

The time has come, the walrus said,

TO TALK OF MANY THINGS of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giarratani

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO TANIA DEL RIO

A good friend of mine Tania del Rio announced she will be running later this spring for the District 1 City Council seat. Now that Lydia Edwards is soon to be the next State Senator for the Senate District after the January 11th special Senate election, it is on to the next never-ending election I guess.

I wish Tania and her family a Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo! I wish that for all East Boston, in English, Italian, and Spanish. It means the same in every language.

WARREN GETS COVID

Over the past weekend, U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren went online to inform folks that she has contracted COVID-19. Personally, I am not surprised by that news because at my family's Thanksgiving dinner with 13 family members in attendance, nine of us contracted COVID, myself included. All nine had mild symptoms. Mine were body aches and pains for four days.

I personally think the mild symptoms might have been because all nine of us had been vaccinated. Obviously, there have been many breakthrough cases. However, if you listen to Biden, aka "President COVID," the Democrats and the media, you notice once again how the powers that be are once again using fear to get compliance out of us.

The one good thing coming out of this Warren news bulletin: she must stay home and self-quarantine.

HERE IS SOME MORE STUFF TO CONSIDER

Did you know the House Democrats on Capitol Hill have two House select committees that are purely partisan? They are House Select January 6th Committee and a House Select COVID Committee. Both seem to be working hand in glove and their only motive appears to be GET TRUMP. There is nothing more dangerous than the U.S. Congress misusing its authority in its apparent quest to prevent

Trump from running in 2024 and to stop the massive GOP landslide approaching in 2022.

One last word, how can any House committee have any legitimacy if U.S. Representative Adam Schiff is on it! More on the House Select January 6th Committee below.

THE RESISTANCE TO PROVE VACCINATION STATUS HAS BEGUN

On Thursday morning (December 16th) the main topic on the Jeff Kuhner WRKO radio show was the resistance to the newly reinstalled vaccination mandates in New York City reinstated by the soon to be ex-mayor. If you want to dine in a restaurant, you must be masked and vaccinated.

Recently, folks tired of all these mandates held an organized protest at a Cheesecake Factory, when a number of angry citizens entered the restaurant, sat down and prepared to order items off the menu. When asked by their server to produce their proof of vaccination, they refused to comply. The manager came over and repeated the request to see their vaccination, they again refused.

Eventually, the manager at this Cheesecake Factory in Queens called the NYPD. The cops showed up and told protesters to either show proof of vaccination or leave the premises. The protesters continued to refuse and the police officers and protesters got into a tiff. In responses from the crowd why they were going after them, officers were heard responding, they were just doing their jobs.

Politicians pushing vaccination mandates then get to separate ordinary citizens tired of endless mandates from their usual allies in law enforcement. COVID politics is about division. Keeping people angry with each other and thus apart!

Kuhner is more right than wrong on what just happened down in Queens. It looks like the old days of Jim Crow have returned at least at the dining tables inside the Cheesecake Factory in NYC. Getting arrested

for criminal trespassing looks like the bad old days down in the deep South has returned! This time the issue isn't race, it is being vaccinated. Either way, you can't get a tuna fish sandwich in Queens just like black protesters couldn't get a sandwich at a Woolworth's during the civil rights struggle.

Whatever happened to the First Amendment, or dare I say the 14th Amendment, too? I heard that one of the vaccination mandate protesters arrested was a military veteran who served this country in Iraq and Afghanistan, a few African American protesters were arrested also.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. must be rolling over in his grave.

HOUSE JANUARY 6th SELECT COMMITTEE

On Tuesday, December 14th, the House January 6th Select Committee held a hearing at which time it kept trying to show that America narrowly missed a Trump military coup. This illegal and unconstitutional House Committee creation seems to be doing whatever it can to get President Trump thrown behind bars or at least barred from running for president again in 2024.

Both CNN and MSNBC ran the committee hearing live as if it were the most important thing

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SHAW(SB)SCOPE / (10-Blu-ray) Arrow Video + Celestial Pictures

The Shaw Brothers produced hundreds of the most iconic action films ever made, revolutionizing the genre through the groundbreaking work of top-shelf talent on both sides of the camera as well as unbeatable widescreen production value, much of it shot at 'Movietown', their huge, privately-owned studio on the outskirts of Hong Kong. This inaugural collection by Arrow Video presents twelve jewels from the Shaw crown, all released within the 1970s, kicking off in 1972 with Korean director Chung Chang-wha's *King Boxer*, the film that established kung fu cinema as an international box office powerhouse when it hit Stateside cinemas under the title *Five Fingers of Death*. Followed by director Chang Cheh at the helm of the blood-soaked brutality of *The Boxer from Shantung* and two self-produced films in his 'Shaolin Cycle' series, *Five Shaolin Masters* and its prequel *Shaolin Temple*, before taking a detour into Ho Meng-hua's King Kong-inspired *Mighty Peking Man*, one of the most insane giant monster films ever made. Chang's action choreographer Lau Kar-leung then becomes a director in his own right, propelling his adoptive brother Gordon Liu to stardom in *Challenge of the Masters* and *Executioners from Shaolin*. Chang introduces some of Shaw's most famous faces to the screen, including Alexander Fu Sheng fighting on the streets of San Francisco in *Chinatown Kid* and, of course, the mighty Venom Mob in *The Five Venoms* and *Crippled Avengers*. Finally, Lau and Liu successfully meld high kicks with humor in two of their masterworks, *Heroes of the East* and *Dirty Ho*. From kung fu killers to crazy kaiju knockoffs to culture clash comedies, this carefully curated and gorgeously presented selection of all-time Shaw Brothers classics merely represents the tip of the iceberg of the studio's rich output, making it both an ideal starting point for newcomers and a treat for hardcore fans alike. This 10-Disc collection has Blu-ray presentations of all twelve films, an illustrated 60-page collectors' book, and two CDs of music from the De Wolfe Music library.

2021 WORLD SERIES FILM (Blu-ray) / Shout!Factory + Major League Baseball

The Atlanta Braves are 2021 World Series Champions, proving that it is anyone's game once the Postseason begins by taking down the Houston Astros in a six-game Fall Classic. About halfway through the regular season, the Braves had a losing record and were dealt a season-ending injury to Ronald Acuna Jr., superstar and NL MVP candidate. General Manager Alex Anthopoulos deftly traded for Joc Pederson, Jorge Soler, Adam Duvall, and Eddie Rosario to help change the course of the season. Braves lifer and Manager Brian Snitker now had his crew, and the Braves caught fire with a 36-19 (.655) finish

to claim the NL East Division championship. They then beat the Milwaukee Brewers in the NLDS and dethroned the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NLCS to set the matchup with the Astros, a franchise playing in the World Series for the third time in five years. The Braves turned on the power throughout the World Series. Jorge Soler led off Game 1 with a homer and kept hitting his way to the Willie Mays World Series MVP Award. Austin Riley emerged as a force, and Ozzie Albies kept the lineup moving while Freddie Freeman, Adam Duvall, Travis d'Arnaud, and Atlanta native Dansby Swanson joined in the power display. Ian Anderson threw five no-hit innings in Game 3, and Max Fried dominated Game 6 to help clinch the first title of the 21st century for the Braves and the fourth championship in franchise history.

HEAVEN CAN WAIT (Blu-ray) / Paramount Home Ent.

Warren Beatty stars in (as well as produces, co-writes, and co-directs) the fan-favorite comedy *Heaven Can Wait* (1978). Joe Pendleton (Beatty) is a Los Angeles Rams backup quarterback ready to lead the team all the way to the Super Bowl, but the afterlife has other plans. It seems an overzealous guardian angel has prematurely plucked Joe from the living. When he's returned to Earth in the body of millionaire industrialist Leo Farnsworth, he inherits a world of challenges, including winning the love of a woman (Julie Christie) who already hated "him." *Heaven Can Wait* features a sensational cast filled with comedic talent, including James Mason, Charles Grodin, Dyan Cannon, Buck Henry, Vincent Gardenia, and Jack Warden. The film was nominated for nine Academy Awards.

REDS (2-Blu-ray) / Paramount Home Ent.

Warren Beatty's Oscar and Golden Globe-winning epic masterpiece *Reds* (1981) celebrates its 40th Anniversary. Set against the tumultuous start of the twentieth century, features an unforgettable mix of based-on-true-events drama with real-life testimonials from "witnesses." Beatty and Diane Keaton portray activists Louise Bryant and John Reed, two journalists whose romance is punctuated by the outbreak of WWI and the Bolshevik Revolution. Featuring an incredible supporting cast, and Maureen Stapleton in her Oscar-winning role.

THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (2-Blu-ray) / Paramount Home Ent.

Sex. Money. Power. Drugs. Brace yourself for *The Wolf of Wall Street*, one of the most outrageous stories ever, directed by legendary filmmaker Martin Scorsese. Leonardo DiCaprio delivers one of the best performances of his career as a young stockbroker, hungry for a life of non-stop thrills in New York City, where corruption is king and more is never enough. Together, Scorsese and DiCaprio deliver a story of American excess that is "an absolute blast from start to finish."

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