

BEYOND THE FRINGE- FAN

[#525]

BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN sends his regrets to the Hog Butcher for the Worldcon, but he will not be making it there this year to rub Big Shoulders with the fen at Chicon; he'll probably spend the weekend just hanging out at his home at the N.Y. Cadre (1088 East 40th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11210 (☎(718) NY-CADRE; 🖨↔🖨 nycadre

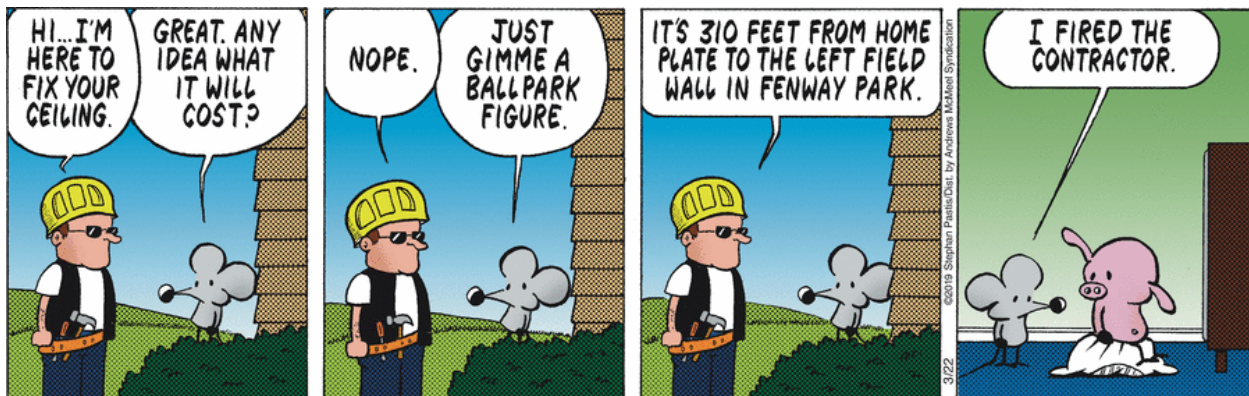
[at] acedsl [dot] com; 🌐http://www [dot] nycadre [dot] org)). He recalls a bit nostalgically the days of collating paper apas at Worldcons even as he feels relief that he can save himself the hassle of scheduling and running the collation, not to mention shlepping all that paper there and back and to the Post Offal, by letting the groups.io software do its electronic thing for **APA-NYU** Volume 20, #8 (e-APA-NYU #201), which will of course include the present publication, **Beyond the Fringefan** #525, published August 2022 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **THIGAMAJIG**. Cartoon above from *Real Life Adventures* by Wise and Aldrich, 24 August 2018. All uncredited material copyright ©2022 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa.

No one responded to my inquiry last month about sharing driving to Chicago, so, with somewhat mixed feelings, Donna and I are forgoing Worldcon this year. Chengdu next year is right out, and I wouldn't put a lot of money on our getting to any of the places with extant bids (as I type this) for the next few years. We just may have attended our last Worldcon this past December. However, Ethan and his lady Ashley are expecting to attend Chicon 8, so the family tradition will be upheld. And we're pre-supporting the bid to hold NASFiC in Buffalo in 2024.

CONGRATULATIONS: WE'RE NOW LIVING IN THE AGE OF THE JETSONS! I learned at the end of last month that, based on information given in the first season of the show back in 1962, George Jetson was born on 31 July 2022. Before you go demanding your flying car, though, remember that the show was set in 2062, when George turned 40, so the carmakers have a few decades in which to develop them and get them to market.

And in other news of the calendar catching up to fiction, 2022 is the year in which the film *Soylent Green* was set...so if you're dining at a vegetarian restaurant this year, be sure to ask lots of pointed questions. Maybe those Impossible Burgers aren't so impossible after all. (The book on which the film was very loosely based, *Make Room! Make Room!* by Harry Harrison, was set much earlier, in 1999, but did not include any plot threads concerning the provenance of soylent, which was indeed a purely vegetable product made from soybeans and lentils.)

I got my bedroom painted this month, for the first time in probably 30 years. It seemed a good time to do it, since so much of the accumulated clutter is still stashed in the basement or the garage from the whole bedbug episode. We solicited the services of a handyman living next door by the name of Seymour, who'd done a couple of other odd jobs for us in the past. Selecting the precise shade of pastel blue I wanted from the hundreds of color chips at the paint store was possibly the hardest thing I had to do; ultimately the closest match to what I had before turned out to be one that Benjamin Moore calls "Rhythm and Blues" (color #758), which I took as a good omen. (The second closest was labeled "Grandma's Sweater" (color #787). Go figure.) Moving the furniture away from the walls was a pain, but as usual I had The Kid available to do the heavy lifting. But this constituted only a dress rehearsal for the real work the room needs: sanding and polyurethaning the floor (bare wood with rough spots that keep making holes in my socks). That, of course, will necessitate clearing all the furniture out wholesale for a few days (and probably spending a night or three in a hotel). We're still trying to figure out the logistics of that. Meanwhile, Seymour is rebuilding the basement stairs, which have been rickety for too long.



(Pearly Before Swine by Stephan Pastis, 22 March 2019)

FRINGE RECEPTION: Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 20, #7 (e-APA-NYU #200)

JAMISON, TAKE e-LETTER (Mark L. Blackman):
(¢me) "Pedestrians have the right of way, but smart ones don't argue with 2-ton vehicles." A friend once told me not to step in front of a New York City bus; it'll hit you and immediately fall to pieces, and the MTA will sue you for damages. /*/ Re cow songs, Pete Seeger said that he based "Kisses Sweeter than Wine" on a song by Lead Belly which in turn was based on "Drumion Dubh," an Irish folk song in which a farmer laments the death of his cow (no, the cow did not have kisses sweeter than wine). That ought to cownt for something. And the Arrogant Worms (the Canadian group responsible for

"Carrot Juice Is Murder") did "I Am Cow." And of course, as I mentioned the other month, there's Dana Lyons's "Cows with Guns." When the late Mike Nichols adapted *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* into *Spamalot*, he claimed that the cow that is flung at Arthur and company by the French knights "has a singing part"—but if that was true, the song got cut before there were any public performances. (Now I'm in Encore mode. I can think of another half-dozen songs that aren't specifically about cows or cowboys but contain the word "cow"—but I could probably think of a lot more that mention cats, so I wouldn't have a cow about it.) /*/ (¢self) FISTfA

was in Brooklyn when I first started attending, back in the mid-1970s; it was at Ross Chamberlain and Hank Davis's place in Sunset Park.

BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN (me): In response to my parenthetical query, "What's the opposite of brain freeze?", Mercy van Vlack e-mailed, "Brain Fry!"

LATE VS. NEVER (Chas Belov): Congratulations on your imminent semi-retirement. Excellent that S.F. lets you keep working part-time as a retiree



(Bizarro by Wayne & Piraro, 22 January 2022)

More follow-up on poll work: as of mid-August, <ElectionDayWorker.com> was listing me as "Active," and under the schedule for the August primaries was showing that I'd confirmed my availability for three of the early voting days and the primary day itself, but continued to show "No assignment for this work day at the moment" for each of those days. And the schedule for training reported no training sessions available to me from mid-August right up to Election Day. I'm beginning to think they don't want me...but I'll keep checking.

And though my chief sources of news, Trevor Noah and Stephen Colbert, have been on vacation lately, the bits and pieces I've been hearing from other directions are making me a bit more hopeful that the mid-term election results won't be as horrifying as they looked this spring. We shall see what surprises September and October have in store. Be sure to register to vote, everyone. See you in the fall.

**>Portions of the preceding have been designated by the Director of National Intelligence
 as suitable for flushing.<**

if you want. (I was tapering my hours down over the last few years before the company's move, and would probably have continued to do so to the point of working half-time if I'd had the opportunity; but of course I wasn't getting retirement benefits, and had to accept the commensurately lower pay.) /*/ I looked at some of your AI art. Not my cup of tea, I'm afraid (or my plate of ostrich pancakes). /*/ (¢me) "I like gazpacho, so, more for me. That said, I haven't seen it on a menu in years." I Googled "gazpacho" "San Francisco," and the first two hits were "Top 10 Best Gazpacho in San Francisco, CA - July 2022 - Yelp" and "The 11 Best Places for Gazpacho in San Francisco" on Foursquare. The two lists seem to overlap about 50%. I hope some of those places are convenient to you. /*/ (¢Blackman¢me) AB is AllianceBernstein, the financial management firm where I was working for the last eight years before my retirement. /*/ (¢me) Both the Mets and the Brooklyn Cyclones are having one of their best seasons in quite a while, occupying the top slots in their respective divisions as I type this (albeit the Cyclones by a narrow margin). It's almost enough to motivate me to attend a game. [LATE UPDATE: in the intervening two weeks, the Cyclones lost a few games, so that as of submission time they were half a game behind the Hudson Valley Renegades, with a dozen games left in the season. I'm not despairing yet.]