

# Beyond the Fringefan

[#462]

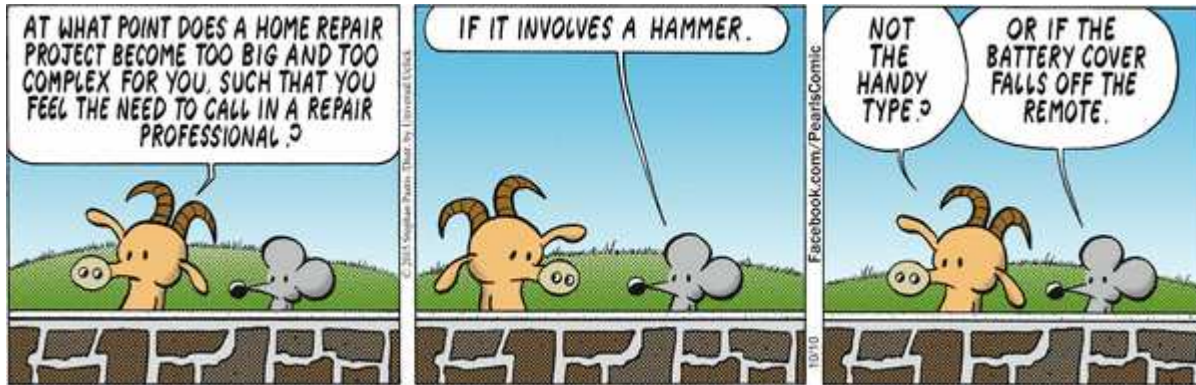


**BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN** has managed mostly to avoid the obnoxious holiday kitsch this year by minimizing store visits and giving Salvation Army buckets a wide berth, though he's still heard more Xmas ~~par~~ pop songs than he'd prefer. (The big offenders this year seem to be Pointless Remakes of two ex-Beatles' songs: Lennon's "Happy Xmas (War Is Over)," whose original the Fringefan kind of likes even if he does find himself singing the lyrics to "Stewball"; and McCartney's "Wonderful Christmastime," which was pretty nauseating from the first. Oh, and any vocal version at all of "Sleigh Ride.") If he and his immediate family don't make a trip upstate the last weekend of December, he'll be simply having a quiet and restful time 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** #462, for readers of **APA-NYU** Volume 13, #11 (e-APA-NYU #137) and other solstice solipsists (say it three times fast), published December 2015 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **THIGAMAJIG**. Cartoon above from *Bizarro* by Dan Piraro, 23 DECember 2012. All uncredited material copyright ©2015 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa.

**CONDENSED EDITION OF A STEAMY STORY:** We had Andre the plumber over to double-check the valves on the new radiators he'd put in (see last month): the boiler still seemed to be using more water than it ought. I was giving him some details when he suddenly asked where the water in the doorway was coming from. He pointed: there were water drops forming on the overhead molding on the doorway from the living room into the office (aka the front room, a porch that had been enclosed decades before we got the house) and slowly dripping to the floor. They hadn't been there the last time I'd been through that doorway, a couple of days earlier.

There were no pipes running over the doorway—we ripped down the molding to verify that—and it wasn't raining. Andre poked around and said the most likely explanation (other than perhaps a haunting) was that a steam pipe under the floor had sprung a leak, emitting steam which was then rising as water vapor through the inside of the wall. The vapor was then condensing above the doorway and seeping through the molding.

A few minutes later, we discovered a similar situation in the dining room. Why had these leaks suddenly developed now? Well, the Cadre is an old house (120 years or so), and the pipes under the floors are largely the original equipment. Installing a bunch of new radiators put a strain on the system. Perhaps the old radiators leaked and that acted as a sort of safety valve for the pressure in the system, and new non-leaky radiators result in more pressure on the pipes (that's just my own conjecture). Otherwise, I don't know. Certainly it's nothing anyone warned us about.



(Pearls before Swine by Stephan Pastis, 10 October 2015)

So Andre's earning a bit more of our money this month as he cuts open the floor in two places, replaces some pipes, repairs the floor and some damaged swatches of wall and ceiling as well, and repaints it all. That oughta teach me.

**OH, WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE:** It's been nearly 14 years since I set up the Cadre's Web site and started converting FRINGEFAN to HTML each month to put up on that site. Ace (our ISP) only provided us with 10 megabytes of hosting space, so I was doing the HTML conversion by hand to minimize file size. (When you save a Word doc as HTML, Word creates huge files.) Unfortunately, the conversion took time (especially since I was in the habit of adding a bunch of links from each zine file as the impulse struck), and over the past couple of years, what with the side gigs, I haven't had the time to do it on a regular basis, so the Web site was falling steadily further behind.

It suddenly occurred to me the other month that Win2PDF, the shareware utility I acquired 13 years ago to convert the APA-NYU hardcopy files to PDF, was producing fairly compact files compared to the Word docs that were its input. So I tried converting a couple of back FRINGEFANs to PDF and then spent an hour figuring out how to embed the PDF files into HTML pages. Once I had the technique worked out, it was just a matter of taking a few hours to do that for the past three years' zines. The zine archive on the Cadre Web site is now up to date! Oh, and after I asked nicely, Ace substantially increased our hosting space, so I can keep a longer history up. (Previously I only had room for about two and a half years of zines.)

Now, what I need to do is get some newer pictures of us to put up on the home page; the ones that are there now are 13 to 16 years old, and though Donna doesn't look much different now, I'm an awful lot grayer, and The Kid hasn't had shoulder-length hair since his first year in the Peace Corps.

**WHAT DO YOU WANT, A MEDAL?:** Deb Wunder informed me last month that she was nominating me for an award, for which I'd have to provide a picture and sign a release. Hah? Turned out that the daytime TV show *Live with Kelly and Michael* and the makers of Extra sugar-free gum were co-sponsoring the "AOK" promotion to honor "small acts of kindness." Deb nominated me by reason of the transportation that Daisy the minivan (and her predecessor Hester) and I have provided for the local fannish community (to and from FIStFA, housefilks, cons, shopping, and what-have-you). Since most of the time I'm heading to and from those destinations anyway, it seems sort of like getting an award for paying my taxes and eating my vegetables, but what the hey, let her nominate me, I don't mind.

Well, wonder of Wunders, I won one of the five weekly awards, earning me \$500 cash—that'll help keep Daisy in good repair—and a year's supply of sugar-free gum (which turns out to be 120 packages of 15 sticks, just possibly more gum than I've chewed in my entire life to date). I wish to thank the Academy and all the little and not-so-little people who made this possible.

*Fringe Reception*: Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 13, #10 (e-APA-NYU #137)

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

I still get my Jewish calendars (and my Maxwell House Haggadahs) from Shop-Rite. (I actually bought a batch of Haggadahs on sale from ArtScroll this year; some of the translations in the Maxwell House version just seem so clunky.) /\*/ "Facebook... made me read a QR squiggle and identify 10 FB friends from their photos" when logging on from the library? But QR codes are not meant to be read by human beings. Do you mean a CAPTCHA? /\*/ "Donald Duck has more military experience than Donald Trump (he was in the Army, not the Navy, despite his sailor suit)" Actually, he was in both. He was drafted into the Army in 1942 (and was officially retired from active duty in 1984!); but, ever the patriot, he joined the Navy in the first episode of *DuckTales* in 1987 (and may still be serving). /\*/



(*Speed Bump* by Dave Coverly, 12 March 2015)

The "get yourself an outfit and be a cowboy too" filk of "Streets of Laredo" goes back further than Steve Martin; I heard it on a Kingston Trio album in 1962. /\*/ (çself) "We've seen this before (the

inherent risk of near-future sf) ... (Abby's thinking ahead to 2017 and NAME OF THE GAME's 'LA: 2017'.) "I was more concerned with Billy Joel's "Miami 2017" ("I seen the lights go out on Broadway/I saw the Empire State laid low..."). I don't want to see Manhattan sunk out at sea in the next two years. Or during the rest of my life. /\*/ "The Election Cycle (which is more like a stationary bike) begins so early because candidates need to get recognition to win opinion polls and the first caucuses & primaries in order to look like winners and thereby attract campaign donors." I think it's more of an arms race, or an inflationary spiral, led by the states that keep pushing their primaries earlier and earlier to draw candidate and media attention and thus achieve influence. The media pay attention because they love horse races and it generates ad revenue and sound bites they can broadcast. And the candidates get into the game earlier because they have to if they want to score votes in the early primaries (and not be ignored as nonstarters by the media). I'd love to see a single national primary day, say in late June, just ahead of the increasingly vestigial nominating conventions, and only four months before the general elections.

ICONOCLAST (Joel Nelson): (çBlackman)

"\$20.15 for a 16.9-ounce bottle" sounds not only too rich but also too metric for my blood." How are the mighty math majors fallen! /\*/ (çme) "Did you work on Veterans' Day?" Yes. And on Election Day and Lincoln's birthday. And this past year, by special request of the management, on Martin Luther King Day, because the big rebranding was to go into effect the next day. But oddly, not on Good Friday. Go figure. /\*/ Glad you've found a new coffeehouse to hang out in.

That will do it for this year. May the Force be with all of youse in 2016, and may it be strong enough to get me to do these zines on time.

>Portions of the preceding are afraid it's been so long  
that they've forgotten how to make the Kessel run in less than 12 parsecs.<