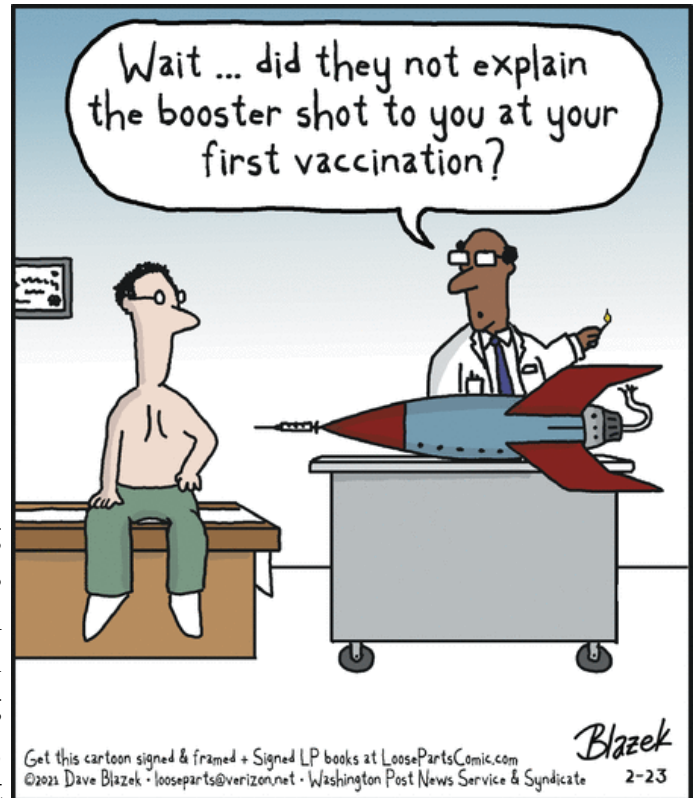


Beyond the Fringefan

BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN is looking forward in a couple of weeks to getting his second COVID-19 vaccination—just in time to start wondering how effective it'll be against the new variants now arriving from California, the U.K., South Africa, Brazil, and other exotic places he thought

no one was allowed to go to anymore (perhaps it was brought in by diplomats who thought they had immunity). If he suffers any reaction to it, he'll probably spend a day or two in bed 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))—where else is there to go anyhow? This is **Beyond the Fringefan** #508, for readers of **APA-NYU** Volume 19, #2 (e-APA-NYU #184) and others who believe that Immune is a harsh mistress, published February 2021 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **HIGAMAJIG**. Cartoon above from *Loose Parts* by Dave Blazek, 23 February 2021. All uncredited material copyright ©2021 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa.



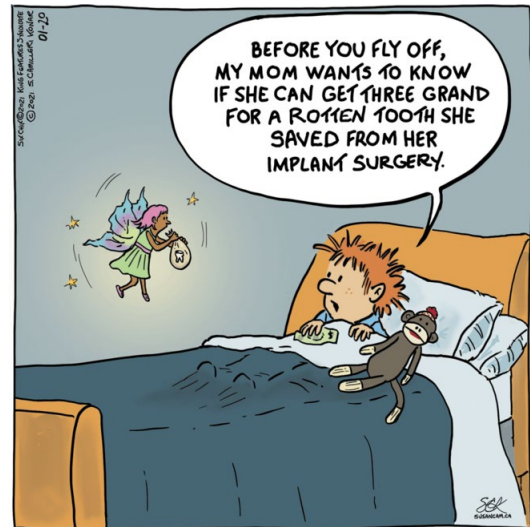
HIGHLY ILLOGICAL, CAPTAIN, BUT VACCINATING: I'm pleased to report that I'm now semi-immune to COVID-19. After weeks of checking city-run, state-run, and privately run websites to no avail, I heard (thanks, Deb and Sue) that Walgreens had begun making appointments at its site. I got "technical difficulties, try later" all day there too, but finally got through after 12 hours of trying. The site gave me an appointment for Friday afternoon, 12 February, at a Walgreens off Albany Avenue about a mile from the Cadre, and I got there on time and waited (indoors, fortunately) for only a bit more than half an hour before getting my shot of ModeRNA vaccine. I had no reaction beyond the expected soreness in the upper arm. My second shot is scheduled for exactly four weeks later, but at a different Walgreens store, the one at Flatbush Junction (a bit closer to the Cadre).

Donna remains unvaccinated so far; she was dealing with other medical issues that week. By the time she tried to sign up a couple of days later, a new group of people had been made eligible and snapped up all the appointments. She's still on the waiting list at NYU Langone, where she sees a number of specialists. We await further news.

She's spent most of February in the all-too-familiar position of having half her front teeth missing, owing to temporary bridges (on the lower jaw this time) proving even more temporary than intended and falling out less than a day after they were cemented in. I've been cooking more soup, microwaving frozen fish, and scrambling eggs to provide nutrition for the edentulous.

THE MONSTERS UNDER THE BED WILL EAT YOU UP (in very small bites):

The bedbug situation remains unclear as I type this. We took Donna's footboard out to the garage in early February, just before the series of snowstorms made the passage through the backyard problematical, and we've cleared some more debris out of her room to facilitate moving of furniture away from the wall in case we have to do so. We also sprayed her headboard quite thoroughly with store-bought insecticides. We haven't seen any live bedbugs in the intervening two or three weeks, which is encouraging, but we have to allow for the possibility that some bugs survive in her room and were just driven into hiding by the spraying—say, into the baseboards or the spaces around the outlets or switches. We haven't ruled out calling in the bug-sniffing dogs, but if we do, we have to allow a few weeks after the last spraying before we bring them in.



(Susan Camilleri Konar for 6 Chix, 20 January 2021)

CAN I GET ONE THAT'S SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEN TO SHUT UP?: With my new laptop pretty much fully integrated into my life, I've been researching new "smart" phones. While I'd ordinarily not want to undergo the expenditure for a new phone for at least three years, the Samsung Android A6 I purchased two years ago has developed two increasingly annoying problems. One is hardware related: the headphone jack has become loose, and the slightest jog to the phone is liable to make it stop playing the song I'm listening to, or jump to another, or start playing audio when I don't want it to at all, or bring up a voice that tells me what time it is and then declares, "Something went wrong." (I've never been able to make Bluetooth work right on any device, so wireless headphones are not an option.) The other seems to be purely software: the phone seems to have lost its ability to access my Google contact list, though it has no problem reaching other data in the Google "cloud" (such as my calendar). Two hours on the phone with tech support failed to resolve this issue, and the technician fell back on the old standby: I should do a factory reset on the phone (thus losing dozens of apps and having to reinstall them, restore their data, and recreate all their settings). If I'm going to go through all that hassle, I might as well just get another phone.

Several respected sources of consumer wisdom have claimed that February is a good month to hunt for bargains in "smart" phones, but my research is leading me to the conclusion that that's only true if you're looking for a top-of-the-line model. You might be able to score a phone with a list price of \$1200 for only \$900, or even get two for the price of one if you commit to two years with your carrier. But I can't see paying even \$600 for a phone, especially if I may need to discard it after two years. The models I'm looking at have prices below \$300, and somehow no one is offering any discounts on those. (I may be making it harder by wanting to stick with Samsung rather than take the time and effort to learn a different manufacturer's user interface.) I guess I'll just have to bite the bullet one day soon.

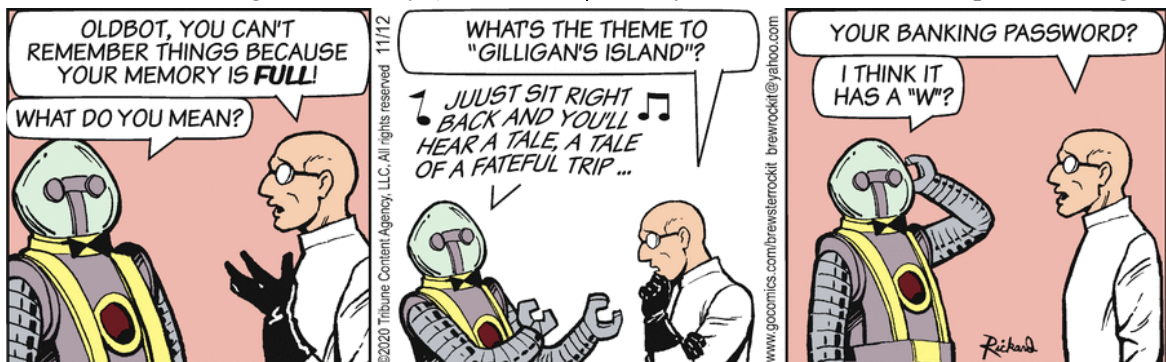
Fringe Reception: Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 19, #1 (e-APA-NYU #183)

JAMISON, TAKE e-LETTER (Mark L. Blackman):
Did anyone expect that more than a token

number of Republican senators would even listen to the evidence presented in the second

impeachment? Next date to dread is 4 March; many QAnon believers have bought into the premises of the “sovereign citizen” group, which asserts that a secret law transformed the United States from a nation to a “corporation” back in 1871, and that all government actions since then (including changing Inauguration Day to 20 January) are invalid and will be nullified when Trump returns to be sworn in on 4 March as the 19th president of the United States. What will they do in preparation for this great event? What will they do if it doesn’t happen? I hope the D.C. police are prepared this time. /*/ (¢APA-NEWS) The Professor and Mary Ann were “and the rest” in the first season theme because those characters hadn’t been cast, or even defined, when the theme was recorded. The original, unaired pilot, with an entirely different, calypso-styled theme, can be found on DVD and on the Web; it included Denver, Hale, Backus, and Schafer, with a different actor playing the Professor (described as a high school teacher) and two different actresses as Ginger and Bunny (who

were both described as secretaries). /*/ (¢me) I’ve never been clear on whether Mr. True Love gave her one partridge in a pear tree, or one for each of the twelve days. Most of the jokes assume that each day’s gifts included a recap of all the previous days’ as well, but musical license would allow for the repetition to be no more than a refrain. /*/ Yes, Magoo was myopic rather than blind, and many of his animated and comic-book appearances explicitly called him “The Nearsighted Mr. Magoo.” I wouldn’t swear to it, but I think I can recall a few cartoons in which he explicitly mentioned having forgotten his glasses, but “I can get along fine without ’em.” /*/ “I was thinking more of the nuisance of shlepping the bike on campus.” No big deal. Plenty of signposts on the street (holding alternate-side-parking signage) to lock it to. The family ahead of me with the two kids in strollers had to deal with a lot worse. /*/ “I took your tip and got a Pyrex bowl for microwaving, but, damn, it gets too hot to hold.” Never heard of potholders? If you can’t afford them, improvise using a towel.



(Brewster Rockit, Space Guy! by Tim Rickard, 12 November 2020)

...and I just heard that yet another new COVID-19 variant has been discovered, this one grown right here in The City. Take that, California! Start spreading the germs... If it can infect you here, it can infect you anywhere. So keep on masking, even if you’ve been fully vaccinated, and we’ll see you next month.

**>Portions of the preceding have to go now; they’ve been told by their rabbi
 that it’s their turn to go and recalibrate the space lasers.<**