



# BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN

**[#439]** BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN intended to run a Columbus Day cartoon here, but best-laid plans did what they aft do; now he's sailing west seeking a shorter route to junk food (Economy Candy on Rivington Street is always a good bet). When he returns after finding it, you can see how long it takes to circumnavigate him at the N.Y. Cadre (1088 East 40th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11210 (☎(718) NY-CADRE; 📧↔️ nycadre [at] alum [dot] rpi [dot] edu; 🌐http://www [dot] nycadre [dot] org)). This is **Beyond the Fringefan** #439, for readers of **APA-NYU** Volume 11, #10 (e-APA-NYU #113) and other saccharide addicts, published October 2013 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **THIGAMAJIG**. Cartoon above from *Frazz* by Jef Mallett, 3 November 2009. All uncredited material copyright ©2013 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa.

**SITE SEEING:** The new quarter has brought a few changes to proofreading in my area of AllianceBernstein. Some new microsites (designated groups of pages within the main AB website) dedicated to specific investment portfolios are being implemented, and some new “white papers” and other documents are being published, and those in charge are emphasizing getting those as close to perfect as possible, even at the expense of the quarterly commentaries and servicings (PowerPoint decks), which are seen as more ephemeral. So we're no longer double-reading the quarterly pieces, which halves the work attributable to them, while putting more effort into the microsites and other new pieces. Exactly what this will mean for my overall workload isn't completely clear to me, though it seems likely that things won't be quite so bunched up in the quarter-end months. Regardless, so far I'm slated to continue doing the five days a week in January, April, July, and October, and four days a week the rest of the year, that I've done over the past year and a quarter.

In an unrelated development, the analyst in Australia who was submitting quarterly work very late in the day has left the company, removing the necessity to have me do 11-to-7 shifts in the quarter months. So it's now 10 am to 6 pm year-round. I'll miss the extra hour of sleep, but not the feeling of no time to do anything in the evenings.

Otherwise, things continue much as before at the Cadre. I've rerecorded onto the new DVR most of what was on the old one, so I have the usual backlog of unwatched TV programming, only now it's in HD. (I've dumped a couple of hundred old VHS tapes that I finally convinced myself I'll never get around to watching, but I still have a few hundred more.) I'm still working on the Holocaust newsletter and the orthodontic journal as the pieces come in, and blaming them for my tardiness in getting this zine done (though clearly my lifelong skill at procrastination is a much bigger factor). Donna's still in the midst of a bunch of dental work, including a series of unexpected events (root canals

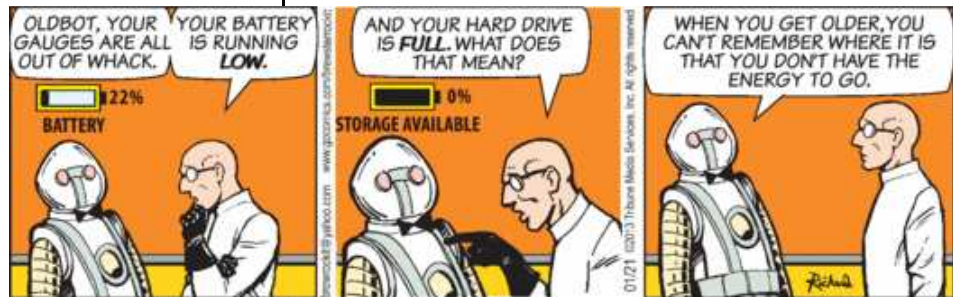
and an extraction) that have frustratingly delayed the start of work on the implants she wants. The temporary repair on my own dental crown that broke last month seems to be holding up, and Dr. G. has suggested holding off on the annoyance and expense of getting a permanent replacement until it shows signs of wearing out (that could be in months or years).

## FRINGE RECEPTION: Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 11, #8 (e-APA-NYU #112)

D'AL THYANN, AJRFENA AMA (Ariel Cinī): "With time, effort and opportunity, it is quite possible for machines to become thinking beings. It's just a matter of available circuitry, energy and time. The machine will let you know when it's done." Is that why so many automobiles are called Turing cars? (Ba-d' mp-b' mp.)

SEX\* AT A MIDPOINT (Ariel Cinī): It would be nice if all symptoms of aging would go away if one just quit taking all medications the doctors prescribe and switched to regular doses of cannabis. Good luck experimentally verifying this; if it works, you can write the screenplay for a new remake of *Cocoon* which will have "hit" written all over it, at least among a certain segment of the Boomers. (Or maybe a certain segment of Boomers will enjoy a lot of hits over it.) "An increase in fruits and vegetables" couldn't hurt either. But be sure to self-monitor carefully, get frequent external reality checks, and be ready to return to the medical establishment if anything goes wrong. We've lost too many good friends already. /\*/ I hope your newly expanded social-media presence ultimately has the desired effect on your career. May your tweets not get eaten by Sylvester. /\*/ It took me a couple of readings before I realized "you've gotta know your yellow right wingtip from the blue one on your left" refers to aircraft and not footwear. Um...it *does* refer to aircraft, right? Or do the people on your planet all wear two-tone dress shoes? /\*/ Re: "The Great Game" (I always thought that was what Parker Brothers called *Sorry!*): I like the idea of using a *Jeopardy*-like game show to select the head of global peacekeeping, though of course knowledge and wisdom aren't necessarily the same thing. (And it still requires candidates to select themselves, so it's not perfect; as others have remarked, it's always dangerous to trust anyone who volunteers to take power.) That should just be the prologue of the story (stop me if you've already worked this out); the main story

should concern a situation that the winner of the game has to face after taking the reins, and how that person's decision process turns out to be better or worse than what a professional geopolitician would have done in the circumstances. /\*/ The zoom-in feature on many computer apps is becoming more and more essential for me both at work and at play. The Boomers are aging, and I'd say it's not a pretty sight, but given declining visual acuity, how can I tell?



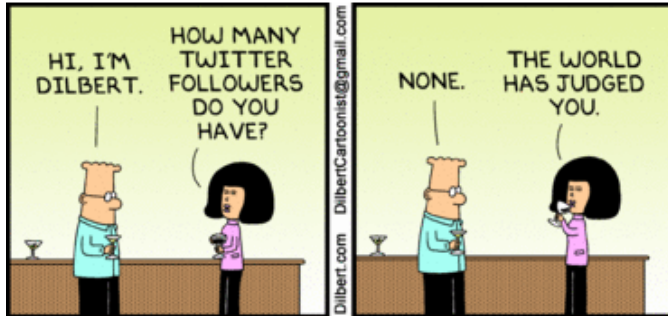
(Brewster Rockit, *Space Guy!* by Tim Rickard, 21 January 2013)

"YOU SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY...IT'S MY BIRTHDAY, TOO." (Deb Wunder): May your doctors finally figure out what to do about your heart, and soon. Grinch or no Grinch, it's not good for your heart to grow three sizes. /\*/ (¢me) "Re the leak in the kitchen ceiling: Is this in the same area that you have had leaks on previous occasions?" Approximately, since all the leaks have been from the bathroom into the kitchen.

Since the water doesn't start dripping into the kitchen until it's had a chance to pool for a while in the space between the bathroom floor and the kitchen ceiling, the location of the source may not be exactly the same. /\*/ "Re Heifercat: I am glad she still seems to be finding some quality of life, as opposed to just length of life." Well, we have to assume that she is, since she can't tell us in so many words. /\*/ "There is a whole school of management built around just in time delivery of the merely adequate... It still makes me uncomfortable." Why? I can think of many situations in which it makes no sense at all to get more than the merely adequate. Would you want to pay extra for daily newspapers printed on paper made with rag content and gold

edging? How about for toilet paper made with rag content and gold edging?

ICONOCLAST (Joel Nelson): (çme) I haven't decided whether "the anti-social network" means those people who haven't joined Facebook and its ilk, or those who have joined but don't participate, or those who participate but never post anything that isn't about themselves. /\*/



(Dilbert by Scott Adams, 19 July 2011)

"Back in day, jackasses operated by jackasses did very little damage." But back before cars and bikes, it was horses, and irrespective of who was steering them, they inflicted their own cost on big cities: at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, sailors claimed to be able to smell the New York City horse manure as far away as six miles offshore. (No one had invented the pooper scooper yet.) /\*/ "Part of the on-the-job training is learning how not to take the offended responses personally' I need that where I work." I remember discussing "egoless programming" in my graduate classes in the 1970s—possibly even at 'Tute. (The term was coined by Gerald Weinberg in his 1971 book *The Psychology of Computer Programming*—I wonder how much of it is still applicable today.)

We could use "egoless" versions of a lot of other job descriptions! /\*/ "...we stopped at a Goodwill store. Looking at the book section, I saw this book, selling for just \$2.99." The good thing about blockbuster best-sellers is that if you can just wait a few months (or years), cheap used copies start showing up in profusion.

JAMISON, TAKE e-LETTER (Mark L. Blackman):



May your ocular problems get fixed quickly. /\*/ "President Obama wants you to have a free phone!" Oh? The spam I get usually asserts that he wants me to refinance my mortgage. How free do these phones turn out to be in reality? /\*/ "in my

City Council race, one Russian accused the other of having been a KGB informant, and was mailed cockroaches." So it isn't just the NSA that's bugging people. /\*/ I didn't get on line for the Feiffer/Spielman talk [during the Brooklyn Book Festival] until a few minutes before it started, and so couldn't get in (there was allegedly standing room, but it looked pretty packed). Please let me know if you see any transcripts or videos of it. /\*/ (çme) "Omeprazole sounds like something you'd eat at the San Gennaro Festival." —when in fact it's something you should take first, before you head for the Festival, if you plan on eating anything there.

And I'll sign off here with best wishes to all for a sincere pumpkin patch and lots of goodies from the Great Pumpkin. While I'm at it, the way things are going lately, I should include a happy Diwali, a mud-free Election Day, a patriotic Veterans Day, a bountiful Thanksgiving, and a happy Chanukah.

>Portions of the preceding wonder if people who attend conventions dressed as Dr. Cliff Huxtable and his family are engaging in Cos play.<