

Beyond the Fringefan [#510]

BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN congratulates all his friends who've gotten fully immunized by now, and wishes the remainder a speedy completion of the course, that we can all soon get back to whatever seems like normal life. For the moment he's mostly sitting on his butt at his home, 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)), trying to figure out what "normal" is and whether he actually wants that. This is **Beyond the Fringefan** #510, for readers of **APA-NYU** Volume 19, #4 (e-APA-NYU #186) and others who haven't cared to shell out for Netflix, published April 2021 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **THIGAMAJIG**. Cartoon above from *Pearls Before Swine* by Stephan Pastis, 7 April 2021. All uncredited material copyright ©2021 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa.

MIRACLES OF MODERN MEDICINE: Donna and I are now both fully immunized, as far as the CDC is concerned, which is one more weight off our minds. (Ethan had his first jab shortly after he became eligible and is now awaiting his second.) Now, months after I spent weeks trying to find a site that would give me an appointment, I'm suddenly being deluged with cards and e-mails from pharmacies and medical offices telling me there are vaccines available, and why don't I come by soon to get jabbed. (Where were all these folks when we needed them?)

Perhaps of nearly equal importance at this point, Donna finally got her brand-new permanent lower bridge screwed *and* cemented in, and celebrated by starting to eat vegetables again. She's tempted fate by eating raw broccoli, cauliflower, and carrots (actually a frozen mixture of the above brought to refrigerator temperature but not cooked), with good results. When sweet corn season arrives, watch out!

I was planning to celebrate my new immunity by riding the subway for the first time in a year, destination Astor Place Haircutting, to get trimmed for the first time since September (I'd biked in then); but it turned out that Valentino, the one guy I trust to do the job, had taken off to Florida for a long-overdue vacation. I'm awaiting news of his return.

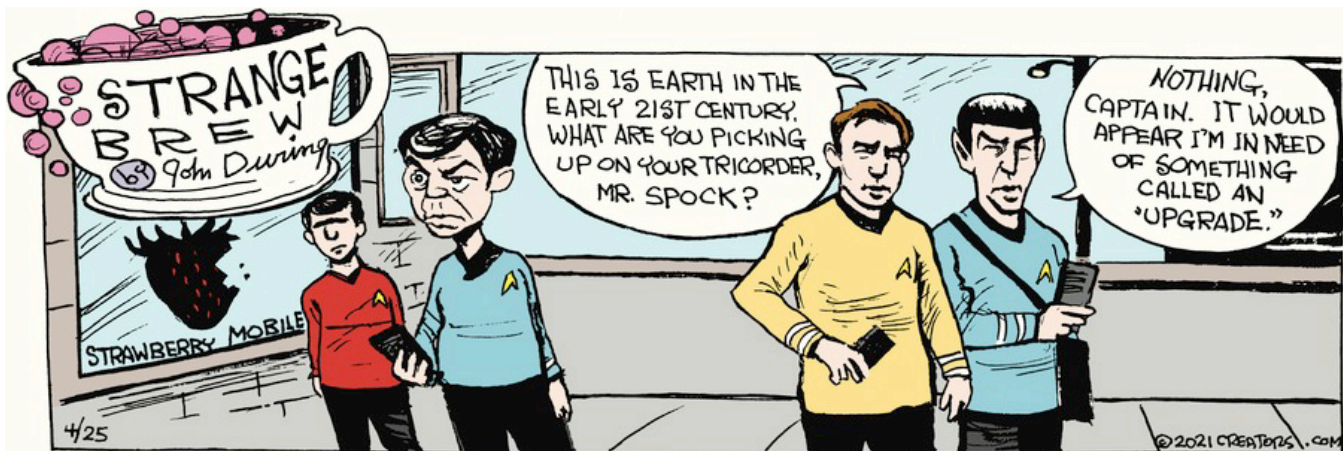
I've now been doing physical therapy for most of a month in hopes of improving the arthritis recently diagnosed in my right hip joint. The exercises are supposed to strengthen and improve the flexibility of

all the muscles involved in moving the leg (and there do seem to be a lot of them!). So far, no improvement that I've been able to perceive, so it may soon be time to return to the orthopedist to discuss a steroid or gel injection.

RETIRED BUT TIRED: I was keeping busy for most of April on what once were my side gigs. I got the March-April issue of the Holocaust newsletter just at the turn of the month, behind schedule, making it a rush job. I'd hardly finished that when Dr. David G., son of my (now retired) dentist Dr. Jeffrey G., sent me a batch of session descriptions and speaker bios for the convention he'll be running in June (having had to cancel last year's). Then he sent the draft of the booklet he'll be handing out at the convention, based on the weekly tips he's been sending out to his followers on WhatsApp. And meanwhile there were a few rounds of layout that I had to proof for the orthodontic journal itself. A good thing I wasn't trying to do all of this during the busy quarter-end month at AllianceBernstein.

ALL QUIET ON THE REVOLT FRONT?: In technological news, I was able to acquire a (very) used receiver at no cost through FreeCycle, but may have blown a speaker cone or two while trying to get it set up. At least I can listen through headphones while I figure out what to do next. My "smart" phone's calendar function still won't show me anything less than a month at a time, and I've exhausted the tech support avenues, so I think I'm going to have to live with it. At least the phone cost me only a couple of hundred bucks and not over a thousand.

It also looks as though the USB hub that lets me plug my mouse, keyboard, and all manner of external devices into my laptop is dying and needs replacement, but that's small potatoes.



(Strange Brew by John Deering, 25 April 2021)

...aaaand as I was finishing up this zine, the next shoe dropped. For two decades now we've been getting our broadband Internet service from AceDSL, a small local provider that was willing and able to step in when none of the biggies was willing to reach our neighborhood. Unfortunately, Ace was piggybacking on Verizon's old copper cable, which Verizon is now steadily disconnecting and replacing with fiber optics. Verizon notified us four years ago that this was going to happen at some point; on our block, it happened with no further notice, shortly after noon on 28 April. I spent the afternoon first trying to diagnose the problem (it came as a surprise to Ace's people, too), and then, when it was clear that our DSL was never coming back, dealing with Verizon to set up Fios service. (The multiday delay in getting a Fios tech over here to install it is the reason for the delay in the issuance of this collation.)

A whole new learning curve now awaits as I find out all the things that Ace was providing as part of the package but Fios doesn't. An e-mail box and address seem to be the first of those things; fortunately, it appears that we can keep our e-mail accounts at Ace indefinitely, for a couple of bucks a month.

FringeReception: Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 19, #3 (e-APA-NYU #185)

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

"Harry disclosed that the Palace was worried that his children would be too dark. Meghan found that odd, noting that much of the Commonwealth is nonwhite." And much of the population of the U.S.A. is nonwhite. Does that make Republicans (or various other groups) any happier to see people who are dark joining their families or getting into positions of power and status? /*/ (¢APA-NEWS) "Sonny Fox AND McAllister?" Yep, same month. Funny how that happens. /*/ (¢me) The Passover chantey to which someone sent me a link was "The Red Sea Shanty: A Pirate Passover" by the group called Six13; it started with the tune of "The Wellerman" before switching in midstream to "The Drunken Sailor" and then the *Gilligan's Island* theme.

VACCINE vs. CORONAVIRUS (Charles Belov):

"some brief, very strange possible side effects": very strange? Not just your garden-variety flu-like symptoms? I hesitate to ask, but what were they? (I see on *Time* magazine's website that small numbers of people have reported rashes, hives, diarrhea, and even menstrual changes, and a few said they felt stoned. OK, that's very strange.) /*/ I've now also had my first meals out in over a year, on a trip to Baltimore in mid-April. I'm looking forward to a few around here soon in places whose insides I likewise haven't seen in what seems like a lifetime. /*/ (¢me) "As for the phone saying 'Something went wrong' it sounds like it's right." After a while, I was exasperatedly responding "...and you're it." /*/ "How do you do the pseudo-quotes word-processor-wise?" Strikethrough effect on the quote marks. On MS Word, there's a button for it on the Home ribbon: it says ~~abe~~. /*/ "Alas, as playwright, I never get to be surprised by my plot twists except possibly at authorship time." The same is true for a singer of comedic songs, amateur or professional; my own (original or stolen) material no longer makes me laugh. (Probably not a bad thing; it would be difficult to sing the songs while I'm laughing at them.)

ICONOCLAST (Joel Nelson): "In 2017, about this same time of year, I renewed my drivers license. Normally one gets six years of licensing each renewal but that time I only got four. I surmised that it was because my drivers license age would turn seventy (70) in 2021, so the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) wanted me to renew that year so they could give me some test aimed at Really Old People..." That doesn't seem to have happened in my case; my license expired in 2018 on my 66th birthday, and my renewed license doesn't expire until my 74th birthday in 2026. It is, however, an "enhanced" license, which will let me board an airplane or allow me back into the country if I find myself somehow transported to Canada or Mexico without my passport; so maybe the rules are different for those. I had to appear in person at the DMV in 2018 to get it, not because they administered any new tests, but because they took a new picture of me. (I did have to get my optometrist to certify that my vision is correctable to "normal" range.) Go figure. /*/

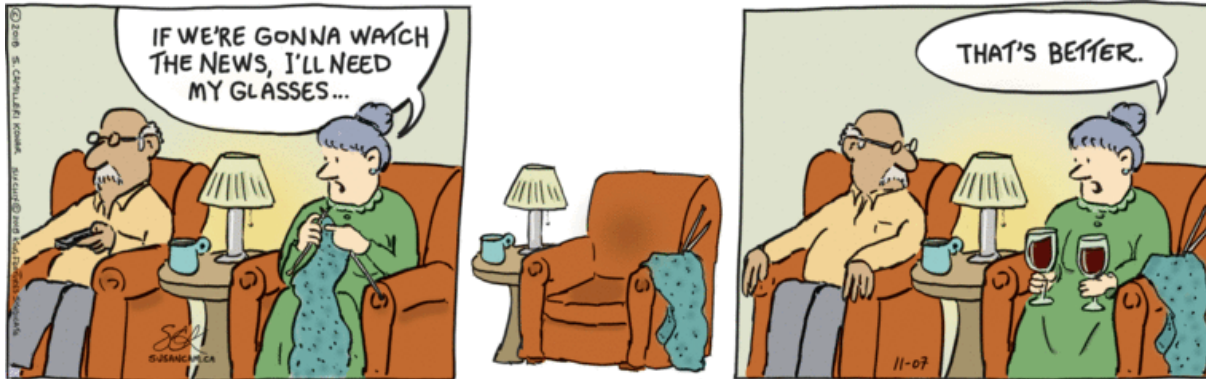


(Rubes by Leigh Rubin, 30 August 2015)

"On 3/3 I picked up two (2) customized magnetic car signs and five (5) masks whose text match that on the signs, from my local sign making place." I note you don't specify what the text is. Am I correct in surmising that it's a religious message? /*/ That you were hanging at a coffeehouse with friends in March, even before getting vaccinated, indicates that you're either a much more social animal or a much braver man than I. I trust you were masked and keeping your social distance.

As an old white guy, I can't honestly say whether my feelings of relief at hearing the Derek Chauvin verdict were more about a small measure of justice finally being done, or about the reduced likelihood of

rioting in the streets. I'm still uneasy, for both those reasons, as we wait for the two months to elapse before sentencing; the magnitude of the sentence will inevitably be seen as a signal, and while the minimum $10\frac{2}{3}$ years is not exactly a wrist slap, what exactly *is* the fitting penalty for the apparently cavalier taking of a life by someone who even now shows little sign of remorse? (Given that Chauvin is now 45, the maximum 40 years would effectively be a life sentence.) And will this case set a new precedent in police responsibility, or will gendarmes across the country just keep on doing what they've been doing, with renewed impunity?



(Susan Camilleri Konar for 6 Chix, 7 November 2018)

So with hope for improvement in the nation's health, fairness, interpersonal and inter-ethnic amity, economy (not the same as the stock markets!), and general outlook on life, not to mention best wishes for a happy May Day, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, and Shavuos, I leave you all. Next communication, I'll be a year older.

>Portions of the preceding thought they were out, but Verizon pulled them back in.<