



Beyond the [#441] Fringefan

BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN actually likes Vince Guaraldi's music for the original *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, but would happily dispense with all the other holiday-related pop tunes that are well-nigh unavoidable around now. To that end, he's minimizing his retail shopping this month, as he does every December. Now if only he could shut down the 10-minute synthesizer soundtrack loop that accompanies the light display on the house across the street from 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** #441, for readers of **APA-NYU** Volume 11, #12 (e-APA-NYU #116) and other carolers, bobbers, tedders and alicers, published December 2013 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **THIGAMAJIG**. Cartoon above from *Bizarro* by Dan Piraro, 20 December 2007. All uncredited material copyright ©2013 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa.

SAME OLD SONG: It's been mostly quiet at work this month—for me, anyway; my boss Charmae has been busy training some new recruits for the heavy haul in January, which will be made heavier by the fact that she'll be going out on maternity leave. (She asked if I'd care to do some management while she's gone, but I said no thanks, so Andrea, who's been here for a few years longer than I have, will be doing the honors.)

Back at the Cadre, Donna continues to undergo assorted dental indignities, HeiferCat continues to fight a persistent urinary tract infection, and Ethan continues to come over each weekend to motivate us into doing desperately needed cleanup. Progress is visible, but only if you know what things looked like a year ago.

In from the Fringes: LoCs

We had some discussion here of whether “domo” means “thank you” in Japanese or is merely an intensifier in the phrase “domo arigato.” R-Lauraine Tutihasi <www [dot] weasner [dot] com>, who knows a bit of Japanese (her parents were native speakers of it), commented:

The Japanese domo is difficult to define in English. I believe it can mean “Thank you” in some contexts. In others, it can mean “please”. Maybe you could compare it to the Hawaiian aloha.

But I've already been comparing “aloha” to “shalom.” (Two peoples half a world apart who don't know whether they're coming or going.)

Fringe Reception: Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 11, #11 (e-APA-NYU #115)

ICONOCLAST (Joel Nelson): (çme) “Assuming you are off on the Wednesdays of the eight rest of the year months and the twelve holidays, it looks like 2013 has 216 workdays for you.” Turns out you’re correct, even though some of your premises are in error. It’s the Mondays I get off, which means a couple more of them (Presidents’ Day, Memorial Day, and Labor Day) coincide with holidays than Wednesdays would. (And AllianceBernstein keeps its offices open on Columbus Day and Veterans’ Day.) But I take a few days off for the High Holy Days, and I’m also taking off 24 December this time around. Still, at press time I’m on track to total 216 workdays in 2013. */ (çCinī) “Taking bus to work and back quickly manifested my ‘need for an actual mobile phone’ way back in 2003.” Taking the subway to work and back reveals that more or less the whole subway system is a dead spot for actual mobile phones. */ (çBlackman) “My current watch’s band is a plastic one attached using four tiny Philip’s head screws; I do not know if it is replaceable.” I’m sure it’s replaceable, but the price of the replacement may be greater than that of the watch.

JAMISON, TAKE e-LETTER (Mark L. Blackman): Where in Brooklyn is the storage room where your Stuff now resides? How far? */ (çme) “ct Joel> Did the term ‘lurker’ carry over to Facebook, etc.?” Yes; I don’t use it (though I guess I am one), but a quick Web search turns up millions of references to Facebook lurkers, including a CNN.com article about “The 12 most annoying types of Facebookers.” */ (çCinī) “I often awake with a throbbing leg pain from

twisting abed...or from stretching upon waking.” Are those pains different from the “leg cramps” many of us wake up with? Try getting more potassium in your diet—potatoes and yams (also white beans and beet greens, not to mention bananas) are good for that. The getting up to pee in the middle of the night—well, if I find out what to do about that, I’ll let you know.

DANCE* @ HOME (Ariel Cinī): re “Where are you from?”: I encountered a fair number of people at college who were surprised to learn I was from Brooklyn, apparently because I didn’t tawk like I was from Toity-Toid Street. No one’s ever told me I didn’t sound white, though. (No one’s ever told me I didn’t look Jewish, either, but then again I have a big enough nose to fit the stereotype. I wonder what would happen if I had to try to pose as a WASP. But I digress.) You acknowledge that you did indeed make a conscious effort to style your speech after someone other than your friends and family, who otherwise would have passed their style on to you by osmosis—so why are you surprised that people who haven’t met you before think you don’t sound like a black person from New York? Stereotyping is certainly going on here; but clichés wouldn’t get to be clichés if they weren’t based on truths. Is it bigotry? On the part of the person who called your style of speech an affectation, I think so. (That term implies an intent on your part to deceive.) Not so much on the part of the person who said you have a perfect South Ontario accent. But what is, is, and you deal with it in whatever ways you can.



(Frazz by Jef Mallett, 20 September 2006)

CLIFFHANGER ENDING: What started out as a minor visit to Dr. H. in which Donna complained about a recurring shortness of breath ended with Dr. H. expressing concern about possible “silent angina” and referring her to Dr. N., her cardiologist, to rule it out. A week later, Dr. N. referred Donna

to a radiology center on the Upper East Side for a CAT scan, which she underwent the following week. When we returned to Dr. N. the week after that, he told Donna her coronary arteries were OK so far—but the CAT scan showed what appeared to be a 5-centimeter aortal aneurysm. He didn't send her to the E.R. on the spot, which is probably a good sign, but we are now awaiting an appointment with Dr. R., director of vascular surgery at Maimonides Medical Center. Dr. N. said that surgery may not be necessary to deal with this condition; stents inserted without chest-cutting are as effective in many cases. But we won't know until Dr. R. gets a look at Donna's scan results.



(Real Life Adventures by Wise and Aldrich, 2 January 2012)

So with that to look forward to, I'll wish everyone a merry solstice holiday of choice and close out this year's correspondence. May 2014 bring good news to all.

>Portions of the preceding wonder who Carol is and why they named all those songs after her.<