

# BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN [# 527]

**BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN** is once more looking forward to the cessation of campaign ads in less than two weeks, as we all wait to see whether this year's contests will be won by the election deniers who will put all women's health (not to mention our democracy) in danger, or the tax-and-spenders who will

unleash violent criminals on a defenseless public. (The answer, of course, is that the winners will be the production companies that make the ads and the television stations that show them.) He's doing his best to fast-forward past all the paid political denouncements while lying low 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)), except for visits to the polling places. This is **Beyond the Fringefan** #527, for readers of **APA-NYU** Volume 20, #10 (e-APA-NYU #203) and others who don't want to flunk the midterms, published October 2022 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **HIGAMAJIG**. Cartoon above from *Real Life Adventures* by Wise and Aldrich, 18 October 2014. All uncredited material copyright ©2022 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa.

**TEN-FOOT POLLS:** A few weeks after my training class, I finally received notification that I'll be working as a poll worker on Election Day. It'll be at a site about seven blocks from the Cadre, meaning I can walk there and not have to worry about parking. It's only a block or so further than my assigned voting site, and several blocks closer than my assigned early-voting site (to which I'll probably bike).

I was surprised that I was not assigned to work on any of the four early-voting days I'd said I'd be available. There was a note in the Information Clerk Manual (that I'd been issued at the poll worker training session) to the effect that a separate training was required for workers at the early-voting sites—yet I checked the <ElectionDayWorker.com> website daily, and no such training session was ever listed. Perhaps they already had all the early-voting poll workers they needed. When I go to vote early, I'll ask if they mind my hanging around the information clerk desk for a while to observe the routine.

**I WILL NOT LEAP HERE, SAM-I-AM-NOT:** I've been following the new *Quantum Leap* series—not a reboot, but a sequel filled with nods to the original. It's pretty good in the parts where Ben (Sam's successor) has to “make right what once went wrong”; but unlike the original, this series spends as much time following a mysterious plot (no further details, to avoid spoilers) involving the people back at

Quantum Leap project headquarters as it does following what Ben does in the past. I think it does the show a disservice.

Is it just me, or are showrunners lately feeling a need, more than they used to, to add extra layers of intrigue and conspiracy and hidden motives to keep viewers tuning in, when once upon a time the main plot of the show itself would have been enough? (And when did this tendency develop? I haven't been watching many dramatic series these days. Maybe it goes back as far as *Twin Peaks*.) Do they not have enough confidence in the premise and the actors and their ability to tell a straightforward story? I've seen (and quit watching) a few other shows with fantasy aspects whose writers, whenever an Unanswered Question is about to be resolved, just throw in a new one, pulled apparently at random from a bucketful they keep on hand. Or am I, once again, just getting old and cynical?



(Bizarro by Dan Piraro, 22 October 1991)

## Fringe Reception: Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 20, #9 (e-APA-NYU #201)

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

What brought you to read (reread?) *Fox in Socks* at this particular time? /\*/ (¢APA-NEWS)

Obviously you did not raise or babysit schoolchildren in the 1990s. Trapper Keepers were a nearly ubiquitous school supply, a sort of cardboard-and-plastic looseleaf binder (the Keeper) that held folders with pockets (the Trappers) that in turn held all the loose papers (tests, worksheets, homework assignments, notes to parents) that would otherwise get crumpled and/or lost in the course of a schoolkid's wanderings. /\*/ (¢me) "Drivers in the street are dangerously reckless enough without flying, so I don't regret not having flying cars." Agreed, 100%. Flying cars won't work unless there's a proportionate increase in air traffic controllers, a workable system for assigning drivers to controllers on the fly (so to speak), and a universal willingness on the part of drivers to follow controllers' instructions. (Yeah, dream on.) Or maybe the automated control systems currently being tested on surface cars could be adapted for flying cars so that human drivers never have control at all. Will people go for that?

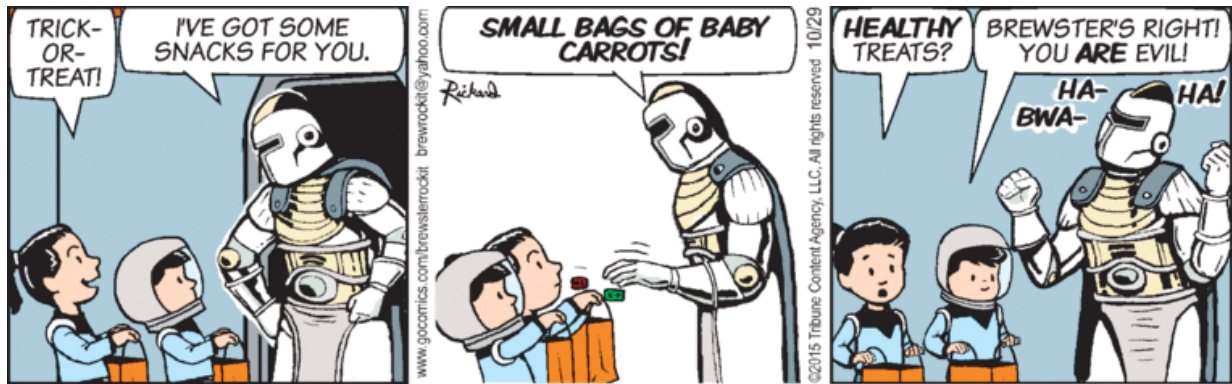
ICONOCLAST (Joel Nelson): (¢me) Yeah, living in an apartment takes the responsibility of finding a good handyman off your shoulders—but as Mr. Blackman's reports in these pages over the years

(and other oral testimony I've heard from friends) have shown, that isn't guaranteed to lead to pleasant outcomes. /\*/ (¢Belov) "Sounds like you're doing [continuing to work part-time in one's old position after official retirement] what New York State calls a '212.'" I looked up Section 212 of the New York Retirement & Social Security Law. Are you contemplating doing that? /\*/ Should I ask what was in the bags that you were lugging up from your basement to fill that dumpster with? Decluttering seems to be becoming the "in" activity in our age bracket. /\*/ I had a similar experience decades ago attempting to replace a battery in a digital watch (mine have been from Casio) and have chosen since then to purchase new watches instead. My batteries have (knock wood) lasted long enough that the watches were looking pretty banged up and decrepit by the time it became an issue. I think I press the button to light up the watch screen maybe once a night. /\*/ If the battery or the charger on your electric lawnmower went dead a week after you bought it, you got sold a defective product, and the store should have made good. Even if you didn't buy the "extended warranty," the manufacturer's original warranty should cover any defect that crops up that fast.

EVEN LATER vs. NOT IN A MILLION YEARS,  
 WHICH IS NEVERTHELESS LESS THAN

NEVER (Chas Belov): I'm impressed by the research you put into that travel-by-transit blog post, even if my eyes did glaze over from time to

time while reading it. Do you have the capability to plot the whole thing out on a map site and post the image?



(Brewster Rockit, *Space Guy!* by Tim Rickard, 29 October 2015)

The scariest night of the year looms close—I'm referring, of course, to election night—but first I need to go and prepare some bags of junk food to hand out in case any of the neighborhood kids decide (and their parents allow them) to try that sort of thing this year. I'm hoping to make it to Philcon, to be held once again in Dr. Oz's home state of New Jersey, so perhaps I'll see some of youse there. Be sure to vote!

>Portions of the preceding will mark their ballots for Benny Goodman. They're swing voters.<