping to enroll future participants. In addition, you will be asked

to make an optional contribution to PA-S.W.A.T. to help defray future expenses.

5. This program is open to ALL past, present and future BCCC students; faculty and staff; and the parents, friends and family of anybody affiliated with the College.

What's next:

PA-S.W.A.T. needs to know that you are interested in this exciting program. Please provide this information:

Your name
BCCC status (student, faculty, staff, friend, etc.)
E-mail address
Phone #: (home) _____ (cell) _____
Name of your sponsor
When would you be interested in program: summer or fall?

Please return this information to: hughesbr@bucks.edu

and put the following in subject line: SMOKING PROGRAM

For further information, please call 215.968.8254 . . . if you get a machine, please leave your contact information and speak slowly.

* Jerry in Pennsylvania:
My partner passed away, and I will have some professional space available for rent. I would prefer another attorney, but I am open to someone else.

There is a conference room, office and secretary office.

Gerald M. Hershenson Esq.
Luxembourg Corporate Center
506 Corporate Drive West
Langhorne, Pa. 19047

Phone: 215.579.9390
Fax: 215.579.9549
E-mail: hlhent@voicenet.com

* Robin in Pennsylvania:
Had a thought how you might give an assist to all of your single "readers."
Why not host a BLAINESWORLD in-person meet and greet? What more of an intro do we need than to be able to say we're fans!

I'm serious.

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

A few weeks ago, I got my first speeding ticket in several years . . . can you believe it?

It used to be that in New Jersey and elsewhere, you could plead "not guilty" and then go to court to plea bargain . . . you'd get less points, though often a heavier fine.

I have heard that this has changed; i.e., after January 1 of this year, such an option is no longer available in New Jersey . . . or even if it is, the heavier fine makes it no longer economically feasible to plea bargain.

My questions: Should I just pay the fine? Or is it still to my advantage to go to court? Please advise. Thanks, in advance.

3. Registration

I went to the US Patent Office trying to register some of my inventions. I went to the main desk to sign in and the lady at the desk had a form that had to be filled out. She wrote down my personal info and then asked me what I had invented.

I said, "A folding bottle."

She said, "Okay. What do you call it?"

"A fottle."

"What else do you have?"

"A folding carton."

"What do you call it?"

"A farton."

She snickered and said, "Those are silly names for products and one of them sounds kind of crude."

I was so upset by her comment that I grabbed the form and left the office without even telling her about my folding bucket.

4. Reviews

A. If you're going to see one movie in the next few weeks, make it **AKEELAH AND THE BEE** . . . it is the best film I've seen in quite some time, and my hope is that it gets people talking about it so that it stays around for a long time.

AKEELAH is a heartwarming drama about a precocious 11-year old girl who is encouraged to enter the Scripps National Spelling Bee . . . she is helped along the way by a tutor, her principal and residents of her community . . . Keke Palmer is outstanding as the young speller, and as always, I liked the work of both Laurence Fishburne and Angela Bassett . . . rated PG, but don't be put off by that rating . . . you'll love it, as will members of any other age category.

B. **TRANSAMERICA** is now out in DVD format . . . my review from **BLAINESWORLD #492** follows:

Don't be put off by the fact that **TRANSAMERICA** is about transsexualism . . . rather, see it for the Felicity Huffman's magnificent performance as Sabrina "Bree" Osbourne--a male about to become a female . . . yet before she can make the final transformation, she must make contact with the son she didn't know she ever had . . . their reunion is anything but easy for either of them, and viewing it will make you

appreciate your family more--regardless of any problems you may think it currently has . . . this is a sweet, touching film that Cynthia and I are still talking about . . . our only disappointment was that Huffman did not receive an Oscar for Best Actress for her work . . . rated R.

C. How do you plan to finance your retirement?

1. Savings
2. Social Security
3. Sale of kidneys

You need to be honest in your answer. If you lie, you'll only be lying to yourself. And, according to advice given in DAVE BARRY'S MONEY SECRETS (from which this question was taken), "The place to lie in on your federal tax return."

This is a very funny guide that spoofs much of the personal financial advice that can be found in other books, TV shows and online . . . save your money on them; buy this one instead . . . you may not get rich if you do, but you will certainly laugh a lot.

Barry has previously written on such other topics as politics, fitness and parenting . . . I enjoyed those, but this latest one may well be his very best--especially because it will make you wonder why people behave the way they do when it comes to money.

For example, in the above quiz, he states, "That if your answers are all threes [on all the questions], be advised that we're having a minor technical problem calculating your score because of Nigerian red tape. To smooth things out, we need you to send us an 'advance fee' of \$5,000, which you will get back many times over."

The amazing thing is that many people do just that!

There were many other hilarious tidbits; among them:

* Many children learn about money by starting their own businesses, the classic example being the sidewalk lemonade stand. This is an opportunity to teach your child fundamental economic principles. I'm not suggesting that you encourage your child to have a lemonade stand; that's WAY too much work. I'm suggesting that you explain to your child that if he buys lemonade from some other kid's stand, and then happens to choke on a lemon seed, they you would be in a position to sue the other kid's parents for thousands of dollars. That is what I mean by "fundamental economic principles."

* One way to take money is in the form of traveler's checks. The way these work is, you give a traveler's check company a bunch of money, and the traveler's check company gives you some checks. You cash some of these checks on your trip, and when you get home you put the rest of them in the back of your sock drawer for safekeeping, and then you forget all about them. Eventually you die, and the traveler's check company gets to keep the money you paid for the uncashed checks forever.

And this final one that--while presented in a humorous fashion--makes much sense at least to me:

*Presidential Election Campaign Fund checkoff box: If you check this box, \$3 of your taxes will be earmarked for a special fund to pay for presidential campaigns. Notice that the government does not permit you to earmark money for poor people, or sick people, or national defense. No, the government permits you to earmark money only for the purpose of enabling politicians to produce TV commercials designed to appeal to voters who have the IQ of a Vienna sausage. To make matters worse, some of this federal campaign money goes to candidates who have about as much chance of getting elected president as SpongeBob SquarePants. In 2004, of example, more than \$800,000 of earmarked U.S. taxpayer dollars went to Lyndon LaRouche, a convicted felon and complete space loon who has been running for president since 1980, and who has claimed, among other things, that Walter Mondale was a Soviet agent and Queen Elizabeth II is a drug dealer. If you check the Presidential Election Campaign Fund box, it won't affect the amount of tax you owe, but I will lose all respect for you.

D. Heard THE 8TH HABIT (see also Section 2A), read and written by Stephen R. Covey . . . I liked the overall message; i.e., we need to find our voice and inspire others to find theirs . . . however, it was presented in an overly complex fashion that could have easily been shortened . . . or even better, incorporated into a revised edition of THE 7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE--Covey's earlier classic.

This latter book has always been one of my all-time favorites . . . his latest one was a bit too jargon-oriented for my taste . . . I also thought it was redundant, in that it repeated much of the information from 7 HABITS.

Yet that said, I did like how he stressed the need to engage people in the workplace by establishing trust and developing a shared vision . . . and perhaps most importantly, he noted that we must continually search for third alternatives (not a compromise between your way and my way, a completely separate better way).

5. VCR alert

A. SHERYL CROW, WILDFLOWER has the rock singer, backed by a 16-piece orchestra, reinterpreting her hits . . . Thursday at 10 p.m. on PBS . . . time and station may vary in your area, so check local listings.

B. KEITH BARRY: EXTRAORDINARY features an expert in controlling others' minds . . . according to TV GUIDE, "the footage of the stars' genuine reactions, like a visibly nervous Rachel Hunter, that truly amazes" . . . Friday at 8 p.m. on CBS.

C. MURDER ON PLEASANT DRIVE is a fact-based tale of a woman's decade-long quest to bring her mother's killer to justice . . . stars Kelli Williams, Adam Arkin and Amy Madigan (a talented actress who you don't see often enough) . . . Saturday at 7 p.m. on Lifetime.

6. Speeding

A Florida senior citizen drove his brand new Corvette convertible out of the dealership. Taking off down the road, he floored it to 80 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left.

"Amazing!" he thought as he flew down I-75, pushing the pedal to the metal even more.

Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw a Florida Highway Patrol car behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blaring. "I can get away from him--no problem!" thought the elderly gentleman as he floored it to 100 mph, then 110, then 120 mph. Suddenly, he thought, "What on earth am I doing? I'm too old for this nonsense!" and pulled over to the side of the road to wait for the Trooper to catch up with him.

Pulling in behind him, the Trooper walked up to the driver's side of the Corvette, looked at his watch and said, "Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes. Today is Friday. If you can give me a reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The man, looking very seriously at the Trooper, said, "Years ago, my wife ran off with a Florida State Trooper. I thought you were bringing her back."

"Have a good day, Sir," said the Trooper.

7. Websites

A. Much that is circulated on the Internet is cr*p, especially the advice to not buy gas from certain companies or on various days . . . however, to REALLY save money on gas, please click:
<http://autos.msn.com/everyday/gasstations.aspx?zip=&src=Netx>

You'll find the lowest gas prices in your area, as well as a map that has the exact location of the stations where you can make your purchase.

B. David Blaine recently tried to set a record on TV for time spent underwater . . . he failed, but you can succeed in setting a record in a food-eating competition . . . to see for yourself, please click:
<http://www.ifoce.com/>

Some upcoming events include the Tamales-Eating Contest, the National Sweet Corn Championship, the Crab Cake-Eating Contest, and the Deep-Fried Asparagus-Eating Contest.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

You can go here to check out past newsletters and things you may have missed . . . for example, I think that readers sometimes skip over this section because they are not interested in other websites.

But in BLAINESWORLD #498, I also ran a great story that should NOT be missed (about responding to the negative behavior of others) . . . to see it for yourself, go to Newsletters on the left, then Past Issues . . . find #498 and go to Section 7A; you won't be disappointed!

8. Computer tip

If you ever want to switch from AOL, use a service called TrueSwitch to notify everybody in your address book . . . it will even copy your saved e-mails, website bookmarks and calendar entries . . . cost is \$20, but methinks it will be well worth it . . . and there's no charge if you're switching to MSN, AT&T or SBC/Yahoo.

For more information, please click:

<http://trueswitch.com/>

9. Six months

Let's say a guy named Roger is attracted to a woman named Elaine. He asks her out to a movie; she accepts; they have a pretty good time. A few nights later he asks her out to dinner, and again they enjoy themselves.

They continue to see each other regularly, and after a while neither one of them is seeing anybody else.

And then, one evening when they're driving home, a thought occurs to Elaine, and, without really thinking, she says it aloud: "Do you realize that, as of tonight, we've been seeing each other for exactly six months?"

And then there is silence in the car. To Elaine, it seems like a very loud silence. She thinks to herself: Geez, I wonder if it bothers him that I said that. Maybe he's been feeling confined by our relationship; maybe he thinks I'm trying to push him into some kind of obligation that he doesn't want, or isn't sure of.

And Roger is thinking: Gosh. Six months.

And Elaine is thinking: But, hey, I'm not so sure I want this kind of relationship, either. Sometimes I wish I had a little more space, so I'd have time to think about whether I really want us to keep going the way we are, moving steadily toward . . . I mean, where are we going? Are we just going to keep seeing each other at this level of intimacy? Are we heading toward marriage? Toward children? Toward a lifetime together? Am I ready for that level of commitment? Do I really even know this person?

And Roger is thinking: . . . so that means it was . . . let's see...February when we started going out, which was right after I had the car at the dealer's, which means . . . lemme check the odometer . . . Whoa! I am way overdue for an oil change here.

And Elaine is thinking: He's upset. I can see it on his face. Maybe I'm reading this completely wrong. Maybe he wants more from our relationship, more intimacy, more commitment; maybe he has sensed--even before I sensed it--that I was feeling some reservations. Yes, I bet that's it. That's why he's so reluctant to say anything about his own feelings. He's afraid of being rejected.

And Roger is thinking: And I'm gonna have them look at the transmission

again. I don't care what those morons say, it's still not shifting right. And they better not try to blame it on the cold weather this time. What cold weather? It's 87 degrees out, and this thing is shifting like a goddamn garbage truck, and I paid those incompetent thieves \$600.

And Elaine is thinking: He's angry. And I don't blame him. I'd be angry, too. God, I feel so guilty, putting him through this, but I can't help the way I feel. I'm just not sure.

And Roger is thinking: They'll probably say it's only a 90-day warranty. That's exactly what they're gonna say, the scumballs.

And Elaine is thinking: Maybe I'm just too idealistic, waiting for a knight to come riding up on his white horse, when I'm sitting right next to a perfectly good person, a person I enjoy being with, a person I truly do care about, a person who seems to truly care about me. A person who is in pain because of my self-centered, schoolgirl romantic fantasy.

And Roger is thinking: Warranty? They want a warranty? I'll give them a fu*king warranty. I'll take their warranty and stick it right up their . . .

"Roger," Elaine says aloud.

"What?" says Roger, startled.

"Please don't torture yourself like this," she says, her eyes beginning to brim with tears. "Maybe I should never have . . . Oh God, I feel so . . ."

(She breaks down, sobbing.)

"What?" says Roger.

"I'm such a fool," Elaine sobs. "I mean, I know there's no knight. I really know that. It's silly. There's no knight, and there's no horse."

"There's no horse?" says Roger.

"You think I'm a fool, don't you?" Elaine says.

"No!" says Roger, glad to finally know the correct answer.

"It's just that . . . It's that I . . . I need some time," Elaine says.

(There is a 15-second pause while Roger, thinking as fast as he can, tries to come up with a safe response. Finally he comes up with one that he thinks might work.)

"Yes," he says.

(Elaine, deeply moved, touches his hand.)

"Oh, Roger, do you really feel that way?" she says.

"What way?" says Roger.

"That way about time," says Elaine.

"Oh," says Roger. "Yes."

(Elaine turns to face him and gazes deeply into his eyes, causing him to become very nervous about what she might say next, especially if it involves a horse. At last she speaks.)

"Thank you, Roger," she says.

"Thank you," says Roger.

Then he takes her home, and she lies on her bed, a conflicted, tortured soul, and weeps until dawn, whereas when Roger gets back to his place, he opens a bag of Doritos, turns on the TV, and immediately becomes deeply involved in a rerun of a tennis match between two Czechoslovakians he never heard of. A tiny voice in the far recesses of his mind tells him that something major was going on back there in the car, but he is pretty sure there is no way he would ever understand what, and so he figures it's better if he doesn't think about it. (This is also Roger's policy regarding world hunger.)

The next day Elaine will call her closest friend, or perhaps two of them, and they will talk about this situation for six straight hours. In painstaking detail, they will analyze everything she said and everything he said, going over it time and time again, exploring every word, expression, and gesture for nuances of meaning, considering every possible ramification. They will continue to discuss this subject, off and on, for weeks, maybe months, never reaching any definite conclusions, but never getting bored with it, either.

Meanwhile, Roger, while playing racquetball one day with a mutual friend of his and Elaine's, will pause just before serving, frown, and say: "Norm, did Elaine ever own a horse?"

10. A quote I like

Being with a woman all night never hurt no professional baseball player. It's staying up all night looking for a woman that does him in.--Casey Stengel (1890-1975), famed manager of the New York Yankees

11. Thought for the day

Taking pride

A small boy was auditioning with his classmates for a school play. His mother knew that he'd set his heart on being in the play--just like all the other children hoped too--and she feared how he would react if he was not chosen.

On the day the parts were awarded, the little boy's mother went to the school to collect her son. The little lad rushed up to her, eyes shining with pride and excitement.

"Guess what Mom," he shouted, and then said the words that provide a lesson to us all, "I've been chosen to clap and cheer."

Author Unknown

(if you know who wrote this and/or the source, please let me know)

12. Advance planning department

A. From Cynthia in New Jersey (see also Section 1A):
I will be conducting my next "Move Your Body" class in
May . . . if you can attend, this is what you'll get--to quote
from the blurb:

Fun, easy way to get aerobic exercise by following simple dance moves
to soul-filled music from around the world. Start with stretches to warm up
and end with a wonderful feeling of relaxation. In a safe atmosphere, leave
your thinking mind and come into the joy of moving your body. The result
will leave you renewed and invigorated.

It will run on Thursday evenings from 6-7:15 p.m. at the Princeton Center
for Yoga & Health in Skillman, NJ, starting in May . . . you can come
any evening you want and/or attend all the sessions through June . . . for
more information, please call 609.924.7294.

B. From Meaghan in Pennsylvania:
Couples Night at:
Bristol Riverside Theatre
Bucks County's Premiere Professional Theatre

Please Join Us:
Friday, May 19, 2006
8-11 p.m.

Enjoy a Post Show Party!
Wine, Dessert & Live Music to Follow:

BABY
A Musical by Shire & Maltby, Jr.

"A Smart, energetic show with loads of charm...
that embraces rock, jazz, and the best of Broadway schmaltz"
NY TIMES

Tickets:
\$68 per couple

Students:
Just \$15/ticket!

Box Office:
215.785.0100

Groups Save Up To 40%

Join us for an unforgettable evening!

Or if you can't make this performance, the show opens on May
4 and runs through May 21 . . . for more information, please click:
<http://shop.aveight.com/brtshows/show5.html>

Meaghan Crawford
Group Sales Manager

215.785.6664

***** VOUNTEERS NEEDED *****

If you'd like to help at this Couples Night, volunteers are needed from 10 p.m.-12 a.m. to serve wine and wash glasses . . . in return, you'll get a FREE ticket for this show, all the dessert you can handle and wine sampling (if you're over 21) . . . if interested, contact Meaghan at the above number.

C. From Donna in New Jersey:
The Historical Society and Friends of Washington Township
Invite You to An Old Fashion Quilting Bee

Join the fun and help create a Signature Quilt at:
The Robbins House
245 Windsor Road, Windsor NJ
Sunday May 21, 2006
1-4 p.m.

Signature quilts, or Friendship quilts, have existed in the United States since the mid 1830s. To be part of the Quilting Bee, only beginning sewing skills are required. A basic running stitch is used. Experienced quilters will be on-hand for guidance. Adults and children at the 4th grade level and up are invited to attend and participate. (All children are required to be accompanied and supervised by an adult.)

A block kit can be purchased for \$10.00. These are pre-cut squares and pieces that you will hand-stitch together to form a block. Up to 4 signatures can be placed on the block. You can also purchase a signature space for an individual name, for only \$2.50. These blocks will be made into a quilt that will be displayed at the Robbins House.

Also, we will have a quilt setup on an antique quilting frame. Participants will have the opportunity to sit and quilt at this frame.

Plan to arrive early to complete your block, as the event must end at 4:00 p.m.

Come and view a collection of quilts from different periods of history. Some members of the Historical Society will be in period dress and can discuss the quilts.

Participate in this time-honored tradition and become part of history!

Questions? Call Historical Society President Janet Van Nest at 609.259.2288

D. From Tobi in Pennsylvania:
The Tyler Tasting Party will take place on Friday, June 9, from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

The Tyler Tasting Party is the College's premier food and wine tasting event. This event raises funds to restore and maintain Tyler Hall, the French-Norman style mansion on the National Register of Historic Places and cornerstone of Bucks County Community College's Newtown campus. This building is one of the most beautiful buildings in the County. Former home of the Tyler Family, this building now houses the College's administration offices.

Now in its 18th year, the growth of this event over the years, which annually attracts nearly 500 people, remains a source of pride to the Foundation. For more information about this highly anticipated event in Bucks County or to order your tickets (\$100 a person), call 215.968.8224, e-mail foundation@bucks.edu, or visit: <http://www.bucks.edu/foundation/events.html#tasting>

PS. Belated best wishes to those who celebrated Cinco de Mayo, the 5th of May, which commemorated the victory of the Mexican militia over the French army at The Battle Of Puebla in 1862 . . . also, happy Mother's Day this coming Sunday to ALL readers who are mothers . . . to everybody else, here's hope that you get to spend the day with your mother--or if that's not possible, to get to remember her fondly . . . and please don't forget to join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . as you make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody knows wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way
Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
Phone : 828.633.1049

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #500

5.1.06

In this issue:

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2. FYI
3. Two campers (clean version of an oldie but still goodie)
4. Reviews . . . AMERICAN DREAMZ, etc.
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6. Afterlife
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Dating etiquette
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I, dined for the first time at Triumph Brewing Company (215.862.8300) in New Hope, PA . . . we liked the burgers and the fries, and the place has a great "look" to it . . . though we are not beer drinkers, they do serve a wide range of brews at what seem to be reasonable prices . . . our only misgiving: the noise level is rather high.

On Sunday, we went to a Shake Your Soul session for couples at the Sacred Spaces Yoga Center (908.222.3534) in Edison, NJ . . . we had a joyous experience, seeing how movement can be used to enhance communication . . . and love!

Daniel Leven, our group leader, was and is the absolute BEST . . . he's enthusiastic, authentic and fun . . . Cynthia has studied extensively with him in the past; I've worked with him a few other times . . . we both feel that if you ever get a chance to work with him, grab the opportunity . . . for more information, please click:
<http://www.shakeyoursoul.com>

B. I was fortunate to be able to attend three other informative sessions this past week . . . on Wednesday, at Bucks County Community College, Dr. Steady Moono (Dean of Student Success at Montgomery County Community College) spoke on "Student Success" . . . I came away thinking that it's a shame that Steady no longer is at Bucks, in that he is one of the really "good guys" out there . . . in addition, I thought to myself: what a great title for an administrator . . . and, lastly, I realized that we all need to think more about what makes students succeed in school--then help them do that!

On Saturday, to keep current with my mediation skills, I participated in annual training sponsored by the Mercer County Vicinage of Superior Court . . . Judge Paul Catanese helped keep us up to date

by way of reviewing a recent court case that served as reminder to keep the work we do confidential . . . Judge Catanese is an excellent teacher, and I do miss the fact that I no longer get to work with him on a regular basis.

He was followed by Dave Beverly, an internal coach for the Administrative Office of the Courts, who spoke on "Checking Your Assumptions through a Cultural Diversity Lens" . . . though I've received other training in this area, Dave presented the material in a unique fashion that made it come alive . . . as he noted, the material applied not only to volunteering or working, but to everything we do in life.

Some things he said that got me to think:

* Diversity is our experience as human beings. We are all different.

* Don't fault people for being ignorant; do fault for them being stupid.

* To stop jumping to assumptions, you need to be able to hold YES and NO at the same moment. (This is a Buddhist philosophy.)

* Seek first to understand, then to be understood.

* The more you accept people where they are, the more you can help them.

C. CONGRATULATIONS to Charles Beem, my colleague and friend at Bucks, for being named a 2006 Faculty Scholar by Phi Theta Kappa.

Also, similar CONGRATULATIONS to the following individuals for being chosen to receive recognition from the College's Alumni Association:

Scott R. Little - Professional Achievement - Alumnus(a) Award;

Brian Cohen - Distinguished Alumnus(a) Service Award;

Professor Joann Corn - Excellence in Teaching Award; and

Professors Jim Freeman and Denise May - Professional Achievement - Faculty Award.

And THANKS to the several individuals who nominated me and/or wrote letters of support for the Colleges' 2006 Distinguished Teaching Award . . . when Dr. James Linksz, College president, notified me that I was the winner, I was and am quite honored!

D. I'm also honored to have made it to issue #500 of BLAINESWORLD . . . who would have thought that on October 13, 1996--when I published the very first STUFF (as it was then called)--I'd ever see this day?

In looking back at that issue, I see that some things haven't changed toooooo much . . . for example, here's how I described the purpose of what I was going to be sending out on a regular basis:

Trying something here . . .

I'm going to put some thoughts together . . . and mail them out to a bunch of friends, students, relatives, clients, etc.--whenever I get around to it.

To stay on the list, all you have to do is: Share similar thoughts with me.

I'm always on the lookout for jokes, names of movies you have liked (or even disliked), opinions of new TV shows, good books to read, websites to check out, quotes, and anything else you might want to share.

Please excuse the fact that this is not personalized; i.e., not addressed to you personally. Naturally, I will continue to look forward to typing with you via e-mail. And if you don't want this material, let me know that too.

What do you think?

UPDATE:

27 people got that first issue; of those, 15 are presently still readers . . . they are joined by approximately 725 other current readers.

**** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD ****

This week, it goes to Dolores Robinson--a paraprofessional at the Elizabeth School in Somerset, NJ.

Cynthia is friendly with her and has told me she does a fine job on an everyday basis, working with students.

However, it is my pleasure to recognize Dolores for a little something that she did without being asked that made Cynthia's day. And mine, too, when I heard about it.

It seems that Cynthia was talking to her one day about cooking. Then the very next day, Dolores (who is also a very good cook) brought-in a complete meal for Cynthia.

She wasn't asked to do this; she just did it. Now this might not sound like a big deal, but it is when you come to think about it . . . that there are some folks who do things to be kind--and without being asked.

It is something that I personally should do more often!

2. FYI

Last week, I mentioned how you can often get your cellphone to work by just shutting it down and starting it over again . . . this works, as can be seen by one of the letters in the second part of this section.

However, I should mention that this also works on regular phones . . . my dad recently could not get his bedroom phone to work . . . he was all set to get a new battery when I said let me try something.

I turned off the phone, waited a few seconds, removed the battery, waited a few more seconds, put the battery back in, waited a few more seconds and then turned on the phone . . . it worked perfectly and has been working ever since.

At a last resort, buy a new battery . . . that frequently will fix the problem; however, in case it doesn't, make sure you keep the receipt in case you have to return your purchase.

FYI, part 2

* Sandy in Pennsylvania:
Bless your heart AGAIN Blaine!

Been having trouble with my Verizon phone since I downloaded photos and theme song ringers to spice up my phone. I did the little sequence of things you suggested, and it worked like a charm!

You just saved me hours of experimenting and anguish with this.

* Debbie in New York (with a REQUEST FOR HELP):
The Aids Walk will take place on Sunday, May 21, 2006.

I am writing to let you know that I have registered for AIDS Walk New York. This is a very important issue to me so I have set an ambitious fundraising goal. I want to do as much as I can to make a difference in the lives of men, women, and children affected by HIV and AIDS, especially when young people are still getting infected at alarmingly high rates.

It's clear that we need more services and more prevention programs than ever before. I want your help. Will you please sponsor me for the AIDS Walk? Just click on the website address below to enter my personalized web page and charge your donation. Thank you, in advance, for supporting this important cause.

<http://aidswalknewyork2006.kintera.org/debbieo>

If you prefer to donate anonymously, please contact me at:
debralea54@aol.com

* Keith in Pennsylvania:
I have been to Pizza and Pasta in Somerset many times while working in Somerset. It's a wonderful place to have a group for lunch. Never had a bad pizza there!

I also recall you mentioning O'Connor's, which is another nice place to eat. I had many work-related celebrations there.

I have a book suggestion if I may (my two cents):
For those who may or may not have followed the Terri Schiavo case, I highly recommend TERI: THE TRUTH by Michael Schiavo and Michael Hirsh.

This book gives Michael Schiavo a chance to tell Terri's story from his perspective. For the past eight or more years, we have heard stories from the media and some right to life groups as to what they think happened.

Now we get the chance to find out what really happened through Terri's husband, Michael. Hopefully, what we can all learn from this sad story is that we need to have living wills so that our wishes can be carried out when the time comes.

* Alice in Pennsylvania (referring to BLAINESWORLD #499):
What a terrific photo!

By the way, we know Frank [Pronesti; 215.321.9559]. He was our wedding photographer back in 1994, and we've since gone back to him for professional photos as well. Good man.

3. Two campers (clean version of an oldie but still goodie)

Two campers are hiking in the woods when one is bitten on the rear end by a rattlesnake. "I'll go into town for a doctor," the other says. He runs ten miles to a small town and finds the town's only doctor, who is delivering a baby.

"I can't leave," the doctor says. 'But here's what to do. Take a knife, cut a little X where the bite is, suck out the poison and spit it on the ground."

The guy runs back to his friend, who is in agony. "What did the doctor say?" the victim asks.

"He says you're gonna die."

4. Reviews

A. AMERICAN DREAMZ looked like a sure winner . . . it was the latest from filmmaker Paul Weitz (whose ABOUT A BOY I loved), and it reunited him with his Hugh Grant--his star from that movie . . . plus, it was a satire about AMERICAN IDOL, and to top it off, featured Dennis Quaid--long one of my favorite actors.

Yet, overall, it left me flat . . . there were a few laughs, but not nearly enough . . . scenes seemed to be pieced together with little continuity . . . and except when Shohreh Aghdashloo was on screen, nobody else was particularly watchable. . . . rated PG-13.

B. THE FAMILY STONE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #481 follows:

Catch THE FAMILY STONE, an enjoyable romantic comedy about the reaction of a New England family to the eldest son's new girlfriend . . . it will make you appreciate your family more, no matter how dysfunctional you may think it is.

Parts of the film had me laughing out loud; others left me feeling quite touched . . . Diane Keaton and Craig T. Nelson were touching as the parents, and Sarah Jessica Parker and Luke Wilson had several funny moments . . . Dermot Mulroney and Claire Danes, part of a large ensemble cast, were also quite good . . . rated PG-13.

C. FISH! was one of the best business books I've read in the last several years . . . so when I saw that one of the co-authors, Harry Paul, came out with a new book, I just had to get hold of a copy.

His latest, REVVED!, certainly does not disappoint . . . written with Ross Reck, it is a business parable about how any workplace can be energized to achieve amazing results.

However, the ideas contained in this brief but oh so powerful book can be applied in other situations too--such as with families, our personal lives, etc. . . . though they may not appear to be brilliantly new, I'm amazed at how rarely we follow all three basic principles:

1. Winning them over;
2. Bowling them away; and

3. Keeping them revved.

Paul and Peck provide much useful advice, presented in a very realistic fashion . . . there were several passages that particularly caught my attention; among them:

* When you share your dreams and goals with those close to you—a change of careers, starting a new business, going back to school—you're very likely to hear a negative response. Don't let others rain on your parade—instead, go for it!

* Caring energizes everyone around you. When you open up and really care about people, you make them feel really good about themselves. This releases the reservoir of positive energy that resides in all of us.

* Whether it is a put-down or a rude driver cutting you off in traffic, do not take it personally. Remember, you are in charge of your emotions!

One other thing I liked about REVVED! was that it contained a plausible love story that left me smiling at the end.

D. Enjoyed the Nightingale-Conant program, THE SECRET TO INVINCIBILITY--written and read by Dr. Paul Pearsall.

In it, he tells the story of how he was close to death, yet managed to survive and thrive . . . and shows how you can do this, too.

There were many thought-provoking passages, including these:

* If you would die today, would you feel you have lived fully?

* We can be defeated, but we can't be conquered.

* View traffic jams as opportunities for meditations.

* Say to yourself, "I'll not just survive life's challenges, I will thrive because of them."

* When you're angry, don't count to 10. Count to 100. Slowly.

* Every day I get up and look at the list of the richest people in America. If I'm not on it, I go to work.

* Make it a point to squile; i.e., smile with your eyes.

* Thrive in your life not only for yourself, but for those who love you.

The accompanying music in the program added to my enjoyment . . . it was performed by a kuma (or teacher), Kawaikapuokalani Hewett.

This fine program is available for purchase or rental . . . if you want to get it, please click:

<http://www.achievement.com/>

Above is the tape rental club I belong to; i.e., the Achievement Tape Library . . . this a great way to hear CDs and/or audio cassette tapes, view videos, etc.--all for a fraction of what it would cost to buy them . . . call the head of the firm (Paul Arroyo) directly at 1.800.735.3660 and mention my name . . . that way, you'll be sure to pay even higher prices . . . NOT.

5. VCR alert

A. DECADES ROCK pairs up classic-rock artists with their acolytes . . . the live concert on Friday at 8 p.m. on VH1, saluting the music of Heart, features the Wilson sisters performing with Rufus Wainwright.

B. A three-hour SEINFELD MARATHON opens with Jerry befriending ex-N.Y. Met Keith Hernandez, who Kramer and Newman insist spit on them during his playing games . . . Sunday at 8 p.m. on TBS.

C. DAVID BLAINE: DROWNED ALIVE airs on Monday, May 8, at 8 p.m. on ABC . . . he will attempt to hold his breath underwater longer than any other human being--after spending 7 days living in a spectacular human aquarium in full public view.

6. Afterlife

Sid and Irv are business partners. They make a deal that whichever one dies first will contact the living one from the afterlife. So Irv dies. Sid doesn't hear from him for about a year, figures there is no afterlife. Then one day he gets a call. It's Irv. "So there is an afterlife! What's it like?" Sid asks.

"Well, I sleep very late. I get up, have a big breakfast. Then I have sex, lots of sex. Then I go back sleep, but I get up for lunch, have a big lunch. Have some more sex. Take a nap. Huge dinner. More sex. Go to sleep and wake up the next day."

"Oh, my god," says Sid "So that's what heaven is like?"

"Oh no," says Irv. "I'm not in heaven. I'm a bear in Yellowstone Park."

7. Websites

A. AMERICAN INVENTOR, the TV show on Thursdays at 8 p.m. on ABC, has become one of my favorites . . . but that said, this website is for those who want even more inventions that are not for run-of-the-mill stuff:
<http://www.techeblog.com/index.php/tech-gadget/top-20-strangest-gadgets-and-accessories>

Methinks that Number Four is something that everybody will want to have, though Number Five is up there too!

B. Sudoku is a game craze that seems to be sweeping the nation . . . if you'd like to learn more, please click:
<http://www.sudoku.com/>

You can get useful tips for solving problems, as well as a supply of puzzles for that you can download for free . . . or you can also purchase the program for a very reasonable \$14.95.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

In case you missed the story of how Cynthia and I met via match.com, all you need to do is check the past issue (#499) that ran it . . . to do so, just go to above website, click Newsletter on left and then Past Issues . . . Section 1 has all the information that you need to access the match.com website.

8. Computer tip

There are two new companies that are tinkering with the Internet search business--aiming to make it more accurate, convenient and personal.

Rollyo, which stands for "Roll Your Own Search Engine," can be reached at:

<http://www.rollyo.com>

It allows you to create our own little search engines, focused on topics you care about and sources your prefer.

PubSub's website is:

<http://www.pubsub.com>

It is an automated system that constantly matches your search terms against millions of blogs, online discussions, news releases, and SEC filings, then notifies you when there is a match.

Both these search engines are worth a look if you do a lot of Internet searches and are willing to try something different.

9. Dating etiquette

The teacher asked Michael, "If you were on a date, having dinner with a nice young lady, how would you tell her that you have to go to the rest room?"

"Just a minute, I have to go pee", he said.

The teacher replied, "That would be rude and impolite."

"What about you? Paul, how would you say it?"

"I am sorry, but I really need to go to the bathroom, I'll be right back."

The teacher responded, "That's better, but it's still not very mannerly to say the word 'bathroom' at the table."

"And you George, are you able to use your intelligence for once and show us your good manners."

"I would say, Darling, may I please be excused for a moment, I have to shake hands with a very dear friend of mine, whom I hope you'll get to meet after dinner."

The teacher fainted.

10. A quote I like

If a child is to keep his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.--Rachel Carson (1907-1964), author of SILENT SPRING--the book that made environmentalism respectable

11. Thought for the day

As many of you know, I'm somewhat fanatic when it comes to having people smoke . . . I have seen how difficult this habit has made things for my dad, and I am pledged to do what I can to help others kick their addiction.

Consequently, I have pledged part of my Lindback Award (see Section 1D) to help get the following program off the ground:

WANT TO QUIT SMOKING? OR KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOES?

Bucks County Community College in Newtown, PA will be offering a FREE smoke cessation program in the near future.

It will be sponsored by PA-S.W.A.T. (Students Working Against Tobacco) and offered--depending on interest--this summer and/or in the fall.

Key details:

1. Hypnotherapy will most probably be the primary means of getting smokers to quit. Studies show that this is the best method to achieve this purpose.
2. When you enroll in the program, you agree to quit smoking, as opposed to try to quit smoking.
3. You will need one sponsor who will be your coach in helping you succeed. And you will succeed.
4. Upon completion, you will be asked to help get the next class going by helping to enroll future participants. In addition, you will be asked to make an optional contribution to PA-S.W.A.T. to help defray future expenses.
5. This program is open to ALL past, present and future BCCC students; faculty and staff; and the parents, friends and family of anybody affiliated with the College.

What's next:

PA-S.W.A.T. needs to know that you are interested in this exciting program. Please provide this information:

Your name

BCCC status (student, faculty, staff, friend, etc.)

E-mail address

Phone #: (home) _____ (cell) _____

Name of your sponsor

When would you be interested in program: summer or fall?

Please return this information to:

hughesbr@bucks.edu

and put the following in subject line: SMOKING PROGRAM

For further information, please call 215.968.8254 . . . if you get a machine, please leave your contact information and speak slowly.

12. Advance planning department

A. From Cynthia in New Jersey (see also Section 1A):

I will be conducting my next "Move Your Body" class in May . . . if you can attend, this is what you'll get--to quote from the blurb:

Fun, easy way to get aerobic exercise by following simple dance moves to soul-filled music from around the world. Start with stretches to warm up and end with a wonderful feeling of relaxation. In a safe atmosphere, leave your thinking mind and come into the joy of moving your body. The result will leave you renewed and invigorated.

It will run on Thursday evenings from 6-7:15 p.m. at the Princeton Center for Yoga & Health in Skillman, NJ, starting in May.

Good news:

There's a special FREE introductory class on May 4. Do join me to see what this program is all about; you won't be disappointed.

Thereafter, you can come any evening you want and/or attend all the sessions through June . . . for more information, please call 609.924.7294.

B. Marjorie Brody, a reader and longtime friend, will be presenting at the following seminar:

Career Women on the move

Thursday, May 4th, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

This year the seminar is at Pen Ryn Mansion's Belle Voir Manor in Bensalem, PA.

Presenters will be:

Marjorie Brody, Brody Communications, Ltd. "Successful People are Connected People." Marjorie is an award-winning author of 18 books, including HELP! WAS THAT A CAREER LIMITING MOVE?

Jami Appenzeller, owner/publisher of PhillyFIT and JerseyFIT magazines, "Add Sizzle to your 30-second Commercial!" Jami's magazines have reached a distribution of 70,000 in less than 2 years.

Jill Whelan, Jill Whelan Studio, "Make the Best Choices on Who You Listen To." Formerly known as Vicki Stubing, the captain's daughter on the "The Love Boat", is now a radio personality, owner of an acting studio for children and a motivational speaker.

You will receive a continental breakfast and a lunch plus networking opportunities. An RSVP is required; call Terri at the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce to make your reservation: 215.15.943.7400 to make your reservation.

C. From Meaghan in Pennsylvania:
Couples Night at:
Bristol Riverside Theatre
Bucks County's Premiere Professional Theatre

Please Join Us:
Friday, May 19, 2006
8-11 p.m.

Enjoy a Post Show Party!
Wine, Dessert & Live Music to Follow:

BABY
A Musical by Shire & Maltby, Jr.

"A Smart, energetic show with loads of charm...
that embraces rock, jazz, and the best of Broadway schmaltz"
NY TIMES

Tickets:
\$68 per couple

Students:
Just \$15/ticket!

Box Office:
215.785.0100

Groups Save Up To 40%

Join us for an unforgettable evening!

Or if you can't make this performance, the show opens on May 4 and runs through May 21 . . . for more information, please click:
<http://shop.aveight.com/brtshows/show5.html>

Meaghan Crawford
Group Sales Manager
215.785.6664

***** VOUNTEERS NEEDED *****

If you'd like to help at this Couples Night, volunteers are needed from 10 p.m.-12 a.m. to serve wine and wash glasses . . . in return, you'll get a FREE ticket for this show, all the dessert you can handle and wine sampling (if you're over 21) . . . if interested, contact Meaghan at the above number.

D. If you're a Joe Doyle fan, and I certainly am, you won't want to miss him starring in MAN OF LA MANCHA . . . it runs from June 8 until June 25 at the Actors' NET Theatre of Bucks County . . . for more information, please click:
<http://actorsnetbucks.org/>

This organization always puts on excellent shows . . . its next production, OF MICE AND MEN, opens on May 5 and runs through May 21.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody knows wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
Phone : 828.633.1049

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #499

4.24.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I met via match.com--as many readers undoubtedly know.

Our story has now been posted as a "success story" by this service . . . to see it for yourself, please click:

<http://www.Success.Match.com>

When you get to that website, look for a Search option to the right and toward the bottom . . . then where it asks for Story ID number, type-in: 16914

B. On Friday, we went to Matteo's Pizza & Pasta (732.356.1677) in Somerset, NJ . . . Cynthia has been there before; it was my first visit . . . we tried the tomato with basil pizza and found it quite tasty, and we also liked the plain pizza . . . the personnel are all friendly . . . there's an attractive dining room in the book, and you can bring your own bottle of wine . . . we'll be back.

From there, we went to the Science Fair being held at the school where Cynthia works as a guidance counselor: the Elizabeth Avenue School in Somerset, NJ . . . we had a fun time, looking at the many fascinating exhibits and displays . . . I was impressed with the job done by Shauna Lawrence, the science teacher who coordinated the event . . . she was supported by Gloria Harzold, the school's enthusiastic principal, who welcomed everybody who came with a big smile.

Yet what made my evening was watching Cynthia "in action," greeting students and parents alike . . . hearing them tell me how marvelous she was . . . well, it just confirmed what I too often take for granted!

On Saturday, we went to see the Roosevelt String Band--featuring

David Brahinsky and Friends--at a performance in Roosevelt, NJ.

They played songs by Cheryl Wheeler, Paul McCartney, Pete Seeger, Shel Silverstein (yes, the same Shel Silverstein who authored many children's books), the Weavers, and others.

David, as always, was excellent, as was our friend Gail Frantz on fiddle . . . we also liked the work of Joe Pepitone on bass, guitar and vocals . . . and whenever Sarah Houstz came on stage for vocals, the place came alive . . . she not only has a beautiful voice, but she has a certain "something" about her that makes listening to her a joyous experience.

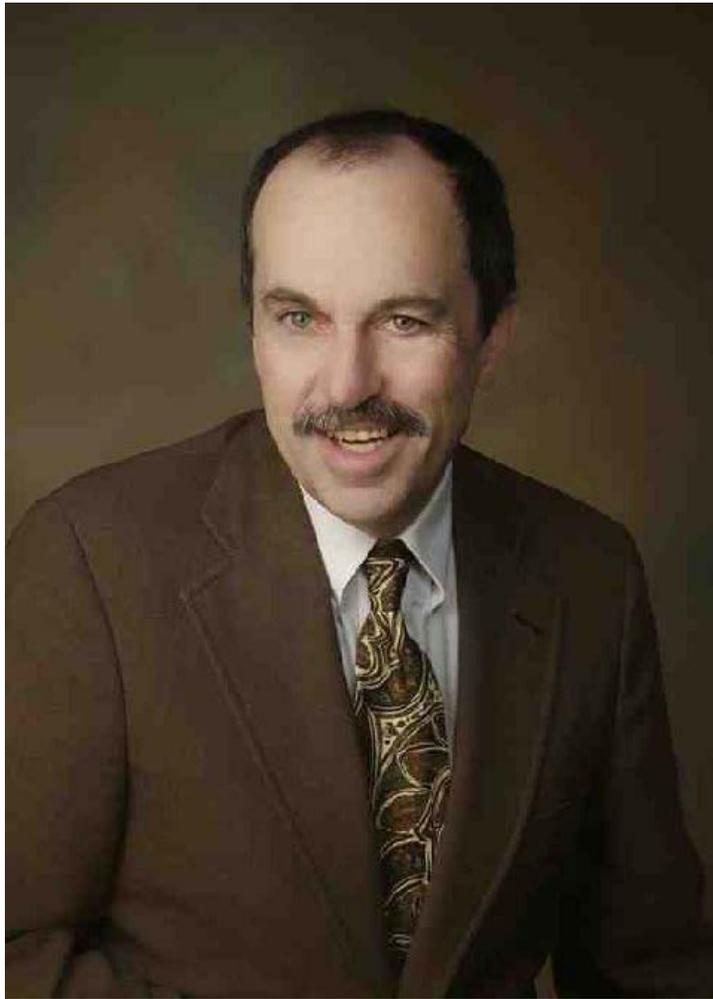
C. WELCOME ABOARD to Dr. April McGovern, who has recently joined the staff of the Attadgie Wellness Center as an associate chiropractor.

Dr. McGovern graduated Cum Laude from the New York Chiropractic College . . . she specializes in the treatment of Neuromuscular-Skeletal disorders with concentration in headaches, women's health and sports-related injuries.

To make an appointment with Dr. Attadgie, my favorite chiropractor, or Dr. McGovern, please call 215.355.9337.

D. I had an interesting experience this past week when I had my picture taken by a professional photographer . . . it will be shown in the lobby of Tyler Hall at Bucks County Community College, along with pictures of other members of the Foundation Board--the group that I belong to that helps raise money for the College.

If you can't wait to see it and/or if getting to the College is inconvenient, then see below:



MANY THANKS to Frank Pronesti, the photographer, for allowing me to run this photo . . . to find out more about his superb work (imagine, he even made me look halfway decent!), please click: <http://www.heirloomstudio.com>

SPECIAL OFFER:

Frank is offering a Complimentary In Studio Portrait Session (\$75 value) to any reader of BLAINESWORLD who mentions this newsletter . . . to schedule an appointment, please call 215.321.9559.

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

This week, it goes to Linda Soltis--college relations specialist at Thomas Edison College (Trenton, NJ) . . . she does an excellent job there, but the reason I've nominated Linda is because of her fine work as president of the Alumni Council at Bucks County Community College.

She has held this position for several terms, and I believe she will again be heading the group next year.

As such, she runs all meetings and represents the Alumni at such events as the College's upcoming graduation . . . she is also the best spokesperson any school could hope for, always extolling the virtues of attending Bucks.

In addition, Linda serves on the College's Foundation Board--and since I'm a member too, I've often had the pleasure of working with her.

2. FYI

If your cellphone isn't working properly or even if it stops working completely, don't panic . . . instead, try this simple technique:

Turn it off. Pause for a few seconds. Remove the battery. Pause for a few seconds. Replace the battery. Pause for a few seconds. Turn the cellphone back on.

You'll be amazed at how often that fixes your problem.

FYI, part 2

Several readers were kind enough to comment on Cynthia's "thought for the day" in last week's issue . . . if you missed it, please click:

http://www.blainesworld.net/newsletter/04.17.2006_498.asp

Then go to Section 11.

Here were just some of the comments that were e-mailed in:

* Julien in Maryland:

You have no idea how today of all days this was something that helped me through the day. After my tears cleared I copied it into a word file and saved it to my special place on my computer. Thank you for including it in your newsletter.

* Dana in Pennsylvania:

I related totally with Cynthia's thoughts on diaper changing, as I watched my own mother go through the same process. It can be disconcerting to be the child who is parenting the parent, but if you look at it with some incite, it is the circle of life that leads us all back to where we started . . . unfortunately, it happens to be an ending. I wish her strength when she needs it most!

* Jean in Pennsylvania:

Cynthia's tribute to her mother's caregivers really moved me. She has a way with words. Her description made me feel as if I were in the room watching it all take place, and it was a warm, loving feeling. It was a very touching passage. Please send along my thanks to Cynthia for sharing.

* Denise in New Jersey:

This was awesome! I was so captivated and appreciative of this writing. Not unlike many, I was just blessed with my first grandchild on March 28 . . . and for the last few years have had a live-in aide for my mom. As the years progressed, she has become more and more dependent on her aide. My daughter is a wonderful mother . . . and between having them for my in-laws and now mom . . . aides are wonderful caring blessed people.

* Shelly in Pennsylvania:

Cynthia, having "lost" my mom about two years ago, I can really relate to your feelings, watching your own mother with her caretakers. I was also lucky that the women who took care of Mom were, for the most part, very caring, even loving, with her. It is a difficult time for you, but I encourage you to speak your thoughts to her, even if you think she doesn't hear or understand. Somewhere inside of her, she does, and it counts. Funny how over two years later, thinking of these things brings tears, and the wish that I could talk to her yet--and listen to her answers.

SHIFTING GEARS:

* Jerry in Pennsylvania, a Chartered Financial Consultant:

I am looking to develop a great working relationship with a CPA or other Professional--maybe even moving in together. My lease is up so I can either renew or move out. I do have one full time Assistant. If I renew, I will have one window office available . . . about 13/12 . . . and access to DSL.

Feel free to check out my website, which also contains contact information:

<http://www.jerrygrossfinancial.com>

* Judith in New Jersey:

Space Available to Non-Profits for Rent

The YWCA of Trenton, located at 140 East Hanover Street in Trenton, has several rooms available for rent:

Four offices in spacious third floor
(with shared conference room, kitchenette, and bathroom)
Office space comes with desks and a dedicated, private closet
Space range from 150 - 250 square feet each.

Additional 2,500 square feet of space
Will customize space to meet your needs with long-term lease
Can be used for conference rooms, classrooms, offices, etc.
Space comes with its own private entrance from Hanover Street.

All space above is rented at low, Non-Profit rates.

Space available on a first come basis.

For more information, contact:

Jose Hernandez
(609) 396-8291 x11

or

Bill Winslade
(609) 396-8291 x13

3. Numbers

"Susie, do you know your numbers?" the teacher asks.

"Yup," she says, "My dad taught me.

"What comes after three?"

"Four," Susie answers.

"Great. And tell me what number comes after six?"

"Seven."

"Excellent," Susie's teacher says. "Your dad did a good job. Now, what's after ten?"

"Jack."

4. Reviews

A. Enjoyed FRIENDS WITH MONEY, an ensemble dramedy about three wealthy married women and their single, money-strapped friend . . . it contained both funny and touching moments, and the dialogue was very realistic . . . Jennifer Aniston, Frances McDormand, Joan Cusack, and Catherine Keener were all excellent . . . you may have to search a bit to find this film, but your efforts will be worth it . . . rated R.

B. MATCH POINT is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #487 follows:

MATCH POINT, written and directed by Woody Allen, is definitely not the typical comedy that you might expect from hearing Allen's name . . . rather, it is a taut thriller about a tennis pro who marries into wealth . . . it kept my interest throughout, and I was guessing how things would turn out until the very end . . . co-stars Scarlett Johansson and Jonathan Rhys-Meyers are both extremely watchable . . . rated R.

C. If you're looking for a showbiz autobiography with a lot of gossip in it, don't read NEVER HAVE YOUR DOG STUFFED by Alan Alda.

But if you'd like to learn more about a guy who comes across as genuinely nice . . . and who has led an interesting life while still maintaining a marriage (and raising three children along the way), then this is the book for you.

Parts of it were funny, such as his experience as a child who had his dead dog returned from a taxidermist's shop with a hideous expression on its face . . . others were moving, including his attempt at maintaining a relationship with his mother who was mentally ill.

You'll get some feel for his work on M*A*S*H, along with really happens when actors are not in front of the camera:

When Wayne left the show, Mike Farrell took his place in the tent and as someone I confided in. We had a physical rivalry as well, competing to see who could learn to stand on his hands first. He had studied judo in the army, and as a pastime, every time I was called to the set, he would walk behind me and see if he could trip me and make me fall down.

But that said, I do wish there had been more than one chapter on that show, as well as more than passing mention of his many fine movies.

Nevertheless, I recommend NEVER HAVE YOUR DOG STUFFED, if for just the many tidbits of writing that will hold your attention; among them:

My father had let me stand in a magical place. From the wings, you see the actors' discipline; how even the slightest movement is both controlled and spontaneous. And the sheer physical effort: You see them spitting as they talk, sweating, giving one another

energy as they toss the ball of the audience's attention back and forth between them. You see things the audience never sees.

To be young, out of work, and an actor is to say yes to everything. Can you ride a horse? Certainly. Can you play the trumpet? Oh, yes. How tall are you? How tall do you need?

I had always wondered why people wanted to be rich and famous. If you could be rich and anonymous, that would be fun. To be famous and not rich, the way we were, was the least fun. It takes time and effort to be famous, and if they offer you fame without the money, don't take it. It's a scam.

D. Heard and liked Sandra Brown's latest thriller, CHILL FACTOR . . . but that's no real surprise since that has been the case with just about everything else written by this talented author.

What sets her apart from so many other writers is that her stories are almost always different . . . and the characters seem fresh; i.e., not like you've met them before.

CHILL FACTOR is about a woman stuck in a blizzard with a man who may or may not have been the abductor of several other women in the past two years . . . there are numerous plot twists that had me guessing, and there's also a good amount of romance that added spice to the tale.

Stephen Lang narrated . . . I've admired his work in the past and while he did a fine job with the male voices, he wasn't nearly as effective with his reading of the female passages.

5. VCR alert

A. HONEY WE'RE KILLING THE KIDS! uses computer technology to demonstrate to parents what their boys and girls will look like if the families do not shape up and pay attention to diet and fitness . . . according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "The results are frightening." . . . Mondays at 9 p.m. on TLC.

B. SOUTH PACIFIC IN CONCERT FROM CARNEGIE HALL, starring Reba McEntire and Brian Stokes Mitchell, airs on Wednesday at 9 p.m. on PBS . . . check local listings because times and dates often vary on PBS stations.

C. BILLIE JEAN KING: PORTRAIT OF A PIONEER has the 20-time Wimbledon champion talking about her feminism and her struggles as a gay woman . . . Wednesday at 10 p.m. on HBO.

***** VIEWING TIP *****

Certain shows, such as practically anything on HBO, are often repeated throughout the week . . . to find out other times, please click:

<http://www.tvguide.com>

At the top of the page, you'll find a Search box that you can use to find other times for the show that you want to view.

6. My dog has a problem

Morty visits Dr. Saul, the veterinarian, and says, "My dog has a problem."

Dr. Saul, "So tell me about the dog and the problem."

"It's a Jewish dog. His name is Irving, and he can talk," says Morty.

"He can talk?" the doubting doctor asks.

"Watch this!" Morty points to the dog and commands, "Irving, Fetch!"

Irving, the dog, begins to walk toward the door, then turns around and says, "So why are you talking to me like that? You always order me around like I'm nothing. And you only call me when you want something. And then you make me sleep on the floor with my arthritis.

"You give me this fahkakhkta food with all the salt and fat, and you tell me it's a special diet. It tastes like dreck! YOU should eat it yourself!"

"And do you ever take me for a decent walk? NO, it's out of the house, a short pish and right back home. Maybe if I could stretch out a little, the sciatica wouldn't kill me so much!"

"I should roll over and play dead for real for all you care!"

Dr. Saul is amazed. "This is remarkable! What could be the problem?"

Morty says, "He has a hearing problem! I said 'Fetch,' not 'Kvetch.' "

7. Websites

A. A growing number of FREE websites are cropping up that match people up with a list of potential carpoolers; among them:

<http://nuride.com>

Serves Connecticut, New York, Washington, D.C., and the Hampton Roads, VA-metro area.

Rewards ride sharers with system similar to frequent flyer mileage.

<http://alternetrides.com>

Serves every zip code.

About 100 organizations, including ski resorts and universities, have paid to set up destinations to which people can arrange ride shares.

<http://rideshareonline.com>

Serves Washington state.

Lets users find matches for rides for commuting and to events like basketball games, trade shows and concerts.

<http://carpoolworld.com>

Serves everywhere.

About 15 organizations like universities currently use the website to provide ridesharing to employees and others.

<http://erideshare.com>

Serves U.S. and Canada.

One of the first carpool matching websites, it launched in 1999.

B. Ever have a song stuck in your head, but you can't quite name the tune?
A new tool developed by three students at Simon Fraser University, in British Columbia, may be able to help.

See for yourself by clicking:
<http://www.songtapper.com>

You'll gain access to The Song Tapper, which allows users to tap a beat on the space bar and get a list of possible titles in response. The website evolved from a project last year for an artificial-intelligence class and now gets as many as 10,000 hits a day.

WARNING:

It only works if you have a passable sense of rhythm.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blainesworld.net>

THANKS to the efforts of Dan Becker, my webmaster, it is now easier than ever to subscribe . . . just go to the bottom of the homepage and follow the simple instructions . . . you can also subscribe from the "Newsletter" link to the left.

I mention this to remind you that new readers are always welcome, so please feel free to forward BLAINESWORLD to your friends, relatives and colleagues . . . or just refer them to the above website.

8. Computer tip

If you ever get a warning from a new security program that says you have a whole host of problems that need to be fixed, it is most likely a scam--and something that you should avoid.

In fact, it most likely malicious software--spyware or adware--that has planted itself on your hard drive without permission . . . and will actually spread more junk on your computer instead of fixing it.

Methinks the only time you should take seriously any warning is when it came from a genuine software program that came with your PC or which you personally installed.

9. Lucky eateries

Chock-full of reviews sent in by diners, the Zagat Survey is the restaurant-goers' bible. But luckily for some eateries, not every review--such as those below--gets printed.

* To call the food "blech" is an insult to "blech."

* Be sure to sit in the no-shooting section.

* The roaches always get the best seats.

* Have yet to learn that heat is an integral part of the cooking process.

If I want a fatty sandwich served by a walking attitude, I'll go to Mom's.

10. A quote I like

Success is getting what you want; happiness is wanting what you get.--Dale Carnegie (1888-1955), American writer and the developer of famous courses in self-improvement, salesmanship, public speaking, and interpersonal skills

11. Thought for the day

My younger days
by Maya Angelou

When I was in my younger days,
I weighed a few pounds less,
I needn't hold my tummy in
to wear a belted dress.

But now that I am older,
I've set my body free;
There's the comfort of elastic
Where once my waist would be.

Inventor of those high-heeled shoes
My feet have not forgiven;
I have to wear a nine now,
But used to wear a seven.

And how about those pantyhose--
They're sized by weight, you see,
So how come when I put them on
The crotch is at my knee?

I need to wear these glasses
As the print's been getting smaller;
And it wasn't very long ago
I know that I was taller.

Though my hair has turned to gray
and my skin no longer fits,
On the inside, I'm the same old me,
It's the outside's changed a bit.

12. Advance planning department

A. I'm showing DOOR TO DOOR, the 2002 TV-movie based on a true story about a man with cerebral palsy who is determined to become a salesman, at Bucks County Community College . . . William H. Macy stars; he won a well-deserved Emmy Award for his work in this moving

film . . . Tuesday, April 25, at 6:30 in Penn Hall 418; repeated on Thursday, April 29, at the same time an in the same room . . . FREE.

B. From Jean in Pennsylvania:

How Many is Six Million? PAPER CLIPS Provides Thought-Provoking Answer

Documentary shows how kids from a small southern town learned about the Holocaust in a way that changed their community

FREE screening on Tuesday, April 25 in Perkasio to launch the Philadelphia Holocaust Film Series

When middle-school students from a small, rural Tennessee town were learning about the Holocaust, they took on an inspiring project: to honor every lost soul by collecting one paper clip for each individual exterminated by the Nazis.

The response they got from around the world was overwhelming, resulting in 11 million paper clips--representing 6 million Jews and 5 million others killed in the Holocaust--and a donated Nazi rail car to permanently house a memorial at their school.

A 2004 documentary about their moving endeavor, PAPER CLIPS, will be shown Tuesday, April 25, at 6 p.m. at Bucks County Community College's Upper County Campus. Directed by Elliot Berlin and Joe Fab, the film details how the students met Holocaust survivors from around the world and how the experience transformed them and their community.

A discussion will follow the screening with Lynda Goldman of the Philadelphia Holocaust Film Series, which is held annually by the Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors Association of Philadelphia.

The event is FREE and open to the public. The college is located at One Hillendale Drive, Perkasio. For more information, call the BCCC Upper County Campus at 215.258.7700.

C. From Cynthia in New Jersey (see also Section 1A):

I will be conducting my next "Move Your Body" class in May . . . if you can attend, this is what you'll get--to quote from the blurb:

Fun, easy way to get aerobic exercise by following simple dance moves to soul-filled music from around the world. Start with stretches to warm up and end with a wonderful feeling of relaxation. In a safe atmosphere, leave your thinking mind and come into the joy of moving your body. The result will leave you renewed and invigorated.

It will run on Thursday evenings from 6-7:15 p.m. at the Princeton Center for Yoga & Health in Skillman, NJ, starting in May.

Good news:

There's a special FREE introductory class on May 4. Do join me to see what this program is all about; you won't be disappointed.

Thereafter, you can come any evening you want and/or attend all the sessions through June . . . for more information, please call 609.924.7294.

D. LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, one of my favorite musicals, opens

at the Kelsey Theatre at Mercer County Community College (West Windsor, NJ) on May 12 . . . according to Kitty Getlik, Kelsey's talented artistic director, "It looks great!"

Other upcoming performances include:

GODSPELL, opening on April 21;

MDE Onstage, a vibrant dance company, opening May 6; and

LUCKY STIFF, a new murder mystery comedy, opening June 2.

For more information, please click:

<http://www.mccc.edu/kelseytheatre/>

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody knows wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #498

4.17.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia (see also Sections 11 and 12A) , my beautiful bride, and I got to spend part of her vacation from school together.

With friends, we took a trip sponsored by the Montgomery Township Recreation Department to see SPAMALOT in New York City . . . what a pleasure that was . . . the bus picked us up from a local school, then got us into the city in time for lunch at Le Madeleine (212.246.2993) . . . my Berkshire pork sandwich was delicious, and Cynthia enjoyed her duck confit . . . from there, we saw the show and all loved it . . . it is silly fun with a lot of enthusiastic dancing, and if you're looking to see a future Broadway show, put this one high on your list.

We also got to attend a sneak preview of THE CELESTINE PROPHECY, the movie, at Omphalos (see also Sections 2 and 12C), the Center for P.E.A.C.E.--People Everywhere Acting Consciously and Evolving--in Yardley, PA . . . it is slated for release on April 19 and if you can't find it in your neighborhood, please click:

<http://thecelestineprophecymovie.com/celestine/>

The film is based on the popular book with the same title by James Redfield--described by Amazon.com as an "adventure in pursuit of a spiritual mystery" . . . it has a powerful impact on me when I read it several years ago, and the movie did too.

It is an adventure film about the discovery of ancient scrolls in the rainforests of Peru. The prophecy and its nine key insights predict a worldwide awakening, arising within all religious traditions, that moves humanity toward a deeper experience of spirituality.

The international cast featured Annabeth Gish, Hector Elizondo, Jurgen

Prochnow, and a whole host of other actors I did not know by name but who were vaguely familiar by face . . . rated PG.

Lastly, we saw the closing performance of MY FAIR LADY at the Heritage Center (215.295.3694) in Morrisville, PA . . . Carol Thompson as Eliza Doolittle and George Hartpence, married in real life, were both superb as, respectfully, Eliza Doolittle and Henry Higgins . . . we also liked the work of Doug Kline as Col. Pickering . . . and Joe Doyle stole almost every scene he was in as Alfred P. Doolittle . . . Cheryl Doyle's direction was flawless . . . in addition, we greatly admired the costumes and set design.

I'm only sorry you won't be able to see this production of MY FAIR LADY . . . however, be sure to catch either or both of the remaining two productions of the 10th anniversary season of Actors' Net of Bucks County:
OF MICE AND MEN from May 5-21; and
MAN OF LA MANCHA from June 8-25.

B. Perhaps the best part of our week was that we got to celebrate the birthday of Cynthia's mom with the rest of her family at her sister and brother-in-law's house on Sunday . . . it was nice getting to see Elsie in a locale other than her nursing home . . . and the food, as is always the case, was excellent--particularly the matzoh brei and cheese blintzes that Joyce made for the occasion.

C. CONGRATULATIONS to Matt Cipriano, director of student life programs at Bucks County Community College . . . he is being honored by the Bucks County Tobacco Control Project in recognition of his anti-tobacco advocacy at the College, as well as for having established a chapter of PA SWAT (Pennsylvania Students Working Against Tobacco) on campus.

The above will take place this Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary Medical Center, Auditorium B, in Langhorne, PA . . . stop by if you're in the area; the event is FREE.

**** ADVANCE NOTICE DEPARTMENT ****

I'll be working in the near future with the PA SWAT group to offer a smoking cessation program at Bucks . . . stay tuned for more details and/or drop me a note if you can't wait.

D. My dad always had a great attitude when it came to paying taxes . . . he wasn't crazy about doing so, especially if he ever had a big bill to pay . . . however, he always saw the good side; i.e., it meant at least he had a job and was making money.

I'm grateful to be able to add the fact that I'm blessed that Mary Navroth CPA again did my taxes this tax season . . . she is both thorough and competent, and furthermore, she works in conjunction with my investment adviser Ed Kohlhepp (who is the absolute BEST).

For more information, please click:
<http://www.kohlheppadvisors.com>

**** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD ****

This week, it goes to Walter R. Bliss Jr. (609.683.9220)--an attorney in Princeton, NJ.

He also works for Cynthia's insurance company and as such, has helped her--off and on--for the past few years deal with an accident that took place back in 2002.

It seems that Cynthia was making a left turn . . . her car was hit by another driver who ran a red light and got a ticket for doing so . . . there was even a witness . . . yet a passenger in the other car has sued Cynthia . . . now isn't there something wrong with this picture?

Bliss has always been very pleasant and extremely patient in explaining every step of this seemingly endless process (involving interrogatories, the deposition that recently took place, etc.) . . . he has even come to our house on two separate occasions.

2. FYI

I enjoy perfect radiant health.

That's a powerful affirmation when you think out it. Cynthia and I now do just that--ever since I recently typed the sentence on a card and taped it to our bathroom mirror.

I got the idea when visiting Omphalos (see also Sections 1A and 12C) . . . this same saying was posted on one of the bathroom mirrors there, and it got me thinking that this is what I should dwell on every day . . . and not any minor aches and pains that I may have.

FYI, part 2

* Lisa in Pennsylvania (with a REQUEST FOR HELP):
Since you had so many helpful readers when I had the preemie, I thought I'd ask for yours and their assistance again. I've been working from home due to concern over RSV season, but was planning to go back 2 days a week starting in May. I found a nanny who was going to watch someone else's children 3 days and my son the other 2 days. Unfortunately, the other family fell through and she has canceled on me while she looks for a full-time job. Would it be possible to ask your subscribers if they can help.

I am looking for someone with the following qualifications:
Seeking Experienced Nanny any 2 days per week Mon. through Thurs. to care for my 7 month old son in my home in Newtown. References Required. Please respond to:knightzag@comcast.net

* Ian in Pennsylvania:
After doing the above list idea [for packing--mentioned in BLAINESWORLD #497], I've reverted to using my mind. I'll pack the day before a trip or the day of depending on the departure time.

Whatever you forget, you can buy. The penalty of buying something on the destination is often enough to make sure you don't forget anything. It also helps to keep the mind active.

This worked against me when I went windsurfing one time and forgot the sail. The place I went to didn't have a shop where I could rent one so I ended up swimming in the ocean that day. It was just as well because there was little wind.

* Yvonna in Pennsylvania:
Thanks for sharing your pictures.

IN CASE YOU MISSED SEEING THEM:

Please click the following link that appeared in last week's issue:
http://www.blainesworld.net/blaines_best/pictures_2006.asp

3. Percentages

Twenty percent of this year's high school seniors flunked the state's graduation exam. Educators are still trying to calculate how many passed.

4. Reviews

A. THANK YOU FOR SMOKING is a biting satire that will also get you thinking the role lobbyists play in the country . . . Aaron Eckhard (IN THE COMPANY OF MEN, ERIN BROCKOVICH, etc.) continues his streak of outstanding performances as the public spokesperson for Big Tobacco who goes on television and tells people that smoking can actually be good for them . . . he even tries to get a very funny Rob Lowe to get more Hollywood stars to smoke in movies just like the good old dates . . . despite its R rating, methinks this would be a good film for anybody over the age of 13 to see.

B. MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #491 follows:

We (Cynthia and I) loved MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS, based on the true story of an abandoned theater in London that reopened for the purpose of showing Paris-inspired vaudeville revues . . . when artfully posed nude women were introduced into the mix, some members of the staid English society objected . . . but soldiers during WWII loved the shows, and they continued despite the horror of the Blitz . . . Judi Dench and Bob Hoskins, as always, were excellent in the two leading roles . . . in addition, the work of Kelly Reilly as one of the stage performers caught our attention . . . there were many touching musical numbers, as well as an ending that was surprisingly moving . . . rated R, though our opinion is that it would be appropriate for any mature teenager.

C. I have several single friends, so with them in mind, I read Dr. Phil McGraw's LOVE SMART: FIND THE ONE YOU WANT--FIX THE ONE YOU GOT.

It had a lot of good ideas in it, too . . . my only disappointment was that it was geared primarily (if not exclusively) to women . . . I'd like to see Dr. Phil write a follow-up book directed to men; however, that said, I'd still recommend that guys read this book if only to get a better understanding of what women are thinking.

Much of the advice contained is not earth-shattering . . . and has probably been around for quite some time . . . yet that said, I like

how he points out that "if you think conversation should just flow naturally, think again" . . . he then goes on to mention that he prepares any time he is going to interview somebody, as does Barbara Walters, Diana Sawyer, Katie Couric, and Oprah.

And he suggests these icebreaking questions to ask within the first ten minutes of your encounter with somebody new:

What's the most fascinating thing about your job?
Do you love what you do for a living or work to pay the bills?
What's your favorite book?
What do you like to do in your free time?
What is your favorite city you have ever lived in?
After an exhausting day at work, what is the first thing you like to do?
Which family member are you closest to?
What was the best concert you've ever been to? (Or even, What was the first concert you ever went to?)
What is your favorite movie?
Do you have any pets?
What's the best vacation you've ever been on? (Are you a mountain person or a beach person?)

There were several other memorable passages in LOVE SMART; among them:

What I'm telling you is that instead of wasting time searching for an exact match, look for the guy who is free of the deal breakers and has 80 percent of what you do want in a partner. The other 20 percent you can grow. If the guy has 80 percent of what you want and potential to grow the extra 20 percent, you need to bag that boy up because he is good to go. Do not walk past him while you're looking for Mr.100 Percent, because somebody else is going to marry Mr. 80 Percent and you are going to be standing there 60 percent sad and 40 percent frustrated.

Self-disclosure should be used only 25 percent of the time. The other 75 percent should be listening.

Robin and I have a "four-minute rule." The minute I walk through the door at the end of the day, I go and find her, say hello and talk about our day. Those four minutes count. They set the tone for the rest of the evening. Try doing this with your guy. It will make a difference.

D. I was not too familiar with the life of Marian Anderson, so it was with some degree of anticipation that I listened to THE VOICE THAT CHALLENGED A NATION by Russell Freedman . . . it did not disappoint.

Anderson began her career, singing in church choirs . . . because she had to quite school after her father died when she was in eighth grade, she did not get to complete high school until she was 24 . . . yet she continued to sing, helped along by members of her church who constantly came together to raise money for her lessons.

She eventually sang to sold-out concert halls throughout Europe . . . yet the book's most moving part described her return to this country in 1939 . . . when she was denied permission to perform in Constitution Hall in because she wasn't white, she staged--with help from

Eleanor Roosevelt--a breathtaking outdoor concert at the Lincoln Memorial.

I would have liked this CD to have contained some of the performances of her actual songs . . . yet for that, I guess I'm just going to have to spring for another CD of her music . . . it will be my pleasure to do so.

5. VCR alert

A. STANDARD OF PERFECTION looks at a big-time cat show to profile the enthusiastic owners who pamper their pets with their own names and intense grooming . . . Wednesday at 8 p.m. on PBS . . . check local listings because times and dates may vary.

B. Helen Mirren stars in ELIZABETH I, a lavish two-part biopic that begins on Saturday at 8 p.m. on HBO and concludes on Monday at the same time.

C. Oscar winner Marcia Gay Harden plays an understanding aunt who rescues and redeems her damaged nephew in the made-for-TV movie IN FROM THE NIGHT . . . Sunday at 9 p.m. on CBS.

6. Grounds for divorce

A woman walks into a lawyer's office seeking to divorce her husband. The lawyer asks if she has grounds and she says, "Oh, yes. We have a nice front yard and a beautifully landscaped back yard too."

"No, no, that's not what I meant. Do you have a grudge?"

"Oh, yes, and it's a big one. Two cars fit into it very easily."

The lawyer is starting to get frustrated and says, "Does your husband beat you up?"

"He sure does," says the wife. "He gets up before I do everyday and fixes breakfast."

"Good Lord, why in the world do you want to divorce him?"

"I think we have a serious communication problem," she answers.

7. Websites

A. For FREE resources for the ethical development of people, business and organizations, please click:<http://www.businessballs.com/>

As an example, I found the following story to be of interest if looking for a story/lesson about responding to other somebody else's negative behavior:

A tale is told about the Buddha, Gautama (563-483BC), the Indian prince and spiritual leader whose teachings founded Buddhism. This short story illustrates that every one of us has the choice whether or not to take personal offense from another person's behavior.

It is said that on an occasion when the Buddha was teaching a group

of people, he found himself on the receiving end of a fierce outburst of abuse from a bystander, who was for some reason very angry.

The Buddha listened patiently while the stranger vented his rage, and then the Buddha said to the group and to the stranger, "If someone gives a gift to another person, who then chooses to decline it, tell me, who would then own the gift? The giver or the person who refuses to accept the gift?"

"The giver," said the group after a little thought. "Any fool can see that," added the angry stranger.

"Then it follows, does it not," said the Buddha, "Whenever a person tries to abuse us, or to unload their anger on us, we can each choose to decline or to accept the abuse; whether to make it ours or not. By our personal response to the abuse from another, we can choose who owns and keeps the bad feelings."

B. Do you miss WELCOME BACK, KOTTER? You can see now see this and other classic TV shows by clicking:

<http://television.aol.com/in2tv>

Among the other choices: ALICE, CHICO AND THE MAN, EIGHT IS ENOUGH, F TROOP, FALCON CREST, GROWING PAINS, HANGING WITH MR. COOPER, HEAD OF THE CLASS, KUNG FU, PERFECT STRANGERS, SCARECROW & MRS. KING, THE FUGITIVE, and WONDER WOMAN.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

If you missed seeing the pictures of pictures of Cynthia and me that I mentioned in last week's issue, please click:

http://www.blainesworld.net/blaines_best/pictures_2006.asp

To see some earlier PC (pre-Cynthia) photos, go to the "next pictures section."

Whatever you do, make sure you your sound card on when you view them; you won't be disappointed.

SPECIAL THANKS to Dan Becker, my talented webmaster, for all his hard work in making this possible.

8. Computer tip

To keep documents on your computer secure (say a list of passwords), you can make them accessible only with a password that you create. The procedure is simple:

On the File menu, click Save As

On the Tools menu in the Save As dialog box, click General Options.

In the Password to open box, type a password and then click OK.

In the Reenter password to open box, type the password again and then click OK.

Click Save.

ONE WORD OF CAUTION:

When you create the password, write it down and keep it in a secure place. If you lose the password, you cannot open or gain access to the password-protected document.

9. Proverbs, part 2 of 2
(concluded from last week)

Still more responses from the first grade school teacher who gave her students the first part of a well-known proverb . . . and then asked them to come up with the remainder:

13. An idle mind is . . . the best way to relax.
14. Where there's smoke there's . . . pollution.
15. Happy the bride who . . . gets all the presents.
16. A penny saved is . . . not much.
17. Two's company, three's . . . the Musketeers.
18. Don't put off till tomorrow . . . when you can go to sleep now.
19. Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and . . you have to blow your nose.
20. There are none so blind as . . . Stevie Wonder.
21. Children should be seen and not . . . spanked or grounded.
22. If at first you don't succeed . . . get new batteries.
23. You get out of something only what you . . . see in the picture on the box.
24. When the blind lead the blind . . . get out of the way.

And this all-time classic one:

25. Better late than . . . pregnant.
-

10. A quote I like

What I've learned is that success is doing the best job I can possibly do and having a great time doing it.--Howie Mandell, comedian and host of DEAL OR NO DEAL

11. Thought for the day

A mother and child: the changing of a diaper

by Cynthia Greenfield (see also Sections 1A and 12A)

The little being lay in the bed. Her eyes were sleepy. You know that look when they are just about ready to fall asleep, but don't want to miss one moment of being awake and alive. They fight sleep even though they know that sleep is just around the corner. And being so sleepy, they don't fight the changing of the diaper. They lay there so vulnerable, muscle-less, sort of lump-like; totally trusting the person changing the diaper.

They look like they are being totally taken care of; knowing that the person changing their diaper will not roll them off of the bed by accident or be rough with them in a way that would hurt them. You know that look--oh, to be so willing to let go, trusting, open. How sweet that sleepy, trusting look is.

First there was the taking off of the old diaper. Rolling them from one side to the other. Checking to see if it was just a wet one or a messy one. Oh . . . this one was just a little wet . . . not bad at all. Then, there is that bare butt . . . using a wet one . . . wiping the butt . . . pretty clean . . . but wiping nevertheless . . . to make sure we keep her clean.

Then, the cute words spoken while doing this job that is done repeatedly over and over in one day. What a job--and to do it with love. Those words that don't make sense, but they don't have to, because you know that the words mean "I love you."

"SiSi" . . . you know silly words said with no meaning, but in that pitch that is slightly higher than used for regular speaking and spoken in a kind of sing-song manner. And the adorable being repeats the words sometimes with a little giggle. You know those kinds of words and that love-tone of voice if you have ever been a mother.

And now, it is time to put on the new diaper. Rolling the almost sleeping, adorable being from one side to the other and putting the diaper on. All the while, they are just lying there like a lump of clay willing to be moved from one side to the other.

Job done!

As I stood there at the end of the bed watching my mother's diaper be changed by two beautiful women, tears rolled down my eyes. The aide named Elsie said, "Don't cry. This is the way of things! It is natural. Don't cry."

My mother's other aide Lena stood on the other side being quiet.

There really are slight differences between a baby and my mother. My mom is slightly larger and the skin on her butt is loose and jiggly. But there are so many similarities: She gets cranky sometimes. She, at this point, is unable to verbalize intellectually in any way that makes sense. She is unable to take care of herself. Like a baby, she gets sleepy and trusting when her diaper is changed by two women who happen to be her aides, but to me were like her mother.

Thank you Lena and Elsie for loving my mother. For your wise words which helped me in a moment when I just couldn't be with the fact that my mother is totally helpless--physically and mentally at this stage in her life.

Really . . . how different is it from being a baby . . . not able to speak in a way that makes sense and not able to do things for herself. And totally trusting the people around her to take care of her with love.

Thank you.

12. Advance planning department

A. From Cynthia in New Jersey (see also Sections 1A and 11):

I will be conducting my next "Move Your Body" class this month . . . if you can attend, this is what you'll get--to quote from the blurb:

Fun, easy way to get aerobic exercise by following simple dance moves to soul-filled music from around the world. Start with stretches to warm up and end with a wonderful feeling of relaxation. In a safe atmosphere, leave your thinking mind and come into the joy of moving your body. The result will leave you renewed and invigorated.

It will run on Thursday evenings from 6-7:15 p.m. at the Princeton Center for Yoga & Health in Skillman, NJ, starting in April and running through June . . . you can come any evening you want and/or attend all the sessions . . . for more information, please call 609.924.7294.

B. From David in Pennsylvania:

Come hear the Roosevelt String Band, featuring David Brahinsky and Friends (including the very talented Gail Frantz on fiddle) . . . they will be performing two 8 p.m. shows: Friday, April 21, and Saturday, April 22, at the Roosevelt Municipal Building in Roosevelt, NJ . . . there's a \$10 contribution for admission . . . tickets are at the door; come 20 minutes early to make sure you get a seat . . . for more information and directions, please call 609.443.1898.

CDs from both the Roosevelt String Band and David Brahinsky will be available at the door.

C. From Natalie in Pennsylvania:

I am sending the link below because it is an actual interview of Susan Apollon on Channel 3 that I invite you to check out.

I would love to share this very special author and her wisdom with you at Omphalos (see also Sections 1A and 2) in Yardley on Sunday, April 23 from 2-4. Please click on the link with Susan's picture for the interview. Once you do, I'm sure you'll want to come and meet her in person and perhaps purchase her "extraordinary" book, TOUCHED BY THE EXTRAORDINARY.

The cost for the presentation is \$20.00. I promise that you will be glad you attended.

For the article on Susan Apollon:

http://cbs3.com/specialreports/local_story_280210713.html

For the location of Omphaslos, phone number, etc, please click:

<http://www.omphaloscenter.org>

D. I'm showing DOOR TO DOOR, the 2002 TV-movie based on a true story about a man with cerebral palsy who is determined to become a salesman . . . William H. Macy stars; he won a well-deserved Emmy Award for his work in this moving film . . . Tuesday, April 25, at 6:30 in Penn Hall 418; repeated on Thursday, April 29, at

the same time an in the same room . . . FREE.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

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New readers are always welcome, so also feel free to mention BLAINESWORLD to your friends.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #497

4.10.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I extend a cordial invitation to all readers to see our current photos . . . some you may have seen; most you have probably not.

All you need to do is go to this page on my website:

http://www.blainesworld.net/blaines_best/pictures_2006.asp

If you then go to the "next picture section," you'll see some earlier PC (pre-Cynthia) photos.

Whatever you do, make sure you your sound card on when you view them; you won't be disappointed.

SPECIAL THANKS to Dan Becker, my talented webmaster, for all his hard work in making this possible.

B. We joined a friend over the weekend to see an excellent film, THANK YOU FOR SMOKING, which I'll review next week . . . afterwards, we all tried a new restaurant: Sangria Bar & Restaurant (201.945.0950) in Edgewater, NJ . . . my Chicken a la Francesa was quite tasty, and Cynthia enjoyed her Camarones al ajilloa--also known as shrimp in garlic sauce . . . there's a most attractive decor, and we'll be back.

SPECIAL BARGAIN:

We missed the "early bid specials," but they run each night from 5 to 7 p.m. and seem to be a great deal.

On Sunday, we met some friends for another film we all liked (TAKE THE LEAD; see Section 4A) and then dinner at what has become one of our favorite places: Foccia Pizza 'n Pasta (908.725.5522) in Millville, NJ . . . we always have a great meal there and

this day was no exception . . . Cynthia and I split two dishes that were both prepared to our delight: lasagna and Veal Parmigiana.

C. One thing I love doing is sharing in the good fortune of others, particularly when they are readers of this newsletter . . . so it is with great pleasure that I share these two announcements about two of my colleagues:

* College President James Links and BCCC Foundation President Bill Brady are pleased to announce the appointment of Tobias (Tobi) Bruhn as Executive Director of the Bucks County Community College Foundation, effective immediately.

Tobi has served as interim Executive Director since the departure of Peter Dominick to return to the banking industry. Tobi has also served as the Director of Special Projects for the Foundation, and has had former appointments in the Public Relations Office of the College as well as prior experiences in institutional advancement.

* [also from College President James Links]
I am pleased to announce that Carole Reese, Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Research, Planning & Assessment, has been selected as Bucks County Community College's recipient of this year's YWCA "Salute to Women Who Make a Difference" Award. This award will be presented at a dinner to be held at King's Caterers in Bristol Township on the evening of May 3. If you would like information about tickets, please contact Kathi Fedorko at 215.968.8220.

Please join me in offering Carole congratulations for her contributions to the campus and to the community at large.

D. Condolences to longtime friend and reader Nancy Steigerwalt, whose mother passed away on March 31 . . . her family has decided to plant a tree in memory of her on the BCCC campus, so if you'd like to make a donation, please send it to the Lucille Anne McCamey Tree Fund, c/o Foundation Office, Bucks County Community College, 275 Swamp Road, Newtown PA 18940.

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

This week, it goes to Blaine Charles--customer service and bridal manager at Bed Bath & Beyond in Bridgewater, NJ.

Blaine (and don't you just love that name!) recently helped us with the purchase of a humidifier for our bedroom . . . he was extremely knowledgeable about his store's product line, and he answered all our questions without making us feel foolish for knowing very little about the subject.

In addition, he has a winning smile and makes you feel good about just being in his presence . . . he is a real asset to his company and is one of the main reasons we are loyal customers.

2. FYI

When you go on a trip, prepare a checklist of things you'll need; e.g., vitamins, reading material, directions, glasses, etc. . . . always keep at least one copy of this list in your suitcase, so when you next pack it,

you won't forget anything important.

Karen in Pennsylvania, a student of mine, shared this spin on the above . . . she puts the information on a disk . . . so whenever her family goes away, they just take out the disk and run off personalized copies of whatever list they need . . . she has different ones for skiing, camping and a whole host of others.

FYI, part 2

* Bill in New Jersey:

I am really enjoying your newsletter. In particular, since my day is so hectic, reading it first seems to energize me.

* Don in New Jersey:

You know I read your column religiously, and this is the first time I'm forced to comment. My wife and I saw GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK twice, and we now have our own copy.

Your observation is a good one: Those who lived those moments and saw Morrow and his shows would enjoy it more. I was disappointed he did not receive the best actor award because HE WAS Morrow. And the guy who played McCarthy . . . well, no actor played McCarthy . . . it was really "Tailgunner Joe!"

* Robin in Pennsylvania:

Thanks, as always, for your thorough and detailed reporting.

I thought INSIDE MAN was terrific: it caught me, it kept me, it delivered (although the very end was a little too sweet) . . . and I'm not a Spike Lee fan.

However, on your review and a friend's encouragement, I went to see JOYEUS NOEL. It really annoyed me: predictable, nothing new, longer than it needed to be, typical French approach to treating everything "too dearly." . . .

You might want to check out the Lion's Heart Pub in Washington Crossing, PA. A traditional English pub atmosphere. 14 beers on tap--even though I'm not a beer drinker--and really good food. Also, the wait staff is attentive and personable.

* Pat in Pennsylvania:

[on issue of teachers having free speech in the classroom]

You may not like what I have to say here. But I mean no malice, nor is this meant to be directed at any one person, OK? But here is my two cents:

I am concerned by your comments above for several reasons. I think you are confusing the McCarthyism stuff. Respectfully, I think the issue is really more about politicians wanting teachers to just keep quiet on certain issues as opposed to McCarthyism witch hunts. The two issues are completely different. In any Organization, there are some things that the company or organization does not want you to talk about. Period. It could be the amount of mark up they put on their product, ingredients, intellectual property, processes, outsourcing, or simply a company wanting you to stay away from wearing your political feelings on your shirtsleeves. I see no real issue with this. To me, lots want to promote unity and have it clearly known what they do not want their employees talking about. Like arguing over politics hurts image

and causes dissent within the ranks when you are fighting internally (especially with politics). So, many companies discourage this. The only real issue I would be against is if a company was prejudiced against you for your color, creed or religion, which mine certainly is not. . . .

I, for one, do not appreciate it when a teacher gets up and openly or subtly trashes an opposing political party. Sadly, most students cannot and do not make this known to teachers as they are afraid of retribution by the teacher if the student does not have the same political views as the teacher. They simply shut up and put up. There is a time and place for everything. If teachers want to demonstrate with their union (outside class) for political issues or candidates, then fine. It's outside the classroom. I see no problem with that. And if one feels so strongly about politics, we all have the right to demonstrate (outside the classroom). But I do not want the classroom to be their means to promote their political platform. . . .

Government workers are forbidden to promote their political agenda or feelings or party affiliation at work. And it's no big deal. I see no issue with that. When there is federal, state, county or local tax money involved, I feel the same. Again, this is not McCarthyism. Its simply rules that exist. And, I think most teachers are receiving some type of government funds, right? I worked for the Government for several years and had no problem leaving politics out of daily discussions with coworkers. All it would have done was promote contempt or bad feelings between employees. . . .

With all the antitrust laws, we in the business community are forbidden to talk to our competitors. We actually have to get permission and report back when we attend meetings where competitors may belong, like trade organizations or where we may sit on boards with competitors no matter what the organization may be. We have to get permission on what we discuss or speak about. We are forbidden to discuss products, services, sales projections or for that matter ANYTHING with our competitors. We are not allowed to brag about our products or brag about jobs we won. Yes, it is a pain, but it is a condition/requirement of employment. With all the recent stock scandals the new reporting and insider trading laws, it now make this very hard on us. But we have to abide by these rules or face termination.

3. Prospective employee assessment

Does your organization struggle with the problem of properly fitting people to jobs? Here is a handy hint for ensuring success in job placement.

Take the prospective employees you are trying to place and put them in a room with only a table and two chairs. Leave them alone for two hours, without any instruction. At the end of that time, go back and see what they are doing.

If they have taken the table apart in that time, put them in Engineering.

If they are counting the butts in the ashtray, assign them to Finance.

If they are screaming and waving their arms, send them off to Manufacturing.

If they are talking to the chairs, Personnel is a good spot for them.

If they are sleeping, they are Management material.

If they are writing up the experience, send them to Tech Pubs.

If they don't even look up when you enter the room, assign them to Security.

If they try to tell you it's not as bad as it looks, send them to Marketing.

And if they've left early, put them in Sales.

4. Reviews

A. Cynthia and I loved TAKE THE LEAD; so did friends who joined us . . . inspired by a true story, the feel-good film revolves around an acclaimed ballroom dancer who volunteers to teach in the New York City public school system . . . the music is great, as is the dancing . . . Antonio Banderas seems like he was born to play the leading role, Alfre Woodard (always one of my favorites) is believable as his principal, and the actors who play the students all seem to be having fun . . . rated PG-13.

When I really like a movie, I'll often check the ROTTEN TOMATOES website to read the Production Notes . . . to see it for yourself, please click http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/take_the_lead/about.php

B. AN UNFINISHED LIFE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #469 follows:

Enjoyed AN UNFINISHED LIFE, though found it a bit difficult to get into . . . it seemed to drag until about halfway through the film, then the subplot involving a bear in capture caught my attention and brought the film alive . . . it is definitely corny; in fact, it even reminded me of FREE WILLY . . . yet I liked how it played out, and it helped smooth the transition for an ending that resolved the problems faced by many of the characters . . . I liked the work of Robert Redford and Becca Gardner, a newcomer who played his granddaughter . . . Jennifer Lopez was good, as well, though I have seen Morgan Freeman as the grumpy sidekick too many times . . . rated PG-13.

C. Several friends told me that the Billy Crystal one-man show, 700 SUNDAYS, was one of the finest they had ever seen . . . I'm sorry I missed it, if for just the very beginning . . . before the curtain even comes up, a voice that certainly sounds like Crystal makes the following announcement:

Billy Crystal will not be in the show tonight; playing his part will instead be (some made-up name).

Even though that particular bit is not in the book with the same title, I'm still so glad that I got to read it.

700 SUNDAYS is the author's memoir of the time he spent growing up on Long Island with his dad . . . my only complaint is that because I was enjoying it so much, I wish it had gone on longer.

I laughed in spots and cried in others . . . reading it brought me back to my days growing up on Long Island (Crystal grew up in Long Beach; I was raised not too far from there--first in Freeport and then Lawrence) . . . also, since we're both about the same age, I could relate to many of the stories that he told . . . we're even the same height: 5' 7" if what he claims is true . . . in reality, he appears much shorter and as you know if you've ever seen me in person, I'm a tall 5' 7" with many folks thinking I'm at least 5' 7 and 1/4 inches.

But I digress . . . you'll also love 700 SUNDAYS if for no other reason that you'll get to meet Crystal's family . . . it will probably remind you of some of your parents or grandparents, aunts or uncles, brothers or sisters, and you'll come away realizing that all families are alike in so many respects.

There were many parts in the book that had me smiling--but at the same time, I was touched; for example:

* Joel came home. Rip came home. It was just the four of us now. There would be no more Sundays. And they told us that night we were going to view the body. Because the Jews bury very quickly. Very quickly. I had an uncle who was a narcoleptic, and he'd nod off and you'd hear digging. One summer they buried him five times.

* After the funeral, everyone came back to the house. There must have been hundreds of family members, neighbors, friends, and lot of food and conversation to keep your mind off it during the mourning period. It's called a Shiva. But to me, the right word is "shiver" because the feeling of Pop's death just made me tremble all the time. They make the mourners sit on these hard little wooden stools. Who the hell came up with that one? Isn't it bad enough what happened to us? Why do we have to suffer more? Aunt Sheila was upset that we covered the mirrors, a Jewish tradition, while I was upset that we didn't cover Sheila. People kept saying the same thing to me, "It'll take time, you'll see, it'll take time." Grandpa couldn't take it anymore. After hearing it for the umpteenth time, he turned to me and said, "Time is a bastard: When you're sad there's too much of it, and when you're happy there's never enough."

* We go to center court. Everyone's hysterical laughing. Both sides of the gym are united now about one thing: I look like a schmuck. He's up there. I'm down here. We look like a semicolon. He doesn't even have to jump to win the tip. I've got my head hanging down because I'm now a sight gag.

Everybody's laughing. Then I heard that voice [of his mother] in the stands. "Come on, Crystal! Come on, 11! Give it your best shot! Let's go!"

And she was right. What a great credo. Give it your best shot. Simple, but powerful. Give it your best shot. So with a renewed confidence, I looked up . . . into his crotch . . . and said, "This is ridiculous."

The ref stepped in, still laughing. "Let's go guys, jump ball." Give it your best shot. Give it your best shot. Give it your best shot. The ref

threw up the ball, and then everything was in slow motion for me. I remember the ball spinning. I could red it in the gym lights. Spaaaaallldiiiiing.

THE REST OF THE STORY:

Crystal jumped as high as he could, made a fist . . . and hit the other guy in the nuts . . . he then got thrown out of the game for an intentional foul!

D. Heard *NO PLACE LIKE HOME*, the latest thriller by Mary Higgins Clark . . . this one is about a woman hiding a terrible secret from her new husband . . . it seems that when she was a child, she accidentally shot and killed her own mother.

You can pretty much guess how things will turn out, yet even though that is the case, I liked the twists and turns along the way . . . in addition, I found myself interested in the main character and could almost feel the difficulties she was going through.

The New Jersey setting was an added plus for me . . . it felt like I was in the suburbia that I know quite well.

By design, I hadn't read any Clark books for quite some time because they are often too formulaic . . . however, *NO PLACE LIKE HOME* might just get me to become a fan again of this prolific mystery author.

5. VCR alert

A. Elvis Presley's September 9, 1956 was chosen as one of the *10 DAYS THAT UNEPECTEDLY SHOOK AMERICA* . . . it will be aired on Tuesday at 9 p.m. on the History Channel . . . another episode follows at 10 p.m. . . . other shows will be on throughout the week at the same times.

B. *RX FOR SURIVAL: THE HEROES* features Brad Pitt narrating a look at efforts to battle public-health threats around the world . . . Wednesday at 9 p.m. on PBS . . . check local listings, as times and stations vary.

C. The reality shows keep coming . . . *GOD OR THE GIRL?* follows four Catholic men as they contemplate entering the priesthood . . . in preparation, they undertake sacrificial tasks . . . one carries an 80-pound cross 20 miles . . . priests and parents pressure them; sympathetic girlfriends tempt them . . . Sundays at 9 p.m. on A&E.

6. Keynote speaker

A salesman for a new firm had a very bad week. Endless meetings in a half dozen cities and no sales. He was bummed and just wanted to relax on his flight home from Kansas City. Luckily, it looked like he had all three seats to himself in his row, and he gratefully closed his eyes awaiting take off.

At the last minute, another passenger plopped down beside him. "Great, just great," he thought to himself. But then he opened his eyes and looked

to see an absolutely gorgeous woman, blonde, green eyes, maybe 5 foot 4 inches, nicely built, well-groomed and well-dressed.

Hmm, he thought, maybe my luck is going to change. She also still had a nametag on from something. So he turned to her and said "Hi, Masra. Are you traveling alone?"

She laughed and said "Oh, that's not my name. I was the keynote speaker at a convention today and forgot to take the silly thing off. It stands for Midwest American Sexual Response Association."

"Keynote huh? That sounds fascinating. What was your address on?"

"Well, I'm a licensed sex therapist and have been doing research on the ability of the American male to please women.

"I've discovered that the American male, contrary to many people's uninformed opinions, is actually quite a good lover. However, there are three groups of Americans that really stand out from the crowd as the best of all.

"One group is the Native American basically because, overall, they are so well built 'that way.'

"Another are the Jewish men because they seem to be able to really communicate with women on a sexual level.

"The third are the men from down South because of their extraordinary ability to keep it up a long time.

"And by the way, my name's Wanda. What's yours?"

"Hi Wanda. I'm Tonto Weisenberg, but all my friends back home just call me Bubba."

7. Websites

***** CORRECTION FROM LAST WEEK *****

For anybody interested in college information, I mentioned an informative website developed by the National Association for College Admissions Counseling . . . that group wrote back to inform me that there's a new link; it is:

<http://www.nacacnet.org/MemberPortal/ForStudents/OnlineResources/general.htm>

A. You can now get stamps with any picture you want on them by clicking: <http://www.photostamps.com>

To quote from the website:

The PhotoStamps service is a new service that allows customers to include their favorite digital photographs, designs, or images on valid US Postal Service postage. Customers design state-of-the-art, professional-looking postage by simply uploading pictures from existing image files, digital photographs, and original graphics. An intuitive interface allows users to rotate and zoom in and out of their images, as well as add colored borders to complement the image. Users maintain a secure online account that allows for the storage of images for future purchases. Using advanced printing technology, we send customers high-quality, adhesive-backed stamps within a short timeframe, allowing for a wide variety of personal usage.

This product was recognized by BUSINESSWEEK as a "Best Product of 2005" . . . it is sooooo cool!

B. No matter what your religion, methinks you'll get a kick out of this website:

<http://www.atomfilms.com/contentPlay/shockwave.jsp?id=matzah&preplay>

Make sure your sound is on!

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click: <http://www.blainesworld.net>

As you hopefully know by now, you should ALWAYS feel free to mention this newsletter to your friends, relatives, etc. . . . should they want to subscribe (AT NO COST), all they have to do is go to do is send an e-mail to: bginbc@aol.com and put the following words in subject line: FREE SUBSCRIPTION.

8. Computer tip

If you're like me, you are a sucker for trying new search engines . . . if that be the case, then check out: <http://www.ask.com>

Ask.com took over from Ask Jeeves, a largely failed search engine . . . so the look may be somewhat the same, but there are many differences.

According to Walter S. Mossberg in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Ask's search-results pages are richer and better organized than typical Google results, and they give greater priority to content over ads."

In addition, you can preview most of the links without leaving the search-results page . . . Ask also allows you to save results in a page called MyStuff.

9. Proverbs, part 1 of 2

The first grade school teacher had twenty-five students in her class and she presented each child in her class the first half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb.

It's hard to believe the following were actually done by first graders. Their insights may surprise you. While reading, keep in mind that we're talking about children who are 6 years old.

1. Don't change horses . . . until they stop running.
2. Strike while the . . . bug is close.
3. It's always darkest before . . . Daylight Saving Time.
4. Never underestimate the power of . . . termites.
5. You can lead a horse to water but . . . how?
6. Don't bite the hand that . . . looks dirty.

7. No news is . . . impossible.
 8. A miss is as good as a . . . MR.
 9. You can't teach an old dog new . . . math.
 10. If you lie down with dogs, you'll . . . stink in the morning.
 11. Love all, trust . . . me.
 12. The pen is mightier than the . . . pigs.
- (to be concluded next week)

10. A quote I like

University politics are vicious precisely because the stakes are so small.--Henry Kissinger, National Security Advisor and then Secretary of State in the Nixon administration

11. Thought for the day

Age is a gift

The other day a young person asked me how I felt about being old. I was taken aback, for I do not think of myself as old. Upon seeing my reaction, he was immediately embarrassed, but I explained that it was an interesting question, and I would ponder it, and let him know.

Old age, I decided, is a gift.

I am now, probably for the first time in my life, the person I have always wanted to be. Oh, not my body! I sometime despair over my body . . . the wrinkles, the baggy eyes and the sagging butt. And often I am taken aback by that old person that lives in my mirror, but I don't agonize over those things for long.

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, my loving family for less gray hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become more kind to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend. I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, but looks so avant garde on my patio.

I am entitled to overeat, to be messy, to be extravagant. I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon--before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 a.m. and sleep until noon?

I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 60s. And if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love . . . I will.

I will walk the beach in a swimsuit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying

glances from the bikini set.

They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten . And I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when a beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turn gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver. I can say "no" and mean it. I can say "yes" and mean it.

As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore. I've even earned the right to be wrong.

So, to answer your question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day.

Today, I wish you a day of ordinary miracles.

Author Unknown

(if you know who wrote this and/or the source, please let me know)

12. Advance planning department

A. From Cynthia in New Jersey (see also Section 1A):

I will be conducting my next "Move Your Body" class this month . . . if you can attend, this is what you'll get--to quote from the blurb:

Fun, easy way to get aerobic exercise by following simple dance moves to soul-filled music from around the world. Start with stretches to warm up and end with a wonderful feeling of relaxation. In a safe atmosphere, leave your thinking mind and come into the joy of moving your body. The result will leave you renewed and invigorated.

It will run on Thursday evenings from 6-7:15 p.m. at the Princeton Center for Yoga & Health in Skillman, NJ, starting in April and running through June . . . you can come any evening you want and/or attend all the sessions . . . for more information, please call 609.924.7294.

B. From Debbie in Pennsylvania:

You're invited to a SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW of THE CELESTINE PROPHECY MOVIE . . . if it rings a bell, it might be because you've heard of and/or read the popular book with the same title by James Redfield--described by Amazon.com as an "adventure in pursuit of a spiritual mystery" . . . I recall it had a powerful impact on me when I read it several years ago, and so I'm anxious to see

the film version.

It is being shown on April 14 at the Center for P.E.A.C.E. in Yardley, PA, at both 7 and 9 p.m. . . . there's limited seating at both times, so to reserve a ticket, call 215.493.3456.

For further information, you can also click: <http://www.omphaloscenter.org>

C. From David in Pennsylvania:

Come hear the Roosevelt String Band, featuring David Brahinsky and Friends (including the very talented Gail Frantz on fiddle) . . . they will be performing two 8 p.m. shows: Friday, April 21, and Saturday, April 22, at the Roosevelt Municipal Building in Roosevelt, NJ . . . there's a \$10 contribution for admission . . . tickets are at the door; come 20 minutes early to make sure you get a seat . . . for more information and directions, please call 609.443.1898.

CDs from both the Roosevelt String Band and David Brahinsky will be available at the door.

D. From Jean in Pennsylvania:

How Many is Six Million? PAPER CLIPS Provides Thought-Provoking Answer

Documentary shows how kids from a small southern town learned about the Holocaust in a way that changed their community

FREE screening April 25 in Perkasie to launch the Philadelphia Holocaust Film Series

When middle-school students from a small, rural Tennessee town were learning about the Holocaust, they took on an inspiring project: to honor every lost soul by collecting one paper clip for each individual exterminated by the Nazis.

The response they got from around the world was overwhelming, resulting in 11 million paper clips--representing 6 million Jews and 5 million others killed in the Holocaust--and a donated Nazi rail car to permanently house a memorial at their school.

A 2004 documentary about their moving endeavor, PAPER CLIPS, will be shown Tuesday, April 25, at 6 p.m. at Bucks County Community College's Upper County Campus. Directed by Elliot Berlin and Joe Fab, the film details how the students met Holocaust survivors from around the world and how the experience transformed them and their community.

A discussion will follow the screening with Lynda Goldman of the Philadelphia Holocaust Film Series, which is held annually by the Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors Association of Philadelphia.

The event is FREE and open to the public. The college is located at One Hillendale Drive, Perkasie. For more information, call the BCCC Upper County Campus at 215.258.7700.

PS. If you're like me and celebrate ALL holidays, here's hope that your Passover and/or Easter celebrations are joyous ones . . . and that you don't overdose on too many chocolate-covered macaroons, Easter bunnies, etc. . . . also, please continue to join me in praying

that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq.

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If you or somebody knows wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD,
just drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are
always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the
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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #496

4.3.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I attended the Pennsylvania Higher Education Coalition Conference last weekend in Plymouth Meeting, PA . . . it was one of the best such sessions I have ever attended.

Starting things off was the fact that they had chair massages at the cocktail hour on Friday night, which to me always is a great way to start any event . . . then that evening's keynoter, Dr. Karen Stout (president of Montgomery County Community College), blew everybody away with an inspiring presentation about how it is possible for union members to work together with college administrators to everybody's benefit . . . this is done at Montgomery, and from what everybody has told me at her school, it is working . . . the whole campus has become energized as a result.

I particularly liked two questions that Dr. Stout asks: "What are your hopes, dreams and aspirations for the future? And what are the barriers to reaching them?"

On Saturday, there was an informative workshop on "A Free Exchange on Campus: The Abor (Academic Bill of Rights) Debate" . . . this is currently a very controversial issue on college campuses across the nation; i.e., there are politicians who are arguing for greater control over what can be and can't be said in the classroom . . . it is scary stuff that strikes me of McCarthyism.

I served as a panelist for the second workshop, "Pension and Part-Time Faculty: Does One Threaten the Other" . . . it was ably moderated by Pat Halpin-Murphy, government relations director for the AFT PA, and it was a pleasure to be joined on the panel by Frank Ryder, director of government relations for the Public School Employees Retirement System, and Marc Kornfeld, a consultant for PSEA . . . we discussed, for the most part, the fact that many part-timers in Pennsylvania are not going to be allowed to

return to work if they have retired from teaching on either the high school or college level . . . and what, if anything, can be done to stem this from happening.

KUDOS to Pat Halpin-Murphy for being the person primarily responsible for pulling together the Conference and making it the success that it was . . . she was ably assisted, as she often is, by Vindetta Knight from the AFT Pennsylvania office.

B. From there, Cynthia and I went to see her mother in the afternoon and then we met my folks for dinner . . . best was the dessert we had back in their apartment: my father's "special" ice cream sodas . . . he and my mother had been telling us about them for quite some time; we finally got to savor them.

C. During the week, I had an interesting meeting with representatives from a new Bucks County organization called Omphalos, the Center for P.E.A.C.E. (People Everywhere Acting Consciously and Evolving) in Yardley, PA . . . they will be putting on many different programs throughout the year with the next one being a:

***** SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW *****
of THE CELESTINE PROPHECY MOVIE . . . if it rings a bell, it might be because you've heard of and/or read the popular book with the same title by James Redfield--described by Amazon.com as an "adventure in pursuit of a spiritual mystery" . . . I recall it had a powerful impact on me when I read it several years ago, and so I'm anxious to see the film version.

It is being shown on April 7 at the Bucks County College Library Auditorium in Newtown, PA, at 7 p.m., and on April 14 at the Center for P.E.A.C.E. in Yardley, PA . . . there's limited seating at both locations, so to reserve a ticket, call 215.493.3456.

For further information, you can also click:
<http://www.omphaloscenter.org>

In addition, I was busy during the week finalizing our proposal for the beginning of negotiations with the College . . . our faculty contract is up in August, and so the next few months should prove challenging, to say the least, to see if we can come to any sort of agreement before school begins again in the fall.

I'm particularly fortunate to not have to go at this alone, having a fantastic group of fellow negotiators: Bill Yorke, Joann Corn, John Murray, Earle Meyers, Mary Lannetti, and Ralph Hunsberger . . . also, Josh Rubinsky (our union's skilled lawyer) is always available for help whenever and wherever needed.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to:

* Patty Dilenno who has left Bucks to accept a new position at DeVry University in the Graduate Studies area . . . to quote Matt Cipriano, her boss at the College, "Patty has done an excellent job, and we appreciate all of her contributions to Student Life and the Information Center. She has been a wonderful co-worker and friend, and she will be missed."

MY TWO CENTS:
I agree with Matt. Big time!

* Bucks Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) for taking 1st in regional competition in Philadelphia. This win qualifies them for a chance to compete in national competition in Kansas City.

The group was led by Mitch Aglow and Rob Ladd, Sam Walton Free Enterprise Fellows.

* THE BUCKS COUNTY COUREIR TIMES for being named the 2006 Citizen of the Year by the American Red Cross, Lower Bucks County Chapter.

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

This week, it goes to Loleta Samuel-O'Garro--a nurse practitioner with the Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

She was the person who assisted my doctor (Dr. Goydos) when I had my recent toe surgery and who then removed stitches on two follow-up visits.

Loleta has a winning personality, along with a great smile . . . I won't go so far as to say she makes going to the Institute a fun experience, but she does certainly make it a lot more bearable.

Also, I like the fact that she very patiently explains what needs to be done in terms of follow-up . . . and she answers all questions with not a hint of impatience . . . she is a real asset to the Cancer Institute of New Jersey!

2. FYI

Some people when they wake up in the morning tend to say something to the effect of, "Oh, God . . ." and then list--either to themselves or for others in the household to hear--all the things that are wrong with them.

I make every attempt to shift my thinking by saying, "Thank you, God" (or words to that effect) . . . and then think about all the things that I am grateful for having; e.g., Cynthia in my life, my health, etc.

I truly am blessed and try not to forget that fact . . . besides, even if I were to complain, would you really want to hear that? And it would do me even less good!

Complaining to me is a waste of my time; I'd rather be doing something about a situation than just moaning and groaning about it.

And this reminds me of a story told to me years ago by Dr. Al Sternberg, my friend and mentor . . . he was at a conference once and everybody was in front of a hotel, complaining about the transportation . . . then this one guy gets up and says these words I'll always recall: "What we need here is less bitching and more bussing!"

FYI, part 2

* Wendy in Pennsylvania:
Margate Condo for Rent

Enjoy the Jersey Shore this summer in this beautiful 2 bedroom/2 bath Condo at 25 N. Madison. Only 2 1/2 blocks to the beach and the bay's great nightlife. Available from May 1 to July 20, 2006. The price is negotiable. Please call Wendy at 215.860.2575 or e-mail to wendybdc@comcast.net

* Pat in Pennsylvania [commenting on my review of BEYOND REASON in last week's issue]:

In sales I've been told (and agree 100%) that a face to face meeting is worth 100 times more than a phone call, fax or email. And for me, as long as it's within a day's driving distance to meet someone, I go in person!

I firmly believe that it's the little things that help one to get the sale. Even if your proposal is weaker and or more expensive than your competitor, the prospect will feel more pain telling the person who comes to meet face to face that they did not get the business than telling a faceless person who simply faxed or mailed a quote.

* From time to time, I like profiling the business of a friend/reader . . . so it gives me great pleasure to tell you about the following:

"Buy Invitation Only" has been a reliable, helpful source for Wedding, Anniversary, Baby and Bridal Shower invitations since 1988. "Buy Invitation Only" is home-based and operated by Arlene Ditzler--Invitation Specialist in Croydon, PA.

Arlene will assist you in selection and wording and offers personalized service. You can Shop-at-Home! Arlene invites you make an appointment to pick up books of actual samples from three quality invitation companies, take them home for a few days, and make your selection without the stress of picking your invitation on-the-spot.

"Buy Invitation Only" offers quick delivery. Your order will arrive 5-7 days after it is placed. Call Arlene at 215.785.2104 or e-mail her at buyinonly@aol.com

* THANKS to Chic in Pennsylvania, Donna in New Jersey and Debbi in New Jersey for the nice words about the piece my father wrote in BLAINESWORLD #495 . . . I agree with your sentiments; i.e., he does write well--and that he should write even more!

3. Last words

A guy was very ill when his son visited him in the hospital. He was barely able to speak, so his son leaned over the bed to listen to what he had to say.

Suddenly, the father began to breathe heavily and grabbed the pen and pad by the bed. With his last ounce of strength he wrote a note, dropped it and died.

The son was so overcome with grief that he didn't remember slipping the note into his pocket. At the funeral, he reached into the pocket of his coat and immediately felt the note. He excitedly read it, thinking it might be something he could recite during the service.

It said: YOU IDIOT! . . . GET OFF MY OXYGEN TUBE!!

4. Reviews

A. Spike Lee's latest, *INSIDE MAN*, is a bank-heist thriller that has gotten great reviews--but didn't do much for either Cynthia or me . . . it is well done, and the acting by both Clive Owen and Denzel Washington is fine . . . Jodie Foster, usually terrific, is wasted in her role, as is Christopher Plummer in his . . . we felt it was overlong, and by the end, just wanted to get out of the theater without having to endure still another twist to the already convoluted tale . . . however, that said, the ending was well done . . . rated R.

B. *GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK* is now out in DVD format . . . my review from *BLAINESWORLD* #476 follows:

Saw *GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK*, a docudrama about the events in the mid-1950s leading up to acclaimed CBS journalist Edward R. Murrow's decision to stand up against Sen. Joseph McCarthy, who was out to rid the country of communism . . . it was a bit talky, yet nevertheless, it should be seen by anybody who knows little about that period of time in America . . . methinks that those familiar with the era will probably enjoy it even more.

David Strathairn, long one of my favorite character actors, is superb as Murrow . . . and the guy who played McCarthy was perhaps even better, though truth be told, director George Clooney (who also has a part in the film) used stock footage for his scenes . . . rated PG, but definitely not for young children; they'd be bored completely, as would any child under the age of 17.

C. M. J. Rose first caught my attention with the *LIP SERVICE*, an erotic thriller . . . since then, I believe I've read everything else by her and haven't been disappointed.

So when I saw her latest was out, *THE DELLILAH COMPLEX*, I made it a point to read it as soon as I possibly could . . . and I must say that this is still another addition to her list of smart, sexy tales that I've enjoyed--and you will too.

THE DELILAH COMPLEX is the second in Rose bills as "a Dr. Morgan Snow novel" (she first appeared in *THE HALO EFFECT*) . . . this time, Snow is being brought to work with a group of women who make up a secret group known as the Scarlet Society . . . when bodies start disappearing, the members become concerned and they turn to her for help . . . yet what starts out as counseling quickly becomes a murder investigation.

Though I read and very much enjoyed *THE HALO OFFEECT*, I like how Rose made it possible for you to enjoy her latest book without having to have read the first book in the series . . . also, the more I read this quick-moving book, the more I felt for the main character and her teenage daughter . . . and I kept wanting to find out what was going to happen next.

Rose writes extremely well . . . there were several memorable passages; among them:

* I poured salt into the water. Supposedly salt makes the water boil faster and the pasta taste better. I saw that once on an episode of MARTHA, and anything I can do to make the food I cook taste better, I remember. I seem to be missing the cooking gene; I can even ruin prepared food.

* We all lie. We learn when we are small children and see an overweight woman in the pool and cry out--Mommy, look, there's a fat lady--and our mothers tell us that isn't nice, that we shouldn't say things that can hurt people's feelings. Because in some cases it's kinder to lie, we are taught to ingest moral cyanide in the name of civility. And then one day we get to a point in our lives--perhaps the point that Shelby Rush was at that moment--when the truth is the only way we can begin to help and heal, but still we obfuscate and hide because it is what we are used to doing.

* He listened intently, reading my face, my expressions--paying attention to what I was saying and what I wasn't. That's what he did. He listened to me. It was how he'd seduce me, by asking questions no one had ever asked me: about how I felt listening to patients all day long, about what it was like taking in all the pain and confusion and processing it. And for a while, I had luxuriated in his questions. Talked and talked. Frantically. Wildly. Like a butterfly that had been caught in a net for hours and then suddenly let go.

D. Heard GOLDIE: A LOTUS GROWS IN THE MUD, written and read by Goldie Hawn . . . this is not your typical autobiography, in there's not much name-dropping and very little gossip . . . instead, it feels more like a class you'd take with the talented actress, during which she points out the path that she has followed to get to the point where she is now.

Along the way, she had to battle depression and insecurity, and it took her many long years of therapy . . . in addition, she discovered and developed a love for Buddhism, along with a desire to help others.

I came away feeling that I got to know her better as a person . . . also, the book forever changed my opinion about her being just a ditsy blonde . . . she is anything but, as evidenced by her being a big supporter of Operation Smile (the group which offers reconstructive surgery to youngsters in less-developed countries).

5. VCR alert

A. The very first episode of MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING EPISODE (from 1969, but still funny today) airs on Friday at 9 p.m. on PBS . . . check your local listings as times and dates vary.

B. Just what we need: another reality show . . . but I like the premise of BACK ON CAMPUS, in which four incoming students attending Philadelphia's Drexel University wind up rooming with their folks . . . methinks I'd take a pass on that . . . Saturdays at 10 p.m. on ABC Family.

C. I'm curious as to who wins the election, Santos or Vinick, so I'll tune-in THE WEST WING on Sunday at 8 p.m. on NBC . . . yet there's not much rejoicing as news of Leo's heart attack--and John Spencer's real-life death--sets the stage for the ending episodes of

this show.

6. Professional examination

A woman and a baby were in the doctor's examining room, waiting for the doctor to come in for the baby's first exam. The doctor arrived, and examined the baby, checked his weight, and being a little concerned, asked if the baby was breast-fed or bottle-fed? "Breast-fed," she replied.

"Well, strip down to your waist," the doctor ordered. She did. He pinched her nipples, pressed, kneaded, and rubbed both breasts for a while in a very professional and detailed examination.

Motioning to her to get dressed, the doctor said, "No wonder this baby is underweight. You don't have any milk."

"I know," she said, "I'm his Grandma, but I'm glad I came."

7. Websites

A. If you or somebody you know is interested finding out information about colleges, please click:

http://www.nacac.com/w_general.html

This informative resource--developed by the National Association for College Admissions Counseling--has links to over 60 other websites with all the information you'd ever want to know about making an intelligent selection.

B. If you're "into" video clips, then make sure to check: <http://www.youtube.com>

You can find the movie trailer for THE SIMPSONS (the upcoming movie), as well as a cute live-action version of the song . . . there are also parodies galore, as the one I liked for BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN . . . my only problem with this website is that it can be a tab bit addictive.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click: <http://www.blainesworld.net>

On the left, you'll see "Radio Show" . . . go to that link if you want to see a history of my radio career . . . you can also hear one of my shows.

As you may have read in a past issue, a recent management change at WWFM has resulted in my show being taken off the air . . . but, hopefully, I'll resurface soon again . . . on another station and/or even with my own cable show.

Please do keep me in mind if you have any media contacts for me to pursue with respect to the above possibilities.

8. Computer tip

When on AOL, I generally prefer to open up another window and use Internet Explorer for searches . . . but doing so then tends to kick-in the e-mail program typically associated with the browser; e.g., Outlook.

If I want to use my AOL Address Book and/or AOL for my e-mail, I instead use the AOL browser . . . this also means that my e-mail comes from AOL, something I want it to do.

9. Court exchanges, part 2 of 2
(continued from last week)

These are more things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down by court reporters who had to stay calm while these exchanges were taking place:

ATTORNEY: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And what were you doing at that time?

WITNESS: Uh . . .

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?

WITNESS: By death.

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?

ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?

WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard.

ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?

ATTORNEY: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

WITNESS: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All my autopsies are performed on dead people.

ATTORNEY: ALL your responses MUST be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

WITNESS: Oral.

ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.

ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?

WITNESS: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy on him!

ATTORNEY: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

WITNESS: Huh?

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

WITNESS: No.
ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure?
WITNESS: No.
ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing?
WITNESS: No.
ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?
WITNESS: No.
ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor?
WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.
ATTORNEY: But could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?
WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.

10. A quote I like

Destiny is not a matter of chance. It's a matter of choice.--William Jennings Bryan (1860–1925), American lawyer, statesman and politician

11. Thought for the day

Do not stand at my grave and weep
by Mary Frye

Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sun on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there; I did not die.

NOTE:

The above is one of three versions of this poem . . . for additional information, please click:

<http://www.businessballs.com/donotstandatmygraveandweep.htm>

12. Advance planning department

A. From Cynthia in New Jersey (see also Section 1A):
I will be conducting my next "Move Your Body" class this month . . . if you can attend, this is what you'll get to quote from the blurb:

Fun, easy way to get aerobic exercise by following simple dance moves to soul-filled music from around the world. Start with stretches to warm up and end with a wonderful feeling of relaxation. In a safe atmosphere, leave your thinking mind and come into the joy of moving your body. The result will leave you renewed and invigorated.

It will run on Thursday evenings from 6-7:15 p.m. at the Princeton Center for Yoga & Health in Skillman, NJ, beginning on April 6 and running through June . . . for more information, please call 609.924.7294.

B. Amy in Pennsylvania, a friend and reader of BLAINESWORLD, informed me that her talented group--Second Nature--will be playing its monthly gig at Washington Crossing Inn (215.493.3634) in Washington Crossing, PA on April 22 and May 13.

I always enjoy the food there and suggest that you go there dinner on at least one of these nights, then stay for some dancing from 9 p.m. on. The music runs until 1 a.m.

MORE ON SECOND NATURE, thanks to Amy:
Celebrating music from the 60's thru today's future standards, featuring talented "seasoned" musicians who cover an eclectic mix of tunes from The Beatles to Bonnie Raitt, Santana to Joe Jackson and Joss Stone to Los Lonely Boys. Members include Amy Baker (lead vocals), Bill Corfield (guitar/vocals), Brian Schiefer (bass/vocals), Kenny Pesile (drums), and Richie Petronio (keyboards and vocals).

Come on out and listen to Second Nature's Rock, Funk, R&B, and Soul styles and be sure to bring your dancin' shoes!

For booking information, please contact Amy Baker at secondnatureband@msn.com or call 609.731.2944.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

To continue getting mailings of this type, you don't need to do anything further.

If you do NOT want to get future such mailings, please send an e-mail to bginbc@aol.com and put this in the subject line: unsubscribe BLAINESWORLD.

And, lastly, in the unlikely event that you are not already on the weekly mailing list for this missive (my free online newsletter that contains some jokes, hopefully not too risqué; websites; reviews, etc.) . . . AND if you want to be . . . please send me an e-mail with the following in the subject line: subscribe BLAINESWORLD.

New readers are always welcome, so also feel free to mention BLAINESWORLD to your friends.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #495

3.27.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I have jointly come to the conclusion that enough is enough . . . we've been discussing the time and effort that I have put into publishing this newsletter these past 9+ years . . . and as a result, she has helped me make the following decision:

That effective with BLAINESWORLD #500, there will be an annual subscription charge of \$25/year or \$45 for a 2-year subscription . . . you can pay via cash, credit card or PayPal.

However, if you've bothered to read down to this third paragraph, you will realize that the above is actually an April Fool's joke--in advance of your celebration of that event on Saturday--and that I gotcha!

B. We had a fantastic Saturday, joining a bunch of Cynthia's cousins at a production of CARNIVAL! at the Paper Mill Playhouse (973.376.4343) in Millburn, NJ.

This has always been one of my favorite shows, and I still find myself humming its most famous song: "Love Makes the World Go 'Round" . . . we liked the staging, the use of oversized puppets and the fact that it almost felt like you were at a carnival, in that there were actual magic tricks and acrobatic performances done on stage.

The show runs until April 9.

From there, we were joined by still more cousins at Enzzo's Trattoria (973.379.7121) in Short Hills,

NJ . . . everybody enjoyed both the dinner and conversation . . . Cynthia and I liked the two dishes that we split: lasagna and veal with onions and peppers.

And we concluded things with dessert at the home of Cynthia's sister and brother-in-law . . . it was fun getting to hear everybody's stories, including this classic one:

One of the cousins--whose name will not be revealed to protect the guilty--volunteered for a local blood drive . . . when she got there, she was told that she could not give blood that particular day for some medical reason, so she turned to her husband (who had driven her) and asked him to volunteer instead . . . and he did.

C. During the week, I had an interesting meeting with Bill Young, coordinator for school support services, and Sharon Larmore, legal counsel--both with Trenton (NJ) Public Schools . . . we discussed how to revitalize the truancy mediation program that Sharon and I had developed for that district several years ago.

This is a tough problem that has no easy answers; i.e., getting students who are chronically truant to return to school . . . in addition, there are a whole host of related issues that come into play, such as drugs, homelessness, family structure, etc.

Trenton is fortunate to have both Bill and Sharon, two dedicated individuals, working together to get children back into school . . . this is where they belong.

D. THANKS to all who have asked about my infamous toe . . . it has made just about a complete recovery (only two stitches still need to be taken out) . . . best of all was this final pathologic diagnosis: no residual melanoma!

**** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD ****

This week, it goes to Linda Lewis--a customer service representative for Acme (215.504.0585) in Newtown, PA.

Linda helped me out recently with two different purchases of items that were on sale, but no longer available in the store . . . she placed a special order for them and, more importantly, then called me when the items were ready for pickup.

Too often, I've made similar requests to other stores and never heard from them again.

In addition, I've always found Linda to be helpful with other requests for information, refunds, etc. She is one of the reasons that I continue to shop at this store, even though it is no longer near where I live.

2. FYI

It is all too easy to assume that we know why a person feels the way

they do—when in fact we are very mistaken. One of the clearest examples of a mistaken assumption is a story told to Roger by a Harvard College classmate at a reunion:

After midnight one night, my wife woke me with a sharp pain in her right side. It was tender to the touch. She had a slight fever, and I thought it might be appendicitis. I called a surgeon I knew, woke him up, told him the situation, and asked him to meet us at the hospital.

When he realized who I was, he told me not to worry. “Give your wife a couple of aspirin,” he suggested, “and put her back to bed.”

The doctor was certain that it was not appendicitis. I told the surgeon that I was worried and asked why he was so sure that it was not appendicitis. He said that he was a doctor, I wasn't, and that we should all go back to bed.

When I pressed the surgeon, it turned out that his strong confidence was based on an assumption. He recalled that he had taken out my wife's appendix five or six years ago, and said, “No woman has a second appendix.”

I told the doctor that was true, but that some men had a second wife. Would he please meet us at the hospital?

SOURCE:

BEYOND REASON: USING EMOTIONS AS YOU NEGOTIATE (see also Section 4C) by Roger Fisher and Daniel Shapiro

FYI, part 2

* Deb in New York (see also Section 8) was one of several readers who responded to a recent e-mail from Nate in New Jersey, asking for feedback on this year's Oscars; her reply and some others follow:

Enjoyed the newsletter. I totally agree with Nate.

The Oscar telecast was absolutely the dullest I have seen in years. I thought Jon Stewart would be a liability, but he was not the problem. One of the shortest programs in length seemed like one of the absolute longest.

* Pat in Pennsylvania:

The award for that song was laughable! Ha!

* Michael in California:

Major disagreement there. Out of the 3 nominated songs . . . not only the most catchy (and believe me it is historic in the urban circles already), but the only one integral to the film not only in story but story progression and character.

* Lynda in Pennsylvania:

First of all, the Philadelphia Holocaust Film Series is kicking off its 4th annual program this year with a screening of PAPER CLIPS at the BCCC Perkasio campus, April 25th.

From May 12th to the 18th, we will be featuring the following films: FATELESS, SOPHIE SCHOLL: THE LAST DAYS, TAKING SIDES, GLOOMY SUNDAY, BELZEC (produced by Claude Lanzman of SHOAH fame), KZ (which won several awards at the recent Sundance

Film Festival), DOWNFALL, and PAPER CLIPS at the Hiway Theater in Jenkintown.

Second, I don't agree with you about this year's Oscar winners. Although BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN was poignant, very well made and a beautiful story, I didn't think it deserved "Best Picture" award as you believe it should have received. CRASH was an award-winning story waiting to happen. HUSTLE AND FLOW made more sense to me, as did Terence Howard as best actor. Don't get me wrong: Philip Seymour Hoffman is one of my favorite actors--watch him again in ALMOST FAMOUS . . . he's the voice of many of us writers. But at times he looked as if he were in a Capote play, playing Capote.

I also watched the Spirit Awards the night before the Oscars. How can Joe Shmoe compete with an Ang Lee? There's something very wrong with this picture (and budget) and this equation. And as for Jon Stewart hosting . . . we have soldiers fighting and dying in Afghanistan and Iraq everyday. Did they not deserve one word of mention during the entire show? There was a clip on how Hollywood relates to social and political issues through cinema. We are at war for our very existence, yet nothing mentioned about it makes you wonder how "concerned" Hollywood actually is. We know you made films about McCarthyism, we know you made films about the inner conflicts of suicide bombers, we know you made films about gay cowboys, we know you tried to explain in the most simplistic terms the issue of oil and the Middle East, and we know you tried to explain the Arab-Israeli conflict without mentioning the fact that the Israelis "accidentally" killed the wrong Arab in Norway and that the Germans ended up freeing the arrested Palestinians by staging a hijacking and then demanding their release just so as not to deal with the fact that the Germans messed up that day in 1972 and that the only things on their minds in the film was to resolve the "Jewish/Israeli" problem.

At any rate, please invite your readers to our Film Series, especially the CLIPS screening at the Perkasi campus.

MY TWO CENTS:

I never wrote that BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN deserved the Oscar for this year's best film . . . perhaps Lynda was referring to a comment by some other reader of BLAINESWORLD? My major disappointment in this year's telecast was in the fact that Felicity Huffman did not win for Best Actress for her riveting performance in TRANSAMERICA.

3. Leave me alone

An elderly couple are both lying in bed one morning, having just awoken from a good night's sleep. He takes her hand and she responds, "Don't touch me".

"Why not," he asks.

She answers back, "Because I'm dead."

The husband says to her, "What are you talking about? We're both lying here in bed together and talking to one another."

The wife says, "No, I'm definitely dead."

Her husband insists, "You're not dead. What in the world makes you think you're dead?"

His wife answers, "I know I'm dead, damn it because I woke up this morning . . . and nothing hurts!"

4. Reviews

A. Plan to see JOYEUX NOEL as soon as you can, even if you have to search to find it . . . locally, it is playing at the Montgomery Cinema in Skillman, NJ.

The movie, based on a true story, takes place on Christmas Eve in 1914 in the trenches of a World War I battlefield . . . all of a sudden, the French, Scottish and German troops declare their own truce and instead of fighting, they begin both singing and talking . . . as friendships develop, they all decide they no longer want to go back to battle each other.

It is perhaps the finest anti-war film I have ever seen . . . Cynthia and I were both moved by it, and we believe that you will be too.

JOYEUX NOEL was one of the nominees last year for Best Foreign Film . . . it did not win, though I know that it would have had my vote . . . not rated, but certainly appropriate for any mature teenager.

B. KING KONG is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #484 follows:

Don't believe the reviews. KING KONG, the second remake of the 1933 classic, is terrible . . . don't waste your money seeing it, either in the theaters or when it comes out on DVD . . . after a great opening 30 minutes set in New York City in the 1930s, the film bogs down when the entire cast goes on ship and then becomes even more boring when the everybody reaches the island where King Kong is found . . . this whole middle part is like JURASSIC PARK meets CAST AWAY, wherein big monsters just go through the same battles over and over . . . by the time the famous Empire State Building scene came around, I only cared about getting out of the theater--having been there for over three hours . . . Naomi Watts is fine as Ann Darrow; however, neither Jack Black or Adrien Brody did much for their careers as her co-stars . . . rated PG-13.

C. BEYOND REASON: USING EMOTIONS AS YOU NEGOTIATE (see also Section 2) by Roger Fisher and Daniel Shapiro had me hooked from the very first paragraph when it gave examples of situations that we all have faced at one time or another . . . the first involved a customer backing out of an agreement before the final document gets signed, the second had a car dealer telling a customer that his new car engine wasn't covered under warranty and the third had an 11-year-old telling you that she wasn't going to wear her coat on a cold winter morning.

Typically, rather than being rational in our negotiations in these situations, we turn to anger and behavior that does not help

us get what we want . . . a large part of the reason behind this is that we don't take into account the five key emotions that are most critical to productive negotiations: appreciation, affiliation, autonomy, status, and role.

By considering these, Fisher and Shapiro contend that we'll be far better negotiators--and the other side will feel better about the process, too.

What really made this book so meaningful for me was the fact that the authors used so many actual situations, either that they've been through or that others have experienced . . . these ranged from work situations to marital discord and included attempts to find peace in the Middle East . . . a final chapter featured guest commentary from the former President of Ecuador, Jamil Mahuad, who explains how he applied interest-based negotiations theory to highly charged negotiations between his country and Peru on a border dispute in the late 1990s.

There were several memorable passages; among them:

* If you find that you have stopped listening to the other person, ask yourself, "Am I done or are they done?" In other words, have you prematurely stopped listening to the other person—perhaps because you are tired of listening to them or are uncomfortable with the emotions they are expressing?

* Make yourself indebted to the other. Benjamin Franklin suggested that doing a favor can help build a link between you and another. Rather than doing a favor for other people, however, he suggested that you let them do a favor for you. Borrow a book or otherwise ask them for a small favor that is easy to grant. You become indebted to the other person, and that person feels both generous and connected.

* Meet in person rather than via phone, computer, or e-mail. Personal distance is better reduced by face-to-face conversation than through e-mail, letters, or the telephone. Once you get to know someone in person, it is easier to avoid stereotyping that person or misattributing ideas to them. Whether a negotiation involves Israelis and Palestinians, labor and management, or a landlord and tenant, face-to-face negotiation helps to humanize each of the parties and provides a greater depth of context. When people meet you in your office, you may want to avoid having your desk become a barrier. Former Secretary of State Dean Acheson regularly got up from behind his desk and moved to a chair near that of his guest. Roger has his desk facing bookshelves on the wall so that he can easily swivel his chair and greet a visitor who is promptly invited to sit nearby. Without a desk between you, it can be easier to build a personal connection.

D. Heard the CD version of *PATRIMONY: A TRUE STORY* by Philip Roth, the touching story of how his 86-year-old father battles with the brain tumor that eventually kills him.

If you've ever been in the situation where you have had a parent or grandparent get old right before your eyes, then this is a book for you . . . it will help you deal with the situation better and, also, to understand the aging process.

I really felt I got to know Herman Roth and enjoyed in sharing his reminiscences about growing up in Newark, as

well as about life.

In addition, I could relate to the difficulties that Philip Roth was going through in attempting to care for his father--especially when he, too, had to deal with a serious illness during the process.

The narration by George Guidall was excellent . . . his interpretation of the elder Roth's voice was truly amazing.

5. VCR alert

A. WILL & GRACE used to make me laugh, but it has gone downhill for me over the past few seasons . . . that said, I'll again give it a try on Thursday at 8 p.m. on NBC . . . Britney Spears guests as a "raging right-win, Bush-spouting Republican," according to producer Tracy Proust, who forcibly becomes the cohost of Sean Hayes' local gay cable show.

B. REEL TALK has reviews of new movies and DVDs, as well as interviews with various actors . . . hosts are Jeffrey Lyons, Allison Bailes and Ben Lyons . . . I've watched it and have found it very engaging . . . Saturdays at 10 a.m. on NBC (NYC); check local listings to see if show is being run on a station near you.

C. ASSUME THE POSITION WITH MR. WUHL airs Saturday at 10 p.m. on HBO . . . if you like Robert Wuhl (sooooo funny in the TV show ARLISS), then you won't want to miss this comedy special that has him lecturing an NYC lass on history.

6. Food for thought

Over the past few years, scientists at Heinz say they've been developing what they say is a revolutionary new kind of baby bottle.

It's actually shaped like a woman's breasts.
If that's true, forget baby bottles--make beer bottles.

7. Websites

A. If you're taking a college course . . . or have a son or daughter who is . . . you will want to check out:<http://ratemyprofessor.com>

Students get to rate their professors . . . though you can't believe everything you read, you will get some insight into what others think about those who teach them.

As for yours truly, I'll let you decide for yourself . . . but if you wish to add your comments, feel free to do so if they're of a positive nature . . . if they're not, then wipe this website from your mind . . . (just kidding).

B. Aside from what you get in BLAINESWORLD, methinks there's

just not enough good news for you to read . . . that's why I like the following website so much: <http://www.happynews.com>

You'll be able to read about such stories as the following:

Man finds proper owner of \$200,000
Volvo for Life Award finalist helps disadvantaged children
San Diego locals to shave heads for cancer research
Chinese skating star donates bonus money
Partnership rebuilds paralyzed veteran's house
California National Guardsmen help rescue flood victims
Twelve-year-old founds bilingual theater
Sailor donates kidney to foster mother

Even the sports stories have a positive twist:

Disabled hockey player aims for second gold
Astros' Biggio still going strong at 40
Former heavyweight champion wants to be mayor

There's also an inspiring quote for the day; e.g., this recent one:

When we feel love and kindness toward others, it not only makes others feel loved and cared for, but it helps us also to develop inner happiness and peace.--Dalai Lama

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:<http://www.blainesworld.net>

On the left, you'll see "Radio Show" . . . go to that link if you want to see a history of my radio career . . . you can also hear one of my shows.

As you may have read in a past issue, a recent management change at WWFM has resulted in my show being taken off the air . . . but, hopefully, I'll resurface soon again . . . on another station and/or even with my own cable show.

Please do keep me in mind if you have any media contacts for me to pursue with respect to the above possibilities.

8. Computer tip

Deb in New York (see also Section 2) recently sent me an e-mail that contained this useful advice:

If your readers are using Mac computers, the Camino web browser comes highly recommended. The browser only works with OS X, but I like what I've seen so far.

Also, have you tried Mozilla Firefox instead of IE? It is much faster and very easy to use.

You can find info/downloads for both browsers at: <http://www.mozilla.org/>

9. Court exchanges, part 1 of 2

These are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down by court reporters who had to stay calm while these exchanges were

taking place:

ATTORNEY: Are you sexually active?

WITNESS: No, I just lie there.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reebok's.

ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

WITNESS: I forget.

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

ATTORNEY: How old is your son, the one living with you?

WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

ATTORNEY: How long has he lived with you?

WITNESS: Forty-five years.

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said, "Where am I, Cathy?"

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Susan.

ATTORNEY: Do you know if your daughter has ever been involved in voodoo?

WITNESS: We both do.

ATTORNEY: Voodoo?

WITNESS: We do.

ATTORNEY: You do?

WITNESS: Yes, voodoo.

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the twenty-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: Uh, he's twenty-one.

ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken?

WITNESS: Would you repeat the question?

(to be concluded next week)

10. A quote I like

Beginning today, treat everyone you meet as if they were going to be dead by midnight. Extend to them all the care, kindness and understanding you can muster, and do it with no thought of any reward. Your life will never be the same again.--Og Mandino (1923-1996), American motivational speaker and author

11. Thought for the day

I've always enjoyed my father's writing . . . and have been encouraging him to do more of it . . . see below for a piece he just finished, in which he shares just some of what he learned while in business:

Monstrosities
by Bernard Greenfield

We had returned from World War Two and now we directed our energies and efforts to earning a living and making a career for ourselves, and for many of us, our young families.

In so many different ways it was a wonderful period. We were young, confident, the future appeared so promising. Our country had emerged victorious, loved and respected by the entire world. The Soviets had not yet become the problem that they would be later. We knew that the road ahead wasn't paved with gold and we would need to work to reach our goals, but they were attainable and could be reached. I labeled this time, The Period of Confidence.

I found employment with a marketing and sales promotion company. Their clients were the national advertisers and retailers for whom they distributed home-to-home samples of their products and literature.

It was soon obvious that I would someday be the head of this organization. I had all the necessary attributes. I was young, intelligent, hard working, charming, a willing worker, a winning personality and my father owned the company.

One of my early assignments was to go into the field and check the physical distribution of the samples that we were hired to deliver to the homes. There were specifications that had to be fulfilled and my job was to see that the distribution was done correctly and to make myself helpful in a supervisory role.

I had a young associate working with me. The work required covering a lot of territory and it would have been more than one person could have handled. We had a very nice relationship and worked well together. He obviously knew that I was the boss's son, but no favoritism was asked or given. We shared the work equally and pleasantly.

His name was Cy. He was a tall, attractive, bright young man. Pleasant to be with. He had a promising future, which he later fulfilled.

I'm glad to say that I felt no sense of superiority because of my position. I never lost sight of the fact that I was lucky to be born into a favorable situation. But that was not my passport to success. I considered Cy my equal in every sense of the word. That was where I made my mistake. He was not my equal.

During all our time together, we never discussed finances or our economic situation. I knew that he was married and managed to get by on his and his wife's salaries. It was just something that I never gave any thought to.

One morning he came to work and was proudly wearing a new pair of shoes that he had just purchased. They were a peculiar two-toned affair that I thought were monstrosities. Stupidly and inexcusably, I was scathing in my

condemnation of them. I advised him to get rid of them.

I will never forget the expression on his face, not angry, but hurt and saddened. He looked at me and then without malice, more like a parent correcting a wayward child, he said, "Bernie, you don't understand. When you buy something and, for some reason or the other, you don't care for it, you can discard it with no great concern. Fortunately for you, you do not have to be too greatly worried about the cost of replacing or what it took to purchase it in the first place.

"All of us are not in that same position. I had to stint and save until I had acquired enough money to buy these shoes and I do not have the luxury of throwing them out, giving them away or following whatever whim at the moment possess me. Good, bad or indifferent, I cannot afford to buy others, and I must and will make do with these."

I felt as if I had been hit by the heavyweight champion of the world. How could I have been so terribly unthinking, stupid and unkind to hurt someone and not to realize the disparity in our monetary positions? We were equal in every sense of the word but one, we were not financially equal.

The incident taught me humility and to try to have a better understanding of the other person's problems.

Cy did not hold it against me. He accepted my apology, but I could never completely forgive myself. In business there is an adage, "leave bad enough alone." Offering to pay for a different pair of shoes would not change the situation.

I did not elect to rest the matter there. I saw to it that Cy received an increase in salary. I cannot say that the shoe incident had nothing to do with it. In the regular scheduled time for a raise, Cy would most certainly would have received his.

But it's nice having your father as boss of the operation. Sometimes you can use your clout for a good purpose.

12. Advance planning department

A. From Patty in Pennsylvania:

A movie has been made out of THE CELESTINE PROPHECY by James Redfield, the popular book on an "alternative view" of spirituality . . . it will be shown in the Library Auditorium of Bucks County Community College this coming Friday at 7 p.m., and there will be a repeat performance on April 7 . . . cost to attend: \$10/person.

To reserve a seat, call Debbie Burns at 215.493.3456.

* From Tobi in Pennsylvania:

Bucks County Community College's Career and Transfer Services will host a Business and Technology Job and Transfer Fair on Wednesday, April 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Newtown campus (275 Swamp Road).

For more information, please call 215.968.8195 or 215.968.8031.

Hope you can join us on April 12.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers
back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #494

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are truly blessed . . . we remind ourselves (on a daily basis) how fortunate we are to have found each other, and we make it a point to appreciate all the "little things" that add up to make our lives so marvelous.

For instance, we have this bathtub . . . make that, this great bathtub . . . it is also a Jacuzzi that is perfect for two because of its huge size.

We enjoy luxuriating in it, listening to music and taking in the view we have of our wooded backyard . . . yet for the past week, we were not able to use it together as I recovered from my recent toe surgery.

Then one day, we both looked at each other and asked the question, "How dumb is this?" . . . the answer just somehow came to us: That's why God invented the ledge! . . . and amazed at our collective brilliance, we were able to resume using the tub together as I stuck out my leg and rested it on that ledge.

FLASHBACK TIME:

The above reminds me of a story we tell about the time we first saw our present home . . . I was downstairs, speaking with the realtor, and Cynthia was upstairs.

After a few minutes, she came down to join us . . . it was then that we noticed that her clothing had this white powder on it . . . only when we left were we able to figure out where it was from . . . turns out that when she was checking out the bathroom, she just had to try the tub . . . so she climbed into it . . . and came away with the residue of the substance that had apparently

been used to clean it!

B. We had an event-filled past week . . . on Wednesday, Cynthia joined me to hear Roger HB Davies at the third annual "Meet the Author" Business Seminar at Bucks County Community College . . . the event helped to raise some \$2,000 for the College's Foundation, which in turn will go to support teaching and learning activities on campus.

Davies spoke about his book, PAWTALK! A GUIDE FOR GETTING WHAT YOU WANT (originally reviewed in BLAINESWORLD #446) . . . this is a handy system that helps you recognize three distinct communication styles: analytical, visual or interactive . . . or if you're Calypso, his dog: thinking, leaping and relating.

He said that 80 percent of the time, people have a clear preference for one of these three . . . and that most of the time, that style isn't what the audience prefers . . . so to be an effective communicator, you should "presume nothing" and "respect all styles."

From there, we went with friends to Concerto Fusion (215.428.2899), a new restaurant in Morrisville, PA . . . the decor first caught our attention; it is both spacious and attractive . . . we all enjoyed our food, too, starting with an appetizer sampler that featured crab rangoon . . . next came a variety of chicken and fish dishes, prepared in what could perhaps be best described as a combination Chinese/Japanese style . . . there's also a sushi bar, which we did not partake in that day.

Eddie, the very friendly manager, recommended that we top off our lunch with a creme brulee dessert that had three distinct flavors: mango, banana and raspberry . . . it was sinfully delicious . . . make sure you ask for it when you go to Concerto Fusion, a place destined to become one of our favorites.

On Saturday, we went with other friends to dinner at Mastori's Restaurant (609.298.4650) in Bordentown, NJ . . . if you've never dined here before, make it a point to do so; it is a diner unlike any other diner you've ever seen.

The menu is huge, and so are the portions . . . the food is very tasty, too . . . I enjoyed my turkey; Cynthia said her coconut shrimp was excellent . . . best of all: you get huge loaves of both cinnamon and cheese bread with every meal . . . I'm still salivating at the thought of their taste.

Afterwards, we all went virtually next door to The Academy Theatre (609.291.9000)--also in Bordentown, NJ--to see HAIR.

The choreography was excellent, and we liked the accompanying 9-piece band . . . we also admired the enthusiasm of the cast and, in particular, the work of Andrea Cartegena . . . yet overall, the musical didn't send us . . . we didn't really feel for any of the characters, nor were the songs as great as we had remembered them . . . there also seemed to be something wrong with the sound system; though we were in the front row, we had trouble understanding many of

the words.

Lastly, on Sunday, we met a group of still other friends for lunch at what has become another of our favorite restaurants: The Famished Frog (973.540.9601) in Morristown, NJ . . . just about everybody ordered the very tasty hamburgers . . . as good as they were, the sweet potato fries that came with them were perhaps even better . . . and whenever we go there, we request that Brad be assigned as our server . . . he is both pleasant and competent, a combination that is hard to beat.

Everybody then went down the street to the annual Spring Craftsair at the National Guard Armory where we saw the displays of some 165 craft artists . . . though we didn't buy anything that day, we were tempted by the hanging pieces of one sculptor--and might buy something from his website if we can figure out how to hang it.

C. During the week, I was fortunate to be able to attend a lecture by James McBride at the Princeton Public Library . . . he is the author of one of my all-time favorite books, THE COLOR OF WATER, which describes his life growing up in a large African-American family led by a white, devoutly Christian (and formerly Jewish) mother.

McBride was in Princeton as part of that New Jersey's community "Princeton Reads 2006" series, wherein everybody is encouraged to read his book and then discuss it.

His presentation covered a wide range of topics and had me both thinking and laughing in equal portions . . . here's just a small sampling of what he had to say:

* When your mortgage is on the line and you stand up for something, that's what counts.

* There's no such thing as the good old days; these are the good old days.

* The black America is not the crap you see on TV. It is a kind, loving place. And flawed.

* [When asked about the name of his book, he told the story of what his Mommy taught him] God doesn't have a color. God is the color of water.

* God put you on Earth to help others.

* Where are our young people learning selfishness from? Us!

* [On his teaching a writing course] I force my students to write longhand. To keep their "A," they have to hand in something different every week.

* It's disturbing how little we've given young people.

* [Commenting on an article he just read about a couple who just retired and are driving around the country in a Winnebago] We need to give back to the community. They could join the Peace Corps.

* I have a hard time reading Toni Morrison because she's so good. She flies from place to place; most of us take the subway.

* Support your independent booksellers. These are the people who make young writers.

* I hope you remember the thousands of books that couldn't be published because we don't read enough.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to Diana Loreman, my teaching colleague and friend, on the birth of her daughter Sophia Elizabeth on March 11 . . . both she and her daughter are doing well, along with husband/father Dennis.

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

This week, it goes to two people: Joyce, my sister-in-law, and her husband Marty, my brother-in-law.

They are a marvelous couple who continually do for others, often without being asked.

Two recent examples come to mind . . . in the first, Joyce's uncle died . . . knowing that her cousin did not have a home that would be convenient for the Shiva period (where mourners in the Jewish tradition stop by to express their sorrow and offer comfort upon the passing of a loved one), Joyce immediately came forward and offered their home.

Then, last week, a neighbor died . . . though they weren't even particularly close, Joyce went over to the wife's house to offer her help . . . and she then had relatives of the deceased sleep over at their house before the funeral.

And a special THANKS to Marty, in advance, for offering to help me buy my first grill--then teaching me how to use it!

2. FYI

We are so small
we look at things in a small way.
But God, being Almighty
sees everything great. Therefore,
even if you write a letter for a blind man
or you just go and sit and listen,
or you take the mail for him,
or you visit somebody
or bring a flower to somebody-small things
or wash clothes for somebody,
or clean the house.
Very humble work, that is where
you and I must be.
For there are many people who
can do big things.
But there are very few people
who will do the small things.

SOURCE:

EVERYTHING STARTS FROM PRAYER: MOTHER
TERESA'S MEDITATIONS ON SPIRITUAL LIFE FOR PEOPLE
OF ALL FAITHS (see also Sections 4C, 10 and 11) by Anthony Stern

FYI, part 2

* Linda in New Jersey:

I so enjoy your newsletter. It's personal and encompassing. Normal. Ordinary (as in: the elegance and significance of one man's opinion expressed with delight and humor and concern and passion). Ever interesting. And ever intimate.

And congratulations on your recent marriage . . . an act of courage and faith. I applaud your action and your trust and curiosity about the future.

Nice going. You become a role model for us all.

* Mel in Pennsylvania had this response to the world's shortest female joke:

The world's shortest and best male joke

A three-year old is taking a bath.

He plays with his testicles and asks his mom: Are these my brains?

Her answer: Not yet . . .

* Jan in New Jersey:

This group supports the Arctic Refuge:

<http://earthday.care2.com/campaigns/edvm/accept/63bb16be019519060cf2c36b2c3968f9/>

I hope that you'll participate.

* Laura in New Jersey:

My friend Sandy has a dear friend who is essentially bedridden because of a bad accident. Her birthday was on March 12.

She has the flu right now. She is divorced and estranged from her adult children, so she really has no family. She definitely needs some cheering up.

Her name is Kathy. Her email address is:

mamabear0312@aol.com

Can you take a minute to send her an e-card, an e-mail greeting or belated e-mail birthday card?

Just identify yourself as a friend of Laura in New Jersey, and then tell her that Laura is Sandy's friend. (Kathy knows Sandy.)

Thank you.

* Mary in New Jersey:

I was thrilled with the juggler [a recent website]! I can't stop watching him. Chris Bliss was inspiring. Thanks sooooo much for that. Give me more websites, please!

MY TWO CENTS:

One key source for such information is you, the reader of BLAINESWORLD . . . if and when you come across a website that you think is remarkable, please feel free to share it with me . . . I can then share it with others in a future newsletter . . . also, feel free to share jokes that you haven't seen too many times on the Internet; computer tips; inspirational quotes and stories, quotes, etc.

3. Signage

The head of a small industrial company posted DO IT NOW signs all around his office and plant in hopes of getting better results from his workers.

Some weeks later, when asked why he was removing the slogans, he said, "It worked too well: the bookkeeper skipped with \$20,000; the chief clerk eloped with the best secretary I've ever had; three salesmen asked for raises; and the workers in the factory joined the union and are out on strike."

4. Reviews

A. FAILURE TO LAUNCH did not get very good reviews from the critics, but Cynthia and I both liked it--a lot . . . we laughed throughout the film and were joined by most in the audience.

It is a comedy about a slacker (Matthew McConnaughey) who still lives with his parents . . . his parents (Kathy Bates and a very funny Terry Bradshaw) hire a woman (Sarah Jessica Parker) to get him out of the house, but things don't go quite as they expect . . . we also liked the work of Zooey Deschanel as Parker's offbeat roommate . . . rated PG-13.

B. DREAMER is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #473 follows:

Cynthia and I most often agree on movies . . . such was the case with DREAMER, a family movie that adults will enjoy as much as kids . . . based on a true story, it is about a horse whose promising future on the racetrack was cut short by a broken leg . . . but because of the faith of a young girl, he makes a comeback that had everybody in the audience cheering at the end.

Kurt Russell and the Dakota Fanning (who continues to amaze because of her youth) were both touching as the horseman and his daughter . . . we also liked the work of just about everybody else in the course, including David Morse, Elisabeth Shue (and why hasn't she been in more films?), Freddy Rodriguez, and Luis Guzman.

Stay until the credits, in that you'll get to see pictures of all the above actors and actresses--something you don't see nearly enough . . . rated PG.

C. I've long known that a book's length doesn't guarantee that it will be worth reading . . . such is the case

with EVERYTHING STARTS FROM PRAYER: MOTHER TERESA'S MEDITATIONS ON SPIRITUAL LIFE FOR PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS (see also Sections 2, 10 and 11) by Anthony Stern.

It is short, but oh so powerful . . . and as the subtitle implies, it is applicable for people of any faith.

As I was reading it, I kept having to pause to think about Mother Teresa was saying . . . it was almost as if she were talking to me directly!

For example, when I'm in a lazy mood, these words always inspire me:

Yesterday is gone.
Tomorrow has not yet come.
We have only today.
Let us begin.

Almost every page contained some other tidbit that I'll want to refer to again--and again . . . to cite just a few others:

* There is much suffering in the world--very much. And this material suffering is suffering from hunger, suffering from homelessness, from all kinds of diseases, but I still think the greatest suffering is being lonely, feeling unloved, just having no one.

* Examine your heart first, though, to see if there is any lack of forgiveness of others still inside, because how can we ask God for forgiveness if we cannot forgive others?

* It is so easy to be proud, harsh, moody and selfish, but we have been created for greater things; why stoop down to things that will spoil the beauty of our hearts?

And, lastly, there's this one which I've quoted before in BLAINESWORLD . . . but that still remains one of my all-time favorites:

* We can do no great things--only small things with great love.

D. Heard the cassette version of POUND FOR POUND by Herb Boyd with Ray Robinson II, the biography of Sugar Ray Robinson--billed by many as the best "pound for pound" boxer of all time.

Robinson was a world welterweight and five-time middleweight champion whose career spanned three decades . . . before he finally retired in 1965 at the age of 44, he once won 125 consecutive fights including victories over Henry Armstrong, Kid Gavilan, Carmen Basilio, Jake LaMotta, Rocky Graziano, Gene Fullmer, and Randy Turpin.

Yet POUND FOR POUND is a lot more than just about boxing; in fact, if there's a weakness to it, it was that I would have wanted more details on some of Robinson's fights--especially those with LaMotta . . . but if that had been the case, then methinks the book

would have been a lot longer than it was.

What I really liked about the book was that it gave me a feel for Harlem in the 1940s, at a time when both the city and Robinson were at its prime . . . I also felt that I got to know about Robinson, the man--his life outside the ring . . . both the good and the bad.

Furthermore, I enjoyed getting to learn about the role that the various women in his life played, as well as about his dealings with promoters who tried to control his destiny.

The excellent narration by Peter Jay Fernandez added to my enjoyment of POUND FOR POUND.

5. VCR alert

A. I've already seen and enjoyed WALKOUT, an HBO Films production . . . it is the stirring true story of a group of Mexican American students who fought back in 1968 to protest the injustices of the public high-school system in East Los Angeles . . . Tuesday at 1 p.m. on HBO; repeated at 9 p.m. and Sunday at 11 p.m.

B. In the ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME CEREMONY, inductees will be Blondie, Black Sabbath, Lynyrd Skynyrd and the no-show Sex Pistols . . . Tuesday at 9 p.m. on VH1.

C. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "The marvelous British actor Bill Nighy plays a man at the height of his powers in the television movie GIDEON'S DAUGHTER". . . it is the tale of London's premier about a London PR magician whose work has become tired and boring for him . . . Saturday at 8 p.m. on BBC America.

I agree with THE JOURNAL's assessment . . . Nighy has for quite some time been one of my favorite character actors (think LOVE ACTUALLY, the underappreciated BLOW DRY, etc.), so I'll make sure to see this film.

6. Three guys

Two doctors and an HMO manager died and lined up at the pearly gates for admission to heaven. St. Peter asked them to identify themselves. One doctor stepped forward and said, "I was a pediatric orthopedic surgeon and helped correct deformities in children."

St. Peter said, "You may enter."

The second doctor said, "I was a psychiatrist. I helped people rehabilitate themselves."

St. Peter also invited him in.

The third applicant stepped forward and said, "I was an HMO manager. I helped people get cost-effective health care."

St. Peter said, "You can come in too."

As the HMO manager walked by, St. Peter added, "You can only stay three days. After that, you can go to Hell."

7. Websites

A. Are Mondays sometimes tough for you? If so, then please click:

<http://www.doonenicething.com>

You'll be encourage to do one nice thing for someone to start the new week off . . . and just imagine where that could lead!

What I like about the information I saw . . . it points out that you don't always have to do something of a grand scale . . . for example, Debbie Tenzer--the founder of doonenicething.com--"likes to give cold drinks to mail carriers and people working outside."

Personally, I often try to do the same . . . in addition, I always offer any repair person coming to my house a soda or a bottle of water, along with some cookies or an apple to go along with it.

B. YOU HAVE GOT TO PET THIS CAT, even if not a cat lover.

Go to this website to see something awesome:

<http://www.broenink-art.nl/maukie2.swf>

If you tease her with the mouse pointer on her chest or stomach, she will purr. I got her to meow also by rubbing her forehead with the pointer. If you make a slow circle around her body (counter-clockwise), not only will her head/eyes follow your pointer, but toward the top, her paw will go up. And when in front of her paws at the bottom, her foot comes out like she wants to play with your mouse pointer. Don't hold the mouse down, just move it.

Enjoy! Also, make sure your volume is turned on.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

As you hopefully know by now, you should ALWAYS feel free to mention this newsletter to your friends, relatives, etc. . . . they can go to the above website and see back issues at any time.

Should they want to subscribe (AT NO COST), all they have to do is send an e-mail to: bginbc@aol.com . . . and put this in subject line: SUBSCRIBE . . . it's that simple!

8. Computer tip

THANKS to all those who pointed-out the problem with the link in last week's issue for artist Julian Beever . . . here's the scoop on what seems to have happened:

I gave a website that was working, at least at the time I ran it . . . but

maybe because of my mention (haha), shortly thereafter folks started getting this notice:

You don't have permission to access
/users.skynet.be/J.Beever/&&&&&/users/1/web/00/00/01/92/53/&&&1/&&&0/&&&/index.html
on this server.

When that happens with any website, you should first try it out a day or two later . . . it sometimes will work for you then; in fact, I just did--and it again seems to be working!

So that said, here are the two links to check out again:

Even if you're not an art lover, you MUST check out the following website because it is simply amazing:
<http://users.skynet.be/J.Beever/index.html>

And if you don't want to scroll through all the pictures, just take a look at this one:
<http://users.skynet.be/J.Beever/batman.html>

The work of Julian Beever just has to be seen to be believed!

However, if a particular website isn't working, I'll then do an Internet search on the topic . . . in this case, "Julian Beever."

I did so and was next directed to this information from Wikipedia (an excellent FREE encyclopedia):
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_Beever

I found out that Beever is a British chalk artist who creates 3D chalk drawings on pavement using a projection called anamorphism that creates the illusion. His street paintings appear to defy the laws of perspective.

And--here's the IMPORTANT PART--I was given several other websites, along with the skynet one . . . so even if you are still having difficulty accessing his official website, you could always try this one:
<http://www.attivissimo.net/antibufala/madonnaro/artista.htm>

9. Instructions

The college girl was supposed to write a short story in as few words as possible for her English class and the instructions were that it had to include Religion, Sexuality and Mystery.

She was the only one who received an A+ and this is what she wrote:

Good God, I'm pregnant, I wonder who did it.

10. A quote I like

You may be exhausted with work,
you may even kill yourself, but unless

your work is interwoven with love, it is useless. To work without love is slavery.--Mother Teresa, as cited in EVERYTHING STARTS FROM PRAYER: MOTHER TERESA'S MEDITATIONS ON SPIRITUAL LIFE FOR PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS (see also Sections 2, 4C and 10) by Anthony Stern

11. Thought for the day

As you probably know by now, I REALLY like a book if I mention it on four separate occasions in BLAINESWORLD . . . such is the case with EVERYTHING STARTS FROM PRAYER: MOTHER TERESA'S MEDITATIONS ON SPIRITUAL LIFE FOR PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS (see also Sections 2, 4C and 10) by Anthony Stern , from which I took the following passage:

I remember some time ago I visited a very wonderful home for old people. There were about forty there and they had everything, but they were all looking toward the door. There was not a smile on their faces, and I asked the sister in charge of them, "Sister, why are these people not smiling? Why are they looking towards the door?"

And she, very beautifully, had to answer and give the truth: "It's the same every day. They are longing for someone to come and visit them." This is great poverty.

12. Advance planning department

A. Amy in Pennsylvania, a friend and reader of BLAINESWORLD, informed me that her talented group--Second Nature--will be playing at the Steak Exchange Restaurant and Lounge (732.739.2002) in Hazlet, NJ, this coming Friday.

Her group has also been booked for a monthly gig at Washington Crossing Inn (215.493.3634) in Washington Crossing, PA on these dates: April 22 and May 13.

I always enjoy the food there and suggest that you go there dinner on at least one of these nights, then stay for some dancing from 9 p.m. on. The music runs until 1 a.m.

MORE ON SECOND NATURE, thanks to Amy:
Celebrating music from the 60's thru today's future standards, featuring talented "seasoned" musicians who cover an eclectic mix of tunes from The Beatles to Bonnie Raitt, Santana to Joe Jackson and Joss Stone to Los Lonely Boys. Members include Amy Baker (lead vocals), Bill Corfield (guitar/vocals), Brian Schiefer (bass/vocals), Kenny Pesile (drums), and Richie Petronio (keyboards and vocals).

Come on out and listen to Second Nature's Rock, Funk, R&B, and Soul styles and be sure to bring your dancin' shoes!

For booking information, please contact Amy Baker at

secondnatureband@msn.com or call 609.731.2944.

B. From Tobi in Pennsylvania:

Bucks CCC Professor James A. Freeman will be featured as a local author Saturday, March 25, from 10 a.m. to Noon at the Bucks County Visitors Center, 3207 Street Road, Bensalem, PA.

Freeman will read from and sign copies of his latest book, PARADE OF DAY (2004, Xlibris), which is set at Bucks and includes characters based on some familiar College faces. For information, contact the Bucks County Conference and Visitors Bureau at 215-639-0300, extension 224.

PARADE OF DAYS can be purchased at the March 25 book signing. It's also available through the publisher's website at:

www.xlibris.com/bookstore

and at the Bucks Bookstore on the Newtown campus:

<http://www.bucks.edu/bookstore/>

A portion of the royalties from the sale of the book benefit the College's Ray Reilly Memorial Scholarship Fund. The author can be contacted at 215.968.8155 or freemanj@bucks.edu

Hope to see you on March 25!

C. From Cynthia in New Jersey (see also Section 1A):

I will be conducting my next two "Move Your Body" classes in April . . . if you can attend either and/or both, this is what you'll get to quote from the blurb:

Fun, easy way to get aerobic exercise by following simple dance moves to soul-filled music from around the world. Start with stretches to warm up and end with a wonderful feeling of relaxation. In a safe atmosphere, leave your thinking mind and come into the joy of moving your body. The result will leave you renewed and invigorated.

On Tuesday evenings, from 6-7:15 p.m., a session will be running at the Princeton Center for Yoga & Health in Skillman, NJ, beginning on April 6 and running through June . . . for more information, call 609.924.7294.

A second session will be running at Elizabeth Ave. School in Somerset, NJ, on April 4, 18, 25, May 2 and 9--all Tuesday evenings--from 7-8 p.m. . . . for more information, call Ruth at 732.873.2400, ext. 403.

PS. Please join me in celebrating the beginning of Spring, which began on Monday . . . in doing so, continue to pray that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody knows wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #493

3.13.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I will most probably remember this past week because it was when I got a mole removed from my toe.

In case you missed the story, here's the short version: a few months ago, I went to my dermatologist (Dr. Stenn; 609.443.4500) . . . she did a very thorough body scan, and in doing so, discovered something between my toes . . . a biopsy indicated it was melanoma, so she referred me to Dr. James Goydos (732.235.7563) at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey . . . he concurred with both Dr. Stenn's thoughts and the biopsy; i.e., that I had a mole that needed to be removed . . . and so on Friday, I had the work done.

It could have been worse, much worse . . . for one thing, they let me listen to music--something I try to do when faced with any sort of medical or dental procedure . . . I typically will play the CD of my all-time favorite musical, LES MISERABLES, because it somehow manages to calm my soul whenever I hear it . . . more importantly, they allowed Cynthia to accompany me into the treatment area . . . I was sooooo comforted by the fact that she was there, holding my hand and helping me get through the surgery . . . and, in general, just being there for me and making such a difference in my life after having entered it.

She then spent the weekend, taking care of me and ministering to my every need . . . well, make that almost every need . . . I never did get fed grapes, but then again, I'm not really a big grape eater!

B. We recently joined friends to see ROSE'S DILEMMA, a play by Neil Simon, at the Off-Broadstreet Theatre (609.466.2766) in Hopewell, NJ.

It is not one of Simon's typical comedies; i.e., it is more a touching drama, though there are some funny lines it . . . the story revolves around a widow who has trouble forgetting her late husband.

There are only four performers in the show, and they are all excellent . . . we particularly liked the work of Peter Martino, a newcomer to Off-Broadstreet, who played the role of the young writer . . . his look reminded Cynthia of Jim Carrey; his mannerisms and speech had me thinking more in terms of a young Jack Nicholson.

ROSE'S DILEMMA runs through March 18, so you still have a chance to catch it . . . make sure you save room for dessert, too, because that's always included when you see something at the Off-Broadstreet Theatre.

C. Do join me at a presentation by Roger HB Davies, the award-winning author of PAWTALK! A GUIDE FOR GETTING WHAT YOU WANT, this coming Wednesday (March 15) from 8:30 a.m. to Noon in the Library Auditorium of Bucks County Community College.

Davies will teach attendees his canine-inspired communication concepts, including how to recognize and respect three distinct patterns. He notes, "Whatever your background, you will find profit in good communication."

You can also read more about Davies and his message by clicking: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/147-03022006-620216.html>

***** SPECIAL OFFER *****

Hoping you might still be able to attend--in case you don't already have a ticket--I can still get you a FREEBIE . . . if you can't reach me by e-mail or phone, just show up Wednesday morning between 8:30-9 a.m. and ask for Nancy or Bridget . . . they'll both be at the desk in the front lobby and can get you a ticket, along with one for any friends you might want to bring along.

D. During the week, I was fortunate to be able to hear River Huston speak at Bucks . . . she presented an abbreviated version of her one-woman show, "Sex, Cellulite and Large Farm Equipment: One Girl's Guide to Living and Dying" . . . it was funny, as well as moving, and my only regret was that I didn't get to see the whole production.

My friend Jean in Pennsylvania then told me about an incident afterwards that I didn't get to see . . . to quote from her e-mail:

After the show, about a dozen or so audience members milled around River to talk to her. I overheard a black man wearing a baseball cap and an overlarge down coat tell her he liked the show and wanted to meet her because he's been positive for 16 years. They hugged. He left and she moved on to the next person, then he doubled back, reached into his pocket, said, "Here . . . here's number 31" (referring to her story about wearing 30 rosary beads as a girl) and handed her a set of black plastic rosary beads. River smiled, thanked him and immediately put them on as a necklace.

That touching moment sealed it for me.

I also watched it with a friend who's a breast-cancer survivor. She could

relate to facing death and embracing life, which I took away as River's themes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

About River Huston, her upcoming appearances, etc., please click:
<http://www.riverhuston.com>

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

This week, it goes to Gail Frantz--a longtime friend and very talented violin player.

Gail is one of those rare people who says "yes" when asked to do a favor, even before she knows what she is being asked to do . . . for example, she joined Cynthia this past week on a visit to the nursing home where Cynthia's mom resides . . . but she did more than just visit; she also brought along her violin and gave the residents a mini-concert that they all enjoyed immensely.

Gail also played the violin at our wedding, as well as at a holiday party Cynthia and I put together for senior citizens.

She does this type thing all the time, and she does it with both enthusiasm and skill . . . in her professional life, Gail is a music teacher for the Franklin Township School District . . . and in her spare time, she plays the fiddle for the band of another friend (Dave Brahinsky) and somehow manages to find time to train to become a music therapist.

2. FYI

The 10% rule

Throughout my life, I have heard that by contributing ten percent of your income to charity and ten-percent to savings, you would never want for anything. I scoffed at that concept until in 1994 it came up again in a book I was reading called **THE GREATEST SALESMAN IN THE WORLD** by Og Mandino. That ancient tale repeated this idea, once again, so I decided to try it.

Soon after I started, I found that for the first time in my life, I had a surplus of money. Then, due to a turn of events during the last half of that year, I felt that I was not able to put aside ten percent. Almost immediately, my cash reserves evaporated. I resolved to return to that ten percent devotion. Since then, financial abundance has returned to my life, even through hard times.

Believe me, this works. Try it for a year. Even if you think you are living on the absolute minimum possible, find a way to take what is left after withholding taxes and dedicate ten percent of that net income to giving and ten percent to savings. If you don't cheat and you do put that money aside, you will experience abundance.

SOURCE:

MIRACLES AT WORK (see also Sections 4C and 12B)

FYI, part 2

* Judith in New Jersey (REQUEST FOR HELP):

I am writing an article on the need for managers to have training and how, without training, you could make an error that could result in a disgruntled employee or lawsuit. I want to interview someone who is willing to talk about a mistake they made when they were a young manager and what they learned from it. Can you think of any examples from your experience? If so, is that something that you would be willing to be interviewed about?

IF YOU CAN HELP, please contact Judith directly:

Judith Lindenberger
The Lindenberger Group, LLC
Phone: 609.730.1049
E-mail: info@lindenbergergroup.com
www.lindenbergergroup.com

* Pat in Florida (also with a REQUEST FOR HELP):

I have never liked asking anyone for money, and I know so many may not be in a financial position to afford a gift of money. But, please know that your time and efforts are equally valuable. Please help in anyway you can. I urge you to please read my e-mail and by all means, pass this along to your friends and family.

It is that time of year once again. It is time for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk-A-Thon.

Why bother reading about yet another illness that asks you to reach in your pockets?

I am certain you know someone who has diabetes. Diabetes affects more than 18 million Americans. According to the World Health Organization, this number will more than double by 2030.

Please go to the website to make a contribution, if you are able to. If you can not afford the financial contribution, please consider being a walker and getting sponsors, and by all means, forward this note and the website to friends and family who might be able to contribute.

Please imagine being in my position, looking at your child, and knowing the day will come that he will go through kidney failure or face amputation. Add to that there are organizations that are dedicated to finding a cure that do not exist right now. That cure or improved quality of life remains just out of reach due to the need for donations, to pursue that research. Please help, if you can, by clicking:

<http://walk.jdrf.org/walker.cfm?id=86334938>

* Joe in New Jersey:

I'm pursuing certification in life coaching and am making FREE coaching sessions available. If interested, please call me at 1.888.830.5034.

Or check out my website:

<http://www.coachingbyjoe.com>

* Maddy:

Just want to say that this is movie [THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW] you had to see when it was first released . . . and how the audience participated in all the parts from cards, rice, water guns, paper hats, etc.

After seeing the movie with all the participation, you actually see the

play (or movie) differently. Or at least I did.

* Nate in New Jersey:

I would be curious to find out what your readers thought of the Academy Awards telecast last Sunday. I think it was one of the dullest I have ever seen, and Jon Stewart was quite dull. The worst part was how that horrible song was chosen to receive that award.

* Robin in Pennsylvania:

Alright! One we agree on. I'm right there with you on TRANSAMERICA. It was a crime she didn't win for best actress. I'm still thinking about that film, and I saw it at least a month ago. I was especially moved by the character's courage to be true to him/herself.

I found most all of the picks at this year's Academy Awards off the mark. In fact, all--except Philip Seymour Hoffman for best actor. While the competition was stiff, he had them all hands' down. I don't understand CRASH for best picture. At all. In fact, I didn't understand why it was even a contender. Not a bad film, just not at all a great film. I actually didn't think any of them were great, but my pick by process of elimination would've been MUNICH.

Also, I don't recall if you saw A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE, but if you did, you would know that William Hurt's performance was simply amazing. A much bigger jump than Clooney's in SYRIANA. As for best supporting actress, well I don't understand why Rachel Weisz was even a contender. She was the lead female in THE CONSTANT GARDNER and not all that different from anything else she's ever done--to my way of thinking. I would've preferred to see Catherine Keener win for her role in CAPOTE or the woman--can't think of her name--who played the wife in BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN.

Thanks for letting me RANT!

MY TWO CENTS (on the Academy Awards):

I enjoyed the Academy Awards, but probably in large part because I saw just about all the nominated films--a fact that probably not too many others can claim . . . Stewart wasn't Billy Crystal, but then again, nobody else can make that claim . . . nevertheless, he did have his moments and if given another opportunity, I'm sure he'll get better and better as time goes along . . . as for the winning song, "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp," it was catchy . . . but most probably not something that people will be humming, say, 10 years from now.

3. Dealing with temptation

The poor country pastor was livid when he confronted his wife with the receipt for a \$300 dress she had bought. "How could you do this!" he exclaimed.

"I don't know," she wailed, "I was standing in the store looking at the dress. Then I found myself trying it on. It was like the Devil was whispering to me, 'Gee, you look great in that dress. You should buy it.' "

"Well," the pastor persisted, "You know how to deal with him! Just tell him, "Get behind me, Satan!"

"I did," replied his wife, "but then he said, "It looks great from back here, too!"

4. Reviews

A. EIGHT BELOW, inspired by a true story, is a PG-rated film that the whole family can enjoy . . . it is the tale about a risky expedition in the Antarctic that turns even more dangerous because of an approaching storm . . . when circumstances force the guide to leave his dogs behind, you'll hope that they will soon be rescued--but that just doesn't happen.

Paul Walker, Bruce Greenwood, Jason Biggs, and Moon Bloodgood are all fine in their respective roles; however, the dogs--each with a distinct personality of their own--are even better . . . in addition, the photography is spectacular.

B. WALK THE LINE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #477 follows:

Cynthia and I liked WALK THE LINE, the biopic about Johnny Cash, but just didn't love it . . . what was missing was that there just wasn't very much to care about Cash . . . our emotions got tugged only toward the end of the film in one terrific scene (that I won't ruin for you).

Nevertheless, I really enjoyed the music . . . and thought both Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon were perfect together as, respectively, Cash and June Carter . . . the fact that they actually sang their own songs made their performances even more outstanding . . . Waylon Payne also was impressive as Jerry Lee Lewis . . . rated PG-13.

C. Loved MIRACLES AT WORK (see also Sections 2 and 12B) by John A. Adams, a self-taught entrepreneur who built a \$3.5 million cleaning company after being fired as an air traffic controller with the Federal Aviation Administration.

He then sold this business in 1996 to follow his real passion of helping others by writing this book and beginning Life Without Limits, a Connecticut-based business development company . . . he now travels throughout the country sharing his message that you should "Remember . . . always expect miracles because . . . something wonderful is about to happen!"

My only complaint with the book is its subtitle: BUILDING YOUR BUSINESS FROM THE SOUL UP . . . it implies that this is primarily to be read by those looking to begin a business, and methinks that it is so much more than that . . . I see it is a self-help book that will inspire anybody seeking to fulfill his or her potential.

While there are many useful business examples, I found there were even more valuable tidbits taken from Adams' life . . . I was inspired by how he was able to get past his bad times and not let them get

him down . . . also, I liked how he learned from virtually every experience he has encountered.

Among the many insights that I gained from reading MIRACLES AT WORK were the following:

* Ask yourself whether your "Crazymaker" [a term coined by Julia Cameron in THE ARTIST'S WAY] have not helped you, in some way, to become a better individual. Mine have. Think about those in your life against whom you hold a grudge. Then release yourself from the burden of resentment and anger you carry by forgiving them. Then begin a process of self-forgiveness and start to enjoy a feeling of liberation. "Not so easy?" Okay, don't forgive them--bless them, as Pope John Paul did, as he faced his would-be assassin in his prison cell. The Pontiff knows that the power of forgiveness lies in releasing your heart to God by seeing the goodness in every human being.

* When Admiral Hyman Rickover was asked about his climb from obscurity to Chief Naval Officer in charge of nuclear operations, he simply pointed to those in great need, the imprisoned, the homeless, the poor, and said, "There, but for the grace of God, go I." We are blessed to be in a place where we are building our own business. That is Grace. Grace also comes into our lives by helping others.

* Love is the most powerful energy in the universe--much greater than all the destructive force our egos could hope to muster. All these Principles and Practices depend upon love. It is the starting point, the meaning and purpose for being and the solution to our most pressing problems.

An amazing thing occurs when you give love. Because it follows the spiritual laws of the universe rather than the dictates of this finite world, it increases. The more you give away, the more you have to give.

D. Heard the a CD version of GARY COXE LIVE!, a Better Media Life presentation . . . he is a peak-performance expert who helps others change negative thinking into positive thought.

Toward that end, he notes, "Positive thinking is like spraying paint on rust. It doesn't last long, so we need to do more."

And further, according to Coxe, "You can't change what you do not acknowledge."

So in this presentation, he uses a pet tarantula to show you how to reach your full potential (the need to get beyond the fear). . . the idea is an interesting one; however, its execution left something to be desired . . . the person chosen from the audience just wasn't that enthusiastic a participant, and so the point Coxe was trying to make just wasn't as compelling as it could have been.

Coxe also referred to a four-step procedure for accomplishing the above, but it was difficult to clearly identify each step from just listening to the presentation . . . an accompanying handout would have been most helpful.

One good thing about this program: If you did not want to listen to it, you could view it on a DVD that was also included . . . yet even when I viewed it, after listening, I still

had trouble identifying the aforementioned four steps . . . they just weren't as clear as they should have been.

This program is available for purchase or rental . . . if you want to get it, please click:

<http://www.achievement.com/>

Above is the tape rental club I belong to; i.e., the Achievement Tape Library . . . this a great way to hear CDs and/or audio cassette tapes, view videos, etc.--all for a fraction of what it would cost to buy them . . . call the head of the firm (Paul Arroyo) directly at 1.800.735.3660 and mention my name . . . that way, you'll be sure to pay even higher prices . . . NOT.

5. VCR alert

A. Julia Louis-Dreyfus returns to series TV in THE NEW ADVENTURES OF OLD CHRISTINE on Mondays on CBS at 9:30 p.m. . . . according to TV GUIDE, the show "gives the actress plenty of room to explore the three Ms--middle-age, motherhood and men--with a beguiling vulnerability you'd never see in, say, that peevish Benes [Elaine from SEINFELD] gal."

Cynthia and I just saw the first episode, and we liked it.

B. AMERICAN IDOL's Simon Cowell is the executive producer of AMERICAN INVENTOR, a competition about would-be Edisons from around the U.S. who compete for a chance to win \$1 million and turn their brainstorm into a mass-marketed product . . . Thursdays at 8 p.m. on ABC.

C. Another return to series TV is being made, this time by Jane Seymour . . . she'll be starring in MODERN MEN on Fridays on WB at 9:30 p.m. . . . she plays a relationship therapist who provides three clueless guys with intelligence about how to attract women and hold their interest.

6. Two guys

Two guys go hunting. Jerry has never gone hunting while Joe has hunted all his life. When they get to the northern Wisconsin woods, Joe tells Jerry to sit by a tree and not make a sound while Joe checks out a deer stand.

After he gets about a quarter of a mile away, Joe hears a blood-curdling scream. He rushes back to Jerry and yells, "I thought I told you to be quiet!"

Jerry says, "Hey, I tried. I really did. When those snakes crawled over me, I didn't make a sound. When that bear was breathing down my neck, I didn't make a peep. But when those two chipmunks crawled up my pants leg and said, 'Should we take them with us or eat them here?' I couldn't keep quiet any more!"

7. Websites

A. Even if you're not an art lover, you MUST check out the following website because it is simply amazing:

<http://users.skynet.be/J.Beever/index.html>

And if you don't want to scroll through all the pictures, just take a look at this one:

<http://users.skynet.be/J.Beever/batman.html>

The work of Julian Beever just has to be seen to be believed!

B. Last week, I gave a link for an inspirational story about a butterfly . . . I have since found that it came from the following website that has other inspirational songs and music, along with some humorous pages:

<http://lerrah.com/pageindex.htm>

For example, here's another one that I enjoyed (and you will too, if you have your sound on):

<http://lerrah.com/happinessjourney.htm>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

THANKS to Dan Becker, my webmaster, who has done a great job putting past issues back on the website . . . just click above, then Newsletter, Past issues, and you'll be taken to an area where you can see past issues of the newsletter.

8. Computer tip

Marcy in Pennsylvania had this to say about last week's mention of desktop search engines:

I've tried all of those desktop search engines, but found this one to be even better:

<http://www.copernic.com/index.html>

It can even index the other drives on a network.

When I asked her what she liked best about this, she replied: I use it to search Word documents on my hard drive and on the network drive at work. It seems to have greater functionality than the Yahoo and Google desktop search engines. I could find things easier and faster in my documents. It was the only search engine that could work across different types of drives--like a personal hard drive, floppy disk drive, removable drive (a flash drive), and an external judiciary-wide drive.

9. Laws of the natural universe, part 2 of 2 (concluded from last week)

Theatre Rule: At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.

Law of Coffee: As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

Murphy's Law of Lockers: If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

Law of Dirty Rugs/Carpets: The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich of landing face down on a floor covering are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet/rug.

Law of Location: No matter where you go, there you are.

Law of Logical Argument: Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

Brown's Law: If the shoe fits, it's ugly.

Oliver's Law: A closed mouth gathers no feet.

Wilson's Law: As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

Law of Reality: Murphy was an optimist.

10. A quote I like

To build a good business, "You have to do the right thing, and you have to do the thing right."

SOURCE:

Column by E.J. Dionne, "Democrats need an alternative to combat Bush's policies," COURIER NEWS, 3.8.2006, p. A-7, in which Dionne quotes a philosophical man who owns his neighborhood Chinese restaurant

11. Thought for the day

***** SPECIAL REQUEST *****

Please, please read the following e-mail (from a longtime friend and reader of this newsletter) if you have a daughter, granddaughter, niece, student, or female friend who is under the age of 40:

Dear friend,

Please forgive the informality of not writing to you individually. I don't have the time. This is a plea for you to have your young adult daughter(s) go to their physician and insist on a mammogram. At the

present time, the medical community feels that the first time a woman should get a mammogram is 35. I'm sure this is really a ploy by the insurance companies, too. They don't want to pay for them.

My daughter, Julie, was recently diagnosed with breast cancer, and she is in stage 3. If it had been found sooner by a mammogram her chances of surviving would be much greater. She did not feel a lump. She did self exams and her GYN had done a breast exam within the past year. Apparently it was very deep and partially hidden by an implant. Three weeks ago, she had both breasts removed to keep from getting cancer in the healthy breast. She is starting slow reconstruction. Next week, she will begin very intensive chemotherapy for 4 months with Sloan-Kettering protocol. She is lucky in that she is hormone receptor positive and can take a wonderful new drug called Herceptin which is showing tremendous results. After that, she gets a month's respite and then gets 30 radiation treatments in 6 weeks time. After that we wait. There is no way to know for sure you are in remission. You wait to see if it shows up again somewhere else. She will also need to have a total hysterectomy.

If you don't want this for your daughter, please tell your doctor that you INSIST on a mammogram. Julie has met people in their early 20's with metastatic breast cancer. Also, there is no history of cancer in our family. Julie is 35. Please, please . . . watch out for your daughter and this dreadful disease. If you have to pay for the mammogram, it's well worth the consequences.

If you'd like to see my daughter, her story can be seen on a wonderful website run by a 38 year old cancer victim and her friend; please click: susanandmary.com

12. Advance planning department

A. Meaghan in Pennsylvania had one of the best subject lines I've ever seen in a recent e-mail she sent me:

Next week: Check me out in PLAYBOY!

You can, too, and you don't even have to wait until next week . . . she will be starring in THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD, the show, this coming Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and on Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Meagher Theatre at Neumann College in Aston, PA . . . general admission is \$10; seniors and students pay just \$5.

For reservations and information, contact the box office: 610.361.5455.

B. From Natalie in Pennsylvania:

Author John A. Adams (see also Sections 2 and 4C) will speak at the Outline Pebble Hill Church in Doylestown, PA, on March 19 from 2-5 p.m.

His presentation is FREE and open to the general public.

His topic: "A Short Walk Through the Principles and Practices of Miracles at Work."

Objectives: Audience will leave with an overview of the business model offered from Miracles at Work: Building Your Business from the Soul Up.

They will experience ways in which they can use the 10 Principles of Upside-Down Thinking and Practices of Business Success to create greater purpose, performance and peace of mind before, during and after their workday.

Results Expected: Participants will leave with at least three new tools to enable them to discover more peace of mind and fulfillment in their work and a desire to embrace a Miracles at Work type of practice in their career.

For more information, call 215.348.3428.

C. From Patty in Pennsylvania:

A movie has been made out of THE CELESTINE PROPHECY by James Redfield, the popular book on an "alternative view" of spirituality . . . it will be shown in the Library Auditorium of Bucks County Community College on Friday, March 31, at 7 p.m. . . . cost to attend: \$10/person.

To reserve a seat, call Debbie Burns at 215.493.3456.

D. From Cynthia in New Jersey (see Section 1A):

I will be conducting my next two "Move Your Body" classes in April . . . if you can attend either and/or both, this is what you'll get to quote from the blurb:

Fun, easy way to get aerobic exercise by following simple dance moves to soul-filled music from around the world. Start with stretches to warm up and end with a wonderful feeling of relaxation. In a safe atmosphere, leave your thinking mind and come into the joy of moving your body. The result will leave you renewed and invigorated.

On Tuesday evenings, from 6-7:15 p.m., a session will be running at the Princeton Center for Yoga & Health in Skillman, NJ, beginning on April 6 and running through June . . . for more information, call 609.924.7294.

A second session will be running at Elizabeth Ave. School in Somerset, NJ, on April 4, 18, 25, May 2 and 9--all Tuesday evenings--from 7-8 p.m. . . . for more information, call Ruth at 732.873.2400, ext. 403.

PS. If you're like me and celebrate all holidays, make sure you join me in "going green" on Friday in honor of it being St. Patrick's Day . . . also, don't forget to continue praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

To continue getting mailings of this type, you don't need to do anything further.

If you do NOT want to get future such mailings, please send an e-mail to bjinbc@aol.com and put this in the subject line: unsubscribe BLAINESWORLD.

And, lastly, in the unlikely event that you are not already on the

weekly mailing list for this missive (my free online newsletter that contains some jokes, hopefully not too risqué; websites; reviews, etc.) . . . AND if you want to be . . . please send me an e-mail with the following in the subject line:
subscribe BLAINESWORLD.

New readers are always welcome, so also feel free to mention this missive to your friends.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #492

3.6.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I met her sister Joyce and brother-in-law Marty for dinner on Saturday night . . . we went to Cafe Z (908.686.4321) in Union, NJ, and our initial impression was favorable . . . you enter via the back of a parking lot and come into a dining area that is kitschy and comfortable . . . the food, however, was disappointing . . . my veal normandy arrived without the nuts that were mentioned on the menu (though not important to me, Joyce wanted them) . . . when we complained, the waitress tried to convince us that there were nuts--only they were ground-up in the sauce . . . she eventually brought the dish back with a grand total of three nuts . . . everybody's pasta was cold . . . and though we were in a hurry, the service was not particularly fast--nor very friendly . . . Cafe Z's website indicates early-bird specials; on the evening we were there, they were nowhere to be found.

From there, we went to see RAGTIME at the Wilkins Theatre (908.737.5326) at Kean University in Union, NJ . . . what a show; what a cast!

This is a musical based on E.L. Doctorow's novel of the same title about real people caught up in a fictional story . . . everything was superb: the costumes, the staging, the performers.

It is a powerful tale that I urge you to see if it is every playing anywhere near you . . . too bad that by the time you read this, its limited run will have ended.

B. On Sunday, we went with friends to see THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW at the Villagers Theatre (732.873.2710) in Somerset, NJ . . . I'm not quite sure why, but I had never seen the film with the same name . . . and am pretty sure I won't bother after seeing this production.

The reason has nothing to do with the performers; they were all excellent . . . one in particular--James Lopez--caught my attention for the second time that I have seen him . . . he was funny in a production of URINETOWN we had seen in November . . . here he has a bigger role and again shines.

The actual sci-fi story, however, is sooooo strange . . . it involves a couple who, while driving, get lost . . . then after that, I'm not quite sure what exactly the plot was all about--though that well may be the point.

It was fun listening to some members of the audience shout out responses to lines that were coming from the actors . . . and at the end, the cast got everybody standing and dancing as it sang the "Time Warp."

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW runs until March 26 . . . if you do attend, make sure you leave young children at home, as well as anybody offended by profanity, transvestites and simulated sex.

From there, we went to O'Connor's Beef 'N Chowder House (732.873.3990) in Somerset, NJ . . . the place has a great salad bar that comes with all meals . . . three of us had a very reasonably-priced prime rib dinner from the early bird menu . . . it was tasty and just the right size . . . Cynthia enjoyed her delmonico streak . . . we all skipped on dessert, but I'm not so sure about next time . . . the place features a make-your-own sundae that looked delicious.

C. I'm always interested in how the English language is used to convey certain feelings . . . for quite some time, Cynthia and I liked it whenever we or others would use the term "exactly" . . . whenever we heard it, it seemed to imply that what we were saying was so insightful that the other person always agreed with it . . . that said, it got me thinking recently about an addition to my . . .

***** PET PEEVE DEPARTMENT *****

Does the growing use of the expression "whatever" annoy you as much as it does me? It seems more and more folks are using it--including yours truly, too often--for a wide variety of reasons . . . and none of them are particularly positive.

It is as if the person listening to you doesn't wish to give an opinion and/or even listen any more . . . so in disgust, he or she blows you off with this particular expression.

I wasn't crazy about "no problem" when it first became popular . . . now that looks positively brilliant when compared to somebody telling you "whatever."

D. Last week, I mentioned that contract negotiations have begun at Bucks County Community College . . . we had been talking about a contract extension that would run through the next four years . . . it had been our hope that we could accomplish this via informal discussions, much as we've done for the past eight years.

That no longer seems doable, and so we have just requested that formal negotiations begin as soon as possible . . . benefits

do seem to be the main point of contention, and it will be interesting to see how this all plays out over the next few months.

**** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD ****

This week, it goes to Iris Blick, secretary to Dr. James Goydos (732.235.7563)--the surgeon who will be removing the rest of my mole later this week.

Both Iris and Dr. Goydos are affiliated with the Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

This facility has a fine reputation, but it is not very easy to reach when you have a question . . . nor have I found it particularly good at returning phone calls.

So, feeling some degree of frustration, I reached out to Iris in an attempt to get some answers to health-related questions that I had . . . she was most gracious in helping me set up an appointment for surgery, then afterwards, getting me the information that I both wanted and needed.

I got the feeling she really cared about my well-being and was impressed with the fact that she told me to get back to her if I was having any difficulties in the future.

2. FYI

As both a teacher and a coach, Lombardi concentrated on the whys. "I never tell a player, 'This is my way, now do it,'" he once said. "Instead, I say, 'This is the way we do it, and this is why we do it.'" This is along the same lines as creating a shared vision for the organization. If your people know the larger goals, and see the connection between their daily individual effort and achieving these goals, their motivation-and their ability to succeed-will be greatly enhanced.

SOURCE:

THE LOMBARDI RULES (see also Section 4C) by Vince Lombardi Jr.

FYI, part 2

* Robin in Pennsylvania (with a REQUEST FOR HELP):

I'm wondering if you'd be willing to ask readers for referrals for the following services:

House painting--exterior

Driveway paving

Brick work

Additions, specifically an enclosed front porch (relatively small job)

I've had so many negative experiences with contractors that I'm feeling total trepidation about finding one of each on my own.

If you or anybody else has a recommendation, please feel free to e-mail me at this address: schoenpr@comcast.net

Also, thanks, as always, for the newsletter. While I've yet to try your

restaurant recommendations, I've put together a group of 13 women to see Gail Sheehy--which I wouldn't have known about, if not for your newsletter. And I'll be able to see PAPER CLIPS in April at the upper BCCC campus, which I missed when it was shown at the Newtown campus.

Just curious: When you get to your one year anniversary with Cynthia, will you refer to her as my beautiful wife?

MY RESPONSE:

Noooo to the last question; methinks that Cynthia is and will always be my beautiful bride!

* Judith in New Jersey:

Below is a link to an article in HR Magazine in which I am interviewed on online mentoring:

http://www.shrm.org/hrmagazine/articles/0306/0306agenda_training.asp

MORE ABOUT JUDITH:

Judith Lindenberger, a two-time winner of The Athena Award for Excellence in Mentoring, heads her own human resources firm that helps companies solve challenges such as the following:

Can't progress with the current skill set of your managers?
Worried that you're ill-prepared for a sexual harassment suit?
Unhappy about the high cost of hiring mistakes?
Planning a layoff and concerned about employees' reactions?

For more information, please click:

<http://www.lindenbergergroup.com>

Laura in New Jersey:

I heard about a food tour that I thought that you and Cynthia might enjoy.

Foods of New York offers a tour of Chelsea Market, which is a commercial market for the restaurant trade. Lots of tasting, \$38.00. 11:00 a.m. A 3-hour tour, so you need comfortable shoes.

Call 212.209.3370. I heard about on the Joan Hamburg show. She said it was excellent.

* Bob in Pennsylvania:

You're on to something here. I'm always amazed at how diffident/inattentive/surly the service is at the Doylestown Friendly's. It has one of the worst managerial styles I've ever encountered.

One day I was sitting a table away when the regional rep was going over the evaluation he was giving the local manager: "You're getting an excellent rating, but I've pointed out that you allowed two non-payees last week."

While I was sitting there--there were four customers in the restaurant--two customers sent their food back because it was cold. I never sent my back because I figure that's the cost of going to Friendly's.

* Bill in Maryland:

I have joined the Virtual March on Washington to Stop Global Warming and hope you will, too! To join now, please click:
<http://www.stopglobalwarming.org/marchers/?460559>

MORE ABOUT THE VIRTUAL MARCH:

From the vanishing glaciers in Montana to the damaged coral reefs of Florida; to sinking villages in Alaska and wild fire outbreaks in California, the impacts of global warming are a part of daily life across the United States. It is crucial that you join the March because the consequences of doing nothing are unimaginable.

It affects everyone. Young, old, rich, poor, urban, rural, right wing, left wing, those in the middle. Global warming is a national security problem, an economic problem, and a public health problem. And it's not going to get better unless we act now.

And so we need all Americans to join together and urge our leaders to take action to stop global warming. Leading scientists, political and religious leaders, prominent Americans and concerned citizens have joined but we can't achieve our goals without you. It is through our numbers and personal stories that we will spur our community, government and business leaders to take action against global warming.

3. New virus (VERY DANGEROUS!)

Thank God I got this soon enough!

There is a new virus. It's called WORK.

If you receive WORK from your colleagues, your boss, via e-mail, or from anyone else, do not touch it under any circumstances. This virus wipes out your private life completely.

If you should happen to come in contact with this virus, take two friends and go straight to the nearest bar. Order drinks immediately and after three rounds, you will find that WORK has been completely deleted from your system.

Forward this virus warning immediately to at least five friends. Should you realize you do not have five friends, this means you are already infected by this virus and WORK already controls your life. If this is the case, go to the bar and stay until you make at least five friends.

I think I have five friends, but am not entirely positive so I'm headed for the bar anyway. It never hurts to be safe.

THANK GOODNESS I GOT THIS IN TIME!

4. Reviews

A. Don't be put off by the fact that TRANSAMERICA is about transsexualism . . . rather, see it for the Felicity Huffman's magnificent performance as Sabrina "Bree" Osbourne--a male about to become a female . . . yet before she can make the final transformation, she must make contact with the son she didn't know she ever had . . . their reunion is anything but easy for either of them, and viewing it will make you appreciate your family more--regardless of any problems you may think it currently has . . . this is a sweet, touching

film that Cynthia and I are still talking about . . . our only disappointment was that Huffman did not receive an Oscar for Best Actress for her work . . . rated R.

B. JUST LIKE HEAVEN is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #470 follows:

JUST LIKE HEAVEN is a romantic comedy that will remind you of GHOST, but what's so bad about that? It is the story of an ambitious medical intern who works 20 hour days until she dies in an accident en route to a blind date . . . Reese Witherspoon and Mark Ruffalo are both fine as the leading characters, and if you can suspend your disbelief, you'll find yourself caring about both of them by the film's ending . . . rated PG-13.

C. THE LOMBARDI RULES (see also Section 2) by Vince Lombardi Jr. is a short but powerful book that has a lot of information in it that can be used by coaches, business executives and just about anybody else looking to succeed in today's world.

The author, whose father led the Green Bay Packers to five NFL titles in seven years, compiled several of Lombardi's most famous quotes; for example:

I would say that the quality of each man's life is the full measure of that man's personal commitment to excellence and to victory--whether it be football, whether it be business, whether it be politics or government.

He then transformed the quote into a rule, such as: Be Completely Committed . . . and after a brief discussion of what it meant, Lombardi Jr. showed various techniques to implement the rule in any organization.

In the case of how to up the "commitment quotient," he suggested:

Start with yourself: Inspire those around you with your own level of commitment. When leaders go the extra mile, their troops will follow.

Talent only gets you so far: A person with 100 percent ability and 50 percent commitment can throw a wrench into the whole system through inattention, inconsistency and laziness.

Weed out the uncommitted: The organization that wins is populated by winners. Weed out the uncommitted and get the last 10 percent out of everyone.

A cute cartoon that accompanied each chapter also added to my enjoyment of THE LOMBARDI RULES.

D. Heard the cassette version of JACKIE, ETHEL, JOAN: WOMEN OF CAMELOT by J. Randy Taraborrelli and enjoyed it--in a guilty pleasure sort of way.

It is a tell-it-all about the three Kenney wives and listening to it helped me relive some days of my younger days when John, Robert and Ted Kenney were alive and running for various political offices.

For some reason, I never followed too closely the dirt behind their respective careers . . . yet this book more than made up for anything I may have missed.

If everything in it is to be believed, I now know that Joe Kennedy offered Jackie \$1 million not to divorce JFK and Jackie allegedly replied, "The price goes to \$20 million if Jack brings home any venereal diseases." . . . also, that Bobby had an affair with actress Lee Remick who actually called Ethel to tell her that they were sleeping together--only to be told by Ethel that he was home in bed (when he was actually with Remick) . . . and that Ted once showed up for drunk with a prostitute for dinner with the king and queen of Belgium, whose priceless antique coach Ted's date ruined by wetting it.

Overall, the book left me feeling sorry for the Kennedy women . . . although they appeared so glorious from afar, how they were forced to live their lives because of the constant spotlight made life anything but easy for them.

5. VCR alert

A. "The Contest," the classic SEINFELD episode, airs on Tuesday at 10:45 p.m. on TBS . . . if you have no idea what this refers to, be prepared to find out if George--and the others--can truly be the master of their own domains.

B. According to TV GUIDE, "FX's provocative documentary series BLACK. WHITE. is an endlessly curious and unexpectedly intelligent social experiment, airing over six weeks, in which two families, one black and one white, don makeup to see how the other race lives" . . . Wednesdays at 10 p.m.

C. After a wait of nearly two years, THE SOPRANOS are back on the air this Sunday at 9 p.m. on HBO.

6. Moping around

Joe had been moping around all week, and the boss wanted to know what was wrong.

"It's my wife," he replied. "She's fooling around with other men."

"Well, I can understand your mood then." said the boss.
"I wouldn't like that one bit either."

"No, no." said the bookkeeper. "It's not that. I just can't sleep with two other people in our small bed."

7. Websites

***** CORRECTION *****

Last week's issue gave the website for an amazing juggler by the

name of Chris Bliss . . . you absolutely MUST see his performance and listen to the accompanying music . . . to do so, please click:

<http://www.sonnyradio.com/chrisbliss.htm>

Then when you go there, click (toward the bottom): WATCH.

Some people may have gotten a link that I used that tried to take you directly to the actual juggling; unfortunately, you must get first get there via the above link.

A. I know it is sooooo hard to believe, but yours truly is over 55 . . . this means I can now take advantage of certain "senior" programs, such as AARP (I think you can join that one at 50) and discount movie purchases at AMC theaters . . . a friend told me about another group to check out for excellent travel programs:

<http://www.elderhostel.org>

What I like about what I've seen: You not only get to travel, you also get to learn by taking advantage of some exciting educational adventures . . . in fact, Cynthia and I are in the process of signing-up for a trip to Vermont in August, at which time we'll also get to study Broadway musicals--and participate in several singalongs at night.

B. If you're in the mood for something inspirational, please click:

<http://lerrah.com/thebutterfly.htm>

Make sure you have your sound turned-on, too, if you wish to get the full value of this website.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

To see the many books I've reviewed and generally enjoyed, go to Blaine's Best (on the left) and then letter "O" . . . check the second paragraph there, and you'll be taken to my reviews that have been posted at amazon.com's website.

If you like any of these past reviews and/or find them helpful, please indicate that is the case by doing the following:

1. Take a book I reviewed previously, say MY BOYFRIEND'S BACK (from several weeks ago; it should be about the 7th or 8th book from the top).

2. Go to amazon.com website:

<http://www.amazon.com>

3. Type:

MY BOYFRIEND'S BACK

4. Find my review (it will usually be toward the top; in this case, I believe it is third).

5. At the end, you are asked: Was this review helpful to you? Indicate YES.

Doing so will enable me to move up in amazon's list of "Top 500" reviewers . . . currently, I'm #424 based on 2,348 favorable comments of my 504 reviews.

8. Computer tip

To instantaneously find anything on the hard drive of my computer, I've been using Yahoo! Desktop Search . . . and have been relatively pleased . . . the only things I don't like: I often get two copies of the same result and, also, when using it, I seem to be blocked from finding any file that mentions "desktop," "search" or "Yahoo."

Consequently, I'm going to try a similar desktop search utility from askjeeves.com:

<http://www.ask.com/?tool=des>

My first glance seemed to indicate that it appears promising.

If you do get to try it, then compare it against the one from Yahoo:

<http://desktop.yahoo.com>

And perhaps even the one from Google:

<http://desktop.google.com>

However, I should tell you when I tried this latter one, I was not at all pleased . . . for some reason, I could not index .txt files at all.

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

If you get to try any and/or all of these websites, I'd be interested to learn about your experiences.

9. Laws of the natural universe, part 1 of 2

Law of Mechanical Repair: After your hands become coated with grease your nose will begin to itch or you'll have to urinate.

Law of the Workshop: Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

Law of Probability: The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

Law of the Telephone: When you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal.

Law of the Alibi: If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.

Variation Law: If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will start to move faster than the one you are in now. (Works every time!)

Bath Theorem: When the body is fully

immersed in water, the telephone rings.

Law of Close Encounters: The probability of meeting someone you know increases when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

Law of the Result: When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

Law of Biomechanics: The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

(to be concluded next week)

10. A quote I like

The majority of men meet with failure because of their lack of persistence in creating new plans to take the place of those which fail.--Napoleon Hill (1883-1970), American author whose THINK AND GROW RICH still remains one of the best-selling books of all time

11. Thought for the day

Barry
by Cynthia Greenfield

Barry died yesterday--February 28, 2006 in the afternoon.

It seems important to recognize the effect that people have on our lives, and the fact that we all do indeed make a difference to each other.

Hence, my story of meeting Carry.

My Mom is in Daughters of Israel, and when I came to visit her, Barry used to hang out with the women in the hallway. At first, I felt hesitant and kept my distance. But, day after day, Barry was friendly and he always smiled and said "Hi" to me. Then, one day, he asked if he could shake my hand. Then, after Carry met my handsome groom (my husband), Barry started giving me hugs.

Words that come to mind when I think of Barry: Kind, affectionate, friendly, a sense of humor, and loving to receive attention. Mostly he was a gentle spirit.

We don't find these gentle spirits every day--and Barry was one of them.

He suffered--I don't know why--but what I hope for Barry is that wherever he is right now, that other people with the same kind of gentle spirits are with him.

He believed in angels and butterflies and didn't seem to have a mean bone in his body.

Barry--I hope that you are with the angles smiling that gentle, mischievous

smile and looking down at all of us and giving us your blessings.

Love,
Cynthia
Your friend and someone who will always remember you

12. Advance planning department

A. Natalie in Pennsylvania asked me to extend these three invitations:
* Please bring your classes to "Sex, Cellulite and Large Farm Equipment: One Girl's Guide to Living and Dying" on Wednesday, March 8, 12:30 in the Library Auditorium at Bucks County Community College. River Huston will perform her one-woman show about her personal experiences as a sex columnist/sex educator and her coping with anorexia and alcoholism. River will make you laugh and give you the tools to create a great life!

NOTE:

The public is also invited to this event at no charge.

* Gail Sheehy is being sponsored by the Women's Center at Bucks CCC as part of Women's History Month. She will be speaking on "The Well Seasoned Woman" on Thursday, March 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Auditorium. (Note the change in location; it had been previously scheduled in the Gallagher Room.)

Here are some excerpts from her press release:
SEX AND THE SEASONED WOMAN: PURSUING THE PASSIONATE LIFE is Gail Sheehy's most groundbreaking work since PASSAGES and THE SILENT PASSAGE. This illuminating book explores a formerly taboo subject by sharing the candid stories of women aged 50 and up exploring relationships, sex and other passions with extraordinary openness. It was recently published by Random House.

FREE for BCCC students; \$10 for others. For more information, call 215.968.8015.

* Author John A. Adams (MIRACLES AT WORK, an excellent book that I'm presently reading) will speak at the Outline Pebble Hill Church in Doylestown, PA, on March 19 from 2-5 p.m.

His presentation is FREE and open to the general public.

His topic: "A Short Walk Through the Principles and Practices of Miracles at Work."

Objectives: Audience will leave with an overview of the business model offered from Miracles at Work: Building Your Business from the Soul Up. They will experience ways in which they can use the 10 Principles of Upside-Down Thinking and Practices of Business Success to create greater purpose, performance and peace of mind before, during and after their workday.

Results Expected: Participants will leave with at least three new tools to enable them to discover more peace of mind and fulfillment in their work and a desire to embrace a Miracles at Work type of practice

in their career.

For more information, call 215.348.3428.

B. CONTEST CONTINUES:

As you may know, I'm a member of the Foundation Board at Bucks County Community College . . . one of the activities I help run is the annual Meet the Business seminar . . . if you'd like a FREE TICKET to this event, send me an e-mail to that effect . . . put FREE TICKET in the subject line and include your first and last name, street address, phone number, and e-mail address . . . I'll then choose some winners at random.

For more information on the seminar, please see below:

"Good communication is simply good business," says Roger HB Davies, the award-winning author of PAWTALK! A GUIDE FOR GETTING WHAT YOU WANT. Davies is the featured speaker of the Bucks County Community College Foundation's third annual "Meet the Author" Business Seminar, sponsored by Third Federal Bank, to be held in the Library Auditorium on March 15 from 8:30 a.m. to Noon. Davies will teach attendees his canine-inspired communication concepts, including how to recognize and respect three distinct patterns. "Whatever your background, you will find profit in good communication."

To learn how to PAWTALK!, order your tickets at \$50 each by calling 215.968.8224, e-mailing foundation@bucks.edu or visiting:
<http://www.bucks.edu/foundation>

You can also read more about Davies and his message by clicking:
<http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/147-03022006-620216.html>

C. From Cynthia in New Jersey (see also Section 1A):

I will be conducting my next "Move Your Body" class in April . . . if you can attend, this is what you'll get to quote from the blurb:

Fun, easy way to get aerobic exercise by following simple dance moves to soul-filled music from around the world. Start with stretches to warm up and end with a wonderful feeling of relaxation. In a safe atmosphere, leave your thinking mind and come into the joy of moving your body. The result will leave you renewed and invigorated.

It runs at Elizabeth Ave. School in Somerset, NJ, on April 4, 18, 25, May 2 and 9--all Tuesday evenings--from 7-8 p.m. . . . for more information, call Ruth at 732.873.2400, ext. 403.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

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To continue getting mailings of this type, you don't need to do anything further.

If you do NOT want to get future such mailings, please send an e-mail to bjinbc@aol.com and put this in the subject line: unsubscribe BLAINESWORLD.

And, lastly, in the unlikely event that you are not already on the weekly mailing list for this missive (my free online newsletter that contains some jokes, hopefully not too risqué; websites; reviews, etc.) . . . AND if you want to be . . . please send me an e-mail with the following in the subject line:
subscribe BLAINESWORLD

New readers are always welcome, so also feel free to mention BLAINESWORLD to your friends.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #491

2.27.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I saw THE LAST FIVE YEARS at the Edison Valley Playhouse (908.755.4654) in Edison, NJ, on Friday night . . . this is a musical look at the relationship between a writer and an actress told from both sides of view . . . what makes it so unusual is that it that the former starts at the beginning and moves forward, while the latter starts at the breakup and moves backward.

There are only two performers in the cast: Samantha Hahn and Ian Moore . . . they were both excellent . . . what we'll always remember about this show, though was the orchestra . . . conducted by Andrew J. Macirowski, on piano, it featured other musicians on violin, cello, guitar, and bass who were behind the stage but could be seen through a transparent backdrop . . . they were all superb.

THE LAST FIVE YEARS runs through March 11 . . . if you want to catch something a bit different, you won't be disappointed with this show.

Afterwards, we went for ice cream at Friendly's . . . is it just us or have other folks noticed that the staff at this chain is mostly not very friendly; in fact, we were kidding that maybe they should change the name of the chain to Grumpy's . . . or at least that's the impression we get when we encounter various managers at the takeout counter.

Some facilities don't even have a display indicating the various flavors . . . you have to ask for a menu and at least the other day, it was sort of thrown at us with no eye contact whatsoever . . . then if you dare ask for a sample taste, you often get one--somewhat begrudgingly it seems . . . and even the ice cream hasn't been that good, as of late . . . it seems chalky tasting to us.

B. If it seems the simple things of life make Cynthia and I happy, then you're getting the right impression . . . for example, we like keeping Wednesday as our "date night" . . . we'll often go out for dinner, much like we did when we were dating . . . shopping, never a particular pastime for either of us, has even become enjoyable (though I wouldn't go quite so far as to say it has become fun); i.e., when we do it together . . . and Sundays--for some reason, never previously our favorite day--have now become a day we look forward to because it is when we try to catch a film and/or just spend a quiet evening at home watching TV.

C. Union activity at Bucks County Community College is picking up . . . we've begun negotiations and as can be imagined, the sticking point seems to be health care benefits . . . we realize that costs are going up, yet at the same time, our members are falling further and further behind when it comes to keeping pace with inflation.

For example, this year, we have a 3.65% raise . . . while that might sound acceptable, it actually comes out to be much less because of a cost-sharing plan that is already in effect . . . we understand that the College wants adjust this plan still further; ironically, so do we--to put our members on a par with other local colleges . . . we also want to make sure that any raises that we do get are then not offset by taking these same raises to pay for health care benefits.

The College has already increased tuition and fees, plus gotten more money from both the County and State . . . so we think there is some money "out there" . . . and we've already offered to split the cost of an outside benefits consultant, but to date, haven't heard anything back on our offer . . . stay tuned for details on what looks to become a bumpy next few months.

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

Please feel free to share any ideas you and/or your company may have on dealing with this issue of escalating health care costs . . . I'm particularly interested in hearing how other community colleges and/or local school districts handle this situation.

D. My classes at Bucks are going well . . . on Tuesday night, my Marketing students are working with the Bristol Riverside Theatre (BRT) on developing a marketing strategy to increase group ticket sales . . . our contact there is Meaghan Crawford, group sales manager; it has been a delight to work with her thus far.

By the way, the next BRT production is PROOF . . . it opens on March 14 and runs through April 2 . . . for more information, please click:
<http://www.brtstage.org/>

OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

Meagan has put together a special evening of fine dining and theatre entertainment on Friday evening, March 31 . . . come for a buffet at the King George II Inn, then stay for the show . . . the ticket price is a very reasonable \$50 per person . . . call 215.785.6664 to make reservations.

Also, if you're a student, tickets are \$10 at all times for just the

show if you have a valid ID.

My Marketing students on Thursday night are working with Diana Loreman (215.862.6360), a certified hypnotherapist, to promote her smoking cessation programs at the Apollo Center for Well-Being . . . Diana is a longtime friend, and we're having an equally delightful time working with her.

Should you want more information about working with Diana or on the other work she does (in the areas of weight loss, managing chronic pain, etc.), please click:
<http://www.apollo-center.com>

**** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD ****

This week, it goes to Elsa Wright--a companion who is one of the women helping care for my mother-in-law Elsie at her nursing home: Daughters of Israel in West Orange, NJ.

Elsa does her job with both kindness and dignity, making us feel better when we can't be there.

The other day, Elsie had a nosebleed that couldn't be stopped . . . Elsa went to the hospital, along with Cynthia, and stayed for some seven hours . . . doing such work can often be a thankless task, but I didn't feel that should be the case with Elsa Wright . . . hence, my attempt here to publicly recognize her efforts via this newsletter.

2. FYI

The best advice on keeping fit I have ever received came from my first days on the job with a company that insisted all employees pass a company physical examination. After completing my exam (I passed, by the way), the elderly doctor said to me: "Son, I want you to promise me two things. First, always take the stairs and not the elevator, and second, always park your car in a spot that is a long way from the door." I promised and have been true to my word. Think about even the most simple ways you can add to your fitness regime. Every bit helps. The doc was right!

SOURCE:

YOU CAN'T WIN A FIGHT WITH YOUR BOSS (see also Sections 4C and 10) by Tom Markert

FYI, part 2

* Marilyn in Arizona: I would just like to say a few things about your newsletter because I really get upset when people tell you what you should or should not include.

I don't live in the East so many of the places you eat or entertainment places you visit mean nothing to me, but I can skip over it if I choose . . . but I always seem to find it interesting to hear about the places, service, food, and entertainment . . . and wondering how you eat out so much and don't gain weight.

I loved [how] we got to know the lovely Cynthia . . . finally, a reader suggested you tell us her name since we had been hearing about her for so

long and you did . . . then the engagement and marriage . . . it's wonderful when someone is open and willing to share their lives . . . and you can't help but feel the love and respect you both have for each other . . . I feel privileged you shared this part of your life with all of us.

So many magazines and newsletters, etc. that solicit me to purchase them often point out if one item saves money or time or some other useful information is picked up, we have made up the price of the magazine or newsletter . . . there have been so many things that have been helpful to me from your newsletters, computer tips, websites, general information on health and many other discussions you have shared . . . and yours is FREE.

The weekly noting of someone to whom you wish to express gratitude is especially meaningful as it reminds me each week how important this is.

The thought for the day is always inspirational and sometimes particularly helpful and meaningful as this week's was for me.

The information you share about your family and stories reminds us of the value of family.

You always offer readers a way to opt out if they don't want to be included, but I consider it a precious gift each week and always look forward to seeing what it will contain.

This is your newsletter. You take your time to put it together; it should include what you feel is important. . . . and we can read it or not . . . I personally choose to read it . . . and I could no longer keep quiet after so many issues of people saying how you should change it.

Thank you for all you do in bringing us this newsletter every week . . . I always find it helpful and inspirational.

* Geri in Pennsylvania:

Can I make a comment here being a single person with dating experience? By sending an e-mail "Nice meeting you" . . . that was sending a note of encouragement to some. Sorry I disagree. Just send nothing and leave it at that. A smart person will get the message. If they are not smart enough to get a message of someone not responding to a meeting, then they are just too stupid to live. With your message a clinger will think that is a marriage proposal. LOL.

MY TWO CENTS:

In my dating days, way back when it seems, I met several very nice women--some of whom remain my friends to this day . . . it seemed just a nice thing to follow-up with the people I met, even if I did not want to be in any sort of romantic relationship with them . . . that said I do also see Geri's point--however misguided it may be. (Just kidding!)

* Alice in Pennsylvania:

Just want you to know that I always enjoy reading BLAINESWORLD and keep the photos comin'!

* Sandy in Pennsylvania:

Valentine pajamas? Wow, Blaine! Many years ago I don't think you would've worn them, even at gunpoint! Love looks good on you.

* Jim in Pennsylvania:

Love your jammies.

3. Daddy's password

While my brother-in-law was typing away at his home computer, his six-year-old daughter sneaked up behind him.

Suddenly, she turned and ran into the kitchen, squealing to the rest of the family, "I know Daddy's password! I know Daddy's password!"

"What is it?" her sisters asked eagerly.

Proudly she replied, "Asterisk, asterisk, asterisk, asterisk, asterisk!"

4. Reviews

A. We (Cynthia and I) loved MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS, based on the true story of an abandoned theater in London that reopened for the purpose of showing Paris-inspired vaudeville revues . . . when artfully posed nude women were introduced into the mix, some members of the staid English society objected . . . but soldiers during WWII loved the shows, and they continued despite the horror of the Blitz . . . Judi Dench and Bob Hoskins, as always, were excellent in the two leading roles . . . in addition, the work of Kelly Reilly as one of the stage performers caught our attention . . . there were many touching musical numbers, as well as an ending that was surprisingly moving . . . rated R, though our opinion is that it would be appropriate for any mature teenager.

B. PRIDE AND PREJUDICE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #478 follows:

Cynthia and I both loved PRICE AND PREJUDICE, the latest version of the Jane Austen novel of the same title . . . it is the classic tale of love and misunderstanding in class-conscious England near the close of the 18th century . . . everything is just about perfect: the acting, the costumes, the music, and the scenery . . . and the ending was perhaps the best we have ever seen.

Keira Knightley, who first caught my attention in BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM and then PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN, radiates as Lizzie Bennet . . . rated PG.

C. I remember seeing YOU CAN'T FIGHT WITH YOUR BOSS (see also Sections 2 and 10) by Tom Markert and saying to myself, "I know that!"

Then I remembered when I just began my working life and the fact that nobody taught me that rule then--much to my eventual dismay . . . I had to learn the hard way, and I did.

The same could be said about much of the other practical advice that Markert, a senior executive with ACNielsen, gives in this short but insightful guide to both getting and staying

ahead at work--and in life, too . . . some of it may appear basic ("Put in the Hours," "Write Well," etc.), yet it all makes sense . . . and are things that even the most experienced of us need to be reminded about from time to time.

What made YOU CAN'T so valuable to me was the fact that the author backs up his rules with many actual examples of situations that he has personally been involved in . . . when reading the book, I often felt myself nodding in agreement--and thinking to myself who would be next best for me to get my copy.

There were useful tidbit that I gleaned in my reading; among them:

* If I have an important issue for my boss, would he or she prefer a short e-mail, a phone call, a voice mail--or some combination? If you don't know, find out. The first rule of communicating effectively with your boss: Give it to them the way they want it.

* If you are traveling, get up on time. "I overslept" doesn't cut it. I always pack a travel alarm, plus I use the alarm in the room, and I order a wake-up call. Paranoia? Nope, I just want to get to where I'm going on time.

* A colleague of mine has a plack above his desk that reads: DWYFYWD

It stands for Do What You Promised You Would Do. These are certainly wise words to live by. If you always do what you promised you would do, not only is your boss likely to admire you for life, but your career will move forward in leaps and bounds.

D. Enjoyed the Nightingale-Conant CD program, THE LAW OF LARGE NUMBERS--written and read by Dr. Gary Goodman . . . he's a speaker and personal performance expert who I had never heard of before; however, now that I have, I will make it a point to seek him out in the future . . . what he says make a lot of sense, and it is clearly presented with lots of examples that can be applicable to almost any situation.

Goodman based what he has to say on the work of Jacob Bernoulli, a noted Swiss mathematician in the early 1700, who said, "In any chance event, when the event happens repeatedly, the actual results will tend to be the calculated or planned results." . . . or, in other words, if we repeat something, over time, the results will be what we seek.

The key: Do more!

For instance, in writing, it is best to seek quantity to get quality--not the other way around. If you start writing and continue, that is the best way to get some sort of finished product along the lines of what you want.

Or in sales, lot of suspects lead to lots of prospects lead to lots of sales.

Lastly, think about something as simple as losing your keys. You need to look everywhere for them an and not in just one spot.

This fine program is available for purchase or rental . . . if you

want to get it, please click:

<http://www.achievement.com/>

Above is the tape rental club I belong to; i.e., the Achievement Tape Library . . . this a great way to hear CDs and/or audio cassette tapes, view videos, etc.--all for a fraction of what it would cost to buy them . . . call the head of the firm (Paul Arroyo) directly at 1.800.735.3660 and mention my name . . . that way, you'll be sure to pay even higher prices . . . NOT.

5. VCR alert

A. How'd you like one across your lips? If you long to again hear that famous threat, then watch the SANFORD AND SON MARATHON that begins on Saturday at 6 a.m. and continues for 48 hours.

B. Don't try reaching me on Sunday night because I'll be busy watching THE 78TH ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS on ABC at 8 p.m. . . . I had thought Reese Witherspoon deserved the Best Actress Award; i.e., until I just Felicity Huffman's even more amazing performance in TRANSAMERICA . . . for Supporting Actor, I'd like to see Paul Giamatti get it for his work in CINDERELLA MAN . . . methinks that Jon Stewart will do a fine job as host . . . I loved his response to a question in TV GUIDE about whether there would be any musical medleys, he said, "It's pretty hard to do a medley about MUNICH, SYRIANA and BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN."

***** PET PEEVE DEPARTMENT *****

The Oscars are on sooooo late . . . I'd much prefer an earlier start, say even before the Super Bowl begins--say at 5 p.m. . . . that way, people (including yours truly) could have Oscar parties that did not end late before a work day . . . or another option would be to have the show on a Saturday night.

C. KNIGHT SCHOOL continues on Sundays at 8 p.m. on ESPN . . . the program, shot over a 14-day period, chronicles 16 Texas Teach students who compete for one walk-on position with the basketball team coached by Bob Knight . . . and for those not familiar with Knight, let's just say he has the reputation of being somewhat explosive.

6. Consumer tip

How to install a wireless security system (inexpensively):

Go to a second-hand store and buy a pair of men's used work boots, a really big pair. Put them outside your front door on top of a copy of GUNS AND AMMO magazine. Put a dog dish beside it, a really big dish.

Leave a note on your front door that says something like "Bubba, Big Mike and I have gone to get more ammunition . . . back in 1/2 an

hour. Don't disturb the pit bulls. They've just been de-wormed, and they are a little edgy."

7. Websites

A. If you wish to help raise funds for any legitimate charity or school of your choice, please click:

<http://goodsearch.com>

The organization you choose will be awarded roughly a penny for each search you then conduct . . . this might not sound like a lot, but it mounts up . . . my only regret is that I probably won't be able to register my favorite non-profit organization, the BGPF--also known as the Blaine Greenfield Pocket Fund!

B. Chris Bliss is an amazing juggler . . . to see for yourself, please click:

<http://www.sonnyradio.com/chrisbliss.htm>

Then when you go there, click (toward the bottom): WATCH.

You'll see the juggling finale to his comedy performance . . . close the door, turn off your phone, crank up your speakers, and enjoy the show.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

On the left, you'll see "Radio Show" . . . go to that link if you want to see a history of my radio career . . . you can also hear one of my shows.

As you may have read in a past issue, a recent management change at WWFM has resulted in my show being taken off the air . . . but, hopefully, I'll resurface soon again . . . on another station and/or even with my own cable show.

Please do keep me in mind if you have any media contacts for me to pursue with respect to the above possibilities.

8. Computer tip

On rare occasions, people have trouble reaching me at my AOL address . . . or they encounter the same difficulty in trying to reach others on AOL.

Sometimes, it is AOL's fault (they think your mail might be spam); other times, it is the fault your end.

Here's are some things you can do if the above happens:

1. Send an e-mail to: postmaster@aol.com and describe the problem;
2. Contact your system administrator--often at the same type address, such as postmaster@bucks.edu or however your e-mail address ends and describe the problem; or
3. In my case at least, try this e-mail address instead:

greenfie@bucks.edu

One other option: Try resending the e-mail a few hours later.

9. Surprise

A wife suspected that her husband was having an affair with the maid. She thought of a plan to take him by surprise. One Friday she told the maid to take the day off and that night she went into the maid's room. She switched off all the lights and, in pitch darkness, slipped into the bed.

Sure enough at midnight there were footsteps. She saw a figure open the door and slipped into the maid's bed beside her. After a few passionate kisses, the wife suddenly switched on the lights and asked, "Surprised?"

"Of course I am, ma'am!" stammered the chauffeur.

10. A quote I like

When Bill [Moss, banking-and-property boss head for Macquarie Bank in Australia] wants to disagree, he always asks this question: "Can I challenge that?" It is one of the most effective and disarming lines I have heard.

Of course the answer he receives is always "Sure," and this then opens the door for him to table a competing point of view in a very non-threatening manner.

SOURCE:

YOU CAN'T WIN A FIGHT WITH YOUR BOSS (see also Sections 2 and 4C) by Tom Markert

11. Thought for the day

On being a senior citizen

If it offends you that I've sent this to you because you don't consider yourself anywhere near "senior citizen" status, well pardon me! There's a message here, for everyone, even if you're not a senior citizen yet . . . and remember, you'll either be one or you won't. Personally, I'd prefer to be one . . . eventually.

Senior citizens are constantly being criticized for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real or imaginary. We know we take responsibility for all we have done and do not blame others.

However, upon reflection, we would like to point out that it was NOT the senior citizens who took:

The melody out of music,
The pride out of appearance,
The courtesy out of driving,

The romance out of love,
The commitment out of marriage,
The responsibility out of parenthood,
The togetherness out of the family,
The learning out of education,
The service out of patriotism,
The Golden Rule from rulers,
The nativity scene out of cities,
The civility out of behavior,
The refinement out of language,
The dedication out of employment,
The prudence out of spending,
The ambition out of achievement, or
God out of government and school.

And we certainly are NOT the ones who eliminated patience and tolerance from personal relationships and interactions with others!!

And we do understand the meaning of patriotism and remember those who have fought and died for our country.

Does anyone under the age of 50 know the lyrics to the Star Spangled Banner?

What about the last verse of My Country 'tis of Thee?

"Our father's God to thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright,
With freedom's Holy light.
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God our King."

Just look at the Seniors with tears in their eyes and pride in their hearts as they stand at attention with their hand over their hearts!

YES, I'M A SENIOR CITIZEN!

I'm the life of the party . . . even if it lasts until 8 p.m.
I'm very good at opening childproof caps . . . with a hammer.
I'm usually interested in going home before I get to where I am going.
I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.
I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a thing you're saying.
I'm very good at telling stories; over and over and over and over...
I'm aware that other people's grandchildren are not nearly as cute as mine.
I'm so cared for . . . long term care, eye care, private care, dental care.

I'm not really grouchy, I just don't like traffic, waiting, crowds, lawyers, loud music, unruly kids, Toyota commercials, Tom Brokaw, Dan Rather, barking dogs, politicians, and a few other things I can't seem to remember right now.

I'm sure everything I can't find is in a safe secure place, somewhere.

I'm wrinkled, saggy, lumpy, and that's just my left leg.

I'm having trouble remembering simple words like . . .

I'm beginning to realizing that aging is not for wimps.

I'm sure they are making adults much younger these days, and when did they let kids become policemen?

I'm wondering, if you're only as old as you feel, how could I be alive at 150?

And how can my kids be older than I feel sometimes?

I'm a walking storeroom of facts . . . I've just lost the key to the storeroom door.

Yes, I'm a SENIOR CITIZEN, and I think I am having the time of my life!

Now if I could only remember who sent this to me, I wouldn't send it back to them, but I would send it to many more!

Now . . . have I already sent this to you???

Author Unknown

(if you know who wrote this and/or the source, please let me know)

***** CORRECTION *****

The passage last week, "Getting unstuck" by Janet Anakhita StraightArrow, gave a website for more information . . . some readers may have received an incorrect link; here's the correct one:
<http://www.oasisforthesoul.com>

12. Advance planning department

A. From Cynthia in New Jersey (see also Section 1A):
I will be conducting two "Move Your Body" classes in the next few months . . . if you can attend either or both, this is what you'll get to quote from the blurb:

Fun, easy way to get aerobic exercise by following simple dance moves to soul-filled music from around the world. Start with stretches to warm up and end with a wonderful feeling of relaxation. In a safe atmosphere, leave your thinking mind and come into the joy of moving your body. The result will leave you renewed and invigorated.

First session runs at Hillsborough High School in Hillsborough, NJ, on March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30--all Thursday evenings--from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. . . . for more information, call Estelle at 908.722.0233.

Second session runs at Elizabeth Ave. School in Somerset, NJ, on April 4, 18, 25, May 2 and 9--all Tuesday evenings--from 7-8 p.m. . . . for more information, call Ruth at 732.873.2400, ext. 403.

B. Amy in Pennsylvania, a friend and reader of BLAINESWORLD, informed me that her talented group--Second Nature--has been booked for a monthly gig at Washington Crossing Inn (215.493.3634) in Washington Crossing, PA on these dates: March 11, a date to be announced in April and May 13.

I always enjoy the food there and suggest that you go there dinner on at least one of these nights, then stay for some dancing from 9 p.m. on. The music runs until 1 a.m.

The group will also be playing at the Steak Exchange Restaurant

and Lounge in Hazlet, NJ, on March 24, as well at Ride for the River (to benefit the South Branch Watershed Association) on May 20 . . . for more information about this latter appearance, please click:

http://www.sbwa.org/fundraisers.html#motorcycle_rally

MORE ON SECOND NATURE, thanks to Amy:

Celebrating music from the 60's thru today's future standards, featuring talented "seasoned" musicians who cover an eclectic mix of tunes from The Beatles to Bonnie Raitt, Santana to Joe Jackson and Joss Stone to Los Lonely Boys. Members include Amy Baker (lead vocals), Bill Corfield (guitar/vocals), Brian Schiefer (bass/vocals), Kenny Pesile (drums), and Richie Petronio (keyboards and vocals).

Come on out and listen to Second Nature's Rock, Funk, R&B, and Soul styles and be sure to bring your dancin' shoes!

For booking information, or if you wish to be added to our mailing list, please contact Amy Baker at: secondnatureband@msn.com or 609.731.2944.

C. CONTEST CONTINUES:

As you may know, I'm a member of the Foundation Board at Bucks County Community College . . . one of the activities I help run is the annual Meet the Business seminar . . . if you'd like a FREE TICKET to this event, send me an e-mail to that effect . . . put FREE TICKET in the subject line and include your first and last name, street address, phone number, and e-mail address . . . I'll then choose some winners at random.

For more information on the seminar, please see below:

"Good communication is simply good business," says Roger HB Davies, the award-winning author of PAWTALK! A GUIDE FOR GETTING WHAT YOU WANT. Davies is the featured speaker of the Bucks County Community College Foundation's third annual "Meet the Author" Business Seminar, sponsored by Third Federal Bank, to be held in the Library Auditorium on March 15 from 8:30 a.m. to Noon. Davies will teach attendees his canine-inspired communication concepts, including how to recognize and respect three distinct patterns. "Whatever your background, you will find profit in good communication."

To learn how to PAWTALK!, order your tickets at \$50 each by calling 215.968.8224, e-mailing foundation@bucks.edu or visiting:

<http://www.bucks.edu/foundation>

D. Walt in Pennsylvania writes:

You may be aware that I had an evening last September at the Newtown Library Auditorium, where I presented the film PAPER CLIPS to the college community and the community in general. This event developed from my student Yehuda Goldman, who took my Introduction to Tusiness class in the fall 2004 and my marketing class in spring 2005. His mother, Lynda, is a former CNN reporter from Israel and executive director of a media company.

I have arranged with Lynda Goldman and Rodney Altemose of the Perkasio campus to show PAPER CLIPS to the Perkasio community on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 AT 6 p.m.

Your attendance would be most welcome.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

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To continue getting mailings of this type, you don't need to do anything further.

If you do NOT want to get future such mailings, please send an e-mail to bginbc@aol.com and put this in the subject line: unsubscribe BLAINESWORLD.

And, lastly, in the unlikely event that you are not already on the weekly mailing list for this missive (my free online newsletter that contains some jokes, hopefully not too risqué; websites; reviews, etc.) . . . AND if you want to be . . . please send me an e-mail with the following in the subject line: subscribe BLAINESWORLD.

New readers are always welcome, so also feel free to mention this missive to your friends.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #490

2.20.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a blast hosting our second annual Valentine's Day party at the residence of "the Greenfields of Belle Meade" . . . we enjoyed having a bunch of friends over--many for the first time.

Cynthia took care of the decorations . . . our place looked very festive as a result.

Per our request, many in attendance wore "a touch of red" . . . here's a picture of us in our Valentine pajamas:



We started the evening off with some wine-tasting, followed by two games . . . the first involved guests participating in a Scavenger Hunt with the objective being to get to know each other as quickly as possible . . . the tie-breaker question was: How many total inches tall are Cynthia and Blaine (combined)? Answer: 113 . . . we had considered a second tie-breaker involving our weight, but decided not to go there.

The other game had guests trying to guess how many Hershey Kisses were in a jar; answer: 361 . . . the tie-breaker on this one was: How many total calories would you consumer if you ate all the Kisses in the jar? Answer: 9,386.

Plenty of great food was available throughout the evening . . . but, hey, as long as I had my favorite appetizer--pigs in the blanket--I was a contented guy and not much else mattered in this area.

The evening concluded with a combined Karaoke/sing-along experience . . . fortunately for all concerned, my individual voice could not be heard!

B. THE CONTEST:

As you may know, I'm a member of the Foundation Board at Bucks County Community College . . . one of the activities I help run is the annual Meet the Business seminar . . . if you'd like a FREE TICKET to this event, send me an e-mail to that effect . . . put FREE TICKET in the subject line and include your first and last name, street address, phone number, and e-mail address . . . I'll then choose some winners at random.

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canine-inspired communication concepts, including how to recognize and respect three distinct patterns. "Whatever your background, you will find profit in good communication."

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C. We had to buy a new refrigerator when we moved into our house . . . Cynthia did all the research and shopping, too, and got a Maytag unit . . . I remember balking a bit at the price, yet decided to go with her decision.

We've been most happy with our purchase, especially after something that happened today . . . in need of a minor repair, Cynthia called for service in the morning . . . after getting a live operator (itself a rarity), she was told that we could get service that very same day . . . within two hours, we got a call that the repair truck was on its way . . . it arrived moments later, and our refrigerator was fixed on the spot . . . now how's that for service?

We have become even bigger Maytag fans as a result.

**** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD ****

This week, it goes to Mike Lazanski (215.547.6196) . . . he's a longtime friend and multi-talented guy who helped make the aforementioned party the success that it was.

Mike did much of the shopping and all of the cooking, then assisted with the clean-up afterwards . . . his winning personality added to our enjoyment.

He has helped me with several other parties and always done a fine job . . . not only is he an excellent cook, but he's also an expert on wines . . . and over the years I've gotten to know him in such other areas as his being a job supervisor, salesperson and restaurateur . . . so if you're ever looking for help on either a short- or long-term basis, Mike may well be your guy.

2. FYI

Here's a tip that I used in my dating days--way back when--that you should feel free to share with any single folks that you know:

After every date, even if I didn't want to see the person again, I'd send a brief e-mail . . . it might say something to the effect of, "Nice meeting you."

If I did want to see the person again, I'd often add a PS with the following question: "Enjoyed our time together; what do you think about the idea of our getting together again?"

If the person responded positively, then I'd make a second date . . . in the unlikely event that somebody told me to "get loss" (yes, incredible as it may seem, that happened too), then I never bothered the person again.

FOR COUPLES:

This idea can be applied to going out with new friends . . . in general, I just think that it's nice to acknowledge a good time that you have with others . . . if you're interested in getting together with them again, modify the above technique when you send a similar e-mail after your first get together.

FYI, part 2

* Donna in New Jersey:

Fahmi, the owner and chef of the Piccolo Trattoria [a restaurant in Newtown, PA that I recently mentioned] opened a second location on Route 31 in New Jersey, just south of the Pennington Circle at the new Denow Road traffic light. It is in the new shopping center all the way at the back. It has the same name and the interior has very nice ambience. Nice guy, too.

* Pat in Pennsylvania added this about the same restaurant:

Their pizza is the best! . . . I really don't eat their food as the pizza is out of this world!! . . . The Brooklyn pie or Margarita pizza is great! . . . When you go in, they have different pizzas on display, and you can buy them by the slice. Their fettuccini, broccoli and chicken pizza is outstanding! And you can only eat one slice!! Try it!!!

* Janet in New York:

While I realize that some (much?) of your newsletter is conveyed in jest, I cannot approve of the spiked cat joke. Some idiot will read that and think it's okay to torture a cat. It is not.

* Jean in Pennsylvania:

I'm also offended by dirty jokes, such as the reference to "Willie Nelson" in the Elvis tattoo joke. I might chuckle if you e-mailed it to me directly, but I don't want to read dirty jokes in a newsletter.

MY TWO CENTS (on the comments made by Janet and Jean):

My intent is certainly not to offend anybody who takes the time to read this newsletter . . . as such, I make it a point to screen most jokes pretty thoroughly . . . and from time to time, such as this week in Section 3, I'll even give you advance warning that something I run may be offensive to some particular group.

However, what is funny to me may not always be funny to everybody else . . . and that is often the case with humor . . . so if you don't laugh at everything that I run, then . . . perhaps leave a banana peel for me to slip on? And if you saw me slip and it got you to laugh, I've at least succeeded with my intent to put a smile on your face.

3. 51 days (WARNING: Blonde jerk alert!)

A bartender is sitting behind the bar on a typical day when the door bursts open and in come four exuberant blondes. They come up to the bar, order five bottles of champagne and ten glasses, take their order over and sit down at a large table. The corks are popped, the glasses are filled and they begin toasting and chanting, "51 days, 51 days, 51 days!"

Soon, three more blondes arrive, take up their drinks and the

chanting grows. "51 days, 51 days, 51 days!" Two more blondes show up and soon their voices are joined in raising the roof. "51 days, 51 days, 51 days!"

Finally, the tenth blonde comes in with a picture under her arm. She walks over to the table, sets the picture in the middle and the table erupts even more loudly in chant. Up jump the others, they begin dancing around the table, exchanging high-fives, all the while chanting "51 days, 51 days, 51 days!"

The bartender can't contain his curiosity any longer, so he walks over to the table. There in the center is a beautifully framed child's puzzle of the Cookie Monster. When the frenzy dies down a little bit, the bartender asks one of the blondes, "What's all the chanting and celebration about?"

The blonde who brought in the picture pipes in, "Everyone thinks that blondes are dumb and they make fun of us. So we decided to set the record straight. Ten of us got together, bought that puzzle and put it together. The side of the box said 2-4 years, but we put it together in just 51 days!"

4. Reviews

A. We (Cynthia and I) loved SOMETHING NEW, a romantic comedy about a woman who finds love where it's least expected . . . it's a movie about interracial relationships that will make you feel good about the main characters, Sanaa Lathan and Simon Baker . . . the work of Earl Billings as Lathan's wise father also caught my attention . . . there's also an excellent soundtrack . . . rated PG-13.

B. NORTH COUNTRY is now out in DVD . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #474 follows:

NORTH COUNTRY, inspired by a true story, is about a woman who goes to work in the mines at a time when that just wasn't done . . . she faces much resentment and eventually files the nation's first-ever lawsuit against sexual harassment.

The acting is excellent, particularly the main character played by Charlize Theron and the part her father (a character actor by the name of Richard Jenkins who is always excellent) . . . yet after a great beginning, the film began to drag on and by its conclusion, Cynthia and I were just glad to get out of the theater . . . we also found that there were too many subplots that seemed to get in the way of the main plotline . . . rated R; however, my opinion is that it would be appropriate for most any teenager.

C. From reading HAPPINESS by Daniel Nettle, I came away with one conclusion: There's no secret to happiness!

Yet we constantly seek to find it . . . Nettle, in this short but insightful book, reviews the origins and purpose of our pursuit of happiness . . . in doing so, he uses the results of recent psychological studies to show that Nathaniel Hawthorne was probably right when he said:

Happiness is a butterfly, which, when pursued, is always beyond our grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.

If you're looking for a self-help manual on the topic, this is not it . . . though there is perhaps a tad too much research to my liking, you'll come away impressed with the author's thoroughness in looking at the many dimensions of happiness.

In addition, Nettle writes extremely well . . . several passages caught my attention; among them was this one that I agree with (in no small measure because of Cynthia):

One of the most reliable findings in studies of well-being is that people who are married score more highly than those who are not. . . . Those cohabitating were a little less happy than the married ones, with those who had never married coming in third. Least happy of all, on average, were those who had been married but were divorced, separated or widowed.

And there were these others, too:

At first glance, happiness seems a little like love: if you have to ask whether you are in it or not, you are probably not. Few of us much care to define it, but by heaven, we know it when we see it. The subjective, fuzzy, vague feel of the concept meant that happiness was neglected in psychology for many decades.

For me, the personality findings show that happiness stems not mainly from the world itself, but from the way people address the world. This is one of the few things you can work on directly. You have all the resources you need to do it available already, and it is probably easier to change yourself than it is to change the whole of your external circumstances (it is certainly a lot cheaper). And the life-events studies suggest that if you can change yourself, the external world may even begin to follow suit.

D. Heard LOSE 30 POUNDS IN 30 DAYS! by Kevin Trudeau and don't think I learned anything new that the author promises in the book's subtitle: THE WEIGHT LOSS SECRETS "THEY" DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT.

That said, it served as a good reminder that I should drink more water . . . drink less diet soda . . . reduce dairy intake (despite claims by the food pyramid that this is good for me) . . . and some 27 other ideas . . . out of these, I'll probably implement some . . . yet I draw the line at regular colonic treatments--or even irregular ones!

My main problem with this CD is that it sounded almost as if it were just an outline of Trudeau's book by the same title . . . in fact, he kept urging me to buy it for more information . . . I think I'll pass on doing that, in large part because of the fact that Trudeau is not necessarily the guy I want to be giving me any sort of advice . . . while he may be a successful entrepreneur, he is also a convicted felon who has no medical background.

5. VCR alert

A. MONTY PYTHON'S PERSONAL BEST, a three-week series of specials featuring each Python's favorite bits and new material . . . Eric Idle is the main attraction in the opener . . . Wednesday at 9 p.m. on PBS . . . times and stations may vary, so check local listings.

B. THE LOVE DOCTOR, a docudrama about the lovelorn headmistress Jean Harris, debuts on Saturday at 8 p.m. on HBO . . . it stars Annette Benning and Ben Kingsley, along with Chloe Sevigny (one of my favorite actresses).

C. DANCING WITH THE STARS has its season finale on Sunday at 8 p.m. on ABC . . . Cynthia and I are pulling for Cheryl and Drew, but you never know what will happen--especially after Lisa and Louis somehow got bounced out last week by Jerry and Anna's team . . . methinks that Jerry Rice's popularity as a footballer had something to do with this result . . . by the same token, Stacy Keibler (with her partner Tony) still remains as my prediction for the winning team because so many people know her as a professional wrestler.

6. The statue

A Frenchwoman took her little daughter to the Louvre where they saw a statue of a nude male.

"What is that?" asked the child pointing to the penis.

"Nothing, nothing at all, Cherie," replied the mother.

"I want one," said the child. The mother tried to focus her daughter's attention on a more suitable subject, but the little girl persisted.

"I want one just like that," she kept repeating.

At last the mother said, "If you are a good girl and stop thinking about it now, when you grow up, you will have one."

"And if I'm bad?" asked the little one.

"Then," sighed the mother, "You will have many."

7. Websites

A. There's a new, well-designed free online service for finding the value of a home that doesn't require you to identify yourself or to communicate with an agent or broker, and provides heaps of information directly to consumers . . . it launched on February 8; to see it in beta (or test) form, please click:
<http://www.zillow.com>

This website uses data such as tax records, sales history and

the actual prices of "comparables"--homes in your area that are similar to yours--to come up with an estimate, which it calls a "Zestimate." It backs up the estimate with lavish data, aerial photos and maps showing prices in a neighborhood, loads of charts and graphs displaying historical data and price movements, and details on the size and room totals of a house.

B. For a collection of amusing anecdotes involving famous people, please click:

<http://www.anecdotage.com/>

For example, I liked this one:

In 1995, Ted Turner's Atlanta Braves won the World Series. Jane Fonda (then Turner's wife) was delighted. "It's the most exciting day I've ever had," she exclaimed, "with my clothes on!"

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

As you hopefully know by now, you should ALWAYS feel free to mention this newsletter to your friends, relatives, etc. . . . should they want to subscribe (AT NO COST), all they have to do is go to my homepage . . . then click on "Special Offer" at the bottom . . . it's that simple!

8. Computer tip

The other day my computer wasn't working properly. So I did something I haven't done for quite some time; i.e., shut it down . . . I waited a bit, then unplugged every single plug . . . when I put each plug back and turned on the my machine, it was working as good as ever.

I do this from time to time when having a computer problem and am amazed at how often it gets me going again.

9. Question to tech support

Dear Tech Support:

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0. I immediately noticed a slowdown in overall performance, particularly in flower and jewelry applications that had performed flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0.

In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs such as Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5; as well, Husband installed programs such as NFL 5.0 and NBA 3.0. Conversation 8.0 no longer runs and Housekeeping 2.6 simply crashes the system. I've tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail.

What can I do?

Sincerely, Desperate

Dear Desperate:

First keep in mind, Boyfriend 5.0 is an entertainment package. Husband 1.0 is an operating system. Try to enter the command C:/ I THOUGHT YOU LOVED ME, download Tears 6.2, and install Guilt 3.0.

Then install Not in the Mood 4.0 and I Have a Headache 5.9. If all works as designed, Husband 1.0 should automatically run the applications Jewelry 2.0 and Flowers 3.5.

Remember, overuse can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.55, Happy Hour 7.0 and Beer 6.1. Beer is a program that will create loud snoring.

Whatever you do, DO NOT INSTALL MOTHER-IN-LAW 1.0 or reinstall another Boyfriend program. These are not supported applications and will crash.

In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying new software to improve memory and performance of Husband 1.0. I personally recommend Hot Food 3.0 and Lingerie 7.7

Good luck, Tech Support

10. A quote I like

I have always felt that the best doctor in the world is the veterinarian. He can't ask his patients what is the matter--he's got to just know!--Will Rogers (1879-1935), American humorist

11. Thought for the day

Getting unstuck
by Janet Anakhita StraightArrow

One of the most common problems people speak of is of being stuck. Whether it be job, relationship, money, emotions, health or achievements a common belief is that one is stuck and not able to move forward in the way they would like to.

The best way to begin getting unstuck is to learn to let go of whatever is holding you. Everything is an illusion capable of transforming in a moment. When we are stuck we feel powerless and experience limitations as real. The reality is that no one is holding you hostage except for your mind, thoughts and beliefs.

Imagine being the eagle, lift out of your space and look at yourself from above. Look and listen as an observer detached with new perspective, unlocked from emotions and feelings of limitation. This experience can open you to taking a break from the onslaught of fear, doubt and the round robin of dialogue that keeps you trapped.

I am always awed at how quickly things can transform and be a totally different experience. You wake up one morning and the day is amazing. You feel positive, creative and productive. Sunny or raining. It is a glorious day full of potential. This attitude and focus creates your

day. The very next day you wake up fearful, anxious and depressed. No matter what the weather, it is a trying day. The day unfolds to be challenging at every turn.

Whatever causes the day to feel different, begin to take charge of your day. Remembering that no matter how bad one day or moment feels the next one can be wonderful.

Many things can cause what makes one day different from the other. Each day does have a specific energy before you even wake up. When you speak to people you may discover that many may experience feeling the day in a similar way.

Environment, other people and internal experiences affect us. We also have unique blueprints and energies that we alone carry. Each one of us can be affected differently and similarly in the same environment and situation. Without analyzing these differences let us go to preliminary solutions for everyone.

What can we do to transform the not so good day into a terrific day? Remember, stand back, observe and listen to your internal dialogue. What you focus on and speak creates your attitude and events.

A flip of the switch from negative to positive can be all it takes. Most importantly, decide to say no to a bad day. Once you recognize what is happening, take control. Uncover your words that speak against you and what is happening. Choose to make each day and moment better. Listen to your words. Are they full of judgment, anger, fear and doubts? They usually are when you are struggling to be happy and productive.

Reality is what you make it. Each situation can be a drama, a comedy, a tragedy or a romance where you receive the solution to your problems and all is well. Clouds can have silver linings or continuous rain and sorrow.

Working with and changing the voice dialogue that brings you down is the first key to freedom and fun. When the energy of the day or moment is challenging, your negative internal and external dialogue immediately begins to support and deepen the direction of the downward spiral. "Woe is me. Everything is wrong. No one supports me or cares. Nothing ever comes out correctly. Etcetera and So On." Stop it as soon as possible.

It is said that it takes more muscles to frown than to smile. It is the same with dialogue and attitude. A good attitude creates more vibrant life force energy and a bad attitude creates energy drain and deficit. The truth is what you make it. Lemons can be made into lemonade or they can stay sour and eventually rot. It is all attitude, choice and action.

I listened to a woman the other day as she was struggling with feelings of defeat and frustration. It was a real internal struggle and it was a very old pattern. She was feeling neglected and alone and unsupported by her husband. After she spoke of her negative emotions and thoughts, I asked her about her week. Her husband took a job in the same state, which would stop him from commuting to another state to work each week. This was something that had been a challenge to their marriage and life and had been a battle for years. Her husband planned a weekend retreat for the two of them taking care of all the details and making it special for her and them, a mini-moon that she has asked for. He also suggested that they take the children to a family yoga day, showing his support of bringing the family together and her spiritual practice.

Her attitude and feelings were not in alignment with the actions of the moment. They were an old pattern of feelings and frustrations from the past that did not acknowledge the truth of the situation. I suggested she let go of the past, go home and appreciate her husband, enjoy the changes and create more new positive ones.

Look at where you have done this same thing. Life is moving but your perception is not acknowledging it. We all have energy patterns that lie and deceive us. The problem is we believe them and reinforce the negative no matter what the current truth is. When you wake up on the wrong side of the bed. Stop, go back and choose to reawaken on the positive side.

Every moment is a choice in every way. Choose to discover the positive, productive and present. Let go of past problems and future worries. Reinvent your perspective and your perception of the moment will change immediately. That sunny happy day and events will unfold, even in a blizzard.

In changing the direction of your thoughts and focus you are free. From this place, you can evenly deal with challenges and create effective solutions. Getting unstuck is to change attitude, create new paths of action and take them. You can begin by first seeing yourself free.

SOURCE:

Reprinted with permission from Janet Anakhita StraightArrow.

For more information, please click:

<http://www.oasisforthesoul.com>

12. Advance planning department

A. From Cynthia in New Jersey (see also Section 1A):

I will be conducting two "Move Your Body" classes in the next few months . . . if you can attend either or both, this is what you'll get to quote from the blurb:

Fun, easy way to get aerobic exercise by following simple dance moves to soul-filled music from around the world. Start with stretches to warm up and end with a wonderful feeling of relaxation. In a safe atmosphere, leave your thinking mind and come into the joy of moving your body. The result will leave you renewed and invigorated.

First session runs at Hillsborough High School in Hillsborough, NJ, on March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30--all Thursday evenings--from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. . . . for more information, call Estelle at 908.722.0233.

Second session runs at Elizabeth Ave. School in Somerset, NJ, on April 4, 18, 25, May 2 and 9--all Tuesday evenings--from 7-8 p.m. . . . for more information, call Ruth at 732.873.2400, ext. 403.

B. From Natalie in Pennsylvania:

Please bring your classes to "Sex, Cellulite and Large Farm Equipment: One Girl's Guide to Living and Dying" on Wednesday, March 8, 12:30 in the Library Auditorium at Bucks County Community College. River Huston will perform her one-woman show about her personal experiences as a sex columnist/sex educator and her coping with anorexia and alcoholism. River will make you laugh and give you the tools to create a great life!

NOTE:

The public is also invited to this event at no charge.

C. Donna in Pennsylvania:
Fourth Annual Algonquin Film Festival Features Original
"RetroFilm!" Program

The Algonquin Film Festival of Bucks County has added a new location to its line-up for its fourth annual show. The film festival, which offers yearly film exhibition, seminars and workshops to aspiring filmmakers and cinephiles in and around Bucks County, will be held Sat., March 25th and Sunday March 26th, at the Delaware Valley College, 700 East Butler Pike, Doylestown PA.

This year, the Algonquin Film Festival will host a presentation by scriptwriter and Bucks County resident William Mastrosimone, whose teleplay, "Into the West," was produced by Steven Spielberg for a mini-series starring Gary Busey and Josh Brolin in 2005. Mastrosimone also penned the play "Extremities," which was made into a film starring Farrah Fawcett, James Russo and Alfre Woodard, in 1986, and "Sinatra," a mini series produced for television in 1992.

The festival will also feature "Retrofilm!," screenings of rare, one-of-a-kind film owned by a special collector. Film historian Lou DiCrescenzo, a Bucks County native, has been collecting out-of-print film and film memorabilia for the past several decades. The "Retrofilm!" program will screen film from DiCrescenzo's collection, which dates back to film's infancy in the late nineteenth century.

As part of the "Retrofilm!" program, the Algonquin Film Festival will create something of an historical event of its own. On March 25th, it will screen the original 13 minute footage of the San Francisco 1906 earthquake, shot by Thomas Edison himself. DiCrescenzo will project the print on a circa 1906 hand-cranked projector while film composer John Avarese conducts his own original score, commissioned by the Algonquin Film Festival, to complement the silent film. Avarese has been studying piano since the age of five, and at age seven, was performing with classical music ensembles. He has composed more than 1300 commissioned scores for film, and he currently owns and operates JAV productions.

Tickets will be available at the door. Purchases may be made by cash, check or money order. Students will be admitted free of charge with student identification. Program tickets are otherwise \$24.00 for each day or \$40.00 for the two day festival. Seniors will receive a 50% discount. Contact the Algonquin Film Festival at 267.981.1139 or visit its website: <http://www.algonquinfilmfestival.com>

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody you know wants to subscribe to this newsletter, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com; please put "subscribe BLAINESWORLD" in the subject line.

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address and kindly put "unsubscribe BLAINESWORLD" in the subject line.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #489

2.13.06

In this issue:

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a lovely time at Couple's Night on Friday at the Bristol Riverside Theater (215.785.0100) . . . Meaghan Crawford, group sales manager, is to be commended for an excellent job in putting the evening together.

We first got to see THE FANTASTICKS, an enchanting musical perhaps best known the song "Try to Remember" . . . everybody in the cast was excellent; however, Mark Manley and Kenneth Boys stood out for us as the fathers of the boy and girl.

Afterwards, there was a reception with wine and dessert . . . and Gloria Galante, playing the harp, made the evening even more delightful.

Saturday was spent first visiting Cynthia's mom, then my mom who we took out for lunch at the nearby Skyline Diner (718.347.1195) in New Hyde Park, NY . . . I've been there before; the food is usually quite tasty . . . however, what makes it noteworthy is the fact that it is just about the only place that serves one of my favorite sandwiches: sliced pork on garlic bread . . . from there, it was on to see my dad who is doing well now that he's in a rehab center.

Yet we had the best time on Saturday night and Sunday when we were snowbound at our house for the first time . . . I must admit that there's no other person I'd rather be snowbound with than Cynthia!

B. INVITATION (from Cynthia):

I will be conducting two "Move Your Body" classes in the next few months . . . if you can attend either or both, this is what you'll get to quote from the blurb:

Fun, easy way to get aerobic exercise by following simple dance moves to soul-filled music from around the world. Start with stretches to warm up and end with a wonderful feeling of relaxation. In a safe atmosphere, leave your thinking mind and come into the joy of moving your body. The result will leave you renewed and invigorated.

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BLAINE'S TWO CENTS:

You won't be disappointed . . . Cynthia is a marvelous instructor, though I must admit to being just a tad bit prejudiced.

C. Nobody asked me, but . . . I already miss Devang Patel, the former owner of Maggie Moo's (908.359.6020) in Hillsborough, NJ . . . he and his wife Malini always made us feel welcome when we stopped by . . . just this past week, he sold his business . . . yet our passion for ice cream continues, so I'm pleased to report that we've already met the new manager Lydia . . . she seems nice and fortunately, all Devang's employees have stayed with the store..

Another person I miss is Pat Rovin, who served as administrative assistant for the Integration of Knowledge classes at Bucks County Community College . . . she stepped down from that post at the beginning of this current semester after having helped me and countless other faculty members and students over the past several years . . . Pat was always both friendly and competent, and she often went out of her way to be of assistance.

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

This week, it goes to Darlene Brown with Paul Brown Landscaping (908.359.9955) . . . she is the wife of the owner of this Belle Meade firm, which did an excellent job during this past summer and fall taking care of our mowing and landscaping needs.

Darlene is both friendly and helpful, as is everybody else with Paul Brown Landscaping--and particularly Scott Fischer, the foreman.

I've continued to work with Darlene through this winter, as she has had her employees handle the snow removal from our property . . . they've come out in a prompt fashion and have been reasonable with respect to rates.

2. FYI

Victory Journal

There are many tools available that help monitor your journey through life. Things like daily planners and diaries, report cards and performance appraisals.

But let me suggest something new: a Victory Journal.

Like many professionals, I wouldn't think of starting my day without glancing at my daily planner, reviewing my to-do list, and calculating the achievement of my daily game plan. But unlike most individuals, I supplement this preview with an end-of-the-day review that makes all that work worthwhile. It's called a Victory Journal, and I write in it almost every day.

The content of any Victory Journal should include a wide range of topics. One page may feature exultant notes about the culmination of a huge deal; another may simply contain a few giddy words about a great workout with a friend in need of shedding some stress; or a page can be dedicated to the details of how you helped someone accomplish a strenuous task.

Feel free to record pleasant surprises, the receipt of thank-you letters and pats on the back, the sharing of acts of kindness and words of wisdom, and anything at all that demonstrates your power to have a positive impact on the day.

Obviously, some victories are very subjective. And other victories are definitely objective. But as long as you perceive something to be a victory (and we all know that perception is almost reality), then it is a victory, and it deserves a place in your Victory Journal.

Like a photo album, your Victory Journal will become a great collection of snapshots of positive experiences, and a living reminder of your power to achieve. With such a clear record of all your daily wins, successes, and achievements, you will slowly build a strong foundation for success.

The Victory Journal can be especially useful when your thinkin' becomes stinkin' and your attitude has twisted and soured. Any committed optimist worth his weight in wisdom would admit that it's difficult to remain upbeat and positive when the critics and cynics are forecasting rain on your parade. In such times, one glance at the pages of your Victory Journal can be quite restorative. You quickly see that you have been a winner and realize that you can be a winner again. Success begets success, and the simple act of reading your Victory Journal should prepare you to make another journal entry!

Your Victory Journal entries need not be anything more than just a few keywords or simple sentences. The idea is to stimulate a mental reproduction of those special snapshots of success.

SOURCE:

LEAD OR GET OFF THE POT! (see also Sections 4C, 10 and 11) by Pat Croce with Bill Lyon

FYI, part 2

* Terri in Pennsylvania:

I'm not sure if I told you previously, but in early October, just before starting the parade, I got a real estate license in New Jersey. I did the classes in September in Seaville, NJ and took the exam and passed on the first try.

I am now with Ocean City Realty in Ocean City, NJ. I went this route because I don't want to take my foot out of the Action News or Wachovia

Center doors, but needed to earn some extra income as I do * Terri in Pennsylvania: I'm not sure if I told you previously, but in early October, just before starting the parade, I got a real estate license in New Jersey. I did the classes in September in Seaville, NJ and took the exam and passed on the first try.

I am now with Ocean City Realty in Ocean City, NJ. I went this route because I don't want to take my foot out of the Action News or Wachovia Center doors, but needed to earn some extra income as I do all of the freelance work. I figured that I had been in sales all my life, love the shore, and now I'm the rental agent at the 8th & Asbury office. Monday was my first day, and I already rented 5 houses.

Please let your readers know that if they are interested in renting, selling or purchasing a home in Ocean City, please call me at 215.450.0396. They can also e-mail me at: oceancityrentals@yahoo.com

For more information, here's my website: <http://www.oc33.com/agentdetails.asp?id=113>

* Ken in Pennsylvania:

The video game "25 To Life" is due out in stores this month.

The object of this game is to kill LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund is putting together an online petition to boycott this game.

I am asking each of you to go to their website and please sign the petition and pass along this info to your family and friends: <http://nleomf.com>

It is the duty of this organization to take a stand for what is right, so I encourage all of the dedicated members of our fine Association to visit the Memorial website and sign the petition in memory of all of our fallen brethren.

* Sandy in Pennsylvania:

Thanks Blaine! The NETI pot arrived in just a few days; it is amazing.

The CD didn't work, but the booklet was very informative. We were able to do the exercise right the first time. Was surprisingly pleasant although I do not want to admit what the pot and spout looks like to us.

Anyhow, it is helping the sinus congestion. Relief keeps coming even a few hours after the treatment. I recommend it, especially now that we live in the sinus capitol of the state of Pennsylvania!

* Laura in New Jersey:

I am glad that you followed-up about skin cancer, but I never heard about someone having it between the toes.

I have known two young people who did not know that they had it, but it was found in time. The first one was a college student who was the daughter of the head of clinical testing for CIBA (now Novartis). I worked with her one summer. No one had seen it on her until she had shorts on one day, and her father spotted it because it was on the back of her thigh.

The other patient was more recent and is the daughter of my brother's best friend. They found a melanoma in a routine physical and then all of the family

went as well as my brother's family. Stacey will have to keep a watch on things from here on out.

Make skin cancer one of your reminder things as you do for smoking, etc.

3. Bush library destroyed

Crawford, Texas (AP)--A tragic flood this morning destroyed the personal library of President George W. Bush. The flood began in the presidential bathroom where the books were kept. BOTH have been lost.

A presidential spokesman said the president was devastated, as he had almost finished coloring the first one. The White House tried to call FEMA, but there was no answer.

4. Reviews

A. Pierce Brosnan plays an international hit man who has seen better days in THE MATADOR, a dark comedy that has a few laughs but isn't something you should run out to see (or even rent when it becomes available on DVD) . . . it was funny to see him playing against type; i.e., being radically different from his dashing James Bond performances . . . but Greg Kinnear, usually one of my favorites, added little to the role of the average Joe who goes along with some of Brosnan's escapades . . . and Hope Davis was virtually wasted as Kinnear's wife . . . rated R.

B. PROOF is now out on DVD . . . the play blew me away when I first heard it done on CD by a group called L.A. Theatre Works . . . Anne Heche was superb as the young woman who lives in the shadow of her brilliant father who may or may not have developed a mathematical proof . . . I'm sorry to say that the film version did not compare . . . it was dark and dreary and much of it just looked like what the stage version must have been like . . . Gwyneth Paltrow, who I usually like, just didn't capture my interest in the title role . . . and Jake Gyllenhaal, so fine in BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN, wasn't much better . . . I actually didn't even bother to stay around until the end . . . rated PG-13.

A BETTER BET:

PROOF is the next production of the Bristol Riverside Theatre . . . it opens on March 14 and runs through April 2 . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.brtstage.org/>

C. Pat Croce's I FEEL GREAT AND YOU WILL TOO! is one of my all-time favorite motivational books . . . he followed it up with 110%, another winner . . . and his latest, LEAD OR GET OFF THE POT! (see also Sections 2, 10 and 11)--written with Bill Lyon--is every bit as good.

Croce, the onetime president of the Philadelphia 76ers and current NBC commentator, presents his ideas on leadership in this lively book . . . but don't feel you have to be a leader to get value from it . . . what he says applies to

every walk of life, including sales, teaching and even parenting.

I particularly liked the many examples that Croce uses . . . they were taken from his ventures as an entrepreneur, basketball executive, TV commentator and volunteer chairperson for the 2000 Republican National Convention that was held in Philadelphia.

And unlike the feeling that you get with some authors who like to impress you by throwing names around, you really get the impression that Croce knows and is actual friends with everybody he mentions . . . in fact, he is a big believer on being on a first-name basis with folks and suggests that you use their existing nickname or christen them with a new one . . . as he notes, "This puts people in your inner circle and raises the bar of affection and respect--even when the nickname is seemingly sarcastic. Some of my best memories are stimulated when I heard the nicknames Fast Eddie, Rayman, Scramble Head, Hole, Hollywood, . . . Shaggy, Snowman, and Bubba Chuck."

Perhaps my only problem with LEAD OR GET OFF THE POT! is that it contained so many useful tidbits of information that I found it hard to find just a few to include in this review . . . however, that said, I did find these especially memorable:

* In team sports, the ultimate measurement of your value as a leader comes down to two questions: Do you make all those around you better? And are you able to combine their diverse and disparate talents and personalities into a cohesive unit?

* Of course, I like to take the Golden Rule and crank it up. Don't just do unto others as you'd have them do unto you; do unto others as you'd have them do unto you in your wildest dreams! Don't just provide service; slay them with super service! Go overboard. Turn over every stone. Do more than is expected, or even conceived. And apply these killer tactics to everyone from customers to employees to family to friends. The little extra you may have to put in will always earn out.

* Hello.

And good-bye.

These are the basics in customer service, in human relations, no matter what your business. You greet the person with a hearty hello, and you bid her good-bye with equal vigor.

Even if you don't really mean it.

D. I tend to dream a lot, but apparently we all do . . . according to Clarissa Pinkola Estes, an author and Jungian psychoanalyst, we dream from five to seven times each night . . . the problem is how to remember such activity.

Estes, in THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO DREAM INTERPRETATION (an excellent CD program which she wrote and read), says you need to put a pencil or pen near your bed . . . before you go to sleep, ask your Dreammaker for help in remembering your dream . . . then as soon as you get up, write down

anything that you can remember . . . or as an alternative:
read what you remember into a recording device

There's much good advice here . . . for instance, if you've ever been bothered by a dream, make it a point to tell it aloud to another person . . . you can also make a picture of it, yet if you do, you still need to discuss the picture with another person.

As to actually interpreting dreams, Estes advises to list all the nouns that are part of them . . . and next make associations for each of these nouns.

Lastly, she explores the themes of several dreams . . . one that I even have every so often was there--my not graduating from college . . . apparently, when that happens, I should anticipate what might happen in my life.

5. VCR alert

PET PEEVE DEPARTMENT:

Is it just me or do you share my belief that the Winter Olympics have no appeal? I'm trying to see if I can spend the next few weeks without watching even event . . . even NBC's TODAY SHOW has lost interest for me, in that has far too much coverage of what is happening in Italy . . . so I've instead been giving the morning shows on both CBS and ABC a shot.

A. On DR. PHIL: LOVE SMART, the esteemed relationship expert helps two people in their quest for love; one of them is Paula Abdul . . . Tuesday at 9 p.m. on CBS.

B. GO KINKY offers two back-to-back specials that display the wit of Kinky Friedman, the Jewish country singer who once fronted a band called the Texas Jewboys . . . he is now running for Governor of Texas . . . when asked for his view on gay marriage, he said he supports it because "they have the right to be just as miserable as the rest of us" . . . Friday at 10 p.m. on CMT.

C. If you never saw THE THORN BIRDS, catch it on Saturday beginning at 5 p.m. on OXYGEN . . . considered to be the greatest miniseries of all time, it is an 8-hour adaptation of Colleen McCullough's novel about a priest's decades-long affair with a rancher's daughter . . . Richard Chamberlain and Rachel Ward star.

6. Catch

Larry, a local football star, is jogging down the street when he sees a building on fire. A lady is standing on a third story ledge holding her pet cat in her arms.

"Hey, lady," yells Larry, "Throw me the cat."

"No," she cries, "It's too far."

"I play football, I can catch him."

The smoke is pouring from the windows. Finally, the woman waves to Larry, kisses her cat goodbye, and tosses it down to the street. Larry keeps his eye on the cat as it comes hurtling down toward him. The feline bounces off an awning and Larry runs into the street to catch it. He jumps six feet into the air and makes a spectacular one-handed catch. The crowd that has gathered to watch the fire breaks into cheers.

Larry does a little dance, lifts the cat above his head, wiggles his knees back and forth, then spikes the cat into the pavement.

7. Websites

***** UPDATE *****

A recent issue mentioned a website that will give you information on how to reach live operators at many popular 800 numbers . . . the result: no more voicemail hell!

It became too big to be operated by the sole blogger who started the campaign in 2005 . . . there's now the following FREE website, powered by over one million consumers who demand human contact:
<http://gethuman.com>

Make sure you go to the link at the left, "Cheats," for the latest listing on what to do at the various 800 numbers . . . in addition, on the left you'll find a very useful list of "Tips."

A. For Valentine's Day (and afterwards, too), please click:
<http://OperationDearAbby.net>

Doing so will enable you to send a message to our troops stationed away from home.

B. Christine Gallagher, a 43-year old writer, was so upset after she caught her boyfriend chatting on Valentine's Day that she launched the following website:
<http://www.revengelady.com>

Here she gives advice on how to get back at people . . . in Ms. Gallagher's case, she broke up with the man then unscrewed the driver's-side door panel of his beloved Audi coupe and stuck a marble inside . . . she figured that the rattle inside would drive him crazy; it did . . . he took it to mechanic after mechanic until one finally found the marble and this little note with it that had been included: "So you finally found it, sucker."

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click: <http://www.blainesworld.net>

To see the many books I've reviewed and generally enjoyed, go to Blaine's Best (on the left) and then letter "O" . . . check the second

paragraph there, and you'll be taken to my reviews that have been posted at amazon.com's website.

If you like any of these past reviews and/or find them helpful, please indicate that is the case by doing the following:

1. Take a book I reviewed previously, say MY BOYFRIEND'S BACK (from last week).
2. Go to amazon.com website: <http://www.amazon.com>
3. Type:
MY BOYFRIEND'S BACK
4. Find my review (it will usually be toward the top; in this case, I believe it is third).
5. At the end, you are asked: Was this review helpful to you? Indicate YES.

Doing so will enable me to move up in amazon's list of "Top 500" reviewers . . . currently, I'm #420 based on 2,312 favorable comments on my 498 reviews.

8. Computer tip

A request if you ever send me a document: Please include it right in the body of the e-mail; i.e., so I can read it as a text-based document . . . this makes it sooooo much easier than my having to download the attachment, making sure it is virus-free and then having to open some other application to read it.

Methinks that many others feel the same way . . . so if you're sending e-mail, consider NOT sending attachments whenever and wherever possible.

9. World's shortest fairytale (female perspective)

Once upon a time, a girl asked a guy, "Will you marry me?"

He said, "No."

And the girl lived happily ever after and went shopping, dancing, camping, adopted lots of pets, drank martinis, always had a clean house, never had to cook, and farted whenever she wanted.

The end.

FOR THE MALE PERSPETIVE:

Visit my website:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

On left, go to Newsletters and then Past Issues . . . on the bottom half, you'll see 2005 . . . go there and click #464 . . . in Section #6, you'll find the male perspective . . . and keep in mind

that you can always go here to find other past issues.

10. A quote I like

[Harold Katz] was asked by one of the media what had made him sell the team. He looked down the dais, pointed to me, and said, "Pat Croce called me fifty times!"

SOURCE:

LEAD OR GET OFF THE POT! (see also Sections 2, 4C and 11) by Pat Croce with Bill Lyon

11. Thought for the day

When I REALLY like a book, I mention it four separate times in BLAINESWORLD . . . such is the case with LEAD OR GET OFF THE POT! (see also Sections 2, 4C and 10) by Pat Croce with Bill Lyon . . . the following story comes from it:

The Daffodil Principle was first published in a book entitled CELEBRATION by Jaroleen Asplund-Edwards. It's a colorful story that touches on the problems that follow when you hear but do not listen. Its moral is that when you don't pay attention, there is usually regret. But if you're lucky, there is redemption. It goes like this:

A daughter kept calling her mother, urging her to come and visit. They would go and see the daffodils together. But they'd have to hurry because the daffodils would soon lose their bloom.

The woman heard her daughter, but didn't really catch the urgency in her voice. Besides, it was a two-hour drive, which she'd be making soon enough anyway. She wanted to see her daughter, but . . . you know how it is.

Still, the daughter kept calling, kept pestering. The woman kept hearing the voice, but not the emotion.

Finally, she agreed. "I'll come next Tuesday."

Tuesday was dismal, rainy and cold. But the woman had promised. Besides, there would be a bonus--she would get to see her two grandchildren.

Upon arriving, she hugged her daughter and her grandchildren and drank some tea to get the cold out of her bones.

"Forget the daffodils," the woman told her daughter.

"Oh, but Mother . . ." The daughter thought quickly and said, "I was hoping you could take me to the garage to pick up my car. And I'll drive. I'm used to this weather."

"All right," the mother said.

So they set off. But after ten minutes it became apparent that the

daughter wasn't driving to the garage.

"Where are we going?" the mother asked.

The daughter smiled. "We're going the long way--by way of the daffodils."

The mother grew stern and insistent. "Please turn around."

The daughter tried, one last time, to get her mother to understand. "You'll never forgive yourself if you miss this."

The drove on in silence. Finally, they came to a small gravel road. At the end, there was a hand-lettered sign: DAFFODIL GARDEN. Just beyond the sign was a path, and they set off. Very soon they turned a corner, and what the mother saw took her breath away.

The daffodils spread along the slopes like an immense rainbow. The flowers had been planted in majestic, swirling patterns across the slopes in glorious colors-lemon yellow, salmon pink and saffron, sunset orange, and a white so bright it made you blink.

"Who," she asked her daughter, "has done this?"

"The woman who lives here."

They approached a modest A-frame house that sat unobtrusively in the midst of all that splendor. On the patio was this poster: "Answers to the questions I know you are asking."

The first answer: "50,000 bulbs."

The second: "One at a time. By a woman. Two hands. Two feet. Very little brain."

The third, and last: "Began in 1958."

The mother's mind reeled at the scope of the project. One woman had spent half a century bringing to radiant life her vision of beauty and joy, spread out lovingly over a mountain meadow.

And she had done it one bulb at a time.

The mother thought of the times her daughter had spoken to her, and she hadn't really heard. And she felt a stab of sadness and regret, and of opportunity missed.

"I was just thinking," she said to her daughter, "what I could have accomplished by now if I had set for myself some goal fifty years ago."

And the daughter looked at her mother, smiled, and said: "Start today."

Sounds like beautiful advice to me.

A. From Earl in Pennsylvania:

The Networks of Bucks County, one of oldest business networking groups in Bucks County, announced today that it is having a Mini Business Expo and Card Exchange on Wednesday February 22, 2006 from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at The Solarium at The Attleboro Nursing and Rehabilitation Center 300 East Winchester Avenue Langhorne, PA.

A Continental Breakfast will be provided. Pre-registration is required by February 20th to qualify for a unique door prize.

The Networks is a dedicated group of business owners and professionals who:

1. Support, encourage, and connect with business peers
2. Learn about each other's businesses
3. Share leads and ideas
4. Participate in special networking opportunities

For more information on the Business Expo and Card Exchange, please contact Marketing Director Earl L. Sigmund CPA at 215.736.3156, ext.15.

B. From yours truly:

Poor communication can cause any organization, large or small, to suffer from poor morale, lack of creativity, and high staff turnover, causing a loss of productivity.

“Good communication is simply good business,” says Roger HB Davies, the award-winning author of PAWTALK! A GUIDE FOR GETTING WHAT YOU WANT. Davies is the featured speaker of the Bucks County Community College Foundation's third annual “Meet the Author” Business Seminar, sponsored by Third Federal Bank, to be held in the Library Auditorium on March 15 from 8:30 a.m. to Noon. Davies will teach attendees his canine-inspired communication concepts, including how to recognize and respect three distinct patterns. “Whatever your background, you will find profit in good communication.”

To learn how to PAWTALK!, order your tickets at \$50 each by calling 215.968.8224, e-mailing foundation@bucks.edu or visiting: <http://www.bucks.edu/foundation>

Tickets include a continental breakfast by CulinArt and a book signing with the author. Corporate sponsorships, including reserved seating and the opportunity to promote your business to attendees, are also available. Please call for more information.

C. From Natalie in Pennsylvania:

Please bring your classes at Bucks to hear Robert Cooney, the author of WINNING THE VOTE on Monday, March 27, 11:00 in the Library Auditorium. His book with nearly 1000 photographs, posters, leaflets, and portraits illustrates the inspiring story of the Suffragettes.

Bob will present a slide show and discussion about this award-winning book. Call Natalie Kaye 215.968.8015 if you would like to bring your class or for information.

This presentation is also open to the public at no charge.

PS. I'm looking forward to celebrating my first Valentine's Day

with Cynthia . . . wait, make that my first wedded Valentine's Day . . . but that said, it got me thinking about something we try to do; i.e., make every day a celebration.

Here's hope that you get to spend the day with somebody you love, too.

Also, please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you or somebody knows wants to subscribe to BLAINESWORLD, have them drop me an e-mail to that effect . . . new readers are always welcome . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

In the unlikely event you wish to unsubscribe, notify me at the same e-mail address.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #488

2.6.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I enjoyed a too short visit from my daughter Risa this past weekend (in for the wedding of her boyfriend's cousin) . . . although we only got to eat breakfast with her, I at least enjoyed the opportunity to again have chocolate chip pancakes with her--always one of our favorite pastimes.

Risa was accompanied by her longtime friend Honey, who always complains that she never makes BLAINESWORLD . . . that is, until now; go, girl!

B. Cynthia and I had a particularly fun Saturday . . . we first joined friends for dinner at Piccolo Trattoria (215.860.4247) in Newtown, PA . . . we've been there before and have enjoyed the food; this time was no exception . . . Cynthia's veal parmigiana was quite tasty, as was my pasta in meat sauce.

From there, we went to a "Night of Jewish Learning" at the Bucks County Jewish Community Kallah . . . I was a co-presenter on the Suddenly Single experience . . . we discussed what it means, as well as what's necessary to sort through the pieces and take the first step.

Linda Kanner, a talented teaching colleague of mine, was my co-presenter . . . she suggested this bit of advice that I think applies to ALL of us: be good to yourself--something that doesn't always involve money . . . for example, you can barter services with a friend . . . or even volunteer to usher at a local theater so that you can see shows for free.

Linda also suggested that you try various approaches to get help whenever you have any problem, such as speaking to a friend, reading a book or going to a lecture . . . if and

when you've tried any combination of three things, and you still don't have your solution, then it might well be time to seek a counselor.

NOT-SO-SUBTLE PLUG (from Blaine):

I'm sure that there are many counselors out there that are quite good . . . I KNOW that Linda is . . . she has 23 years of experience in providing psychotherapy for individuals, couples, families, adults, and adolescents with expertise in such areas as relationships, parenting, anxiety, stress management, self-concept/self-esteem, and depression . . . her office is in Morrisville, PA, and she can be reached at 215.859.0871 or via e-mail (AMB1025@yahoo.com).

Cynthia and I then concluded our evening with a stop at the Washington Crossing Inn (215.493.3634) to see the band of another friend: Second Nature . . .we danced some and just, in general, enjoyed the energy of the group and vocalist Amy Baker.

C. THANKS to the many readers who expressed concern about--of all things--my toe . . . I took it and the rest of my body to The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (732.235.6777), where I met with Dr. James S. Goydos . . . the good news is that the mole is in the early melanoma stage, and that is not invasive . . . in a month or so, I'll go back to have the rest of it removed and should only be out of commission for a weekend.

My dad is also doing better . . . he is slated to soon get out of the hospital . . . from there, he will go to a rehab center and hopefully be able to return home in the near future.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to Natalie Kaye (see also Section 12C), the dynamic programming coordinator of the Women's Center at Bucks County Community College, who was chosen to receive the prestigious Annual Making a Difference for Women Recognition Award from Soroptimist International of Indian Rock Inc.

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

This week, it goes to Shahannay Gregory, an intake specialist with the aforementioned Cancer Institute of New Jersey . . . she was most helpful in arranging my appointment, helping me get together the necessary test results that I needed to submit.

I particularly appreciated her follow-up, in that she called me back to let me know that everything had been received.

Making patient appointments can be a thankless task . . . that said, Shahannay is to be commended for doing her job with both enthusiasm and a smile (that can be experienced by just speaking with her on the phone).

2. FYI

If you have difficulty reaching customer service when you call

about a bill, try this trick . . . when asked for your account number, don't press any key . . . you'll often get a live operator--eventually . . . if that doesn't work, try giving an incorrect account number.

FYI, part 2

* Jessica in New Jersey, a reader, was recently profiled in WOMAN'S DAY . . . for her inspiring story, please click:

http://www.womansday.com/article.asp?section_id=4&article_id=10093&page_number=5

* Denise in Michigan:

Sorry to hear about the mole Blaine . . . I am thinking they will take more tissue from around the mole you had.

And yes, it is very important that people get looked over once a year by a dermatologist (A GOOD ONE) . . . melanoma took my husband's life in December, 2004, , but he didn't take care of things soon enough . . . he let things ride, and that is what isn't good . . . when someone sees a mole change in any way, hey need to get it looked at.

* Robin in Pennsylvania:

I'm beginning to think that we're on completely different tracks when it comes to movies. I found MATCH POINT to be overlong and while not exactly predictable, certainly not taut. I couldn't wait for it to "get to the point!" Also, I recently saw SYRIANA and thought it was extremely provocative and interesting. It was a tad difficult to bring all the pieces together in the beginning, but by the end, it was all too perfectly clear and too perfectly plausible. . . .

My mouth waters every time I read your newsletter: How come you aren't overweight? Good luck with the melanoma. It's not too bad if they catch it early, right?

MY TWO CENTS:

Robin points out one of the great things that I love about movies; i.e., that they can elicit so many different viewpoints . . . as for the weight thing, that's why Cynthia and I will often split a meal into half and bring back we don't eat for another whole dinner . . . and as difficult as it is for us, we frequently do the same thing with our desserts.

* To answer the question raised by several readers from an item in last week's issue . . . I mentioned a musician by the name of Joe Pepitone . . . he is NOT related the former member of the New York Yankees.

3. Little Red Riding Hood (the true story)

Little Red Riding Hood is skipping down the road when she sees a big bad wolf crouched down behind a log. "My, what big eyes you have, Mr.Wolf." The wolf jumps up and runs away.

Further down the road Little Red Riding Hood sees the wolf again, and this time he is crouched behind a bush. "My what big ears you have, Mr. Wolf." Again the wolf jumps up and runs away.

About two miles down the road Little Red Riding Hood sees the wolf

again, and this time he is crouched down behind a rock. "My what big teeth you have Mr. Wolf.

With that the wolf jumps up and screams, "Will you knock it off, I'm trying to poop!"

4. Reviews

A. I liked *LOOKING FOR COMEDY IN THE MUSLIM WORLD*, but then again, I like just about anything that Albert Brooks is in . . . here he plays a hapless comedian who is called upon by the U.S. government to travel to India and Pakistan in order to discover what makes a 300-million community laugh . . . I loved the response to the one question he raises about why he was chosen: "because everybody else was busy" . . . he also had me laughing out loud with a routine before an audience that got only a few scattered laughs . . . rated PG-13.

B. *IN HER SHOES* is now out in DVD . . . my review from *BLAINESWORLD #471* follows:

A. I very much liked Jennifer Weiner's second novel, *IN HER SHOES* . . . it has now been made into a movie (with the same title) that Cynthia and I found most entertaining . . . though it might be described as a "chick flick," methinks that guys will like it too . . . Cameron Diaz and Toni Collette play two sisters with little in common except for their size 8 1/2 feet . . . they are both excellent, as is a surprisingly subdued Shirley MacLaine as their grandmother . . . *IN HER SHOES* will have you laughing, in spots and shedding some tears at others . . . rated PG-13.

C. When I read a work of non-fiction, I typically look for one idea that I can implement . . . I found that on page 9 of *PC ANNOYANCES* (2nd edition) by Steve Bass and kept going from there . . . by then end of the book, I had over 45 such ideas--and that's after just a first reading.

Bass, a contributing editor to *PC WORLD*, certainly knows his stuff . . . but he presents it in a way that both newcomers and those with lots of computer experience can appreciate . . . in addition, his sense of humor makes what could be boring material come alive.

You name it, Bass covers it in *PC ANNOYANCES* . . . in fact, the subtitle says it all: *HOW TO FIX THE MOST ANNOYING THINGS ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL COMPUTER, WINDOWS AND MORE* . . . I never even realized that there so many.

Chapter coverage includes annoyances that can be found in E-mail; Windows; Internet; Microsoft Office; Windows Explorer; Music, Video and CD; and Hardware . . . I particularly liked the fact that the author covered a wide range of products and services, including AOL, Eudora, PowerPoint, and Outlook.

Methinks this is one book that you'll skim when you first get it, then refer to it often in the future . . . I know I will, if just for such information as the following:

[when your CD-RW drive refuses to eject a disc]

Restart Windows. As it's booting up, press the eject button and the drive should put open. If not, shut down your PC and turn it on again, tap the CD-ROM drive's eject button, and grab the disc out of the tray (even as the tray is still extending), and nudge the tray back in. As soon as it's fully retracted, press the PC's power button to turn it off.

Lastly, PC ANNOYANCES contains many useful utilities that you can download for free, as well as a listing of several websites that are sure to amuse . . . such as this one:

<http://snipurl.com/license>

D. Do you ever wonder what became of your very first boyfriend or girlfriend? If so, join the crowd . . . then get hold of MY BOYFRIEND'S BACK by Donna Hanover.

I listened to this book--also read by the author--on CD and found it to be both touching and romantic . . . Hanover, the former First Lady of the City of New York, talks about how she reunited with her former high school sweetheart more than thirty years after their breakup.

She talks about how they reconnected, rekindled their love and married . . . in doing so, she gives helpful advice for those who might actually want to do the same thing.

Hanover also presents other couples' stories from across the country, including such celebrities as Carol Channing, Suzanne Pleashette and Tom Poston, and Nicole Miller . . . it was interesting to find out that this is actually becoming a twenty-first century trend in relationships, and that couples ranging from their twenties to eighties are engaging in it.

If you're looking for a change of pace, do read MY BOYFRIEND'S BACK . . . and it will put a smile on your face, as you'll really feel good for all the relationships that somehow managed to get together again.

5. VCR alert

A. I'll be watching the 48TH ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS on Wednesday at 8 p.m. on CBS, if only because it is the one awards show that features lots of actual performances . . . Bruce Springsteen, Mary J. Blige, U2, Mariah Carey, Kanye West, Jamie Foxx, and Paul McCartney are just a few of the many artists slated to sing.

B. Catch the final four episodes of ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT will air on Friday at 8 p.m. on FOX . . . this very funny comedy never got the audience it deserved . . . my only hope is that it will be picked up by some other network.

C. Dave Chapelle will appear on INSIDE THE ACTORS STUDIO on Sunday at 8 p.m. on BRAVO . . . he'll discuss the rumors behind why he blew off a \$50 million deal with Comedy Central.

6. Waiting time

A man sticks his head into a barbershop and asks, "How long before I can get a haircut?"

The barber looks around the shop and says, "About 2 hours."
The guy leaves.

A few days later the same guy sticks his head in the door and asks, "How long before I can get a haircut?"

The barber looks around at the shop full of customers and says, "About 2 hours." The guy leaves.

A week later the same guy sticks his head in the shop and asks, "How long before I can get a haircut?"

The barber looks around the shop and says, "About an hour and a half." The guy leaves.

The barber looks over at a friend in the shop and says, "Hey, Bill, follow that guy and see where he goes."

In a little while, Bill comes back into the shop laughing hysterically. The barber asks, "Bill, where did he go when he left here?"

Bill looks up and says, "To your wife."

7. Websites

A. If working on the computer is becoming a pain in the neck, it might be time to rearrange your work area and change some of your computer habits . . . find out for yourself by clicking:

<http://blogs.msdn.com/tiptalk/archive/2006/01/10/510256.aspx>

These suggestions from Microsoft might seem basic to some, but it's amazing how much of a difference they can make if followed.

B. It also might be time for some fun, so here's a game that you should at least find challenging:

<http://www.iol.ie/%7Edluby/escape.htm>

If you make it past 18 seconds, you are to be commended. Big time!

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

On the left, you'll see "Radio Show" . . . go to that link if you want to see a history of my radio career . . . you can also hear one of my shows.

As you may have read in a past issue, a recent management change at WWFM has resulted in my show being taken off the air . . . but, hopefully, I'll resurface soon again . . . on another station and/or even with my own cable show.

Please do keep me in mind if you have any media contacts for me to pursue with respect to the above possibilities..

D. Freddie in New Jersey asked me to tell you about the following website that he administers:

<http://nedthetoothpick.com>

To quote him, "It's an OFF ebay message board that is not moderated by ebay. If any of your readers need help regarding ebay issues, they will be able to find help at my site.

CAUTION:

It's NOT a moderated message board. so the topics and language can be brutal at times.

8. Computer tip

This one is for AOL users, so even if you're not one, please forward it to those who are . . . it is a WARNING not to be taken in by pop-up notices from McAfee that tell you it is time to update your software . . . if you are currently using AOL 9.0, then you are already protected from viruses . . . you do NOT have to spend anything extra, aside from what you already pay AOL.

9. Opening an account

A crusty old man walks into a bank and says to the teller at the window, "I want to open a damn checking account."

The astonished woman replies, "I beg your pardon, sir. I must have misunderstood you. What did you say?"

"Damn it, listen now, I said I want to open a damn checking account right now!"

"I'm very sorry sir, but we do not tolerate that kind of language in this bank."

So saying, the teller leaves the window and goes over to the bank manager to tell him about her situation. They both return and the manager asks the old geezer, "What seems to be the problem here?"

"There's no damn problem," the man says, "I just won 50 million bucks in the damn lottery, and I want to open a damn checking account in this damn bank!"

"I see," says the manager, "and this bi*ch is giving you a hard time, is she?"

10. A quote I like

You have not lived a perfect day, even though you have earned your

money, unless you have done something for someone who will never be able to repay you.--Ruth Smeltzer

11. Thought for the day

Natural Enthusiasm Network

HISTORY

I woke up one morning in February, somewhere near the 10th, 1985. I shouted to my daughters, "Susan, Diane, do you want to play a game with me? For three months, whenever we look at each other, we'll say you look great...., You, look wonderful.., You, look marvelous...., The house is so clean. The sink is so clean, the bathtub is so clean and shiny...I just love it so. And this has nothing to do with reality, I said. "They agreed...And we have continued past the three months into forever...."

WHO CAN PLAY?

Everyone who chooses to play!

PURPOSE

There is no purpose and if there was one it is to create a new lifestyle.

WHAT IS A NATURAL ENTHUSIASM NETWORK MEMBER??????

There is none and if there was, they are committed to owning the specific opportunity life is, again and again.

HOW DOES AN N.E.N. MEMBER PLAY????

Accepting an invitation to play the game for a specific time period. "Forever is a time period, or 3, 4, 9, months or 1 week etc.

INSTRUCTIONS

Speaking, "The house is so clean, the house looks wonderful, the sink is so clean, don't you love the bathroom. Your room is so neat! "I love the way you hang up your clothes, great..." "Your hair is lovely and so glamorous, I love the clothes you wear, the colors are charming." "You, have an attractive body, your hands are so powerful." "You did a great job at work tomorrow." "You, lost five pounds next week." "You, saved so much money next year." "You, had a marvelous time in Can Cun next December." "You, are healthy." "You, have so much money, you, have so much wealth, you, don't know what to do with it." "You, have more than enough love in your life." "Your, relationships work so well!" You "used" to be bored etc., etc.

RULES

Make it up. No one can call us on it, we made it up. It's a game!

GOAL

None—it is limitless, no boundaries.

COMMITMENT

Yes, to SPEAK what we want now, next month—no matter what the circumstances are.

TOOLS

When we speak we need our ears...Without ears we cannot speak. Each time we speak our ears hear. What we want our ears to hear is: "You, look great, you, did a great job, you, are wonderful." YOU, are

wonderful, is a command. (I added the comma between the you and the are.) I invite you to do that. We will live out of the commands we say. Can you do that? Can "YOU" choose to play N.E.N? Do you choose to play?

COST
Free!

You, are great. Love You!

Dottie Baxter

PS. I took out the criticism in life and now I have life the way I want it.

SPECIAL THANKS:

To Dottie for allowing me to run the above. She is an amazing 76-year old woman. Methinks you might want to visit her website:

<http://nen0704.com>

And when you do, you can purchase a game version of the above.

12. Advance planning department

A. I'm speaking on "Positioning: How to Differentiate Yourself from the Competition" at Bucks CCC on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. . . . e-mail me if you'd like to attend as my guest, so that I can get you the room location.

SPECIAL INCENTIVE FOR ATTENDING:

You'll learn the difference between a left-handed and right-handed pencil!

B. Meaghan in Pennsylvania, group sales manager for the Bristol Riverside Theatre, wrote to extend the following invitation:

Enjoy Fine Entertainment and Lavish Refreshments
with the Very Best of Bucks County!

Couple's Night
Bristol Riverside Theatre
&

THE FANTASTICKS

by Tom Jones & Harvey Schmidt

A story of two young lovers and there scheming parents!

Loaded with Charm, Comedy and Classics of Musical Theatre!

Date: Friday February 10, 2006

Show Time: 8 p.m.

Wine, Dessert, Live Music: 10:15 p.m.

Tickets: \$64 per couple

Contact: BRT Box Office 215-785-0100; or
<http://www.BRTstage.org>

C. Laura in New Jersey wrote about another great event on the same night:
On Friday, February 10th, Margot Leverett and the Klezmer Mountain

Boys will be giving a free (yes, FREE!) concert at the Somerset County Library, 1 Vogt Drive in Bridgewater. It starts at 8:00 p.m., but you should get there around 7:30 because the place was packed for the last concert.

For those of you not familiar with the area you can go on:
<http://www.somerset.lib.nj.us>

to get directions or try 908.526.4016.

I have seen this group before, and they combine Klezmer with bluegrass. I do enjoy Klezmer a lot because it is so much fun.

Do try to get there.

D. Natalie in Pennsylvania (see also Section 1D) asked me to extend this invitation:

Gail Sheehy is being sponsored by the Women's Center at Bucks CCC as part of Women's History Month. She will be speaking on "The Well Seasoned Woman" on Thursday, March 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gallagher Room.

Here are some excerpts from her press release:
SEX AND THE SEASONED WOMAN: PURSUING THE PASSIONATE LIFE is Gail Sheehy's most groundbreaking work since PASSAGES and THE SILENT PASSAGE. This illuminating book explores a formerly taboo subject by sharing the candid stories of women aged 50 and up exploring relationships, sex and other passions with extraordinary openness. It was recently published by Random House.

SEX AND THE SEASONED WOMAN will open a window on the full second half of the female life cycle--and encourage women to explore their own individual paths to a satisfying, more passionate life. For Baby Boomers and others who are now reaching their "Second Adulthoods," it is a must-have "guidebook" for those who want to transition into a new stage of life gracefully, with a greater flair, and a longer run than ever before thought possible.

The book brings to life a new generation of passionate, liberated women—married and single—who are unwilling to settle for the stereotypical roles of middle age, and are realizing they don't have to. As the first Boomers turn 60--free of the exhausting demands of young families and building careers—and as life spans stretch routinely into the 80s and beyond, millions can now embrace what Sheehy calls our "Second Adulthood" as a period of reawakening and a chance to explore new creative or spiritual interests.

FREE for BCCC students; \$10 for others. For more information, call 215.968.8015.

PS. Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

To continue getting mailings of this type, you don't need to do anything further.

If you do NOT want to get future such mailings, please send me e-mail and make that request . . . my address is:
bginbc@aol.com

And, lastly, in the unlikely event that you are not already on the weekly mailing list for BLAINESWORLD (my free online newsletter that contains some jokes, hopefully not too risqué; websites; reviews, etc.) . . . AND if you want to be . . . please send me e-mail with the following in the subject line:
BLAINESWORLD subscription

New readers are always welcome, so also feel free to mention this missive to your friends.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #487

1.30.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a marvelous time with a bunch of friends when we went to The Melting Pot (908.575.8010) in Somerville, NJ, for a fondue dining experience . . . it's a real hoot cooking your food at the table and whatever you do, you **MUST** save room for dessert . . . you get a choice of chocolate, accompanied by a plateful of fruit and cakes for your dipping . . . our server, Jennifer, was excellent and added to our enjoyment of the dinner.

See below for a picture taken at the restaurant.



From there, we all went to see one of the group--the very talented Gail Frantz, who plays a mean fiddle--in a concert: "A Spiritual Side of Bob Dylan" with Dave Brahinsky & Friends at the Princeton Center for Yoga & Health . . . that, too, was a lot of fun . . . I've long been a fan of David's music . . . he is also a friend of mine who teaches religion at Bucks County Community College . . . joining Gail and David in the band were Denny Kronemeyer on guitar and mandolin; Mark McCusker on harmonica; Joe Pepitone on bass, guitar and vocals; Sarah Houstz on vocals; and Rick Cusick on vocals and guitar.

B. The next night, we met other friends for an equally enjoyable dining experience at The Famished Frog (973.540/9601) . . . Cynthia and I have now been there twice and each time, we've had a great meal . . . my London broil was delicious, and Cynthia enjoyed her ribeye steak . . . Brad, our server, had a great personality and was somebody we'll ask for the next time we go back.

C. I was greatly saddened by the death of Karen Beem, the wife of Charlie Beem--my teaching colleague and friend at the College . . . she was only 48 . . . if you'd like to make a contribution in her memory, a scholarship is being established . . . send checks to Foundation, Bucks County Community College, 275 Swamp Road, Newtown, PA and please put down Karen's name.

D. On the health front, the mole I mentioned in last week's issue was sent out for a biopsy . . . I got the results back: It was diagnosed as melanoma, which means more treatment is needed . . . I can't wait; well, actually, I can . . . or at least until this Friday when I'm seeing another doctor for what's next . . . sorry if any of this bores you, but I'll keep you informed if only to tell you that you MUST take care of yourself . . . and if that means seeing a dermatologist from time to time, then please do make such an appointment . . . but make sure you have a good one who will

do a through check of your entire body.

NOTE:

My dermatologist is great . . . some copies of BLAINESWORLD #486 may have had a wrong number for her; she can be reached at 609.443.4500, which is in East Windsor, NJ.

My dad recently had to go back in the hospital . . . they are doing a bunch of tests on him . . . the problem is that nobody knows exactly what is wrong with him, but we're hopeful that something can be done so that he soon gets out.

And, lastly, Cynthia's mom is hanging in there at her nursing home: Daughters of Israel in West Orange, NJ . . . we especially like one of the things they do there; i.e., have a concert every Sunday for the residents and their families . . . this past week, we saw somebody by the name of Dave Case (210.332.7506) who put a smile on the faces of all those in attendance with his corny humor and various sing along tunes . . . best of all was the fact that he got Cynthia up as part of the entertainment . . . she joined him and one of the aides in the hula.

**** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD ****

This week, it goes to Dr. Paul Gwozdz (732.545.4100)--my new family physician.

He has been Cynthia's doctor for the past year or so, and she has been quite pleased with him . . . so I decided to use him as well and have been most pleased with my decision.

Dr. Gwozdz seems to be one of the remaining few doctors who asks lots of questions, then takes the time to actually answer them . . . also, he never makes you feel rushed.

In addition, he is an expert in the treatment of Tension Myositis Syndrome (TMS) . . . to quote from his website, this is "an emotionally induced physical disorder that has become an epidemic in this country. It is known as chronic back pain to some patients. Others know it as fibromyalgia, others as depression and anxiety and others as frequent headaches or a host of other chronic problems "without much of a cure".

For more information on either Dr. Gwozdz or TMS, please click: <http://www.GwozdzMD.com>

And lest I forget, Dr. Gwozdz is ably helped by Annie Guy, his medical assistant . . . she is both competent and friendly . . . and even makes getting a tetanus shot not such a bad experience (hint-hint; if you don't remember when you last got one, methinks you are probably are long past due).

2. FYI

Do you have sinus infection symptoms and allergies? If so, you may be interested in a proven natural system that has an 84% success rate!

It involves the practice of Neti (sinus irrigation)--something that has been around for centuries. It's completely natural, cheap, easy and proven to work with every single use.

When Cynthia first told me about this, I thought it sounded crazy . . . but the more I read about it, the more it made sense to me . . . and when others such as Kevin in Pennsylvania and Bill in Maryland started telling me that they too are Neti fans, my skepticism dwindled.

Should you want to learn more, please click:
<http://www.healthandyoga.com/sinus.html>

FYI, part 2

* Laura in New Jersey:

I have had a request to help a very cute little redheaded Irish tomboy named Mary Kelly.

Mary's mother is one of the teachers of the Cieli (Irish folk) dance classes that I take. Both of her parents are a very good friends.

Her teacher, Mrs. Monetti, is having a contest to see which class can get postcards sent from all 50 states first.

The address is:
Miss Mary Kelly
Mrs. Monetti's Class
Branchburg Central Middle School
220 Baird Road
Branchburg, NJ 08876

All that is needed is a postcard, hopefully with a local or state picture on it, sent to the above address--but it needs to be done fairly quickly.

Some of you are in New Jersey, but I am asking you because you have relatives and friends in Florida, Hawaii, Montana, and other states.

Thank you

* Jean in Pennsylvania:

I thought this entry from the Urban Legends Reference Pages at snopes.com might interest you:

<http://www.snopes.com/humor/iftrue/palisades.htm>

Snopes tracked down the "author" of the joke about the school's answering machine. The joke was in reaction to a tougher attendance policy. This obviously phony bit should have been in the joke section of BLAINESWORLD and not "thought for the day."

MY TWO CENTS:

As always, I appreciate the efforts of Jean and all other readers to track down facts and/or original authors of anything run in BLAINESWORLD . . . but that said, I stand by the original placement of the piece . . . it was funny, yes, but it also had a certain bite to it . . . and that was why I placed it in the "thought for the day" section . . . not all items there have to be serious.

* Jack in Pennsylvania:

Seems like you are busy all the time. The neighbors on my block just started a "mystery night" every six weeks now. A couple chooses a destination and everyone meets at that neighbor's house and we leave from there.

A few weekends ago, everyone met at our house and we boarded the train at the Langhorne train station (not telling anyone where we were going) and got off at the Jenkintown train station and went to Josephine's restaurant (formerly Statzi Milano) at the station for dinner. We finished eating and drinking in time to catch the train back home again, and the train was only a few short steps away from the restaurant.

Snow started to fall on the train ride home, which brought a wonderful end to the evening and enhanced the view for this ride.

* Edina in New Jersey (with a REQUEST FOR HELP):

I am looking to purchase a used piano. If anybody has one or suggestions where I may get one, please e-mail me at: edinah23@hotmail.com

3. Being 104

A reporter was interviewing a 104 year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?"

She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

4. Reviews

A. MATCH POINT, written and directed by Woody Allen, is definitely not the typical comedy that you might expect from hearing Allen's name . . . rather, it is a taut thriller about a tennis pro who marries into wealth . . . it kept my interest throughout, and I was guessing how things would turn out until the very end . . . co-stars Scarlett Johansson and Jonathan Rhys-Meyers are both extremely watchable . . . rated R.

B. IN HER SHOES is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #471 follows:

I very much liked Jennifer Weiner's second novel, IN HER SHOES . . . it has now been made into a movie (with the same title) that Cynthia and I found most entertaining . . . though it might be described as a "chick flick," methinks that guys will like it too . . . Cameron Diaz and Toni Collette play two sisters with little in common except for their size 8 1/2 feet . . . they are both excellent, as is a surprisingly subdued Shirley MacLaine as their grandmother . . . IN HER SHOES will have you laughing, in spots and shedding some tears at others . . . rated PG-13.

C. I ordinarily am not a big fan of a follow-up novel to an earlier story written by the same author . . . in fact, I usually don't even read such efforts.

But because Nicholas Sparks was the author, I made an

exception when it came to AT FIRST SIGHT--and am glad I did . . . Sparks, long one of my favorite novelists (think THE NOTEBOOK, THE WEDDING, etc.), continues the story of the young couple introduced in his bestseller, TRUE BELIEVER.

They do get married and have a child, too, but nothing is easy for them . . . you'll feel for their problems, as well as for their surprises, and find yourself caught up in their lives as if you were going through the same things yourself.

I doubt Sparks will write another novel featuring any of the main characters, but personally I'd welcome it . . . it would satisfy my curiosity as to what will happen to them in the future.

There were several memorable passages in the book; among them:

* [Jeremy asking his father for advice]

His father set aside the plate before finally shaking his head. "Nah. You don't need any advice. You're all grown up. You make your own decisions now. And besides, there's not much I could tell you. I've been married for almost fifty years, and there are times when I still don't have any idea what makes your mother tick."

"That's comforting."

"You get used to it." He cleared his throat. "Hey, maybe there is one thing I could tell you."

"What's that?"

"Two things, actually. Number one, don't take it personally if she gets angry. We all get angry, so don't let it get to you."

"And number two?"

"Call your mother. A lot. She's been crying every day since she found out you were moving. And don't pick up one of those southern accents, either. She wouldn't tell you this, but she had trouble understanding Lexie sometimes."

Jeremy laughed, "I promise."

* Sometimes she would catch him staring at her and would reach for his hand. Jeremy would begin reading again, and as they sat together holding hands, lost in their own words, he would wonder whether there was any greater pleasure in life.

* "I love you more than there are fishes in the sea, and higher than the moon." She looked at him curiously, and he shrugged. "That's what my mom used to say to use when we were little."

D. Apparently, there was once a PBS-special program called QUEST: DISCOVERING YOUR HUMAN POTENTIAL . . . I unfortunately never caught it when it was on the air, but was lucky enough to be able to track down a cassette with

the same title.

Edited by Deepak Chopra, it featured Steven Covey, Thomas Moore, Bernie Siegel, David Whyte, and Marianne Williamson, along with Chopra . . . they all spoke about the mind-body connection and shared their ideas on how to harness your inner power.

With speakers this fine, I came away with many useful ideas . . . my only disappointment was that the program did not label the speakers either before or after they had something to say.

Yet I believe I was able to identify many of the speakers . . . in addition, I gleaned these tidbits:

[Siegel] If you're stuck, then change your attitude toward life. If you want to be happy, choose happiness.

[Siegel] Most people say, "My day will come." When they realize they have a limited number of days, that's when they get into action.

[Williamson] Life isn't about so much about making ourselves better, as it is about relinquishing all the illusions and the blocks to greatness that are bred into us in the world.

[Williamson] Buckminster Fuller said, "Geniuses are just people who had good mothers."

[Siegel] When you do allow love into your life, you have a longer, healthier life. You are rewarded by the fact. For example, when you save a bird, you don't expect a "thank you" in return.

[Siegel, quoting advice he got from Ashley Montagu] To be more loving, act as if you're more loving.

5. VCR alert

A. BIOGRAPHY on Thursday at 8 p.m. on A&E profiles Jimmy Hoffa, the infamous labor leader.

B. GRIZZLY MAN is a 2005 documentary about bear enthusiast Timothy Treadwell, who was eventually killed by his beloved animals . . . stay tuned after the film for a short interview with the director . . . Friday at 8 p.m. on Discovery.

C. It should be some performance of the national anthem on Sunday at the Super Bowl, as it will be led by Aretha Franklin, Aaron Neville and Dr. John . . . the Rolling Stones make their debut at halftime . . . and even if you're like me and have no interest in this year's game, you can always watch the commercials . . . the fun starts at 6:25 p.m. on ABC.

6. Biology exam

A guy walks into his Biology exam late.

It's in a large auditorium, so he attempts to make his way into a seat without being noticed by the professor (who doesn't know him by name).

After he sits down in the very last row, he notices the other students are writing diligently. They are all looking up at the stage at the professor, who has a white sheet covering a table. The professor proceeds to lift the sheet up and behind it is a bunch of birds. Only their legs are exposed to view.

The student starts sweating profusely. He did not think to study this part. He panics and wonders how can he identify these birds by only looking at their feet. It is then that he realizes the best thing to do is to make it to the Exit door before he is seen, in the hope that he'll be allowed to take a makeup.

So just as he is starting to make his escape, professor calls out, "You there young man, young man. What's your name?"

The guy draws his pant leg up and replies, "You tell me!"

7. Websites

A. Dr. Laundry helps you get the stains out . . . when you get to the following website, click link on far left (Solutions):

<http://www.Clorox.com>

You'll learn, for example, that club soda does help bubble up a stain out of fabric . . . but also that bar soap does NOT work—it actually helps set the stain.

Also, the hardest stain is lipstick. It's a greasy, dye-filled material that tends to stick to fabric. The cure: Push the stain out of the fabric by blotting with liquid laundry detergent from behind the fabric. Take a clean paper towel and blot the stained side of the fabric, transferring the stain onto the paper towel.

B. When your computer fails, the result can be sooooo painful . . . but why should you be the only one who suffers . . . Microsoft, to its credit, has now devised a way for you to share your failure with the employee who caused it in the first place . . . see for yourself by clicking:

<http://www.codeproject.com/redirect.asp?id=1364>

Make sure you have your sound card on when you view this . . . and make sure you are prepared to laugh.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

As you hopefully know by now, you should ALWAYS feel free to mention this newsletter to your friends, relatives, etc. . . . should they want to subscribe (AT NO COST), all they have to do is go to my homepage . . . then click on "Special Offer" at the bottom . . . it's that simple!

8. Computer tip

If your mouse has a wheel button (and most new ones do), hold down the Ctrl key and roll the wheel . . . in many programs, this action zooms the image in or out--depending on the direction you turn the wheel.

Try this the next time you're viewing something on the Internet . . . both print and images may well be significantly larger.

9. Frustration

After years of frustration in England, the Smiths had no children and decided to use a surrogate father to start their family. On the day the surrogate father was to arrive, Mr. Smith kissed his wife and said, "I'm off. The man should be here soon".

Half an hour later, just by chance, a door-to-door baby photographer rang the doorbell, hoping to make a sale. "Good morning madam. You don't know me, but I've come to . . . "

"Oh, no need to explain. I've been expecting you," Mrs. Smith cut in.

"Really ?" the photographer asked. "Well, good! I've made a specialty of babies."

"That's what my husband and I had hoped. Please come in and have a seat. Just where do we start?" asked Mrs. Smith, blushing.

"Leave everything to me. I usually try two in the bathtub, one on the couch and perhaps a couple on the bed. Sometimes the living room floor is fun too; you can really spread out."

"Bathtub, living room floor? No wonder it didn't work for Harry and me."

"Well, madam, none of us can guarantee a good one every time. But if we try several different positions and I shoot from six or seven angles, I'm sure you'll be pleased with the results."

"I hope we can get this over with quickly," gasped Mrs. Smith.

"Madam, in my line of work, a man must take his time. I'd love to be in and out in five minutes, but you'd be disappointed with that, I'm sure."

"Don't I know!", Mrs. Smith exclaimed.

The photographer opened his briefcase and pulled out a portfolio of his baby pictures. "This was done on the top of a bus in downtown London."

"Oh my god!", Mrs. Smith exclaimed, tugging at her handkerchief.

"And these twins turned out exceptionally well when you consider their mother was so difficult to work with." The photographer handed Mrs. Smith the picture.

"She was difficult ?" asked Mrs. Smith.

"Yes, I'm afraid so. I finally had to take her to Hyde Park to get

the job done right. People were crowding around four and five deep, pushing to get a good look."

"Four and five deep?" asked Mrs. Smith, eyes widened in amazement.

"Yes", the photographer said. "And for more than three hours, too. The mother was constantly squealing and yelling. I could hardly concentrate. Then darkness approached and I began to rush my shots. Finally, when the squirrels began nibbling on my equipment, I just packed it all in."

Mrs. Smith leaned forward. "You mean they actually chewed on your, eh . . . equipment ?"

"That's right. Well madam, if you're ready, I'll set up my tripod so that we can get to work."

"Tripod?" Mrs. Smith looked extremely worried now.

"Oh yes, I have to use a tripod to rest my Canon on. It's much too big for me to hold while I'm getting ready for action . . .

"Madam? Madam? . . . Good Lord, she's fainted!"

10. A quote I like

You do not need to be loved, not at the cost of yourself. The single relationship that is truly central and crucial in a life is the relationship to the self. Of all the people you will know in a lifetime, you are the only one you will never lose.--Jo Courdet, author

11. Thought for the day

Best story

Here's the best Christmas story you never heard.

It started last Christmas, when Bennett and Vivian Levin were overwhelmed by sadness while listening to radio reports of injured American troops. "We have to let them know we care," Vivian told Bennett.

So they organized a trip to bring soldiers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Hospital to the annual Army-Navy football game in Philly, on December 3. The cool part is they created their own train line to do it.

Yes, there are people in this country who actually own real trains. Bennett Levin--native Philly guy, self-made millionaire and irascible former L&I commish--is one of them. He has three luxury rail cars. Think mahogany paneling, plush seating and white-linen dining areas. He also has two locomotives, which he stores at his Juniata Park train yard.

One car, the elegant Pennsylvania, carried John F. Kennedy to the Army-Navy game in 1961 and '62. Later, it carried his brother Bobby's body to D.C. for burial. "That's a lot of history for one car," says Bennett.

He and Vivian wanted to revive a tradition that endured from 1936 to 1975, during which trains carried Army-Navy spectators from around the country directly to the stadium where the annual game is played. The Levins could think of no better passengers to reinstate the ceremonial ride than the wounded men and women recovering at Walter Reed in D.C. and Bethesda, in Maryland.

"We wanted to give them a first-class experience," says Bennett. "Gourmet meals on board, private transportation from the train to the stadium, perfect seats--real hero treatment."

Through the Army War College Foundation, of which he is a trustee, Bennett met with Walter Reed's commanding general, who loved the idea. But Bennett had some ground rules first, all designed to keep the focus on the troops alone: No press on the trip, lest the soldiers' day of pampering devolve into a media circus. No politicians either, because, says Bennett, "I didn't want some idiot making this trip into a campaign photo op." And no Pentagon suits on board, otherwise the soldiers would be too busy saluting superiors to relax.

The general agreed to the conditions, and Bennett realized he had a problem on his hands. "I had to actually make this thing happen," he laughs.

Over the next months, he recruited owners of 15 other sumptuous rail cars from around the country--these people tend to know each other--into lending their vehicles for the day. The name of their temporary train? The Liberty Limited.

Amtrak volunteered to transport the cars to D.C.-- where they'd be coupled together for the round-trip ride to Philly--then back to their owners later. Conrail offered to service the Liberty while it was in Philly. And SEPTA drivers would bus the disabled soldiers 200 yards from the train to Lincoln Financial Field for the game.

A benefactor from the War College ponied up 100 seats to the game on the 50-yard line and lunch in a hospitality suite. And corporate donors filled, for free and without asking for publicity, goodie bags for attendees: From Woolrich, stadium blankets; from Wal-Mart, digital cameras; from Nikon, field glasses; and from GEAR, down jackets.

There was booty not just for the soldiers, but for their guests, too, since each was allowed to bring a friend or family member. The Marines, though, declined the offer. "They voted not to take guests with them, so they could take more Marines," says Levin, choking up at the memory.

Bennett's an emotional guy, so he was worried about how he'd react to meeting the 88 troops and guests at D.C.'s Union Station, where the trip originated. Some GIs were missing limbs. Others were wheelchair-bound or accompanied by medical personnel for the day.

"They made it easy to be with them," he says. "They were all smiles on the ride to Philly. Not an ounce of self-pity from any of them. They're so full of life and determination."

At the stadium, the troops reveled in the game, recalls Bennett. Not even Army's lopsided loss to Navy could deflate the group's rollicking mood. Afterward, it was back to the train and yet another gourmet meal--heroes get hungry, says Levin--before returning to Walter Reed

and Bethesda.

"The day was spectacular," says Levin. "It was all about these kids. It was awesome to be part of it."

The most poignant moment for the Levins was when 11 Marines hugged them goodbye, then sang them the Marine Hymn on the platform at Union Station.

"One of the guys was blind, but he said, 'I can't see you, but man, you must be f---ing beautiful!' " says Bennett. "I got a lump so big in my throat, I couldn't even answer him."

It's been three weeks, but the Levins and their guests are still feeling the day's love. "My Christmas came early," says Levin, who is Jewish and who loves the Christmas season. "I can't describe the feeling in the air."

Maybe it was hope.

As one guest wrote in a thank-you note to Bennett and Vivian, "The fond memories generated last Saturday will sustain us all--whatever the future may bring."

God bless the Levins. And bless the troops, every one.

Author Unknown

(if you know who wrote this and/or the source, please let me know)

12. Advance planning department

A. I'm speaking on "Positioning: How to Differentiate Yourself from the Competition" at Bucks CCC on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. and repeated on Tuesday, February 7 at the same time . . . e-mail me if you'd like to attend as my guest, so that I can get you the room location.

SPECIAL INCENTIVE FOR ATTENDING:

You'll learn the difference between a left-handed and right-handed pencil!

B. I'm co-presenting with Linda Kanner (a licensed clinical social worker and friend/teaching colleague of mine at Bucks) on the "Suddenly Single" experience this Saturday from 9:10-10:10 p.m. at Congregation Shir Ami in Newtown, PA.

For more information, please click: http://jewishphilly.org/content_display.html?ArticleID=169815

C. Amy in Pennsylvania, a friend and reader of BLAINESWORLD, informed me that her talented group--Second Nature--has been booked for a monthly gig at Washington Crossing Inn (215.493.3634) in Washington Crossing, PA on these dates: February 4, March 11, April 22, and May 13.

I always enjoy the food there and personally plan to go there for dinner on at least one of these nights, then stay for some dancing from 9 p.m. on. The music runs until 1 a.m.

MORE ON SECOND NATURE, thanks to Amy:
Celebrating music from the 60's thru today's future standards, featuring talented "seasoned" musicians who cover an eclectic mix of tunes from The Beatles to Bonnie Raitt, Santana to Joe Jackson and Joss Stone to Los Lonely Boys. Members include Amy Baker (lead vocals), Bill Corfield (guitar/vocals), Brian Schiefer (bass/vocals), Kenny Pesile (drums), and Richie Petronio (keyboards and vocals).

Come on out and listen to Second Nature's Rock, Funk, R&B, and Soul styles and be sure to bring your dancin' shoes!

For booking information, or if you wish to be added to our mailing list, please contact Amy Baker at:secondnatureband@msn.com or 609.731.2944.

PS. If you're like me and celebrate ALL holidays, Chu Shen Tan or Happy New Year (in Chinese) . . . in case you're interested, it is the Year of the Dog.

Please join me in praying that we soon get our remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week!

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To continue getting mailings of this type, you don't need to do anything further.

If you do NOT want to get future such mailings, please send me e-mail and make that request . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com

And, lastly, in the unlikely event that you are not already on the weekly mailing list for BLAINESWORLD (my free online newsletter that contains some jokes, hopefully not too risqué; websites; reviews, etc.) . . . AND if you want to be . . . please send me e-mail with the following in the subject line:
BLAINESWORLD subscription

New readers are always welcome, so also feel free to mention this missive to your friends.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #486

1.23.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I, had a blast on Saturday when we joined my fellow Union officers from Bucks County Community College for our annual retreat . . . we first enjoyed the food and drinks at Poco's Restaurant (215.348.3424) in Doylestown, PA . . . my ribs were as good as I've had in a long time; Cynthia liked her chicken fajitas dish . . . Randy, our waitress, was outstanding.

From there, we all went upstairs to the Comedy Cabaret (215.322.6642) for a fabulous show that five different comedians--all quite funny . . . our two favorites were Kevin Sullivan, self-proclaimed "the meanest man in town" who dazzled us with his song parodies, and the Legendary Wid, a guy who takes ordinary items and somehow makes them part of his act.

See below. From left to right, that's George Washington, Cynthia, yours truly, Wid, and Abe Lincoln.



I've personally seen both Sullivan and Wd before and despite that fact, they still make me laugh . . . our biggest chuckle of the evening, however, came from an up-and-coming performer by the name of Elove (or at least that's what I thought he said his name was) . . . he noted that, "Letting your kid stay at Michael Jackson's is like having Stevie Wonder as your designated driver on New Year's Eve."

B. Cynthia and I were also delighted to find a new restaurant that we'll surely be revisiting: The Calamata Cafe & Pizza (908.359.7144) in Hillsborough, NJ . . . we ordered a delicious whole wheat pizza that came out perfectly prepared with a very thin crust . . . but our real surprise was the fact that the place had homemade desserts, all prepared by the owner's wife . . . we had the carrot cake; it was moist and oh-so-tasty.

For more information and coupons that you can download, please click:

<http://www.kalamatacafe.com>

C. My classes at the College have gotten off to a fine start, which reminds me to repeat an offer made previously . . . if you'd like to join my students in getting THE WALL STREET JOURNAL at a reduced educational rate, you can do so if you're a student and/or teacher (or getting the subscription for somebody who is) . . . just send me an e-mail with the following in the subject line: WALL STREET JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION.

Also include the following information in the body of your e-mail: Name, Address, Phone, e-mail address; and how many weeks you want (10 weeks, \$13.95; 15 weeks, \$19.95; 26 weeks, \$32.95; or 52 weeks, \$59.95).

THE JOURNAL will bill you directly and as part of your subscription, you'll get FREE access to the online version!

D. AN APOLOGY (of sorts):

Some folks occasionally complain that they enjoy BLAINESWORLD,

but that it is too long . . . or that it contains material not relevant to them . . . if that may be the case, I'm sorry--but consider the fact that's why they invented skimming . . . you obviously don't have to read everything in this or any issue.

In case you have not discovered the typical format that I use, it is as follows:

Section 1: Reflections about what is happening in my life.
Section 2: An FYI item that hopefully can be used in your daily life.
Section 2, part 2: E-mails with more such information.
Sections 3, 6 and 9: Jokes you hopefully haven't seen elsewhere.
Section 4: Reviews of movies and books.
Section 5: Advance notice of some upcoming TV programs.
Section 7: Websites I think you might enjoy.
Section 8: A weekly computer tip.
Section 10: A memorable quote.
Section 11: Some piece that you may find thought-provoking or inspiring.
Section 12: Advance notice of some upcoming events.

Whatever you do, please don't miss Sections 2 and 7A from this week's issue . . . they contain information that you may well have not seen elsewhere and will want to record for future reference--guaranteed!

**** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD ****

This week, it goes to Dr. Judith Stenn (609.443.4500)--my dermatologist in East Windsor, NJ.

I've been going to Dr. Stenn now for several years now and have always found her to be most caring and competent . . . yet it was my most recent visit this past week that showed me just how fine a doctor she is.

After asking me how I was doing, she conducted a very thorough scan of my whole body (something that not all dermatologists do) . . . somehow, she managed to find a mole between my toes that I had not even seen . . . she then removed it so she could biopsy it and what really impressed me, called a few days later to see how I was doing . . . I'm surviving, by the way, in large part because of the fine job Cynthia has done in helping nurse my toe back to health.

Dr. Stenn is an associate of Dr. Jerry Bagel, who heads the Psoriasis Treatment Center of Central New Jersey ... when Dr. Stenn wasn't available, I've also seen him on occasion and have found him deserving of his reputation that has seen him twice named one of the top physicians in the state by NEW JERSEY MONTHLY.

2. FYI

Free 411

There's a claim out there that you can get FREE 411 service for looking up numbers . . . this one is TRUE! . . . by calling: 1.800.FREE.411 (1.800.373.3411), you will not be charged for calls to directory assistance . . . you'll save typically

\$1 or more every time you use this service, and it works from both your home and cell numbers--though there will be your regular usage charge when you use the latter . . . you can even use it from home via the Internet.

How can this be offered? The service works like a radio or television station; i.e., advertisers pay for it . . . in return, you may have to listen to a brief commercial . . . though even that's not always the case . . . when I tried it the first time, I actually heard no such message.

For more information, please click:
<http://www.free411.com/index.htm>

Not quite believing the above the first time I heard about it, I naturally checked it out at the following website:
<http://www.snopes.com/inboxer/nothing/free411.asp>

And what I found out was that all the aforementioned claims are legitimate!

FYI, part 2

* Marie Kennedy, a longtime reader and author of a very moving book (MY PERFECT SON HAS CEREBRAL PALSY, wrote to tell me that she was interviewed several months ago for a two-part article on cerebral palsy . . . should you want to read this, and I strongly encourage you to do so, please click:

Part One, an Overview:
<http://www.specialkidstoday.com/articles/3551.php?wcat=313>

Part Two, Living with CP:
<http://specialkidstoday.com/articles/3561.php>

More information about Marie and her book can be obtained by clicking:
<http://www.mariekennedy.com>

* Diana in Illinois, the daughter of Cynthia's cousin:
As many of you probably know, Breast Cancer is something I am very passionate about. Like many of yours, I'm sure, our family has had our fair share of people with the disease. In fact every woman on my mom's side of the family, from my grandmother's generation and up, has suffered with Breast Cancer. This is why I have chosen to focus my PhD research thesis on Breast Cancer.

As a researcher, I have learned how tough it is to find and secure funding. However, I also know how important it is to fund research. Without these funds, it would be impossible to advance the field of cancer treatment in any way. Therefore, I have decided to give back to the cancer community and help in the fund-raising effort. I, along with thousands of other men and women across the country, will be participating in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer this year.

The Avon Foundation Breast Cancer Crusade has a mission to provide accessible health care for women who need it and to find a cure for breast cancer. Last year the Chicago walk raised over \$5.4 million alone, and a total of over \$31.5 million in 8 cities. The money raised goes towards

funding awareness and education, screening and diagnosis, treatment, support and services, and scientific research. The Avon Foundation has donated \$14 million towards the new Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center here at Northwestern University. There is an entire floor of laboratories in the new, state of the art, research building that is dedicated to the Avon Foundation for Breast Cancer Research. (This is the building my lab is moving to in March).

The Avon Walk really does make a difference in the fight for Breast Cancer. In 2004, the Avon Foundation turned over 71% of their fund-raising to the cause, making this one of the best fund-raising charities in the country. They are able to donate this high amount because they require that the walkers raise a minimum of \$1800 a person to be able to walk. Therefore I am asking each one of you, if you are able to, to please sponsor me in my effort to walk.

The Avon Walk is a 2-day, 26-39 mile walk around Chicago, June 3-4th. The first day we walk between 13-26 miles to the camp site, and on Sunday we complete the 13 mile voyage back to the starting site. I will be training hard to be able to walk this amount, and probably loading up on painkillers to help me through it! As I see it, many more women are suffering more than I will over those 48 hours! I will try to walk the 26 miles the first day, or go until my hips give out on me. What will you get out of the sponsorship? You will get updates from me on my training, the right to laugh at the thought of me "roughing it" without my blowdryer and sleeping in a tent in the "city wilderness" (don't worry- the "camp ground" is surrounded by security for the night!), and you get the satisfaction of knowing you contributed to a great cause.

Checks can be made out to Avon Walk for Breast Cancer and mailed directly to me (I'll fill out the necessary paperwork with my walker ID number so the check gets credited to my account). You can also make a credit-card donation under my name using the link below. Many companies have matching fund programs for their employees. If your company does, please forward their paperwork with your check. All donations are tax-deductible! If your check is made out to the AWBC, please make sure your address on your check is correct so your tax-receipt can be mailed to you. (Let me know if it differs, and I will include the address on the coupon form I will submit with your payment) You can mail checks to:

Diana Rosman
707 W. Brompton Ave. Apt 35
Chicago, IL 60657

I volunteered numerous hours last year in the weeks leading up to the event, and at the event itself. I saw how much fun the walkers had and how much money was raised, and decided that this year I would be part of the walk as well. I am still continuing my volunteer efforts with the group in the weeks that lead up to the event.

Thank you so much for your help in fighting breast cancer. No donation is ever considered too small to have a significant impact. If you know of anyone who would like to donate, please forward this letter on to him or her.

I encourage you to visit my Avon Walk web page to see my training and fundraising progress and to learn more about the event.

I hope to hear from you all soon!

Love,
Diana

[http://www.avonwalk.org/site/TR?
px=1576023&s_redId=31403&fl=en_US&s_tafId=55182&pg=personal&fr_id=1170](http://www.avonwalk.org/site/TR?px=1576023&s_redId=31403&fl=en_US&s_tafId=55182&pg=personal&fr_id=1170)

* Arlene in Pennsylvania was one of several readers who graciously commented on a piece in last week's issue that my father wrote:

Having trouble sending the message to you I want to as the tear gates have opened and flooded. The memories and the truisms he writes about have touched me deeply.

What a beautiful missive he wrote and so much truth there. Perhaps one has to experience what he has gone through, and I have, or being on the other side of the fence, such as your Mom, and I have, twice.

May all of you be blessed by having him with you for many, many years to come.

NOTE:

In the unlikely event that you missed what my father wrote (in Section 11 of BLAINESWORLD #485), you can easily access it by following the advice in Section 7C of this week's newsletter.

3. Cremation

Two widows were visiting in the lounge of the Seniors' Center.

"Well," one said, "Mary has just cremated her third husband."

"Yeah, that's the way it goes," replied the other widow. "Some of us can't find a husband, and others have husbands to burn!"

4. Reviews

A. Enjoyed LAST HOLIDAY, a remake of a 1950 comedy/drama starring Alec Guinness . . . since I didn't recall the original, I found myself drawn into this tale of a shy cookware salesperson who learns that her days are numbered . . . she decides to throw caution to the wind and live the remainder of her life with a gusto that impacts everyone around her . . . Queen Latifah if fine in the leading role, and I really liked the work of LL Cool J as the guy she'd like as a boyfriend . . . rated PG-13.

B. THE ARISTOCRATS is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #464 follows:

WARNING:

You'll either love or hate THE ARISTOCRATS.

I fall in the former; Cynthia was more in the latter--though her

opinion seems to have changed somewhat after revisiting the film in her mind . . . it is definitely not for the squeamish, in that the language is perhaps the dirtiest you'll ever hear.

Comics Paul Povenza and Penn Jillette (of the stage duo Penn and Teller) invited more than 100 of their closest friends to reminisce, analyze, deconstruct, and deliver their own version of the world's dirtiest joke in this documentary that had me repeatedly laughing out loud . . . I particularly enjoyed the segments featuring George Carlin, Gilbert Gottfried, the characters from SOUTH PARK, and Philadelphia's Todd Glass.

Not rated and definitely not for anybody offended by foul language.

As to the actual joke, a cleaned-up version goes something like: This guy walks into a talent agent's office and says, "I've got a great act. It's a family act. My wife and little son and daughter are in it. We walk on state and (censored), then we (censored), and then I (censored, censored) while she (really censored), and for the finale, we all (really, really censored)."

The talent agent says, "That's horrible. It's disgusting. I've never heard anything like it. What do you call yourselves?"

After a perfect comic beat, the guy proclaims, "The Aristocrats!"

C. I love to read and so when I saw THE LITTLE GUIDE TO YOUR WELL-READ LIFE by Steve Leveen, I knew that was something I had to read . . . its subtitle--HOW TO GET MORE BOOKS IN YOUR LIFE AND MORE LIFE FROM YOUR BOOKS--got me even more interested.

Leveen is CEO and co-founder of Levenger, a catalog offering "tools for serious readers" . . . he shares techniques that have been used by this group, along with best practices of accomplished readers over the centuries, to come up with a short book that I almost couldn't put down . . . it is also one that I plan to revisit often in the future.

I particularly liked how he explained his procedure for choosing which books to read and why . . . in addition, he made me want to listen to more books on tape than I even do now . . . and, lastly, his discussion on book groups made me want to join and/or form one of my own.

Throughout the book, he also shared many marvelous quotes on reading, such as this one from Artwood H. Townsend: "Never force yourself to read a book that you do not enjoy. There are so many good books in the world that it is foolish to waste time on one that does not give you pleasure."

For a book of just 123 pages, I was amazed that there were so many passages that caught my attention . . . among them:

Book love is something like romantic love. When we are reading a really great book, burdens feel lighter, cares seem smaller and common places are suddenly delightful. You become your best optimistic self. Like romantic love, book love fills you with a certain

warmth and completeness. The world holds promise. The atmosphere is clearer and brighter; a beckoning wind blows your hair.

John Armato, a public relations executive, cherishes his growing Library of Candidates. When people ask him if he's actually read all those books, he asks them if they've actually eaten all the food in their kitchen. "It is good to put up a supply of books; it increases the odds that you'll have what you want when you're hungry for it," he says.

There is some merit in being sure that you dislike the whole of a book versus only the first part. But most avid readers I've interviewed have learned over the years the art of knowing when to give up. Many apply a fifty-page rule: if you don't like it after fifty pages, close the book and move on.

D. Commencement addresses are not ordinarily something I look forward to hearing . . . yet when given the opportunity to listen to two of them, I grabbed the opportunity by obtaining BEING PERFECT AND A SHORT GUIDE TO A HAPPY LIFE--a short but powerful CD read and written by Anna Quindlen.

Quindlen, the prolific author of novels, nonfiction books and children's books, is also a 1992 Pulitzer Prize recipient for her NEW YORK TIMES column . . . her column now appears every other week in NEWSWEEK.

She took the aforementioned title from two commencement addresses she had prepared . . . when she kept getting requests for them, she put them into book form: A SHORT GUIDE TO A HAPPY LIFE, followed by BEING PERFECT.

Both titles contain such useful advice that I found myself listening to them repeatedly.

For example, she urges you to set aside your friends' advice, what your family and co-workers demand, and what society expects, and look at the choices you make every day. When you ask yourself why you are making them, Quindlen encourages you to give this answer: For me. "Because they are what I want, or wish for. Because they reflect who and what I am . . . [the] melodies spun out by your own heart."

Or when it comes to being a mother, a wife and a friend, she notes, "I show up. I listen. I try to laugh."

My only regret is that Quindlen was not the speaker at my high school or college graduations.

5. VCR alert

A. JAMIE FOX: UNPREDICTABLE has the Oscar winner performing songs not made popular by Ray Charles . . . he is helped out by Mary J. Blige, Snoop Dogg and Stevie Wonder . . . Wednesday at 8 p.m.. on NBC.

B. CHINA'S MAN MADE MARVELS reviews the toil and

sacrifice behind the making of the Great Wall, a 4,100-mile barrier extending across the northern border . . . this amazing feat of engineering dates back 2,000 years to the Qin Dynasty . . . Saturday at 7 p.m. on Discovery.

C. THE WATER IS WIDE is a remake of the 1974 Jon Voight film CONRACK . . . I liked the original; I'll be watching this if for no other reason than it stars Alfre Woodard . . . Sunday at 9 p.m. on CBS.

6. Elvis fan

A woman is a great Elvis fan and wants to immortalize him somehow.

She goes to the tattoo parlor and tells the tattoo artist to place a picture of Elvis on the inside of her upper thigh.

He draws the picture and tattoos it where she wanted it.

She doesn't like the image. "It doesn't look like Elvis!"

He says "Yes it does!"

And they banter about the image for a while. He finally says, "Okay, I'll do another on the inside of your upper thigh."

He performs the task.

She again says, "That doesn't look like Elvis either!"

They argue some more. Finally he says: "I'll get the opinion of my next customer."

They ask him which picture looks like Elvis.

The customer studies the images and replies, "Neither one looks like Elvis to me . . . but the guy in the middle looks just like Willie Nelson!"

7. Websites

A. You're going to owe me BIG TIME for the following website, in that it will tell you how to reach live operators at many popular 800 numbers:
<http://paulenglish.com/ivr/>

Imagine, no more getting passed around in voicemail hell!

B. If you're in the mood for a cute game, please click:
<http://www.sixwise.com/pages/fun/penguins.htm>

At the top of the SixWise.com page you go to, you can simply enter your main e-mail address to subscribe to the complimentary SixWise.com "Be Safe, Live Longer and Prosper" e-newsletter, too! Every week you will get important articles that can help you and your loved ones improve your well-being while protecting you from all forms of danger, including disease, crime, financial disasters, and more!

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

THANKS to Dan Becker, my webmaster, who has done a great job putting past issues back on the website . . . just click above, then Newsletter, Past issues, and you'll be taken to an area where you can see all the issues from 2006 and most of those from 2005.

8. Computer tip

I'm blessed to work with the absolutely BEST assistant, Bridget . . . it was easy when I lived in Pennsylvania, in that she and I would meet in person--typically once or twice a week . . . now that I'm in living in New Jersey, she has become more of a virtual assistant . . . but fortunately for me, things are still working out well.

One reason: We've developed a fairly effective way to communicate via the computer . . . when I send her something to do, I'll put words to that effect in the subject line of an e-mail message; e.g., (PLEASE ADVISE) Have we ordered new cassette tape program?

Then when she replies, she'll put the information in the subject line--such as: (MY REPLY) Yes, program has been ordered. When and if I then have to read or save something from the body of the mail, she'll tell me that too . . . as in (MY REPLY) Clarification needed on tape request; see below.

This system works for us; methinks it would work for others, as well as for other situations too.

9. Rules for cats who have a house to run

1. DOORS: Do not allow closed doors in any room. To get door opened, stand on hind legs & hammer with forepaws. Once door is opened, it is not necessary to use it. After you have ordered an "outside" door opened, stand halfway in and out and think about several things. This is particularly important during cold weather, rain, snow, or mosquito season. Swinging doors are to be avoided at all costs.

2. CHAIRS AND RUGS: If you have to throw up, get to a chair quickly. If you cannot manage in time, get to an Oriental rug. If there is no Oriental rug, shag is good.

3. BATHROOMS: Always accompany guests to the bathroom. It is not necessary to do anything--just sit and stare.

4. HAMPERING: If one of your humans is engaged in some activity and the other is idle, stay with the busy one. This is called "helping," otherwise known as "hampering." Following are the rules for "hampering":

A) When supervising cooking, sit just behind the left heel of the cook. You cannot be seen and thereby stand a better chance of being stepped on and then picked up and comforted.

B) For book readers, get in close under the chin, between eyes and book, unless you can lie across the book itself.

C) For knitting projects or paperwork, lie on the work in the most appropriate manner so as to obscure as much of the work or at least the most important part. Pretend to doze, but every so often reach out & slap the pencil or knitting needles. The worker may try to distract you, ignore it. Remember, the aim is to hamper work. Embroidery and needlework projects make great hammocks in spite of what humans may tell you.

D) For humans paying bills (monthly activity) or working on income taxes or Christmas cards (annual activity), keep in mind the aim--to hamper!. First, sit on the paper being worked on. When dislodged, watch sadly from the side of the table. When activity proceeds nicely, roll around on the papers, scattering them to the best of your ability. After being removed for the second time, push pens, pencils, and erasers off the table, one at a time.

E) When a human is holding the newspaper in front of her/him, be sure to jump on the back of the paper. They love to jump.

5. WALKING: As often as possible, dart quickly and as close as possible in front of the human, especially on stairs, when they have something in their arms, in the dark, and when they first get up in the morning. This will help their coordination skills.

6. BEDTIME: Always sleep ON the human at night so she/he cannot move around.

10. A quote I like

A woman is like a teabag. She never knows how strong she is until she's in hot water.--Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962), American First Lady when married to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and, also, one of the founders of UNICEF

11. Thought for the day

School answering machine

The school and teachers of Pacific Palisades High School (California) are now being sued by parents who want their children's failing grades changed to passing grades even though those children were absent 15-30 times during the semester and did not complete enough school work to pass their classes.

This came about because the school implemented a policy requiring students and parents to be responsible for their children's absences and missing homework.

What follows is the message that the staff voted unanimously to record on its school telephone answering machine:

This is the actual answering machine message for the school:

"Hello! You have reached the automated answering service of your school. In order to assist you in connecting the right staff member, please listen to all your options before making a selection:

"To lie about why your child is absent - Press 1

"To make excuses for why your child did not do his work - Press 2

"To complain about what we do - Press 3

"To swear at staff members - Press 4

"To ask why you didn't get information that was already enclosed in your newsletter and several flyers mailed to you - Press 5

"If you want us to raise your child - Press 6

"If you want to reach out and touch, slap or hit someone - Press 7

"To request another teacher for the third time this year- Press 8

"To complain about bus transportation - Press 9

"To complain about school lunches - Press 0

"If you realize this is the real world and your child must be accountable and responsible for his/her own behavior, class work, homework, and that it's not the teachers' fault for your child's lack of effort . . . hang up and have a nice day!"

If you can read this, thank a teacher.

Author Unknown

(if you know who wrote this and/or the source, please let me know)

12. Advance planning department

A. David Brahinsky and Friends (including Gail Frantz, a very special friend/talented violinist) will be appearing at the Princeton Yoga Center on Saturday, January 28 at 7:30 p.m. . . . the concert will feature the words of Bob Dylan . . . be there or be square . . . for more information, please click:
<http://www.princetonyoga.com/>

B. I'm co-presenting with Linda Kanner (a licensed clinical social worker and friend/teaching colleague of mine at Bucks) on the "Suddenly Single" experience on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 9:10-10:10 p.m. at Congregation Shir Ami in Newtown, PA.

For more information, please click: http://jewishphilly.org/content_display.html?ArticleID=169815

C. Meaghan in Pennsylvania, group sales manager for the Bristol Riverside Theatre, wrote to extend the following invitation:

Enjoy Fine Entertainment and Lavish Refreshments
with the Very Best of Bucks County!

Couple's Night
Bristol Riverside Theatre
&
THE FANTASTICKS
by Tom Jones & Harvey Schmidt
A story of two young lovers and there scheming parents!
Loaded with Charm, Comedy and Classics of Musical Theatre!

Date: Friday February 10, 2006

Show Time: 8 pm

Wine, Dessert, Live Music: 10:15 pm

Tickets: \$64 per couple

Contact: BRT Box Office 215-785-0100; or
<http://www.BRTstage.org>

D. Cynthia and I took a great Couples' Massage course last year . . . according to one of the teachers, Ken, it is being repeated as follows:

Feb 17-Feb 20, 06 (3 nights, Fri - Mon)
With: Bonnie Anne Campbell and Ken Nelson

Celebrate love and intimacy while you relax, rekindle romance, and learn a whole new way to share and care for each other. Touch is a wonderful way to communicate love without words. We will focus on an easy Swedish massage flow, a gift you can continue to give long after this special weekend has passed.

Reclaim your capacity for romance by giving and receiving massage
Learn a complete massage flow based on Swedish strokes
Experience centering, meditation, and breathing techniques
Walk away with a sense of deep appreciation for each other.

Register by phone: 866.200.5203; or online by clicking:
<http://www.kripalu.org/program/type5/healthheal/CPM061>

PS. Please join me in continuing to pray that we soon recover from Hurricane Katrina's wrath (Wilma's also), as well as for a quick return of ALL the remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week.

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

To continue getting mailings of this type, you don't need to do anything further.

If you do NOT want to get future such mailings, please send me e-mail and make that request . . . my address is:
bginbc@aol.com

And, lastly, in the unlikely event that you are not already on the weekly mailing list for BLAINESWORLD (my free online newsletter that contains some jokes, hopefully not too risqué; websites; reviews, etc.) . . . AND if you want to be . . . please send me e-mail with the following in the subject line:
BLAINESWORLD subscription

New readers are always welcome, so also feel free to mention this missive to your friends.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #485

1.16.2006

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride and I, recently joined friends for dinner at Charlie Brown's (908.874.6511) in Hillsborough, NJ . . . we go to this establishment quite often--at different locales throughout the state--and are almost never disappointed . . . the salad bar is about the best we've ever had, and in what for us was a rarity, we both had the same dish: a crusted parmesan chicken . . . it was delicious; our only hope is that it remains on the menu . . . the night we were there it was a blackboard special.

B. During the week, we try to make Wednesdays our "date night" . . . we often go out for dinner then, too, trying various restaurants in the area . . .and sometimes returning to old favorites--such as Tiger's Tale (609.924.0262) in Skillman, NJ . . . there, Cynthia typically orders and enjoys the ribeye steak . . . I tried the London broil for the first time; it was excellent . . . the accompanying sweet potato fries are also quite tasty.

Afterwards, we sometimes catch a movie . . . or this past week, I surprised Cynthia with a massage from my regular therapist, Kelly Connolly . . . she is a talented practitioner of integrative bodywork, as well as reiki . . . and because she has a portable massage table, she'll even travel to your home or office . . . she can be reached at 215.622.5192 or via e-mail: soulbound9@comcast.net

SUGGESITON DEPARTMENT:

if you're looking for the ideal Valentine's Day gift, you won't go wrong by scheduling a massage for somebody you care about.

C. I am sooooo grateful for you, the readers of this publication, and am constantly amazed by how much information I get by just asking questions . . . sometimes, I don't even run them in

the newsletter; I just send out an e-mail to those having a particular interest or expertise.

Two such instances come to mind . . . one involves our cats, and so I turned to the many cat-lovers/owners of BLAINESWORLD for suggestions on how to deal with their sudden urge to scratch a certain piece of furniture . . . was I amazed at the many marvelous suggestions I received in return, but that said, I'm still interested if anybody has any others . . . and the second one had to deal with our search for a massage table for Cynthia . . . we are looking to buy a new one, so if anybody has more ideas than what I've received already, please feel free to share them.

And, lastly, that leads me to another request for information . . . a reader is getting married in the Bucks County, PA area and is seeking recommendations for printers and DJs . . . anybody care to share their thoughts?

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

This week it goes to Pam Maiolo--public affairs manager for AAA in New Jersey.

I had the pleasure of first getting to know Pam when she served as an occasional guest on a radio show I hosted for several years on WWFM . . . she was always most informative . . . in addition, since then, she has graciously answered numerous questions I have had about her fine organization.

I have been a proud member of AAA for well over 30 years and will likely continue, in large part because of such employees as Pam Maiolo.

For more information about AAA, please click:
<http://www.aaa.com>

NOTE:

You'll be pleasantly surprised to see the organization is now a lot more than just towing services and free road maps!

2. FYI

Ricardo in New Jersey, a good friend and loyal reader, gave me the following great idea:

Sometimes when you do not get a satisfactory response about a complaint directed at a foreign company--e.g., Sony, Panasonic or Toyota (Japan); Volvo or IKEA (Sweden)--you can write directly to their respective embassies. They always have a commercial liaison, often called an attache, who will contact the company because they do not want to have a bad reputation of their country's products.

You can find the address and a link to the various embassies by clicking:
<http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/dpl/32122.htm>

Some countries are better than others. Recently, I had a problem with a Sony rebate. So I wrote the Japanese embassy in Washington, and I

got a response within days.

FYI, part 2

* FREE TICKET OPPORTUNITY (not to be missed!):

Meaghan in Pennsylvania has asked me to mention that Bristol Riverside Theatre is still looking for friendly, youthful people to help welcome our beloved patrons and usher at the February 10th performance of THE FANTASTICKS on Friday evening at 8 p.m.

Volunteers will receive a FREE ticket to the show and are welcome to enjoy complimentary wine, dessert and live music at our Couple's Night After Party in the BRT atrium, starting at 10 p.m..

Interested individuals: Please call Bristol Riverside Theatre at 215-785-6664 and ask for Meaghan.

* Diana in Pennsylvania, a longtime friend/colleague:

Keep your New Year's resolutions with the help of hypnotherapy! Did you resolve to lose weight or quite smoking? I can help you achieve your resolutions quickly and easily with non-invasive, non-medical hypnotherapy. The power of your mind is limitless. Hypnosis can help you shed those holiday pounds by increasing motivation, curbing your appetite naturally, and by increasing your desire for healthy foods. Hypnosis can help you regain control over your smoking habit by changing your perception of cigarettes as "a friend," curbing any cravings you have naturally and non-chemically, and motivating you to be the healthier, happier person you desire.

For more information on sessions in Morrisville, PA, contact Diana Loreman at 215.862.6360.

* Ginger in Florida:

We just bought a home in Coral Springs. The people who owned it had cats, and I'm terribly allergic. Since we'd been through this before, we had the vents cleaned, removed the carpet and painted all the walls. We've been in the house four days now and no allergies! When I came in before we bought it, I had terrible reactions. We also had the vents in our old condo cleaned prior to moving in and every two years thereafter. You wouldn't believe the amount of dust and "crap" they get out. Also, when you're having the a/c and/or heating vents cleaned, make sure to have the dryer exhaust vent cleaned. That should be done even more often. My sister had a dryer vent fire in a house that was less than a year old. I've seen many homes that had dryer vent fires. Also, never run your dryer when you aren't home.

3. Pun contest

There was a man who entered a local paper's pun contest. He sent in ten different puns, in the hope that at least one of the puns would win. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.

4. Reviews

A. Enjoyed CASONOVA, a lighthearted romantic comedy about the 18th century infamous lover . . . there are a lot of twists and

turns because of many cases of mistaken identity . . . Heath Ledger, quite different from his outstanding work in BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN, is good in the leading role . . . but it is Oliver Platt who steals virtually every scene he is in . . . rated R.

B. JUNEBUG is now out on DVD . . . don't believe the excellent reviews that you may come across . . . this is a boring film about a dysfunctional southern family that I should have walked out on when it was in the theaters . . . rated R.

C. I was amazed by the fact that Lynne Truss could make grammar interesting in EATS, SHOOTS & LEAVES . . . so naturally, I was curious about her take on manners in TALK TO THE HAND--her latest book.

The result: Another winner! . . . Truss takes on boorish behavior and, in doing so, makes me feel better that I'm not the only one who finds it objectionable.

She gives lots of examples, too . . . my only regret is that some of them are a bit too British for me; i.e., I would have seen more of it based on this country . . . but then again, isn't that a bit rude of me to expect that Americans are the only ones that should be written about? There are certainly people throughout the world who aren't nearly as civil as they should be.

There were several memorable passages; among them:

* As for the demise of "please," you may overhear a child demanding in a supermarket at the top of its voice, "I want THAT ONE!" Hope briefly flares when the harassed mother bellows back, "You want that one, WHAT?" But you might have known how this would turn out. "I want that one, YOU EFFING BI*CH!" shouts the kid in response.

* . . . the story of the INDEPENDENT's Janet Street-Porter, who, while filing a documentary about modern education last year, tried to prompt the children at a school assembly to grasp the importance of apology. "Children," she said, "in every family home, there's a word which people find it really hard to say to each other. It ends in 'y.'" Can anyone tell me what it is?" There was a pause while everyone racked their brains, and then someone called, out, "Buggery?"

* Well, I am incensed by graffiti, and would like to see offenders sprayed all over with car-paint and then strung up for public humiliation. (As you can tell, I've given a lot of thought to that one.) I also can't abide to see people drop litter; it truly shocks me. People of all ages evidently think nothing of reaching into a bag, discovering something surplus to requirements, holding it out at arm's length and then insouciantly letting go.

And I really liked the book's conclusion . . . suggests Truss:

* Let's try pretending to be polite, and see what happens. Old Aristotle might have been right all those centuries ago: that is you practice being good in small things (I'm paraphrasing again), it can lead to the improvement of general morality.

D. I had thought I had read and/or heard just about everything by Harvey Mackay (SWIM WITH THE SHARKS WITHOUT BEING EATEN ALIVE is one of my favorite self-help books of all time), but somehow I missed his cassette program, HOW TO BUILD

A NETWORK OF POWER RELATIONSHIPS . . . what a shame, too, in that it's great!

It makes it clear why there's a need to build your own personal network, then shows you how to go about getting it off the ground . . . the ideas contained can be used in countless business situations, as well as in your personal life.

There were only two cassette tapes in the program . . . yet they contained so many valuable tidbits in them that I found it hard just trying to select these few to cite:

* Call somebody on his or her birthday. You'll do a lot of business that way.

* Find what a person is most proud of.

* You don't have to know everybody as long as you know people who do.

* Remember something about everybody you meet. Then find a creative way to keep in touch with that person.

* 70% of all jobs are from networking, 2% are from sending out resumes, 10-12% from want ads, and 4% from people creating their own.

* Acid test of hiring: Within 10 minutes of an interview, I'd ask myself, "How would I feel if that person was working for my competitors?" And if I'm not worried, that's the end of the interview.

5. VCR alert

A. LOVE MONKEY premieres on Tuesday at 10 p.m. on CBS . . . stars Tom Cavanaugh as an idealist in the cutthroat world of music deal making.

B. Having gotten hooked on DANCING WITH THE STARS (Thursdays at 8 p.m. on ABC), I now find myself looking forward to SKATING WITH CELEBRITIES . . . Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on FOX.

C. BENNY HILL MARATHON is a six-hour tribute to Britain's master of burlesque . . . Saturday at 9 p.m. on BBC; another six-hour marathon airs Sunday at noon.

6. Marvin

A man walks into the street and manages to get a taxi just going by.

He gets into the taxi and the cabbie says, "Perfect timing. You're just like Marvin."

Passenger: "Who?"

Cabbie: "Marvin Silverman. There's a guy who did everything right. Like my coming along when you needed a cab. It would have happened like that to Marvin every single time."

Passenger: "There are always a few clouds over everybody."

Cabbie: "Not Marvin. He was a terrific athlete. He could have gone on the pro tour in tennis. He could golf with the pros. He sang like an opera baritone and danced like a Broadway star, and you should have heard him play the piano."

Passenger: "Sounds like he was something, huh?"

Cabbie: "He had a memory like a computer. He could remember everybody's birthday. He knew all about wine, which foods to order and which fork to eat them with. He could fix anything. Not like me. I change a fuse, and the whole neighborhood blacks out."

Passenger: "Wow, some guy eh?"

Cabbie: "He always knew the quickest way to go in traffic and avoid traffic jams, not like me, I always seem to get into them."

Passenger: "Not many like that around."

Cabbie: "And he knew how to treat a woman and make her feel good and never answer her back even if she was in the wrong. His clothing was always immaculate, shoes highly polished too."

Passenger: "Sounds like an amazing fellow. How did you meet him?"

Cabbie: "Well, I never actually met Marvin."

Passenger: "Then how do you know so much about him?"

Cabbie: "I married his widow."

7. Websites

A. If you're a lover of classic literature, please click:

<http://us.penguinclassics.com/static/cs/us/10/nf/learn.html>

You'll find FREE Reading Guides for such books as THE AGE OF INNOCENCE, ANNA KARENIN, CANDIDE, GREAT EXPECTATIONS, ON THE ROAD, WUTHERING HEIGHTS and many others . . . in addition, you'll find several informative essays Arthur Conan Doyle, Chaucer, Emile Zola, etc.

B. WARNING:

The following website is NOT for everybody, in that it contains information of an adult nature; i.e., about sex . . . but since it was developed by a reader, I am sharing it because I thought some others might find it of interest . . . and, also, if you're interested in what a blog looks like--but have never seen one--check it out (to the right after you go to the link):

<http://www.jamyewaxman.com>

As noted by the author:

JamYe WaXman divulges too much information on her (almost) daily blog, answers questions about sex and relationships, and spews about her spastic life. So, what's in it for you? Only you can decide. Check her out for yourself . . . oh, and you can listen to her talk about sex in her podcasts

as well.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

To see the many books I've reviewed and generally enjoyed, go to Blaine's Best (on the left) and then letter "O" . . . check the second paragraph there, and you'll be taken to my reviews that have been posted at amazon.com's website.

If you like any of these past reviews and/or find them helpful, please indicate that is the case by doing the following:

1. Take a book I reviewed previously, say THE EDUCATION OF A COACH (from a few weeks ago).

2. Go to amazon.com website:

<http://www.amazon.com>

3. Type:

THE EDUCATION OF A COACH

4. Find my review (it will usually be toward the top; in this case, I believe it is sixth).

5. At the end, you are asked: Was this review helpful to you? Indicate YES.

Doing so will enable me to move up in amazon's list of "Top 500" reviewers . . . currently, I'm #429 based on 2,253 favorable comments on my 490 reviews.

8. Computer tip

Some people feel they have to reply to every e-mail . . . this if of course NOT true . . . but to make life easier for those who read what you send, consider ending some e-mail with something to the following effect: "This is just an FYI. So don't feel obligated to reply." . . . it will tell your recipients that they don't have to respond with something lame along the lines of "thanks" or "I agree."

9. Resolutions

Since we have all started the new year, it is past time again to make those ever so important New Year's Resolutions. I have faithfully made such resolutions in the past, and while I haven't been able to keep all of them, I have tried my best to continue making progress on them year after year. Following is my revised list of New Year's Resolutions--2006 Edition:

Resolution #1

2003: I will try to be a better husband to Marge.

2004: I will not leave Marge.

2005: I will try for reconciliation with Marge.
2006: I will try to be a better husband to Wanda.

Resolution #2

2003: I will stop looking at other women.
2004: I will not get involved with Wanda.
2005: I will not let Wanda pressure me into another marriage.
2006: I will stop looking at other women.

Resolution #3

2003: I will not let my boss push me around.
2004: I will not let my sadistic boss drive me to the point of suicide.
2005: I will stick up for my rights when my boss bullies me.
2006: I will tell Dr. Hodger and the group about my boss.

Resolution #4

2003: I will read at least 20 good books a year.
2004: I will read at least 10 books a year.
2005: I will read 5 books a year.
2006: I will finish SPACE.

Resolution #5

2003: I will not get upset when Charlie and Sam make jokes about my baldness.
2004: I will not get annoyed when Charlie and Sam kid me about my toupee.
2005: I will not lose my temper when they tell the guys I wear a girdle.
2006: I will not speak to Charlie and Sam.

Resolution #6

2003: I will get my weight down below 180.
2004: I will watch my calories until I get below 190.
2005: I will follow my new diet religiously until I get below 200.
2006: I will try to develop a realistic attitude about my weight.

Resolution #7

2003: I will not take a drink before 5:00 p.m.
2004: I will not touch the bottle before noon.
2005: I will not become a "problem drinker."
2006: I will not miss any AA meetings.

Resolution #8

2003: I will not spend my money frivolously.
2004: I will pay off my bank loan promptly.
2005: I will pay off my bank loans promptly.
2006: I will begin making a strong effort to be out of debt by 2008.

Resolution #9

2003: I will see my dentist this year.
2004: I will have my cavities filled this year.
2005: I will have my root canal work done this year.

2006: I will get rid of my denture breath this year.

Resolution #10

2003: I will go to church every Sunday.

2004: I will go to church as often as possible.

2005: I will set aside time each day for prayer and meditation.

2006: I will try to catch the late night sermonette on TV.

10. A quote I like

The secret of success is to do common things uncommonly well.--John D. Rockefeller, Sr. (1839-1937), American capitalist most known for his early role in the early petroleum industry and founding of Standard Oil and for his later work as a philanthropist

11. Thought for the day

How soon we forget
by Bernard Greenfield (my father)

Upon being confined to a hospital the first casualty is personal dignity.

I want to record my experiences and thoughts that occurred during my recent stay in the event that at some future date I might want to look back and see if I have profited by any of it; if in any way I had emerged wiser, perhaps acquiring a greater appreciation of life for the pleasures and blessings that we are sometimes given. Or is it all soon forgotten.

I am concerned that I can not recall as much as I would like. Many times thoughts and ideas would come to mind, but when the time comes to record or develop them and put them into a written form, I find that they are only vague whisks of memory . . . very difficult to put into any concrete form. The same thing applies to words that I come across in reading and do not know the meaning of. Unless I refer to a dictionary, I will forget the particular word when I try to look it up at a later time.

But that is not what I had in mind when I first decided to write about my time in the hospital. If the thought or idea is not retained in my memory it may not have been of much importance, in the first place or will come back to mind when it chooses to. As for the word that I have forgotten, I am certain that my ability to write or converse will not be seriously impaired. Somehow, I will manage to get along without it.

I have been away from this particular essay for a while now, and it is time that I returned to it. Some of my motivation seems to have waned but I will try to rekindle it. I can understand why it is often said that writing is not only a matter of inspiration and desire to expound, explain, report or what have you, but of discipline. It requires the conscious act of forcing oneself to sit down and going about the business of writing, despite the absence of any such desire.

I have spent a great amount of time in hospitals, as a patient, and what I write about is not what I felt or witnessed at one particular occasion but more of a distillation of many experiences and observations. Often

times I am not the participant in what is happening about me, but even as an observer the experiences of others strike home. I can easily put myself in the place of those I am watching and feel their anguish and despair. And sometimes others have moments of happiness and relief and elation and I can sense and appreciate their joy.

What I want to speak about are what I call the little victories or gains that we make during our stay in the hospital. I am not talking about the recovery from an illness or surviving a serious surgery, but of the day-to-day things that we do and take so for granted.

Apart from our sense of relief and happiness that we enjoy when we know that our time spent here and the pain and suffering that we might have had to endure was in the end for a good purpose, there are other times that bring some degree of satisfaction. Of course not comparable to the news that the surgery was eminently successful and in a short time you will be better than new or that the illness was diagnosed, treated and vanquished.

There is the period of convalescence, usually seeming interminable and marked by our dependence upon others for our needs and comforts. We are aware of all the indignities that are performed upon us and with the sense of resignation that we accept them. We console ourselves with the thought that we have no options, but it is of small consolation. The simple, quotidian acts of eating, shaving, washing, brushing one's teeth that we perform with little or no thought become difficult tasks that require assistance or someone to do them for us.

There are more ego bruising examples, but I do not believe they need be pointed out to the reader.

Then comes our little triumphs. I do not know in what order of importance they are, but each one is savored and brings a feeling of great satisfaction, relief and thankfulness. For example, the first time you can get out of bed unassisted and go to the bathroom and luxuriate in a shower . . . to feel the beautiful, refreshing, cleansing quality of the water running over your body.

I suppose I am one of the few men who love to shave every day. I dislike when I have even one day's growth of beard. I feel unclean and unkempt. It was a most pleasant sensation to be able to stand at the washbasin and soak my face in hot water and apply the creamy lather and feel the razor glide across my face. It was delightful being able to brush my teeth without holding some receptacle under my chin that I had to spit into, and then to rinse with fresh running water.

It was the same in every other aspect of being able to take care of my requirements. I was no longer chained to a bed. If I wanted to stroll down the hall, I was able to do so at my own time and inclination. There was no longer a problem in eating or feeding myself. If I elected to sit in the garden and enjoy the gentle warmth of the Spring sunshine, I could either propel myself there in a wheelchair or as I grew stronger, I could walk . . . I was like a prisoner freed from his jail.

We take for granted the love and care that our dear ones give to us day by day. It is only when we look around and see others not as blessed as we are in having a wife and children that love us as much as they do that we begin to realize our good fortune.

I vainly protested my sons traveling and spending all that time in coming to visit me. I told them to stop bothering me and stay home with their families. Stop wasting their time and their money. I'm perfectly fine,

and I don't need company. It was nice seeing you and good-bye and good luck; thanks for coming and don't call me, I'll call you.

The gentleman doth protest too much, me thinks.

Why do we try to veil our true emotions and feelings? We are overcome with a sense of gratitude, paternal joy and deep, deep satisfaction that our children love and care for us and show it. How hurt would we be if they did not show that affection and concern?

We mask our true feelings. They say, We did not come down here so much for you, but to keep Mom company. I reply, I'm glad to hear it. At least, you won't be hanging around here all day."

I do not feel put out. I know that it is a little charade we are playing. Besides, there is enough love there so that I will receive my full share.

How fortunate I am to have the love of a devoted and caring wife. She sits by my bedside for hours every day. I try to chase her away and insist that she takes time off and relax in her own pursuits. No task is too hard for her.

I wonder if I'll remember this when we have our next argument. And we will. We are both people who some times take foolish, stubborn stands on trivial matters. Angers flare up and I am convinced that I am the put upon one, the injured party. Then will the picture come back to me of how pleased I was to see her come into my room each day. It was not only the fact that her arms were filled with all the things that I had requested she bring me nor the knowledge that all my wants would now be very capably taken care of. It was so nice to have her company.

It's so easy to become selfish and spoiled when you have a loving spouse at your beck and call to administer to your every whim. Will I remember this at some later time when she does not share my opinion, when she admonishes me about the extra pre-dinner cocktail that I insist upon, when she tells me that I should not play golf every day and give my 85-year-old body some rest, when she has the nerve to ask me to water the house plants and crime of crimes, when she sometimes asks me to go to the local supermarket for a few bananas or container of milk? As I revel in my little snit and nurse my bruised ego, will I remember how wonderful it was having her near when I needed her? And how she gave of herself not out of a sense of duty or obligation, but of love.

Will I keep in mind strolling through the corridors, when all the visitors have gone, and one seeks some companionship to help pass the long, restless night? I would strike up conversations with others like myself, either tired of watching television or just wanting to talk to someone. I would be told sad tales of patients who had no one to care about them or who could help them, in any way, when they returned home from the hospital. They were uncertain and frightened of what the future would be for them. I realized how fortunate I was that I need have no such concerns.

I hope that I will not forget the kind thoughts and wishes of my friends. It was nice to know that so many people really liked you and missed you and wished you well.

I remember my father, in his later years, and how I would describe him. I would say that he was the luckiest of men. He was surrounded by love. I hope that I will never forget that I too am so blessed.

12. Advance planning department

A. Yours truly is presenting on "How to market yourself" at Bucks County Community College on Thursday, January 19, at 6:30 . . . and repeated on Tuesday, January 24, at the same time . . . please e-mail me if interested in attending as my guest, so I can tell you the room number.

SPECIAL INCENTIVE FOR ATTENDING:

One lucky person each night will have the chance to win \$500 just for being in attendance!

B. I'm co-presenting with Linda Kanner (a licensed clinical social worker and friend/teaching colleague of mine at Bucks) on the "Suddenly Single" experience on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 9:10-10:10 p.m. at Congregation Shir Ami in Newtown, PA.

For more information, please click: http://jewishphilly.org/content_display.html?ArticleID=169815

PS. Please join me in continuing to pray that we soon recover from Hurricane Katrina's wrath (Wilma's also), as well as for a quick return of ALL the remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week.

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

To continue getting mailings of this type, you don't need to do anything further.

If you do NOT want to get future such mailings, please send me e-mail and make that request . . . my address is: bginbc@aol.com . . . by the same token, if you or anybody else wants to get on FREE e-mail list for BLAINESWORLD, just drop me a note to that effect.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

Issue #484

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I met friends for dinner at one of our favorite restaurants: Pal's Cabin (973.731.4000) in West Orange, NJ . . . the food there is almost always excellent . . . I enjoyed my chopped steak, and she in particular raved about the mushroom soup.

PET PEEVE DEPARTMENT:

There's only one thing about the place that bugs me . . . when you go to the bathroom, there's an attendant who gives out paper towels . . . you don't even get the cloth variety . . . personally, I don't care about what kind of towel I get; I'd just rather get it myself . . . I know that I don't like this at many of the casinos in Atlantic City . . . why Pal's should utilize this so-called "service" is beyond me.

B. A few nights later, we went to Focaccia Pizza n Pasta (908.725.5522) in Manville, NJ . . . this was the first time I've been there, and I will definitely return . . . we split our order . . . the veal parmigiana was tender; the lasagna was as good as we've ever had . . . our server, April, was also friendly and efficient.

C. KUDOS to New Jersey Gov. Richard J. Codey for his ardent support of the anti-smoking bill recently approved by the Assembly (after the Senate approved it in December) . . . when he affixes his signature--likely on Sunday--it will go into effect 90 days afterward, meaning that all restaurants must then enforce a ban on smoking . . . that will make dining out an even more pleasant experience for all of us.

New Jersey is now the 11th state to enact such legislation . . . my hope is that all states soon follow.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to Jody in Pennsylvania, a longtime friend and reader of BLAINESWORLD . . . she recently passed the EPPP, a grueling examination for professional practice in psychology . . . just to take the exam, Jody needed to have Ph.D. status with appropriate pre-doctoral and post-doctoral supervision hours extensively documented to the State Board of Psychology . . . she also spent many months studying.

*** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD *****

This week it goes to Judge William T. Kelleher, Jr.--the municipal court judge for Raritan Borough (NJ).

I recently had the opportunity to see him in action and was most impressed with how he ran the court session . . . cases moved along quickly, but they did not seem rushed . . . he did an excellent job explaining the reasoning behind his decisions . . . he seemed fair . . . and though he was involved in some serious matters, he continually had a nice way about him--even displaying a sense of humor at times.

The fact that he smiled at people in the court also helped make what could have been a terrible experience at least somewhat palatable.

2. FYI

In case you missed it, postal rates went up on Monday.....here's the information that you need:

<http://www.usps.com/ratecase/welcome.htm?from=bannercommunication&page=rate>

NOTE:

A lot of people fail to realize that when you send anything more than 1 oz., you don't just automatically put on two stamps . . . you instead pay 24 cents for each additional ounce (it used to be 23 cents) . . . now that might not sound like a lot of extra money, but as I recently told Cynthia, if you count all the money that you could save as a result . . . why, by the year 2046, you could probably have enough money saved to pay for one whole day in a nursing care facility . . . seriously, though, the 15 cents or more is better in your pocket than in the hands of the USPS.

FYI, part 2

* Meaghan in Pennsylvania (with a SPECIAL OFFER; read and respond, if interested . . . or forward to somebody you think might be interested in seeing what has long been one of my favorite musicals):

Bristol Riverside Theatre is looking for friendly, youthful people to help welcome our beloved patrons and usher at the February 10th performance of THE FANTASTICKS on Friday evening at 8 p.m.

Volunteers will receive a FREE ticket to the show and are welcome to enjoy complimentary wine, dessert and live music at our Couple's Night After Party in the BRT atrium, starting at 10 p.m..

Interested individuals: Please call Bristol Riverside Theatre at 215-785-6664 and ask for Meaghan.

* Joe in New Jersey:

I would like to share with you the beginning of a new career for me, personal life coaching. You and I have probably done coaching in our lifetimes without even knowing it, for example, informally helping a family member, co-worker, friend, etc., through a problem or challenge in their lives without telling the other person what he or she should do.

Although it is not required that a life coach be certified, I am currently completing a life coach certification program

<http://www.coachtrainingalliance.com>

This will greatly enhance my effectiveness as a personal life coach. As part of my assignment, and in order to meet certification requirements, I'm offering complimentary life coaching sessions (\$50 value) to anyone interested now through May. Because of this, I'm asking your assistance in possibly referring me individuals who may be interested in experiencing first-hand, and without any further obligation, what personal life coaching is all about during a free thirty (30) minute telephone coaching session.

For the free confidential session, please bring at least one real life issue or goal which is important to you. Some examples:

- * Feeling more connected to others.
- * Determining and prioritizing what is most important in my life.
- * Finding more satisfaction in my job or career, or finding a new one.
- * Finding more time to do the important things in my life.

Looking forward to hearing from you if you would like to receive a FREE sample of personal life coaching or if you know someone who may benefit. Please call me toll-free at 1.888.830.5034 to set up a convenient 30-45 min. block of time.

* THANKS to Carole in New Jersey for helping another reader with a recent REQUEST FOR HELP about a Parkinson's-type disease called NPH (Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus) . . . she wrote:

I don't have an answer to Sandy's question but would recommend that she contact Dr. Peter H. Gott, Family Doctor, who writes a column in THE TIMES (Trenton). She can write to him at PO Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167.

The disclaimer with his column reads: "This column is not intended to provide medical advice or take the place of seeing a doctor" . . . but he seems to be able to research so MANY unusual ailments/diagnoses.

Maybe you could pass this info on to her. I hope she gets some answers.

BLAINE'S TW CENTS:

I, too, have always enjoyed Dr. Gott's column and miss not having it carried in my local paper . . . Carole and I then both did additional research . . . at virtually the same time, we came up with this helpful resource for NPH information:

<http://www.allaboutnph.com/>

An e-mail computer virus swept across the globe that automatically opens free pornographic websites on the victim's screen.

Authorities intended to track down the hackers responsible for the virus just as soon as somebody complains.

4. Reviews

A. Don't believe the reviews. KING KONG, the second remake of the 1933 classic, is terrible . . . don't waste your money seeing it, either in the theaters or when it comes out on DVD . . . after a great opening 30 minutes set in New York City in the 1930s, the film bogs down when the entire cast goes on ship and then becomes even more boring when the everybody reaches the island where King Kong is found . . . this whole middle part is like JURASSIC PARK meets CAST AWAY, wherein big monsters just go through the same battles over and over . . . by the time the famous Empire State Building scene came around, I only cared about getting out of the theater--having been there for over three hours . . . Naomi Watts is fine as Ann Darrow; however, neither Jack Black or Adrien Brody did much for their careers as her co-stars . . . rated PG-13.

B. RED EYE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #466 follows:

RED EYE, directed by Wes Craven, is an old-fashioned thriller about a passenger in distress on an airplane . . . although the premise isn't necessarily new, the film held my attention right from the beginning (in large part because of its effective use of music) . . . Rachel McAdams and Cillian Murphy were both believable as the two main characters . . . only the ending was disappointing, in that it was too easy to predict what was going to happen in virtually every scene over the last 10 minutes . . . yet that said, the film had a cute final line that put a smile on my face and left me thinking that this is one to recommend to others . . . rated PG-13.

C. BONFIRE OF THE VANITIES by Tom Wolfe was one of my favorite novels of all time . . . the writing, in part, almost took my breath away it was so believable . . . his second one, A MAN IN FULL, was good but not nearly as interesting . . . I'd say that pretty much describes his latest, too: I AM CHARLOTTE SIMMONS.

Set at the fictional Dupont University, the story deals with a sheltered freshman from North Carolina who must deal with life at a large school where sex, drinking and college athletics are far more important than academic achievement.

It was fast-reading, but that's in part because I was able to skim over large portions that added little to the plot . . . I also found myself caring about Charlotte, as well as several of the other main characters in the book . . . its, ending, though, was a major disappointment.

Wolfe seemed to get into the heads of most of the guys, and

I liked how he wrote several basketball scenes . . . I'm not so sure that he was as successful with the woman, and some of I AM CHARLOTTE SIMMONS felt dated.

There were several well-written passages; among them:

* The Caribbean colonels were bringing dessert in big bowls glazed in swirls of many colors with big, big silver spoons, and you took however much you wanted. It was a frozen chocolate mousse with frozen strawberries on top. She meant to take just a little bit, but the spoons were so big and so long--the handle was like a liver, and the shovel part got stuck in the frozen mousse and--oops--she catapulted a glob of it up in the air, and the instant seemed stretched out forever as the glob descended, descended, descended and fell into her lap, on her dress, right in the middle, up close to the top of her thighs, since the dress didn't fall much below there anyway. She was appalled. A frozen brown chocolate blob right there, right near the crotch--it was horrible!

* Mrs. Thoms wanted to know what she did instead. By now she was feeling so despondent, so unworthy of human company, she said, "Nothing. I didn't go out. I'd rather read a book." Saturday night--on the weekend--she didn't go out at all? "No, I never go out." Same disengaged poker face. Unconsciously she was beginning to enjoy misery and misanthropy, just the way you'd hear people in Alleghany County say, "Cousin Peggy? She's enjoying poor health."

* "What you heard was true," said Charlotte. "And if you heard any details, they were true, too. And if you didn't get enough details, any details you can imagine, they're true too. So now you know everything. Probably more than I do myself? I gotta meet somebody for breakfast. I'll see you later."

D. Having previously enjoyed books by Kitty Kelley about Frank Sinatra, Nancy Reagan and the Bush Family, I was excited to come across the taped version of a book she wrote in 1997: THE ROYALS . . . it continues in the tradition of her other works; i.e., being very gossipy . . . I'm not sure how much of this was the truth, but I nevertheless had fun in a guilty pleasure way reading how Prince Charles snatched one last rendezvous with Camilla Parker-Bowles on the eve of his marriage to Diana Spencer . . . how both Charles and Diana were unfaithful during their marriage . . . how Diana used bulimia to keep her shape, etc.

Others member of the Royal Family are likewise covered, though in not quite so much detail . . . you'll "learn" all you wanted to know (and some you probably didn't) about such other notables as the Queen Mother, Andy and Fergie, Prince Philip, and Prince Edward.

Kelley's narration added to my enjoyment of THE ROYALS.

5. VCR alert

A. Why doesn't Emily--played by Heather Graham--have a successful love life? She creates EMILY'S REASONS WHY NOT on Mondays at 9 p.m. on ABC.

B. CRUMBS debuts on Thursday at 9:30 p.m. on ABC . . . Fred

Savage stars in this comedy about a Connecticut eatery . . . Jane Curtain and William Devane also appear as his parents.

C. H.G. WELLS' WAR OF THE WORLDS, the TV movie, airs on Saturday at 9 p.m. on Sci Fi . . . C. Thomas Howell has the role played by Tom Cruise in the summer blockbuster . . . my hope is that it is better; methinks it would be difficult for it to be worse.

6. Questions

After giving a speech at an elementary school, President Bush allows the kids to ask a few questions. One little boy, Billy, gathers the courage to raise his hand and asks, "How come you invaded Iraq without the support of the U.N.?"

Just as Bush begins to answer, the recess bell rings and he says they'll continue afterward. Half an hour later the kids come back inside.

"Where were we?" says Dubya. "Oh, yes: Does anyone want to ask me anything?"

A different boy raises his hand and says, "I have three questions: First, why did you invade Iraq without support from the U.N.? Second, why did the recess bell go off 20 minutes early? And third, where the hell is Billy?"

7. Websites

A. Last week, in as the "Thought for the day," I ran a parody on the chain e-mail letters we all get too often . . . it mentioned the Nieman-Marcus cookie recipe and sure enough, somebody asked me for it.

So I did what I often do in such instances; i.e., checked the following website:

<http://www.snopes.com>

This has become my favorite such source for checking urban legends, rumors, etc. . . . and sure enough, by doing so, I found out more about the cookie recipe at Nieman-Marcus:

<http://www.snopes.com/business/consumer/cookie.asp#neiman>

B. MONK, the TV show, airs on Fridays at 10 p.m. on USA . . . it is a funny, quirky show about a detective who just so happens to be obsessive compulsive.

To see if YOU are Monk-ish, please click:

<http://www.usanetwork.com/series/monk/monkish/>

It will help you determine if you have a little compulsive behavior, which is perfectly normal . . . or whether it's time to lighten up a bit and break out of your comfortable cocoon.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

On the left, you'll see "Radio Show" . . . go to that link if you want to see a history of my radio career . . . you can also hear one of my shows.

As you may have read in a past issue, a recent management change at WWFM has resulted in my show being taken off the air . . . but, hopefully, I'll resurface soon again . . . on another station and/or even with my own cable show.

Please do keep me in mind if you have any media contacts for me to pursue with respect to the above possibilities.

8. Computer tip

ICQ (short for "I Seek You") has long been known for its instant messaging capability . . . but I've recently found it useful as a search engine . . . see for yourself by clicking:
<http://www.icq.com>

In the upper right, in the search bar, type whatever you wish to find . . . use double quotation marks around the terms to narrow your search . . . for example, by typing "Blaine Greenfield," you'll find a whole bunch of web pages where I'm mentioned.

What I particularly liked about this option: You also get thumbnail snapshots of each page . . . I've never seen this before.

So it eventually took me to the following blog:
http://www.find-a-sweetheart.com/blog/2005_08_01_archive.html

Which then had a link to the story that talked about how Cynthia and I met on match.com, accompanied by a great photo:
<http://www.c-n.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050814/NEWS/508140332>

9. Such news

Two Jewish sisters-in-law meet at their weekly session at the beauty shop. Ruth says to Golda, "Such news I got for you, Golda! My Irving is finally getting married. He tells me he is engaged to this wonderful Jewish girl, but he thinks the poor darling may have some strange illness called herpes."

After offering congratulations, Golda says to Ruth, "So, Ruthie, do you have any idea what is this herpes, and can our Irving catch it?"

Ruth answers, "God forbid! But his Papa and I are just so happy to hear about his engagement. You know how we've all worried about him. Its past time he's settled with a nice girl. As far as the herpes goes, who knows?"

"Well," Golda says, "I have a very fine medical dictionary, you know, Ruthie. I'll just run home right now and look it up and call you."

So, Golda goes home, looks it up, and calls Ruth excitedly, "Ruth! Ruth! Thank goodness, I found it. Not to worry! It says herpes is a disease affecting the gentiles."

THE REST OF THE STORY:

Ordinarily, I just present jokes and don't explain them . . . but for those not familiar with the term used above, the MERRIAM WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY defines gentile as "a person of non-Jewish faith" . . . methinks that Golda did not quite read her dictionary correctly.

10. A quote I like

Careers are like cars. When you buy a car, it's bright red! It's the hot new thing! But the minute you drive it off the lot, it depreciates. I'm not interested in being a car. I'm interested in being a house. You buy a house, do repairs, you redecorate, refurbish. And the house continues to appreciate.--Tyra Banks, hostess and chief judge of AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL

11. Thought for the day (long, but definitely worth reading)

I have a dream
by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Delivered on the steps at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.
on August 28, 1963.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity. But one hundred years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free.

One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land.

So we have come here today to dramatize an appalling condition. In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.

This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation.

So we have come to cash this check--a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now.

This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of the Negro. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights.

The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges. But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom.

We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" we can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama, whose governor's lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. This is the faith with which I return to the South. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring." And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania! Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado! Let freedom ring from the curvaceous peaks of California! But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia! Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee! Let freedom ring from every hill and every molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

12. Advance planning department

A. David Brahinsky and Friends (including Gail Frantz, a very special friend/talented violinist) will be appearing at the Princeton Yoga Center on Saturday, January 28 at 7:30 p.m. . . . the concert will feature the words of Bob Dylan . . . be there or be square . . . for more information, please click:
<http://www.princetonyoga.com/>

B. I'm co-presenting with Linda Kanner (a licensed clinical social

worker and friend/teaching colleague of mine at Bucks County Community College) on the "Suddenly Single" experience on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 9:10-10:10 p.m. at Congregation Shir Ami in Newtown, PA.

For more information, please click:

http://jewishphilly.org/content_display.html?ArticleID=169815

C. Stuck in a job you hate? Want to make that career change but don't know where to start? Come join the career discovery workshop and discover your values, strengths and a career that will match with what you love to do!

Career Discovery classes for adults starting March 15th at 7pm - 7:45 for 5 weeks at Lenape Middle School in Doylestown, Bucks County PA. \$130.00 includes workbook materials.

The classes will be run by Michelle Wirtz . . . should you want more information about Michelle or her company, please click:

<http://www.connectingyourdots.com>

To sign-up for the actual classes, go to:

<http://www.cbsd.org>

and click on Community School. Call 215.439.8977 for more information about registration.

PS. To celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday this coming Monday, please read Section 11 (above) . . . also, join me in continuing to pray that we soon recover from Hurricane Katrina's wrath (Wilma's also), as well as for a quick return of ALL the remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week.

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

To continue getting mailings of this type, you don't need to do anything further.

If you do NOT want to get future such mailings, please send me e-mail and make that request . . . my address is:
bginbc@aol.com

And, lastly, in the unlikely event that you are not already on the weekly mailing list for BLAINESWORLD (my free online newsletter that contains some jokes, hopefully not too risqué; websites; reviews, etc.) . . . AND if you want to be . . . please send me e-mail with the following in the subject line:
BLAINESWORLD subscription

New readers are always welcome, so also feel free to mention this missive to your friends.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD

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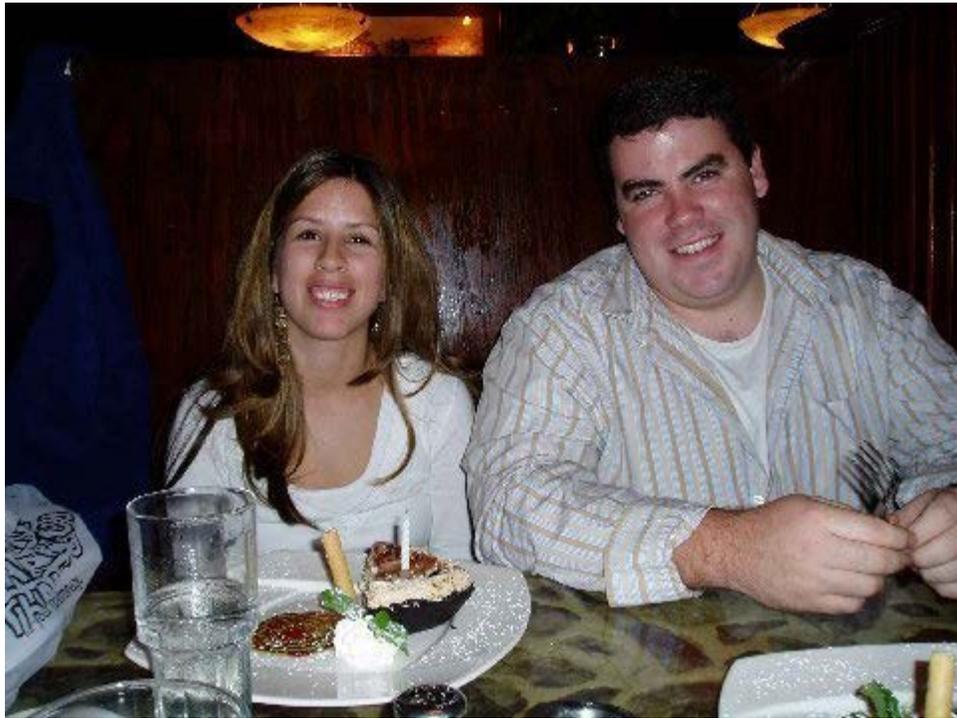
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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a fantastic time visiting my daughter Risa and her boyfriend JP in West Palm Beach, Florida on Monday and Tuesday . . . in what is becoming an annual tradition, we celebrated her 26th birthday over delicious steaks at the Okeechobee Steak House (561.683.5151) in West Palm Beach . . . we just naturally had to leave room for the desserts, each seemingly more decadent than the next, and wound up splitting huge slices of oreo cheesecake, peanut butter pie and coconut creme pie . . . Michael Chard, our personable server, added to our evening's enjoyment.

(Risa and JP at the Okeechobee Steak House)



At this restaurant, the birthday person gets to eat for free . . . we were amazed that there were at least 10 other people celebrating their birthdays on the same night.

We also got to see the store Risa works at: White House/Black Market . . . she has a sales position and is enjoying it.

From there, we went to visit Cynthia's niece Rachel in Atlanta, GA, on Tuesday and Wednesday . . . our first stop was a studio tour of the CNN Headquarters . . . when you begin by going up what I believe is the world's largest escalator, you know you are going to be impressed . . . we were . . . it is quite some task to bring the news to over one billion people throughout the world, and it got me at least to wonder:

What would this newsletter be like if I had a similar facility (and staff) to put it out? Just imagine the possibilities!

But I digress . . . for dinner, we went to South City Kitchen (404.873.7358), where Cynthia and I loved the fried chicken . . . I even tried grits for the first time and survived the experience, though don't know if it is something I would eat on a regular basis . . . we then went to Agnes & Muriel's (404.885.1000) for dessert . . . this latter restaurant has to be seen to believe . . . it serves big portions of "food you wish your Mom cooked" on retro Fifties/Sixties china in a converted brick bungalow inspired by Jane Jetson, June Cleaver and Pee Wee Herman . . . we all enjoyed splitting two substantial portions of a peach raspberry cobbler with vanilla ice cream and a butterscotch cream pie.

(Rachel, Blaine and Cynthia at Agnes & Muriel's)



For breakfast the next morning, we went to the Flying Biscuit (404.874.887) and had, as you might imagine, biscuits . . . they were mouthwateringly good, but no wonder . . . on an average week, the company makes close to 10,000 biscuits by hand from scratch, using real butter, light cream and--to quote from the menu--"lots of love" . . . I also had fried eggs and since I was getting into the swing of being in the South, the grits that accompanied them . . . after all, it had been some 12 long hours since I had last experienced that delicacy . . . yet I must admit to now being cured; i.e., I've had enough grits to last me a lifetime--or at least until we next head down to Atlanta.

B. On Thursday night, Cynthia volunteered me to join her as a server at a pre-New Year's party at her mother's nursing home . . . we had a good time helping out and enjoyed the music provided by the 13-piece orchestra . . . and the food wasn't bad, either . . . how bad can any party be where they serve pigs in a blanket?

C. Friday, we joined friends for a performance of SQUABBLES at the Off-Broadstreet Theater (609.466.2766) in Hopewell, NJ . . . this is a comedy about a writer of advertising jingles who is married to a successful lawyer . . . they first live with the lawyer's father and are then joined by the writer's mother . . . there are many funny scenes; however, when the happy couple have a baby, the mood of the play shifts toward a heartwarming final scene.

Though all the acting was fine, we felt that Doug Kline was particularly outstanding as not-so-happy Abe Dreyfus--the patriarch of the family.

SQUABBLES was originally slated to run until January 15 . . . it has been extended one week, and if you'd like to see it, I urge you to order tickets early because some of the performances are already sold-out . . . make sure you leave room for dessert, too, because that comes with the purchase of your ticket.

On Saturday, we joined other friends at a New Year's party in Lake Hopatcong, NJ . . . there was plenty of fun and food, and we were introduced to a new game called Catch Phrase . . . it is sort of an electronic version of Charades that had everybody laughing.

D. Only on Sunday did the week take a downward turn . . . we attended the funeral of Cynthia's Uncle Irving, who died at the age of 91 . . . he lived a good life, and it was my pleasure to have gotten to know him slightly over the past two years . . . no matter how he was feeling, he always had a twinkling smile that made you feel better by just being in his presence.

**** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD ****

This week it goes to Jim Donovan (215.794.3826)--author and personal coach.

Jim, a longtime friend and reader of BLAINESWORLD, publishes his own excellent monthly ezine . . . to get on his complimentary mailing list, please click:<http://www.jimdonovan.com>

While there, you can also get a free copy of his YES YOU CAN audio!

When reading stuff that Jim has written, I often come across ideas that I can apply in my own life . . . he graciously has allowed me to publish the following that can be used to help you make 2006 your year:

Action Steps

Pick something you want to attract into your life. It could be a new house or car, a great wardrobe, a new computer, something nonmaterial like a great relationship, your ideal career, the perfect business or even a state of mind like more happiness or peace and harmony.

On a sheet of paper, complete the following:

1. What you don't want.
2. What you do want.
3. Trust in God and do your part (we looked at dozens of houses and showed our home many times).
4. See and feel yourself as having already achieved this.
5. Take whatever action you feel inspired to take.

2. FYI

If you're a fan of Broadway shows or you just want to learn more, you'll gain an insider's perspective in a two-hour escorted tour through Manhattan's Theatre District . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.livebroadway.com/openhouse.html>

You get to visit 15 different Broadway playhouses, including exclusive access to at least two theatre interiors . . . and you might even get to catch a few minutes of rehearsal or some of

the other behind-the-scenes activity that takes place on stage between performances.

If you just want to read more about Broadway shows, sign-up for a FREE newsletter by clicking:http://www.broadwayfanclub.com/bfc_home/bfc_home.htm

Lastly, this website has a lot of other useful information about Broadway shows, getting tickets, etc.:<http://www.livebroadway.com/index.asp>

FYI, part 2

* Jerry in New Jersey:

I found the vertical hangers that you were looking for at:

http://www.wdrake.com/product_detail.aspx?item_no=1010786&position=2&keyword=hanger&sort

MY TWO CENTS:

That is the product; it is great! . . . SPECIAL THANKS to Jerry for getting me this information, as well as to the several other readers who responded with their ideas on the subject . . . and to Ginny in Pennsylvania who actually sent me one such hanger!

* Lisa in Pennsylvania:

I saw your question about air duct cleaning. I believe it's beneficial. Can't recommend a good person, but can recommend against a bad one.

When we moved in, we saw a Macy's ad slick and called them. They subcontracted to some non-professional type guy who cut holes in our basement duct work and used something that looked more like my hand vac than a professional vac. It was a complete waste of money.

I'm sure one of your readers will recommend a good company, but if they do not, do your research to be sure they are reputable and that's all they do for a living--not subcontractors, etc.

* Sue in Pennsylvania:

I highly recommend this [air duct cleaning] procedure to be done at least every 3 years. Not only will the air be cleaner, it makes your utilities run more efficiently. They typically charge per each vent.

* Lynda in Pennsylvania:

Hope you and your wife had a wonderful holiday season and New Year celebration.

I'm not sure if I sent you the trailer of a movie my son Oren directed.

Could you please pay it forward to your newsletter mailing list?

I would really appreciate it.<http://www.finaldraftthemovie.com/finaldrafttrailer.wmv>

* Sandy in Oregon (REQUEST FOR HELP):

Hope one of your readers may be able to help me find some information on a disease called NPH.

My husband was diagnosed with what they think is Parkinson's, but there seems to be some elements that don't fit with the usual diagnostics. I have heard that there is something called NPH that mimics the symptoms of Parkinson's, but I have tried to find out some information and it does not seem there is any available.

If any of your readers have experienced or know of NPH, I would be most

appreciative if they could send some information so I can investigate further.
Thanks.

3. Bunny wabbits

A precious little girl walks into a pet shop and asks, in the sweetest little lisp between two missing teeth, "Excute me, mithter, do you have widdle bunny wabbits?"

The shopkeeper's heart melts, and he gets down on his knees so that he's on her level and asks, "Do you want a widdle white bunny wabbit or a thoft and fuwwy bwack bunny wabbit? Or maybe one like that cute widdle bwown bunny over there?"

She, in turn, blushes, rocks back on her heels, puts her hands on her knees, leans forward and says in a tiny quiet voice, "I don't know. I don't think my boa conthricter givths a thit."

4. Reviews

A. GUILTY PLEASURE CONFESSION: We, Cynthia and I, both liked THE RINGER . . . this is a dumb, yet funny comedy starring Johnny Knoxville as a guy who sets out to fix the Special Olympics . . . Brian Cox, virtually unrecognizable as a result of a mustache, had us laughing as his sleazy uncle . . . all you also need to know is that the film is the latest produced by the Farrelly Brothers (THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY, SHALL HAL, etc.), which means that there are some tender moments in it too . . . rated PG-13.

B. WEDDING CRASHERS is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #462 follows:

Loved WEDDING CRASHERS . . . Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson play divorce mediators and lifetime friends whose hobby every spring is to crash weddings, regardless of the ethnic group involved . . . they are both hilarious in this raunchy film, which had me frequently laughing out loud . . . there's a great soundtrack, too . . . I've seen a lot of terrible comedies lately; it was good to have this one finally break the streak . . . rated R.

C. I'm not that big a football fan, but I very much enjoyed THE EDUCATION OF A COACH BY David Halberstam . . . it is the story of Bill Belichick, the phenomenally successful coach of the New England Patriots.

Halberstam has long been one of my favorite authors, having written several best sellers on sports . . . he is also the winner of a Pulitzer Prize for is early reporting from Vietnam.

This latest effort impressed me because it lived up to its title; i.e., it really gave me a feeling for what it took for Belichick to become the coach that he has become . . . he had his share of setbacks along the way, and they all helped him grow--both as an individual and leader of what has become a modern dynasty in professional sports.

I also came away with an idea of what it takes to be successful on such a level: the ability to work virtually non-stop . . . if you think you work hard at what you do, you'll think differently after reading EDUCATION.

The writing almost caught my breath in spots . . . it is that good . . . among just a few of the many memorable passages were these:

In a world where attention to detail was probably as important as sheer brilliance, where the people who took care of the tiniest details tended to be rewarded for it, the little details added up until they represented significant differences. He was the king of Post-it notes. Nothing slipped through the cracks with him. In attention to detail he was a lineal descendant of some of the most obsessed men in America, those great NFL coaches--most notably George Allen, who coached successfully in both Los Angeles and Washington, and among whose other peculiarities was the fact that he seemed to eat nothing but ice cream. "I think he likes it because he doesn't have to chew it, and it doesn't take any time," he wife, Etty, once said. "Chewing it would take his mind away from football."

By the time he took the job as head coach of the Patriots, he had finally learned how to delegate a good deal of the work, but he held on to the most elemental job of all: looking at film. It was as if a journalist managed to become CEO of a great newspaper and then announced that in addition to running the paper, he would continue to function as the paper's police reporter; or a great general, having become chief of staff of the Army, announcing he wanted to serve as the point man for a rifle platoon as well.

He [Ernie Adams, another coach and a serious amateur historian] thought the intensity under which the same was now played and the degree to which the intensity separated players and coaches from everyone else, even those dear to them, was, in some way, like combat, in that you simply could not explain it to anyone who had not actually participated. "My wife has a question she asked me every year for ten years," Bill Parcells said back in 1993 when he was still married, "and she always worded it the same way: 'Explain to me why you must continue to do this. Because the times when you are happy are so few.' She has no concept."

D. Heard the Nightingale-Conant CD program, THE 11TH ELEMENT--written and read by Bob Scheinfeld.

Scheinfeld, whose grandfather used this principle to build Manpower from a simple idea into a Fortune 500 company, shows you how to tap into getting help whenever and wherever you need it . . . the key is to know where and how to access it.

Doing so will enable you to become successful, not only from a financial standpoint . . . but also with respect to making right decisions, securing cooperation from colleagues and employees, and achieving more in life with less stress.

Though the concept sounds abstract, it becomes clearer when you listen to the informative CDs . . . Scheinfeld used it to create millions of dollars for himself, then for select clients and proteges across multiple industries . . . in

addition, he showed how it has been used to create such international successful stories as Nike, Starbucks and Virgin Atlantic.

There were many useful ideas I gained from listening to THE 11TH ELEMENT; among them:

- * Avoid the suntan or sunburn effect. That happens when you get all pumped up, but then you go back to your office and there's no long term effect.
- * You can get help on the Internet if you ask the right question.
- * Always ask for help for everything you want. Otherwise, nothing will move in your world.
- * Be specific in your requests.
- * To cut through the noise, every time you need help, tap between your eyebrows three times.
- * Watch THE TRUMAN SHOW [the movie] to see a version of how this principle works.

This fine program is available for purchase or rental . . . if you want to get it, please click:<http://www.achievement.com/>

Above is the tape rental club I belong to; i.e., the Achievement Tape Library . . . this a great way to hear CDs and/or audio cassette tapes, view videos, etc.--all for a fraction of what it would cost to buy them . . . call the head of the firm (Paul Arroyo) directly at 1.800.735.3660 and mention my name . . . that way, you'll be sure to pay even higher prices . . . NOT.

5. VCR alert

A. DANCING WITH THE STARS begins its second season on Thursday at 8 p.m. on NBC . . . among the pseudo celebs this time around are George Hamilton, Jerry Rice and Tatum O'Neal.

B. THE BOOK OF DANIEL stars Aidan Quinn, and for that reason alone, I'll give it a shot . . . he's a very talented actor (think the underrated SONGCATCHER and a whole bunch of other films that you may have also missed) in a new family drama about a harried Episcopal minister . . . Ellen Burstyn is also part of the cast . . . according to TV GUIDE, it is "darkly comedic and richly entertaining" and "the reward for viewers lies in the blue-chip cast, the crisp and sardonic adult writing and a generosity of spirit toward the many flawed souls in DANIEL's engaging orbit" . . . Fridays at 9 p.m. on NBC.

C. TAXICAB CONFESSIONS returns to New York (where it began) after an eight-year detour in Vegas . . . this is NOT a show for everybody, in that it contains some X-rated language . . . yet that said, some of the conversations are touching . . . and this docu-series is an actual Emmy winner . . . Saturday at 11 p.m. on HBO.

6. Coincidence

A guy boards a plane bound for Pittsburgh and sits down in his seat. He notices immediately that the guy next to him has a black eye. He says to him, "Hey, this is a coincidence, we both have black eyes. Mind if I ask how you got yours?"

The first guy answers, "Well, it just happened. It was a tongue twister accident. See, I was at the ticket counter and this gorgeous blonde the biggest breasts in the world was behind the counter. So, instead of saying, 'I'd like a ticket to Pittsburgh,' I said, 'I'd like a picket to Tittsburgh.' Then she socked me one."

The other guy answers, "That's what they call a Freudian slip. A similar thing happened to me. I was at the breakfast table, and I wanted to say to my wife, 'Please pass the Wheaties.' But I accidentally said, 'You stupid bi*ch, you ruined my life.' "

7. Websites

A. The Fast Food Nutrition Fact Explorer database contains the nutritional data of 12 of the world's most popular fast food restaurant chains. It can help you follow the dietary or weight loss advice of programs designed to reduce your risk of obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, or heart disease. To check it out yourself, please click:

<http://fatcalories.com/>

I found out, for example, that while the average adult needs roughly 2,000 calories a day, a Double Meat Classic Tuna Sub from Subway is 1,580 calories; a Double Whopper with Cheese from Burger King is 1,060 calories; and a pack of 10 Chicken Selects Premium Breast Strips from McDonalds is 1,270 calories.

B. I dread the time when it comes to put out newspapers for recycling because I'm terrible when it comes to tying knots . . . perhaps that is why the following website was developed:

<http://www.42brghtn.mistral.co.uk/knots/42ktmenu.html>

You'll find detailed background information on many popular knots, as well as a great step-by-step animation for each one that is featured.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

As you hopefully know by now, you should ALWAYS feel free to mention this newsletter to your friends, relatives, etc. . . . should they want to subscribe (AT NO COST), all they have to do is go to my homepage . . . then click on "Special Offer" at the bottom . . . it's that simple!

8. Computer tip

If you're using the Internet and want to send e-mail to a website, make sure you your browser links to the e-mail you wish to use . . . as an example, I often use Internet Explorer when looking at websites . . . but if I click "contact" at the bottom of most websites, it takes me to my Microsoft Outlook e-mail . . . since I most often use AOL's e-mail, I will often use the AOL browser if I wish to respond to a website since that will directly open up the AOL's e-mail.

9. New disease

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued a warning about a new virulent strain of Sexually Transmitted Disease. The disease is contracted through dangerous and high-risk behavior. The disease is called Gonorrhea Lectim and pronounced "gonna re-elect him." Many victims contracted it in 2004, after having been screwed for the past four years.

Cognitive characteristics of individuals infected include: anti-social personality disorders, delusions of grandeur with messianic overtones, extreme cognitive dissonance, inability to incorporate new information, pronounced xenophobia and paranoia, inability to accept responsibility for own actions, cowardice masked by misplaced bravado, uncontrolled facial smirking, ignorance of geography and history, tendencies towards evangelical theocracy, categorical all-or-nothing behavior.

Naturalists and epidemiologists are amazed at how this destructive disease originated only a few years ago from a bush found in Texas.

10. A quote I like

I urge you not to take your relations for granted. Parents, hug your kids each chance you get. Tell them you love them each chance you get. You don't know when it's going to be the last time.--Tony Dungy, the Indianapolis Colts' head coach, at the funeral service for his eldest son, who died of an apparent suicide.

NOTE:

Dungy last saw his son at Thanksgiving in Indianapolis. James Dungy was in a rush to get the airport, and his father not have a chance to hug him.

11. Thought for the day

Heartfelt appreciation

My heartfelt appreciation goes out to all of you who have taken the time and trouble to send me "forwards" over the past 12 months. Thank you for making me feel safe, secure, blessed, and wealthy.

Extra thanks to whoever sent me the one about rat crap in the glue on envelopes 'cause I now have to go get a wet towel every time I need to seal an envelope.

Because of your concern, I no longer drink Coca Cola because it can remove toilet stains.

I no longer use Saran wrap in the microwave because it causes cancer.

I no longer check the coin return on pay phones because I could be pricked with a needle infected with AIDS.

I no longer use deodorant since it causes cancer, even though I smell like a water buffalo on a hot day.

I no longer go to shopping malls because someone might drug me with a perfume sample and rob me.

I no longer receive packages from nor send packages by UPS or FedEx since they are actually Al Qaeda in disguise.

I no longer answer the phone because someone will ask me to dial a number for which I will get a phone bill with calls to Jamaica, Uganda, Singapore, and Uzbekistan.

I no longer eat KFC because their "chickens" are actually horrible mutant freaks with no eyes or feathers.

I no longer have any sneakers--but that will change once I receive my free replacement pair from Nike.

I no longer have to buy expensive cookies from Neiman Marcus since I now have their recipe.

I no longer worry about my soul because at last count I have 363,214 angels looking out for me.

Thanks to you, I have learned that God only answers my prayers if I forward an e-mail to seven of my friends and make a wish within five minutes.

I no longer have any savings because I gave it to a sick girl who is about to die in the hospital (for the 1,387,258th time).

I no longer have any money at all--but that will change once I receive the \$15,000 that Microsoft and AOL are sending me for participating in their special email program.

Yes, I want to thank you so much for looking out for me that I will now return the favor.

If you don't send this e-mail to at least 144,000 people in the next 7 minutes, a large pigeon with a wicked case of diarrhea will land on your head at 5:00 PM (CDT) this afternoon. I know this will occur because it actually happened to a friend of my next door neighbor's ex-mother-in-law's second husband's cousin's beautician.

Author Unknown
(if you know who wrote this and/or the source, please let me know)

A. Amy in Pennsylvania, a friend and reader of BLAINESWORLD, informed me that her talented group--Second Nature--has been booked for a monthly gig at Washington Crossing Inn (215.493.3634) in Washington Crossing, PA on these dates: January 14, February 4, March 11, April 22, and May 13.

I always enjoy the food there and personally plan to go there for dinner on at least one of these nights, then stay for some dancing from 9 p.m. on. The music runs until 1 a.m.

MORE ON SECOND NATURE, thanks to Amy:
Celebrating music from the 60's thru today's future standards, featuring talented "seasoned" musicians who cover an eclectic mix of tunes from The Beatles to Bonnie Raitt, Santana to Joe Jackson and Joss Stone to Los Lonely Boys. Members include Amy Baker (lead vocals), Bill Corfield (guitar/vocals), Brian Schiefer (bass/vocals), Kenny Pesile (drums), and Richie Petronio (keyboards and vocals).

Come on out and listen to Second Nature's Rock, Funk, R&B, and Soul styles and be sure to bring your dancin' shoes!

For booking information, or if you wish to be added to our mailing list, please contact Amy Baker at:
secondnatureband@msn.com
or 609.731.2944.

B. I'm co-presenting with Linda Kanner (a licensed clinical social worker and friend/teaching colleague of mine at Bucks County Community College) on the "Suddenly Single" experience on the evening of Saturday, Feb. 7 . . . additional details to follow.

PS. Being sooooo sorry that I didn't yet get to celebrate the New Year with each and every one of you, I decided to at least join you in a beleated celebration as a result of the following link:
http://www.icq.com/img/friendship/static/card_16961_rs.swf

Also, don't forget to continue praying that we soon recover from Hurricane Katrina's wrath (Wilma's also), as well as for a quick return of ALL the remaining soldiers back from Iraq . . . and make it a great week; year, too!

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To continue getting mailings of this type, you don't need to do anything further.

If you do NOT want to get future such mailings, please send me e-mail and make that request . . . my address is:
bginbc@aol.com

And, lastly, in the unlikely event that you are not already on the weekly mailing list for BLAINESWORLD (my free online newsletter that contains some jokes, hopefully not too risqué; websites; reviews, etc.) . . . AND if you want to be . . . please send me e-mail with the following in the subject line:
BLAINESWORLD subscription

New readers are always welcome, so also feel free to mention this missive to your friends.

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