



Beyond the Fringefan [#443]

BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN wishes that winter were over already, or that he had more wealth and less inertia, so that he might even now be on a cruise to someplace warmer. But enough might-have-beens; in actuality he's fixing grammar for financial analysts and dentists whose first language appears to be jargon (but who at least seem to appreciate the work he's doing). He's just acquired a new pair of allegedly waterproof boots to wear while slogging to work 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)); if that claim should turn out to be false, his spirits would be considerably dampened. This is **Beyond the Fringefan** #443, for readers of **APA-NYU** Volume 12, #2 (e-APA-NYU #118) and other members of the author's Arctic circle, published February 2014 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **HIGAMAJIG**. Cartoon above from *Frank and Ernest* by Thaves, 17 January 2014. All uncredited material copyright ©2014 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa.

BABY, NOW THAT YOU'VE GONE: Charmae is out on maternity leave as of the start of February, and her boss Randi is handling administrative tasks while my co-worker Andrea (a perma-lancer like me) takes over some of the load-balancing as well as the care and feeding of the stylebook. Not much feels different, but then we've entered the slower part of the quarter. (A good thing too, for me, since the orthodontic journal was a bit more troublesome this winter. One of the contributors pushed the deadline with several rounds of beyond-last-minute revisions. I wasn't about to tell him to get his act together, since he's my dentist's son and the president of the group that publishes the journal.) We have until the start of the April rush to get used to working without Charmae, and she expects to be back on the job long before the July rush.

Donna's healed well from the deployment of her first three dental implants, and even the early February root canal engendered by the sudden unexpected breakage of an unrelated tooth has not put her off her stride. Crowns on all of above will be happening Real Soon Now. Our bank account is healing more slowly from the major surgery it's undergone, but prognosis for its recovery is good as long as I stay employed.

Say, does anyone know where I can buy rubber overshoes around here? The new boots will probably get too warm once spring arrives and there are no foot-deep piles of slush, but there'll be plenty of wet weather still to come. I need a brick-and-mortar shop where I can actually try the things out and make sure I can pull them on over my size 13Es without dislocating my shoulders.

Fringe Reception: Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 12, #1 (e-APA-NYU #117)

ICONOCLAST (Joel Nelson): (çme) “I use gravy to make my consumption of potassium in the form of French fries easier.” I seldom go out of my way to get French fries (the ones from Nathan’s in Coney Island being a notable exception), but when they come as part of my order, I ask for gravy. (Gravy and cheese would be even better, ensuring I get my daily allowance of cholesterol, but the option is not always available outside of Quebec.) /*/ (çBlackman çyou) “‘I’m daily getting robocalls from the ‘I’ve fallen and I can’t get up’ people’ The cell phone will bury them.” Not necessarily. Lots of old and infirm are not in the habit of carrying their cell phones around inside the house, or are afraid that if they fall, they’ll drop their phones, which will land out of reach. Having something they can wear around their necks is reassuring enough to them (and often to their families) to be worth the cost. /*/ “As you know, Phil of the *Duck Dynasty* show on A&E has gotten himself in a bit of trouble recently for some stuff he said.” I’ve been suspicious that it was a stunt intended to attract free publicity for a show whose ratings were starting to sag (and that the stunt worked quite well). Freedom of speech does include the right to say things that identify you as an idiot, and sometimes the best response is “Let’s forget you, better still.” /*/ “I used to do a lot of my reading while waiting at red lights.” Either you had fantastic peripheral vision for seeing the light change while you were looking down at the book, or you were much more comfortable than I’ll ever be with being notified of the light changing by the extended honking behind you. Either way, I’m glad you’re not doing that anymore, and more appreciative of the reading (and crossword-solving) time that taking the subway to and from work affords me. /*/ Isn’t that a nice feeling of satisfaction when you can get your speed just right so that the lights turn green just ahead of you without you having to brake? (Regrettably, when they time the lights like that for the cars, it’s really hard for a cyclist to manage the same feat.)

JAMISON, TAKE e-LETTER (Mark L. Blackman): The podcast of Patrick Stewart mooring in various British accents was episode 136 of *How to Do Everything* < <http://howtoeverything.org/>>, in case anyone wants to listen. /*/ Yes, I’m now a Prior in the *Ancient & Honourable Order of the Drowned Rat*. Now if Fred gets arrested and they ask if he has any Priors, I guess they’ll end up calling me. /*/ The second *Hobbit* film is “padded with incidents & characters not in JRRT’s novel”—but, as in the first one (which I only recently got around to seeing, thanks to satellite TV), they’re from other JRRT works, or elaborations of things mentioned in passing in other JRRT works, no? Seems like a ploy not only to sell tickets to more films but also to make what was originally written as a children’s book



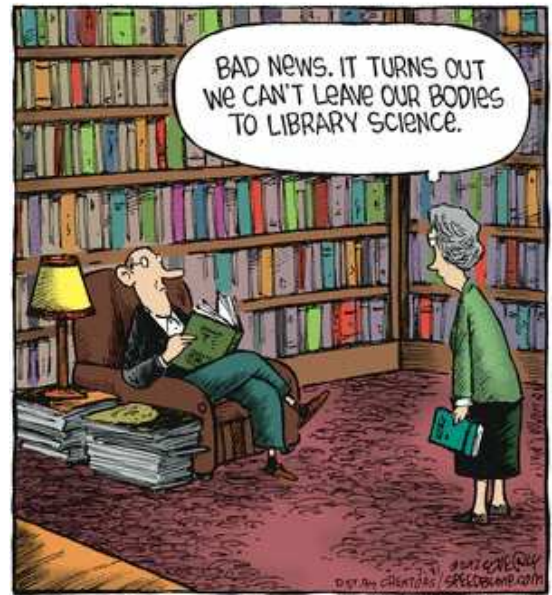
(Fox Trot by Bill Amend, 9 December 2012)

into something more grown-up. /*/ (çme) “but tv series, drama & sit-coms, invariably have a Christmas episode”—which often feature continuing characters suddenly acting in totally uncharacteristic ways as the writers struggle to shoehorn in a seasonal “message.” /*/ “Re the FRAZZ cartoon, ‘colored people’? He let her get away with it?” Perhaps he was stunned at hearing that particular locution; I don’t think I’ve encountered it otherwise since last millennium. /*/ Most CFL bulbs seem to be getting labeled as “60W replacement” or “100W replacement,” with their actual wattages (generally 13 and 23, respectively) and lumen measurements in fine print underneath. I’m finding CFL bulbs with odd wattages (e.g. 28W, labeled a “125W replacement”) in some of the dollar stores.

JANUARY ZINE (Deb Wunder): Best wishes for finding the surgeon you need and getting the procedure set up speedily. /*/ We have a slow

cooker we use about three times a year. I really ought to try a few more things out with it. /*/ (¢Blackman) Having a lot of books was once considered a sign of intellect and wisdom. I guess now it's only considered that if you're also wealthy enough to own a dwelling instead of renting. Or in other words, "If you're so damn smart, why ain't you rich?"

Punxsutawney Phil and Staten Island Chuck have both predicted a lengthy winter, so I guess I'll stock up on rock salt and figure to stay in hibernation until Passover or thereabouts. (Well, I guess I'll make it up to Westchester somehow for Lunacon.) Everyone keep warm, and be careful out there.



(Speed Bump by Dave Coverly, 31 July 2012)

>Portions of the preceding would chuck wood if the Groundhog hogged the ground.<