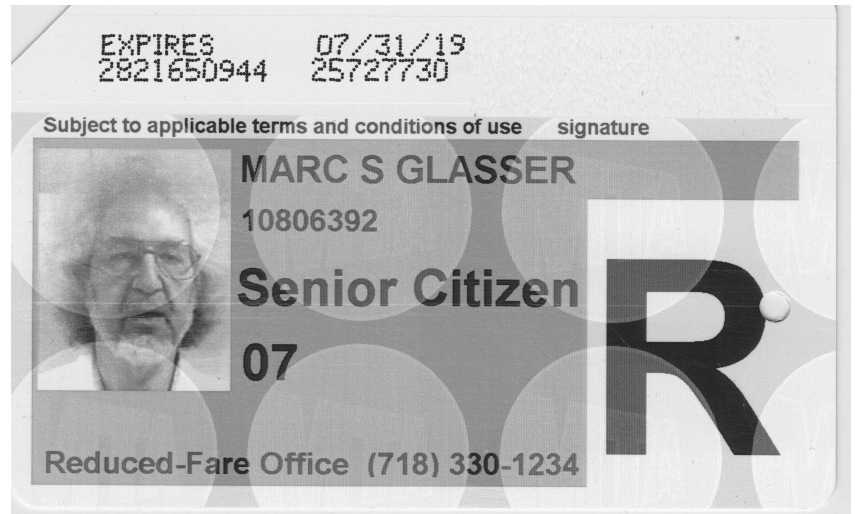


# Beyond the Fringefan

[#477]



**BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN**, by the time anyone reads this, will be officially a Senior Citizen and thus entitled to complain about how this younger generation is taking the country to hell in a handbasket—no matter that the Handbasket-in-Chief is nearly six years older than him—and to reminisce about the Good Old Days when APA-NYU was on paper and had more than five contributors (and half of them complained about the deadwood). In between riding the subways for half-fare, he's usually to be found avoiding social media and watching for kids he can tell to get off his lawn 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)). This is **Beyond the Fringefan** #477, for readers of **APA-NYU** Volume 15, #4 (e-APA-NYU #153) and others who come not to bury geezers but to praise them, published May 2017 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **THIGAMAJIG**. All uncredited material copyright ©2017 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa.

Yeah, I fell behind in Pubbing My Ish again and missed a month, taking APA-NYU with me. And sad to say, it probably won't be the last time, as long as I continue to work almost full-time at AB and carry on the two side gigs. I remember a time when I'd stay at the bank's offices past midnight the night before collation, finishing my zine and the APA-NEWS and printing up copies before heading home and crashing after 2 am...but the last time I did that, I'd just turned 50. Things Change.

One change is that I am now officially on Medicare, plus a Medigap plan and a Medicare Part D prescription plan, and to prove it I have a slew of ID cards and booklets full of fine print detailing all the loopholes that will enable all these providers to disallow my claims. Mostly I'm glad to be safely into the system while it's still there; I don't really expect the current president and congress to privatize Medicare this year, but I certainly wouldn't put it past them to try.

Other changes have occurred and are occurring at work, but will have little real effect on me. These include the so-called Paperless Initiative introduced last month (actually less about reducing paper than about using cloud storage in place of local servers); the relocation of several dozen people within the building where I work so as to consolidate floors and save rent (I'm being moved from a cubicle on the north side of the 13<sup>th</sup> floor to a nearly identical cubicle on the south side of the 13<sup>th</sup> floor); and the sudden replacement of AB's CEO and many of its directors earlier this month (apparently because the

company has been losing customers for a number of years and the management team had only slowed the loss down, not reversed it).

One other, more localized change is afoot, to save costs in my group by switching me and one other proofreader from Creative Circle to another freelance agency, Randstad, that charges its corporate clients smaller fees. (The other proofreaders in the group are already with Randstad.) But Creative provides a few benefits that Randstad doesn't (three paid holidays a year and some funds matching on 401(k) contributions), so HR is trying to figure out what sort of compensation to offer me for the loss of those benefits. I'm awaiting the next step.

If you saw me at Lunacon, I hope I greeted you in a suitably friendly fashion. I don't remember much about it. Kathy Sands and I had agreed to run the filk program at the con at the request of Roberta Rogow (who is still in charge of it because no one else has yet proven reliable and willing to take it over for the long term). Roberta was busy being Fan Guest of Honor (which she richly deserved), and could do advance planning, but had to devote her at-con time to Fan GoH stuff. My attempts to log in to the con's user-surly interface for program participants (code-named Zambia for some reason) and specify requirements and preferences somehow resulted in my being scheduled for an 11 am panel on Saturday and a noon one on Sunday, after being at the filk room late both Friday and Saturday nights. I was running on sleep deficit before the con started, thanks to it being April, one of my heavy work months at this gig, and it only got worse. I survived nonetheless. (My next con will be Contata 8, the 27<sup>th</sup> Northeastern Filk Convention, in Morristown, New Jersey, 23–25 June <[www.contata.org](http://www.contata.org)>.)

### **Fringe Reception:** Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 15, #3 (e-APA-NYU #152)

JAMISON, TAKE e-LETTER (Mark L. Blackman):  
(¢Cinī) "Remember 'the Heavenly Coffee'? It's 'chockfull'." Merriam-Webster's unabridged accepts four different spellings: chock-full, chockful, chuck-full and even choke-full (which probably reflects the etymology best). Besides, languages evolve; how do you know how they'll spell it on Mars two centuries hence? /\*/ "Colbert once wondered why people from the Philippines (with a 'Ph', and maybe a pH balance) were Filipinos (with an 'F')." I believe the people are Filipinos because when the islands were a Spanish colony, they were Las Islas Filipinas. So the real question is why the country's name was changed to be spelled with a "Ph" but the demonym wasn't. /\*/ (¢Wunder) It does seem

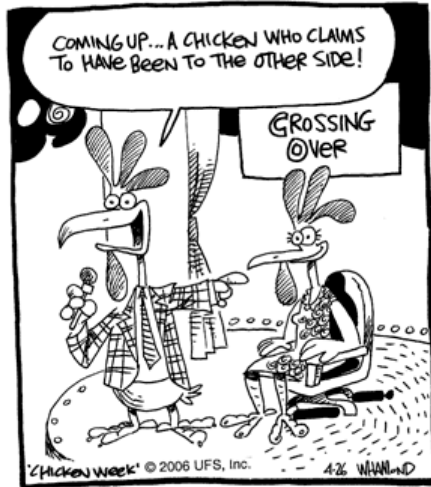
that by ramming through a huge number of measures in a short time, even if not all of them stick, Trump and the Republican Congress are wielding a divide-and-conquer strategy, and quite successfully at that. As many have remarked, who'd ever have imagined that in this century there would have to be a protest march in favor of science? /\*/ (¢me) Of course any medical plan the Republicans come up with is going to look like a tweak of Obamacare; the ACA was for all practical purposes a Republican measure, virtually the same as what Mitt Romney did in Massachusetts and very similar to proposals freakin' Nixon was making almost half a century ago, and it only became anathema to Republicans when it was brought up by a Democratic



(Frazz by Jef Mallett, 14 September 2006)

president. And I didn't cheer, either, when Trump withdrew his first attempt; he's got  $3\frac{3}{4}$  years in which to try, try again. /\*/ "As I have dialup, Verizon is already making money off me." Verizon stopped making money off me a year ago when we went to VoIP via our Internet provider; even so, I recently received a cheery

note from Verizon warning me that it would soon be replacing all the copper wire in my neighborhood with fiber optics, so anyone using Verizon broadband would soon be required to switch to the (pricier, by an odd coincidence) FiOS.



(Reality Check by Dave Whamond, 26 April 2006)

2017 May 4: Sign seen on Seventh Avenue in the West 50s:  
I DREAM OF A WORLD  
IN WHICH CHICKENS CAN CROSS THE ROAD  
WITHOUT HAVING THEIR MOTIVES QUESTIONED

The merry merry month of May continues to bring us typical New York spring weather: temps in the low 50s one week, the high 80s the next, and then back to the low 50s again. Don't put away your sweaters quite yet. Do have a pleasant Memorial Day weekend, an uplifting Shavuos, and (as a precaution considering my recent on-time publishing record) an inspiring Flag Day and a bright Solstice.

>Portions of the preceding ought to be old enough to know better, but probably don't.<