

# A tribute to the appeal of Burt Reynolds

Not quite two months ago, I got to ask Burt Reynolds a question.

As I recounted in this space, the legendary actor was in Valdosta for a film festival, and during the festival's introductory press conference, I asked Reynolds about his relationship with his longtime friend Ossie Davis, who is originally from Clinch County.

Reynolds responded that he loved Ossie and his wife Ruby Dee, that Ossie Davis "had the voice of God. And now he's with Him." Then, he said, "I miss him (Ossie Davis) and I hope to see him again some day."

That day was Sept. 6 — not even two months after he said that.

For those who saw him

during that festival, they saw a man who, physically, was ailing. So, it wasn't incredibly surprising that he passed away. Mentally, though, he was sharp, and spoke excitedly about three upcoming projects — including one with Quentin Tarantino ("Once Upon A Time in Hollywood") that, unfortunately, he never got to shoot before his passing.

When I was growing up, in the late '70s and early '80s, Burt Reynolds seemed like the coolest guy in the world. He was both a ladies' man and a man's man — handsome, charming, athletic, with a quick and self-deprecating wit. During that time period, he was the biggest box-office draw

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in the world. Even his horrible movies (and there were many) made money. For instance, "The End" had a budget of \$3 million, and made \$44 million.

I've read a lot of tributes to Reynolds in the past week, but the most interesting I heard was a podcast on The Ringer where two people ranked their five favorite Burt Reynolds' movies. Not the best five Burt Reynolds' movies, but the five they thought best personified the appeal of Burt Reynolds.

I disagreed with some of their choices, so I'll supply my own, with the criteria being that these are, in my opinion, the five movies you need to see if you had never heard of Burt Reynolds and want to see what all the hubbub is about.

I'll go in descending order:

1. Breaking In (1989). Apparently, I was one of 11 people to see this movie. Sandwiched in between a string of losers like "Switching Channels" and "Rent-a-Cop," Reynolds starred in this small art film about an aging safe-cracker who takes on a young apprentice. It was directed by Bill Forsyth and written by John Sayles. Very good, understated movie.
2. The Longest Yard (1974).
3. Sharky's Machine (1981).
4. Deliverance (1972).

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This is the film that made Reynolds a movie star. A movie that you need to watch. Once.

3. Sharky's Machine (1981).

Reynolds plays a vice cop in Atlanta in this gritty film, which he also directed. Just an interesting, well-made cop movie, with great stunts and a perfect ensemble cast. Perhaps Reynolds' most underrated work.

2. The Longest Yard (1974).

Not the 2005 remake, which Reynolds is also in, that's more of an over-the-top comedy. The 1974 original still holds up as one of the best sports films ever made. There's never been a more convincing big-

screen quarterback than Reynolds (who played running back at FSU).

1. Smokey and the Bandit (1977).

Just the perfect vehicle to showcase Burt Reynolds' charm and wit. This movie is a bomb without Reynolds' "The Bandit" as its centerpiece. He keeps it together, and was at the pinnacle of his powers in 1977.

While he was great in other roles, Burt Reynolds was at his best when he was playing himself. That's not my opinion. It's his.

"I may not be the best actor in the world, but I'm the best Burt Reynolds."

Amen.  
And RIP.  
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# Give Trump the Nobel Prize for economics

This past week I asked a friend at the White House about how the president was holding up against the onslaught of media attacks. "They didn't even deliver a glancing blow," was the response. It wasn't for a lack of trying.

Has any president in modern times been the target of such a Blitzkrieg of orchestrated assaults — from John McCain's funeral turned anti-Trump scum to Bob Woodward's discredited new book trashing the president to the media infatuation with the anonymous **New York Times** op-ed by a disgruntled federal employee who hates President Trump.

Here we go again. Trump is (for the umpteenth time) characterized as dangerous, deranged, delusional, infantile, racist and amoral. But Trump is like Muhammad Ali

playing rope-a-dope while George Foreman (the media) is flailing away and punching himself out. The only people who pay attention to the anti-Trump screeds are already frothing at the mouth with Trump hatred. What is the point?

After all this time the "resistance" movement is still utterly clueless about Trump, his followers and the appeal of his "America First" agenda. Just why is he "deranged"? Because he is overturning trade deals, pulling the United States out of anti-America climate change treaties, building a wall to keep out undesirables, cutting taxes, slashing regulation and insisting that Europe pay it's fair share of NATO's costs.

Well, yes. Guilty as charged. When dismayed reporters ask me why he is doing all these things that are so offensive to the chattering

## Other Voices



Stephen Moore

class, my response is almost always the same: "Um, because this is what he promised voters he was going to do. Weren't you paying attention?"

Voters sure were. It turns out Americans outside the beltway weren't so enthralled with the New World Order or the anemic Obama economic program that is being dismantled.

And what is the result of all this "chaos" and "mayhem" in the White House that the media is in such a frenzy about? Well, as we learned last week, we now have the lowest number of American workers on unemployment insurance since Neil Armstrong walked on

the moon, the biggest manufacturing boom in 14 years, the lowest black unemployment rate ever recorded, and an economy that is growing at 4.4 percent this quarter, on top of 4.2 percent growth last quarter.

The surging Trump economy is arguably the news story of the decade and yet it is covered, if at all, as a ho-hum yawner.

The first rule of journalism is: Never bury the lead. The media does this every day.

Perhaps that is because the press corps and their economist sources are having a devil of a time explaining how a "deranged" president has been able to turbocharge the economy so decisively.

The only story line that **The New York Times** could conjure up — and I'm not making this up — is that Trump is riding an Obama wave. Sure. And Tony

Eason is responsible for Tom Brady's Hall of Fame performances. This "Obama effect" might be semi-plausible except for the fact that every policy Trump implements reverses President Obama's policy.

It is a virtual guarantee that when the economy does start to slow down (alas, booms don't last forever), **The New York Times** will gleefully shout: Aha, Donald Trump's economic policies are a failure!

Yes, there is a bit of chaos and disorder at the White House. Yes, some of the characters that Trump has hired had no business being anywhere near 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. By contrast, Obama had an orderly and statesman-like White House, and he hired a cadre of highly respected and well-intended people. Yet all of this still produced the

worst recovery from a recession since the Great Depression.

The other day I was on a panel with media reporters and I suggested in all seriousness that Donald Trump deserves the 2018 Nobel Prize in Economics. My fellow panelists almost visibly popped a vein in their heads. They ranted and raved about how stupid and dangerous Trump's policies are. Just who is deranged in this picture?

*Stephen Moore is a senior fellow at The Heritage Foundation and an economic consultant with FreedomWorks. He is the co-author of "Fueling Freedom: Exposing the Mad War on Energy." To find out more about Stephen Moore and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.cre-*

# Possible door-to-door letter delivery

## 10 YEARS AGO

**Sept. 10, 2008**  
THE EARLY County Commissioners approved an agreement giving EC2055 the responsibility of being the county's primary marketing and recruitment agency for economic development.

BEAUTY Smith will become the new president of the Southwest Georgia Retired Teachers Association.

THE EARLY County Community Food Bank is in serious need of donations. Anyone wishing to donate can drop donations off at First Baptist Church in Blakely.

THE MILLER County Pirates defeated Early County's Bobcats for the first time since the year 2000 by a 19-7 margin.

## 25 YEARS AGO

**Sept. 9, 1993**  
A LOCAL magazine recycling effort is being kicked off this week as part of a pilot recycling program being implemented in six Southwest Georgia communities.

A COUNTY-WIDE meeting will be held Sept. 20 to discuss the organization of a local

## From our Files

News from the past

chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

EVE Vickers was crowned Jr. Miss National Mayhaw at the seventh annual Mayhaw Festival Pageant in Colquitt.

THE EARLY County Bobcats opened their season with a 17-9 victory over Central of Talbotton. Coupled with losses by the top two teams in the state, ECHS moved up to the #1 ranking in Class AA.

EARLY County Middle School will hold open house next Tuesday evening to give parents the opportunity to meet their child's teachers. The ECMS Chorus will be performing.

## 50 YEARS AGO

**Sept. 12, 1968**  
THE BLAKELY Lions Club began sales of the 1969 Birthday Calendar this week. The money from this project goes to help the needy and the blind.

THE INTERCLUB Council voted to enter a float in the National Peanut Festival parade

in Dothan this fall enabling Miss Blakely, Kathy Phillips, to ride on her own float. The Council plans to build one of the prettiest floats to appear in the parade.

MR. AND Mrs. L.D. Lawrence were honored by their children and friends with a 50th Wedding Anniversary reception at their home near Arlington on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 8.

BLAKELY Lions Club members and guests had the rare privilege of listening to two talented young ladies, Miss Beverly Gilbert of Blakely and Miss Stephanie Hatfield of Ohio, who are both scholarship students at the University of Cincinnati's Conservatory of Music.

## 75 YEARS AGO

**Sept. 9, 1943**  
IF AN application filed this week with U.S. Post Office Department is approved, Blakely will have for the first time a door-to-door delivery of letters and a separate parcel post service, a twice daily delivery of mail in the business district, and a dozen new letter collection boxes.

GEORGE Gee, well-

known Blakely citizen, is the new distributor for the Gulf Oil Corporation in Blakely.

FRIENDS are delighted to know that the condition of Sevola Jones, who is undergoing treatment in a Cuthbert hospital, is greatly improved.

MR. AND Mrs. Linton Willis announce the birth of a daughter, Linda, Sunday, Sept. 4, at the local hospital.

## 100 YEARS AGO

**Sept. 5, 1918**  
CLIFFORD Walker, candidate for attorney general of Georgia, was a visitor in Blakely over the weekend.

MR. J.B. Hobbs, of Donalsonville, passed through Blakely this morning in company with a party advertising the approaching Donalsonville fair.

## 125 YEARS AGO

**Sept. 7, 1893**  
THE CANE, potato and groundpea crops are promising.

MISS Cyllene Smith entertained at a birthday party for a number of her friends.

THE Confederate veterans of Early County met at the court house last Saturday and organized.

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