

BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN

[#516]

BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN wonders why more people aren't contributing to his apa, since he keeps hearing about the 'NU normal. (But he's grateful that the latest COVID variant to make the news is called "omicron"; his life would be even trickier if the world were quarantining 'nu.) You can find out what's nu with him here in

Beyond the Fringefan #516, for readers of **APA-NYU** Volume 19, #10 (e-APA-NYU #192) and others who find it's Greek to them, published November 2021 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **THIGAMAJIG** ... after which you can contact him 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)) and impatiently ask "nu?". Cartoon above from *Real Life Adventures* by Wise and Aldrich, 13 June 2020. All uncredited material copyright ©2021 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa.



We were shocked when Ethan reported to us that, after feeling “under the weather” for a few days, he’d gone and gotten himself tested for COVID—and gotten a positive result. He is, of course, fully vaccinated (though he hadn’t had the chance to get boosted yet). He’d traveled to Europe for two weeks with friends, continued to take all the normal precautions, and gotten a negative test three days before returning. But who knows what could have been passed around in an airplane cabin during a six-hour flight? (None of the friends he traveled with have reported any problems. Also, none of them were on the same return flight.)

It was made more problematic for Donna and me by the fact that he’d been over at the Cadre the day after his return flight, so we were at risk of exposure. I was able to get a rapid-results test the day after we got the news, and it turned out negative. Donna got her test three days later, and I got the molecular test (higher reliability) just to be sure; the results all came back negative. We dodged a bullet there, I guess.

However, right in the middle of this was Philcon. We regretfully decided that, even though we were symptom-free and even if we tested negative, there could still be enough risk of our shedding virus that

it would be a disservice to everyone for us to go. We're still hopeful about making Worldcon in D.C. the week before Xmas.

Meanwhile, The Kid self-quarantined for ten days, then went out, got retested, and came up negative.. He's feeling pretty much completely recovered, except that his sense of smell, which had vanished, has not completely returned.

I had my consult with Dr. S.S. [yet another Dr. S.! They're everywhere], the surgeon who performs the Shouldice meshless hernia-repair surgery, out in Stony Brook (60 miles or so east of the Cadre). He was glad to answer all my questions, even saying it pleased him when patients do the research before seeing him. He's done the surgery more than 1000 times, and only two patients have reported complications; one resolved by itself, and the other required repeat surgery. Sounds like pretty good odds. He recommends patients return to normal activity as soon as possible after surgery, though they may feel some stiffness in walking for a few days. Now we just have to schedule the operation; I'm waiting for his assistant to call back and negotiate the date.

Thom hosted FISTFA again in November, with seven attendees this time. Roommate Grant was again absent because of his discomfort with the idea of holding such a gathering during the continued pandemic. (My potential exposure to Ethan wasn't until the next day, so no one who was there need worry.) Thom announced that as a concession to Grant, he'd be hosting only on alternate months through the winter, so that Grant could stay home undisturbed in December and February, and re-evaluating the situation during March's event.



(Rhymes with Orange by Rina Piccolo and Hilary B. Price, 28 May 2020)

FRINGE RECEPTION: Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 19, #9 (e-APA-NYU #191)

STEM vs STEAM (Chas Belov): STEAM is invoked whenever crowds at sports events chant "Na-na-na-na, na-na-na-na, hey hey, goodbye" at the losing player or team. /*/ "¿Actually, is there a way for you to set the zine's default format to UTF-8?" It depends on the software you're using. I don't see any way to force an encoding if you're composing in a plain text editor like Notepad. If you edit in MS Word and then "Save As" plain text, the file conversion dialogue offers many encoding options, including UTF-7 and UTF-8. But your inverted question marks and exclamation points appear to have come through both in the text and hardcopy versions of your

zine, so it looks like you're good already on that issue.

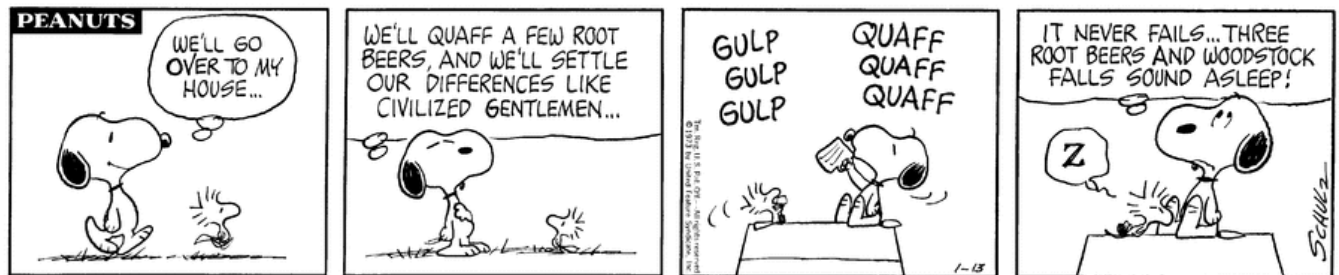
JAMISON, TAKE e-LETTER (Mark L. Blackman): (¢me) "When he bought his house, a friend invited everyone to his mortgage-burning party 30 years from then, but forgot." I thought about holding a mortgage-burning party back in '03, but between Donna's surgeries and my seeking new employment after the end of 30 years with The Bank, it seemed like we had a bit much to deal with already. /*/ Maybe those companies won't delete names from their mailing lists because they've bought mailing-list software

that's so cheap that it doesn't even have a "delete name" function.

STEM vs STEAM (take two) (Chas Belov):

Technology and engineering don't count as science in one respect; a scientist is seeking to discover new truths about the workings of the universe, while an engineer is seeking to use those discoveries to make something that's actually useful. Or as one teacher at the technological university I attended put it: "A scientist makes things known. An engineer makes things work." BUT—technology is what an engineer creates, so having both technology and engineering in the acronym "STEM" is a redundancy. Clearly it's one of those acronyms that the Powers That Be shoehorned an extra

word into to make it look like an English word. Then I guess they added A for Arts to quell the fears of technophobes that the curriculum would turn all our kids into geeks. But if the T and the E are redundant, then they could have dropped one of them and made the new acronym SEAM. Or SAME. Or MESA. Or MAST. /*/ (¢Blackman) "I would not be eligible for the BPLF. I've only tasted beer once and hated it." I dislike beer as well (with the exception of hard-to-find-outside-Germany Berliner weisse), but I was welcomed at the few BPLF events I've attended. While the qualifications for membership do include drinking beer (at least once), you could still fake it by quaffing a pint of root beer.



(Peanuts by Charles M. Schulz, 13 January 1973)

For the second consecutive Halloween, no kids came to the Cadre door—a spooky situation in itself. Of course, much of the candy I didn't hand out found a good home in my gut, while some will go to refreshments at future FISTFA events.

Will we make it to Discon III? Will the existing vaccines keep people safe? Will the country make it to Christmas without a new lockdown? Will half a million idiots be allowed to gather in Times Square for New Year's Eve? And what about Naomi? (I haven't heard from her in a couple of years. Has anyone?) Stay tuned for the answers to these and other worrisome questions. May all enjoy their respective winter festivals, and much light and warmth to everyone amid the abnormality.

>Portions of the preceding are dreading the arrival of the fannish Psi Phi variant. <