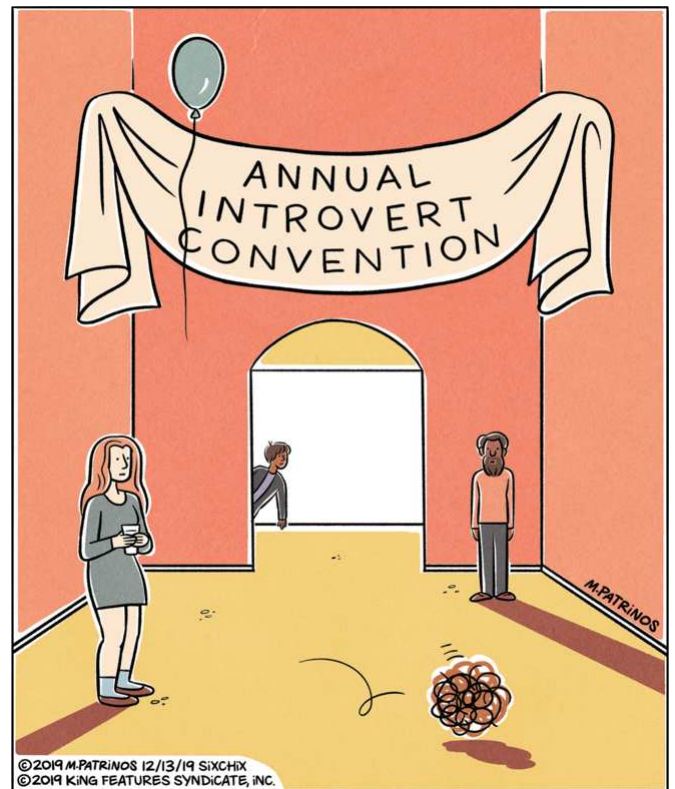


# Beyond the Fringefan

## [#495]

**BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN** attended two work-related Xmas festivities in early December, followed by a massive party in south Jersey the second weekend, the usual FISTFA the third weekend, a gathering on the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> whose hostess has been putting them on for years, and a dinner at his son's place on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Now, as he sits at the N.Y. Cadre (1088 East 40th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11210 (☎(718) NYCADRE; 🖨↔️ nycadre [at] acedsl [dot] com; 🌐http://www [dot] nycadre [dot] org)), watching the old year ebb away, he realizes why he's feeling down: he doesn't really like socializing all that much. (The early darkness may also be a factor.) Best you don't bother him until after he's had a chance to recuperate during the party-impooverished month of January. (Also, the days should be getting noticeably longer by then.) This is **Beyond the Fringefan** #495, for readers of **APA-NYU** Volume 17, #7 (e-APA-NYU #171) and other party vegetables, published December 2019 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **THIGAMAJIG**. Cartoon above by Maritsa Patrinos for *Six Chix*, 13 December 2019. All uncredited material copyright ©2019 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa.



**BABY, BABY, CAN'T YOU HEAR MY HEART BEAT?:** So we thought Donna's cardiac ablation, which we were told was a relatively noninvasive and simple procedure (well, as simple as anything they can do to your heart in a hospital), could be done within a few weeks after her release from Methodist. We reckoned without modern medical bureaucracy.

First Donna had to have a follow-up appointment with her cardiologist, Dr. N. We were able to see him less than a week after her release. He assured us that ablation was a good idea, that it was about as safe a procedure as he knew, and that it was over 97% effective in getting rid of arrhythmias such as Donna's. But then we had to go see a different cardiologist, Dr. D.: he's the one who looked after Donna for the two days she was in the hospital. We had to wait two weeks to get an appointment to see him. Dr. D. agreed that Donna's long-term and recent medical history indicated an ablation would be appropriate treatment at this time. But Dr. D. isn't the one who'll be performing the ablation; that's the job of an even more special specialist, called an electrophysiologist (or EP). Dr. R. was the EP who Dr. D. said



(Reality Check by Dave Whamond, 30 December 2011)

would be doing Donna's ablation, and he gave us Dr. R.'s number so we could consult with him. So Donna called Dr. R.'s office the next day—and was told that they could give her an appointment as early as May 2020.

That, of course, would be an appointment for a consult, and only after that would anyone start trying to schedule the date of the actual procedure. Donna was finally able to get back to Dr. D., who referred her to another EP, Dr. T.; Dr. T.'s office was willing to set up a consult as soon as 15 January. I guess that's an improvement, even if they were unwilling to offer any clues on how soon after the consult she'd be able to get the ablation done.

Nothing else of great medical import has happened here lately, other than a bridge falling out of Donna's mouth on 25 December and getting cemented back in on the 30<sup>th</sup>. This is not the same bridge that fell out and was recemented in November; I'd forgotten, until it

happened, that Donna, like the East River, has more than one bridge.

### *Fringe Reception:* Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 17, #6 (e-APA-NYU #170)

SINGULAR THEY VS. HE OR SHE (Charles Belov): I don't like singular "they," at least partly because it has so often been used inconsistently as a collective for a group or organization. ("XYZ corporation says they will begin layoffs if forced to raise minimum wage."—a corporation is an it, not a they!) But I acknowledge that some of this is merely habit and can be changed. I'll be working on training myself not to wince when I hear it, and watching what future editions of the *Chicago Manual of Style* have to say on the subject. (The most recent, published in late 2017, recommended avoiding singular "they" except specifically when dealing with persons who don't identify with gender-specific pronouns.) I really wish people would instead put more effort into agitating for the adoption and consistent use of a new gender-neutral singular; I've been using "heesh" and "hir" in personal writing for years. But does anyone listen to *me*? /\*/ (cAPA-NEWS) "How would I go about accessing the PDF version?" As I've already mentioned in private correspondence, you need to have Jailbait add you to the #nyusfs list. He may already have done so by now; you could find out by sending a test message to that list and seeing if you receive

it. /\*/ (cme) I'm afraid I may have to turn in my geek credentials; I haven't done anything that could be construed as programming since JPMChaseicalHanover severed ties with me 17 years ago—nothing more complex than constructing a few lengthy conditional formulae in spreadsheet cells. And that reminds me: the macros I created for the Phonest file 20 years ago have not worked since I reinstalled Excel after my hard-disk crash in June 2018, and I really need to reconstruct them Real Soon Now. (Microsoft changed the macro language used by the Office components in the late 20-aughts; there was a converter app available for a while, but it's vanished.) /\*/ I can never hear the word "depraved" (and can seldom hear "deprived") without thinking of "Gee, Officer Krupke." (Fun fact: the only reason why Sondheim euphemized the final line of that song as "Krup you!" is that Columbia Records was afraid of getting into trouble with the U.S.P.S. for sending obscenity through the mails if the line had been left uncensored.)

JAMISON, TAKE e-LETTER (Mark L. Blackman):  
 "Ranked voting" (one of the New York City



(Non Sequitur by Wiley Miller, 24 September 2012)

Charter revisions passed this Election Day) is familiar to any fan who's ever voted on Hugos or Worldcon site selection, where it's usually called the "Australian ballot" system. I hope the future city ballots include a "No Award" option. /\*/ (çmeçChas) Doesn't "fakefan" imply that the individual in question wants people to believe heesh is a fan? Since Chas neither considers himself nor pretends to be a NYUSFan, there's no fakery involved. /\*/ (çmeçDeb) Dental and gum infections can also travel to artificial joints.

Donna's surgeons have precautioned her to take an antibiotic an hour prior to any dental work that involves cutting or drilling, for the rest of her life. /\*/ "Ever hear of mickeys (street-cooked potatoes, not Mickey Finns)?" I only heard the term once, in a story about the Marx brothers and Irving Thalberg's fireplace. /\*/ (çself) "Um, well, Antigone is Oedipus' daughter & granddaughter." I think that should be "daughter and half-sister."

And that's one more deadline-pusher to finish off the decade. For those keeping score, the 2010s or 20-teens are now ending, but the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has another year to go. (Pedantry: just another service we offer.) Though most of us won't be prepared to say until next November whether it's come true, I wish everyone a happy New Year.

**>Portions of the preceding expect to see 2020 but aren't throwing away their glasses just yet.<**