

BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN [#464]



BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN has once again procrastinated his way through nearly a whole month, and is now scrambling to finish this zine while there's still some February left (thank the ghods for leap years!). Some last-minute bits were even done while in transit between JFK and O'Hare—so if the writing has gotten screwed up, that may earn membership in the Mile High Club for both the zine and its author. He'll ponder that in the cab returning to 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** #464, for readers of **APA-NYU** Volume 14, #2 (e-APA-NYU #140) and other [we'll think of something clever to put here later on], published February 2016 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **THIGAMAJIG**. Cartoon above from *Frank and Ernest* by Thaves, 22 February 2016. All uncredited material copyright ©2016 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa.

LOW AND DRY: After some delays—for some reason no service people came to our door the weekend of the big storm that dropped 26 inches of snow—we finally have all the old steam pipes in the basement replaced, and the moldering corpse of the old convertible sofa disposed of, and the dishwasher functioning without spewing water on the kitchen floor, and the clothes washer restored to working order, and now comes the fun job of re-sorting the boxes of Stuff that were not water damaged and re-stowing them downstairs. Boxes of books are being opened for the first time in decades, and we're asking ourselves the eternal questions: “Am I ever going to read [or reread] this book? If not, what benefit do I get from retaining it?” I expect to have donations for the freebie box at FIStFA for months to come, not to mention the Brooklyn Public Library's next book drive.

Some water-damaged stuff was simply disposable, as I mentioned last month. Some papers that are important can be photocopied and the originals then thrown away. I had to peel apart the pages of my father's college yearbook (the *Broeklundian* of Brooklyn College, 1943), the bottom edges of which were clumped together, but I was ultimately rewarded to see that his picture was on the top half of its page and thus intact.

I HEART MY HEART: I called the pharmacy to renew my prescription for Metoprolol (to prevent the heart “flutter” I was experiencing around my bout with pericarditis in 2012), and never heard back that it was ready. I called it in a second time, and again heard nothing back. Those calls were taken by a computer; I called a third time and waited half an hour on hold to talk to a human and ask what had happened. The pharmacist said that they'd called the cardiologist's office, which had refused to renew the prescription. So I called the cardiologist's office to ask why, and the receptionist said the doctor

wanted me to come in for a check-up before he'd renew the prescription (last time I was there was 16 months ago). Gee, maybe they could have called or dropped me a card?

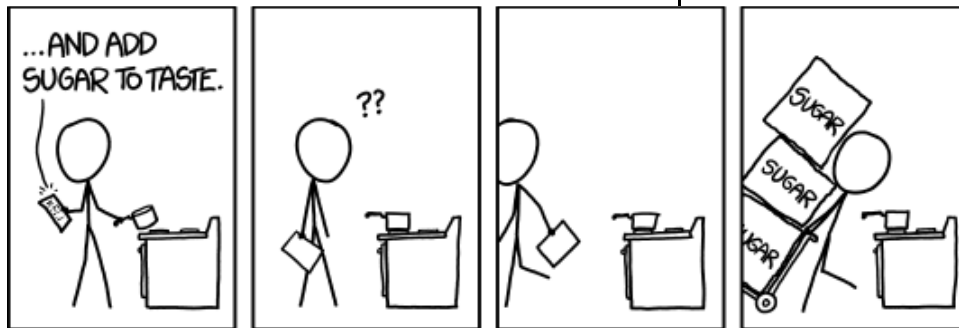
My exam went normally enough, and EKG readings all look good. Just to be sure, Dr. T.—no, he doesn't have 5,000 fingers—wants me to come back for an echocardiogram (the technician was busy that day). He also wants me to spend a day wearing a Holter monitor (which records continuous EKG readings for 24 hours), but I need to figure out a good time to do that, since I can't shower while wearing it (also, it weighs a few pounds, and is kind of hard to sleep with).

FRINGE RECEPTION: Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 14, #1 (e-APA-NYU #139)

IT'S BEEN A WHILE... (Deb Wunder): Good luck with the new exercise bike. I hope it sees regular use; exercise bikes seem to transform rapidly into overpriced clothes racks for far too many people. /*/ I see that Elli Quark goes for more than \$2 a 6-ounce container, which tends to dissuade me from bothering to try it; my appetite for yogurt is such that I buy it only when I find it marked down to half a buck or less at Shop-Rite. (Then I buy half a dozen, which sit in the refrigerator while I consume one a month or so.) Your unenthusiastic review makes me wonder how many of the raves I just found online are paid shills. /*/ [Follow-up: I tried one of the ones you gave me. To me it tastes like yogurt with a touch of sour cream mixed in; needs a little more sweetener

Dew or Tullamore Dew addictive. Long as I've already had my daily dose of caffeine (one large cup of coffee with breakfast), Mountain Dew's just another citrus-flavored soda; I actually prefer Sierra Mist. And I find one brand of hard liquor about as unpleasant as the next.

JAMISON, TAKE e-LETTER (Mark L. Blackman): "There's a petition to the International Union of Applied Chemistry to designate element 117 as 'Octarine', with a proposed symbol Oc (pronounced 'ook')." But octarine's a color, not a substance! That makes about as much sense as applying the name *Enterprise* to a space shuttle prototype that never got to fly. /*/ (¢Cinī) "my combo video/DVD player hates my tv (which is enslaved to my converter box and so has no connections for it)." What sort of jacks are involved? You can probably buy an A/B switch somewhere (although since the demise of RadioSchlock, it might take a little more research to find it). /*/ (¢me) "Re Logo Cartoon, shouldn't that be 'Why in God's name' (capital G)?" I'd have done it



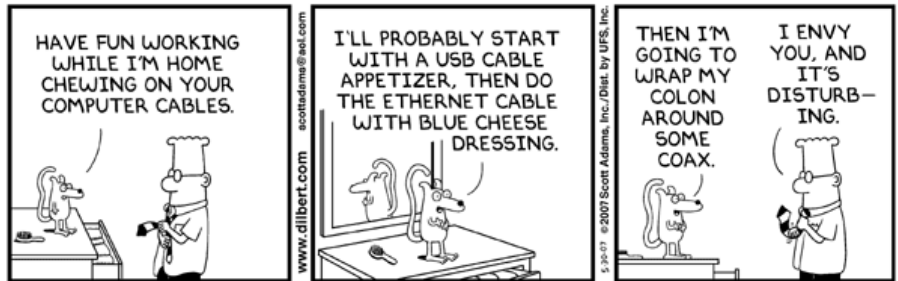
(XKCD by Randall Munroe, 5 February 2016)

and a good deal more of the fruit with which it's supposed to be flavored. Not revolting but definitely underwhelming.] /*/ (¢Nelson) "However, the problem is that when the fares are increased and the service is reduced, it's really hard to accept that we are getting any value for the increased cost." Well, we're not. People frame the issue, consciously or not, as a choice between getting better service at a higher cost and getting the same service at the same cost. Intuitively, that's how it ought to be. But because the system is badly in need of the maintenance that was deferred for so long, it's more a choice between getting the same service at a higher cost and watching the system continue deteriorating at the same cost. /*/ I never found either Mountain

that way, but Dan Piraro didn't. I guess that's how they do it on the Bizarro World. /*/ "does CAPTCHA have another name or term?" Some call it a "reverse Turing test," since a computer is trying to guess whether you're human. /*/ "My personal optical software & hardware are not always up to reading it." An increasingly common problem, as hackers and CAPTCHA designers engage in an arms race and the techniques become more sophisticated. There may be some sort of challenge to CAPTCHA use before too long based on the Americans with Disabilities Act. /*/ "Is DUCKTALES canonical? (Denying Donald's military service is a canard.)" I'm not even sure who defines what's canonical

with regard to Disney ducks. (A ~~quack~~ quick Web search suggests that most of the hardcore fans consider *DuckTales* non-canonical. Indeed, many consider anything done after Carl Barks's retirement in the 1960s to be non-canonical.) /*/
Yes, a single national primary followed by a single national election would be even better than a single national primary. But it won't happen in our lifetimes. (Hell, I'll be pleased if the Second Avenue subway

happens in our lifetimes.) /*/ “(Btw, yes, Marc, I do have metal-munching mice; one ate into a can of cabbage soup.)” Impressive. But that doesn't make them metal-munching *moon* mice (unless they've been flashing their little rumps at you).



(Dilbert by Scott Adams, 30 May 2007)

I'm trying not to make it an annual tradition to cancel a collation, but I'll admit it's looking close. Let me get outta here and see what new strangeness March brings.

>Portions of the preceding think it would be even colder if it were the Year of the Brass Monkey.<