

BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN

[#467]

BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN will be turning 64 this month, and anyone who is surprised to see him using a Beatles reference at the top of this zine obviously doesn't know him very well. He's sitting here doing nothing but aging at the N.Y. Cadre (1088 East 40th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11210) (☎(718) NY-CADRE; 💻↔💻 nycadre [at] acedsl [dot] com;

🌐http://www [dot] nycadre [dot] org)). Words are flowing out like endless rain into a paper cup; this batch of them constitutes **Beyond the Fringefan** #467, for readers of **APA-NYU** Volume 14, #5 (e-APA-NYU #143) and others who will remember the things we said today, published May 2016 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **THIGAMAJIG**. Illos above from the film *Yellow Submarine*, released July 1968 by United Artists. All uncredited material copyright ©2016 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa. It's all in the mind, y'know.

At 64, I'm a perfect square, something I haven't been in 15 years ("64? How did 64 get into it?" I hear you cry. Well, 64 is eight squared, don't you see—"Well, you ask a silly question, you get a silly answer...") and won't be again for another 17, if I live so long. (A few different online actuarial calculators say I ought to, but we know that's just a statistic.) My health doesn't seem to have taken any sudden changes for the worse, so I'm hopeful. Time to schedule my annual check-up.

(Actually, I did notice that I was getting tired a little earlier when biking to work in the past couple of weeks. That may just mean I'm out of shape from having ridden hardly at all over the past six months. It also might mean the bike is in need of maintenance that I haven't given it in a few years. I'm bringing it in for a tune-up this weekend just to be sure.)

The Kid is now on his fifth paying job, I think. SumAll, the start-up for which he was working all of last year, effectively went bust in March. This is of course a risk you take when you go to work for a start-up. The bosses at SumAll very kindly fired just about all the employees (so that they could claim unemployment benefits while job-hunting) and gave them quasi-severance packages as well; a skeleton crew remains, making some last-ditch efforts to save the company.

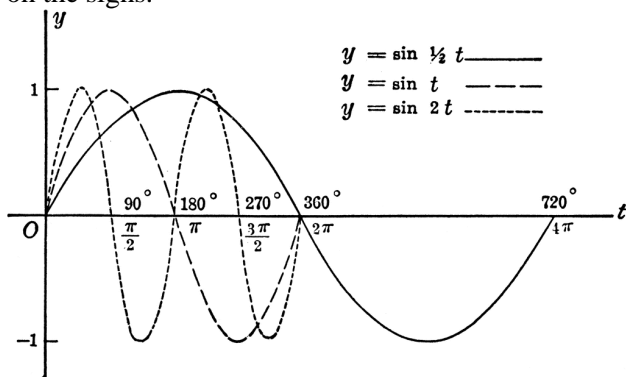


Ethan, as we all expected, found something he liked fairly quickly; he is now an employee of Mozilla, working on a project involving (if I understand correctly) cloud-based asynchronous distribution of updates, coordinating with a team that's based mostly in France. His Peace Corps experience living among Francophones is clearly an asset in this. One of the fringe benefits of having a family member working for Mozilla is that I get free updates to both Firefox and Thunderbird. What? Oh? Oh....

FRINGE RECEPTION: Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 14, #4 (e-APA-NYU #142)

SEX* +25-1 (I Abra Cinī): "I had no idea that Metropolis and Gotham City were across the bay from each other." Neither did I; I'd thought they were an hour or two's drive apart. But that's been changed back and forth a number of times in DC history. (Apparently *The Atlas of the DC Universe* places them on either side, not of New York Bay, but of Delaware Bay, with Metropolis in Delaware and Gotham City in New Jersey. Who knew?) /*/ "I didn't know Clark Kent's middle name was Joseph." Wikipedia says that "Clark's middle name is given variously as either Joseph, Jerome or Jonathan, all being allusions to creators Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster." /*/ "In case anybody asks, I want a Mazda CX-3 with All Wheel Drive, automatic transmission and BBS wheels in lavender with a white roof and a faux-carbon-fiber spoiler." What are BBS wheels? Do you have to dial in to them, or can they handle broadband? /*/ Happy birthday and *joyeux anniversaire*, both a bit belatedly. /*/ "I also knew [Patty Duke] as *Sybil*..." In what context? She doesn't seem to have been in either the film or the TV miniseries of that title.

JAMISON, TAKE e-LETTER (Mark L. Blackman): For the fannish Seder at the Bakers' this year, I brought the usual visual aids for "with signs and with Wunders," but added a math-major variation on the signs.



/*/ (¢APA-NEWS) "I don't remember [Gogi] Grant's rendition of 'The Wayward Wind'." That's the only version I remember. Do you remember another? /*/ (¢me) "I'm a bit uncertain

... why – what benefit to be gained – a proofreader/copy editor might need to be at those sessions." I remain a bit uncertain myself. What I learned didn't seem worth the money Dr. G. put into it. (Maybe he just wanted someone else there he could hang out with.) The event would probably have been good for "networking"—making personal connections that might later advance my career—had I any ability at such things, but I'm not sure how extensive a career as a dental editor I ought to look forward to in the decades to come. /*/ "[Lunacon 2016] seems to have been a critical/artistic success (eagerly welcomed back), but was not a financial one." So will there be one in 2017? Will there be a bake sale to fund it? /*/ (¢MMMM) "The Hilton renumbered the rooms in its newer wing, so what was the 7th floor is now a continuation of the 4th, with 4 digits instead of 3." They did that a few years ago; the Trans-Dimensional Corridor was no longer so by Lunacon 2014. /*/ (¢Nelson) But as Neil Young ages and accumulates more experience in being Neil Young, does he get Younger?

ICONOCLAST (Joel Nelson): (¢me) "I'm no longer on a first name basis with the librarians the way I was thirty years ago." I never was, except for a few librarians I know through fandom. There are a lot of librarians in the New York and Brooklyn systems. /*/ I don't think I've read a dead-tree *Times* or *News* in years now; I'm paying the *Times* for online access. I do pick up a free copy of *amNY* at the subway entrance about half the days now, and solve the KenKen puzzle and read the articles in about 15 minutes. /*/ "It is strange that the ADA does not have [a style manual] of its own." Not really. It takes time and effort to write and maintain a style manual, and if someone else has written and is maintaining one that works for you, why reinvent the wheel? But thanks for raising the issue; your remark inspired me to go check the *Journal of the American Dental Association's* submission guidelines online. And what do they say about style? "The foundation of JADA style is the most recent

edition of the American Medical Association Manual of Style.” So it looks as though I guessed right three years ago when I chose to base the *AACO Journal*’s style on the AMA’s style book. /*/ “Jersey is part of the City according to the NFL.” Not according to me. I don’t root for either the East Rutherford Giants or the East Rutherford Jets. /*/ “I predicted wrong on my taxes so I owed Uncle Sam some loot but Uncle Andy still owed me.” Hmm, just the opposite of

my results this year. I guess it isn’t a consistent pattern after all. /*/ “And now an exercise for my readers: find the name of a world leader hidden not once but twice in the lines above.” Just when I thought my score on that exercise would be zero, bam! An inspiration struck me. Most rude authors don’t give their public as troublesome a conundrum as this. (Per the closing credits on *Car Talk*, the Russian banker at the staff poker games is Nikolai Putin.)



(The Argyle Sweater by Scott Hilburn, 8 January 2013)

And what does the future hold? Next year at this time, I’ll be preparing to go on Medicare—and trying to make sense of the intricacies of the new Medicare supplemental plans from which JPM will be requiring me to choose. (We went through that for Donna two years ago and still aren’t sure we’ve recovered.) It’s always good to have something to look forward to: will you still meet me, will you still treat me, when I’m sixty-five?

To those who observe it solemnly, a suitably solemn Memorial Day. (To those who regard it as the start of the backyard barbecue season, party on.) And don’t forget to observe a moment of silence on the third of June, in honor of Billie Joe McAllister, now gone for a quarter-century.

>Portions of the preceding would rather be huffing than not puff at all.<