

BEYOND

THE

FRINGEFAN

[#473]

BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN has spent a bit of December, and will probably spend a bit of the next month or two, dealing with a bit of work that needed to be done at his house, 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)).

Fortunately the work has not required breaking any walls to bits, nor exposing the residents to the bitter cold; that would really bite. This is **Beyond the Fringefan #473**, for readers of **APA-NYU** Volume 14, #11 (e-APA-NYU #149) and other residents of blended (but hopefully not bended) households, published December 2016 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **THIGAMAJIG**. Cartoon above from *Off the Mark* by Mark Parisi, 22 January 2009. All uncredited material copyright ©2016 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa.



The Cadre, like the centenarian it is, last month began once more to evince its discomfort with the advent of colder weather. A slow trickle of water emerged from an undetermined point in the kitchen ceiling while I was showering one morning—invisible because of the cabinetry directly beneath it—and streamed across the top of the cabinet before dripping down the front. The quantity of the visible drip was small, but of course it bespoke a bigger leak, of which only a fraction was filtering through the sheetrock. Time for a visit from Andre the plumber (who also does general handyman work—this becomes more important to us as Donna, the only one of us who was ever particularly handy, has become markedly less so because of loss of mobility and flexibility).

It was around the same time that Donna noticed that there were no storm windows on the upstairs windows, and remarked that this fact might bear some connection to the draftiness of the upstairs bedrooms (which I've noticed especially on my legs when working at my desk on cold mornings). Coincidentally, I stumbled over some old storm windows in the basement.

So when Andre got there, in between taking down the kitchen cabinets, breaking through the kitchen ceiling, replacing the leaking hot-water pipe to the shower, and putting up new sheetrock in the ceiling, we had him check all the upstairs windows. He said no, those windows were double-glazed and didn't need storm windows. Duh, we suddenly remembered that when we'd had the windows replaced about 20 years ago, the window guys might have mentioned that to us. That meant that the storm windows in the basement were more than 20 years old and presumably obsolete. Andre added that the installers of the windows were supposed to have sealed the frames to prevent drafts, and it looked to him as if they'd

neglected to take that step. So after fixing the ceiling, he had to do some sealing. This has to be done from the outside, and has been delayed while Andre's assistant was down with a cold. (Also, with the cold weather, Andre keeps getting pulled away on emergency calls from clients with suddenly defunct furnaces.) When it's done, we can address repairing the wall and door frame in the front office downstairs, which got ripped up when we were hunting for a leak last winter. Then Donna has a few ideas for Ethan's old room.... Seems like it's never finished.

On the other hand, I seem to have cut down significantly on the drafts in my room by the relatively simple expedient of taking the air conditioner out of the window over my desk, where it had resided year-round for the last half decade or more. I guess relocating the a/c in and out of the window needs to become an annual pair of rituals, especially as I get to work from home more.

FRINGE RECEPTIONS: Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 14, #10 (e-APA-NYU #148)

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

"I tried to remedy my ~COMPUTER~ problems by installing Glary Utilities and switching from IE to Firefox as my default browser. Glary may be defragging, but, if it is, not automatically..." I'd never heard of Glary Utilities before, though based on a quick Web search, they seem to be on the level. Who recommended them to you? /*/ My laptop runs the Windows built-in defrag once a week automatically. You may be able to have yours do the same, and not bother with Glary. /*/ (¢Wunder) "How does upper mismanagement seep down the patient level of IVs & meds?" Doesn't management consist of hiring people who know what to do and making sure they're motivated to do it (and properly recognized for doing it)? If the bosses can't or won't do their jobs right, their underlings won't either. /*/ (¢me) "Maybe bimonthly is more feasible?" I've been thinking about it. As a habitual procrastinator, I'm afraid that going officially bimonthly would just enable me to fall that much further behind.



(from *Frazz* by Jef Mallett, 25 August 2015)

But it might be worth a try. /*/ "I'm surprised that you didn't list HeiferCat in the In Memoriam." Ouch! Yes, I should have. All right then, this month; better late than never. /*/

(¢Nelson) "I don't know why the text version of my zine that Marc sends out wildly reformats its paragraphing & line breaks." I can't be sure because I don't know how you're converting the Word doc to plain text. Word, like Linus van Pelt, is often at its stupidest when it's trying to be smart. I think we've established that copying from the Word doc and pasting into the e-mail window results in question marks or other odd characters appearing in place of apostrophes, "smart" quotes, and em dashes. I'd recommend a two-step process: (1) using the "Save As" dialog, specifying "Plain Text," and checking "Allow character substitution" to produce a plain text file; then (2) opening that in Notepad, setting "Word Wrap" under "Format," narrowing the window to the line length you want, and copying it all from that window so you can paste it into the e-mail. Try that and see if it does the job.

ICONOCLAST (Joel Nelson): (¢Blackman) "Yeah, why don't local campaigns start as early as national presidential ones? Combining two primaries this year would have saved a lot of money." Um, do you really want local campaigns to start in January every year? I'd much rather have national presidential campaigns start as late as local campaigns. National primaries all on the same day a week after Labor Day, conventions two weeks later, debates in October. It would save a lot of money for the candidates and parties, and vast amounts of aggravation for the general public. /*/ You get Election Day bake sales? Too bad we don't around here. That could make the hassles of getting to the polls and waiting in line a bit more bearable. Whom do the bake sales benefit?

And that brings us to the end of another distressing year. Do the years seem more distressing as we age? Maybe; the older you get, the more you hear about people younger than you dying. Also, whatever bad things are happening in your environment, the older you get, the less time you'll have to fix them (or let someone else fix them) and feel relief. I guess there's nothing to do but stand up and shout, "I'm not dead yet!" If unable to stand up, be sure to wear a sign that reads



See youse all next distressing year.

>Portions of the preceding are tired and shagged out following a prolonged squawk.<