



BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN [#537]

BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN sends condolences and best wishes to folk in California who've suffered mudslides, in the Southwest who've been parched, and in Florida who are about to get washed away. He's suffered nothing worse this season (so far) than some basement leakage 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)...knock on wood. This is **Beyond the Fringefan** #537, for readers of **APA-NYU** Volume 21, #8 (e-APA-NYU #213) and other climate change denier deniers, published August 2023 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **THIGAMAJIG**. Cartoon above from *Bizarro* by Wayno and Piraro, 29 November 2021. All uncredited material copyright ©2023 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa.

A THING ABOUT MACHINES: After the adventures I described last month, it took another week and another Cadre visit from the Lenovo-affiliated tech, but I finally got my motherboard “branded” (yippie ti yi yo!), and the INVALID messages went away. I got a few more messages from the Adobe Acrobat software (purchased from Lenovo with the machine) about needing to activate it; it took another phone call and another remote log-in session to get that straightened out, but the laptop is now (as far as I can tell) behaving. My cell phone is likewise doing OK, other than giving me messages about the internal memory being 90% full (too many built-in apps that I can't uninstall even though I never use 'em). And I'm getting used to the controls of the new microwave oven.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME: Donna was released from Ditmas Park on Friday 18 August, amid fond farewells from all the nurses and therapists who'd dealt with her, and is now comfortably ensconced back at the Cadre. Well, ensconced and working toward getting comfortable again. Much of the Stuff we moved out of her room to permit the painting of the walls and the refinishing of the floors the other month is still in boxes and bins awaiting sorting and reshelving. But she's enjoying (more or less) catching up with e-mail and other things she couldn't access during the months without her laptop ~~and playing with the pencils on the bench there.~~

We took her to see Dr. J.S., the neurosurgeon, on Tuesday 22 August. His verdict: her neck hasn't healed, but it hasn't gotten any worse. He still believes that if she continues taking the cinacalcet to counteract the loss of calcium she'd been experiencing, it can get better, obviating the need for further surgery (which no one wants, and which might not even succeed given the condition of her bones). The bad news is that she has to keep wearing the neck brace for at least three more months, until her next follow-up visit. The nurse practitioner who assists the doctor is also putting in a request to see whether we can get a machine that provides electrical stimulation to the bones to accelerate healing.



"Your appointment with the doctor is at eleven-fifteen, but his appointment with you is at twelve-fifteen."

(David Sipress for *The New Yorker*, 26 July 2004)

FRINGE RECEPTION: Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 21, #7 (e-APA-NYU #212)

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

"(the super is actually ducking me, even pulling a Ron Johnson with his cellphone)" What's pulling a Ron Johnson? /*/ (¢APA-NEWS) "Snopes can't confirm that he [Interior Secretary Watt] said that we don't need trees because the the Rapture was imminent"—but his boss Reagan, when running for governor, had said in regard to forest conservation, "I mean, if you've looked at a hundred thousand acres or so of trees—you know, a tree is a tree, how many more do you need to look at?" (This was often paraphrased as "If you've seen one redwood tree, you've seen them all.") /*/ "Info on the NYRSF Readings may be found at hourwolf.com and the group's Facebook page." The information at hourwolf.com hasn't been updated in literally years. The information at the Facebook page usually has the previous month's readers. /*/ (¢me) And the rocknroll otherworld is "Sha na nÖg."

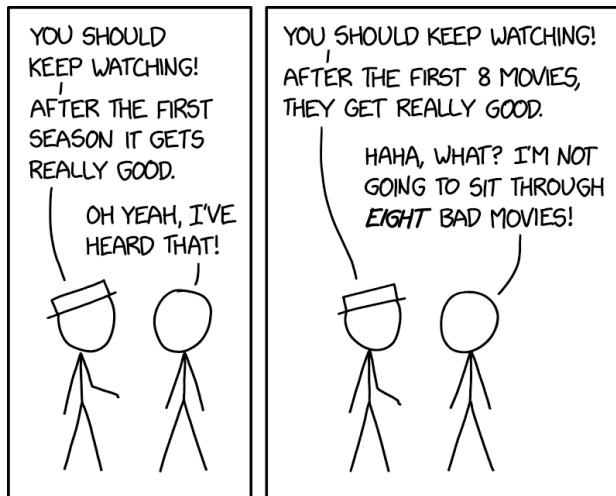
YAOI vs. BL vs. QL (Chas Belov): "(¿does 'widow' apply to girlfriends? if not, ¿is there a corresponding word?)" Strictly, it doesn't, not even to fiancées. If I were editing, I'd change it to "bereaved." Informally, you could probably get away with it in context, as you did here with "widowed girlfriend." /*/ (¢self) Full disclosure: I added that clip art of the people debating, on my own, without checking with you. (I likewise added to Rich Friedman's zine in the May collation the clip art of the teacher pointing to the chalkboard, without consultation.) Every so often

I get reminded that my guesses about what people will find interesting or amusing are fallible. Apologies for the intrusion. /*/ (¢me) I do still wear facial hair, and I suppose it may interfere with getting a good seal on masks, but as I haven't been using N95 masks, the protection is already less than perfect. I have yet to find an N95 mask that's remotely comfortable. /*/ You do need an online subscription to get the *New York Times* crossword (and other games). It's sold separately from the subscription to the online paper itself. The puzzles/games subscription is \$1.25 a week, whether or not you're also paying \$5 a week for the news. (The *Times* has separated a few other sections out and started charging for them à la carte, too, a move I find sneaky and annoying. Articles about food are included with the paper, for example, but the associated recipes require another subscription.) /*/ The *Wall Street Journal* is not (so far) putting its puzzles behind a paywall. The latest 15 or so are at <https://www.wsj.com/news/puzzle>, with a "Load More" button at the bottom. /*/ The *New Yorker's* puzzle page, also free at this writing, is at <https://www.newyorker.com/crossword-puzzles-and-games>.

ICONOCLAST (Joel Nelson): I'm now doing the Nerdle nearly as regularly as I do the Wordle. I seem to be able to get it in four guesses pretty consistently; the key is to use as many different digits as possible in the first two guesses, while establishing the operator and the position of the equal sign. The requirement that the equation

must compute helps narrow it down. /*/ (cme)
“You have a very interesting work history!” I believe you do too; weren’t you driving trucks between graduating Tute with a math degree and becoming a tech geek for the State? /*/ “While waiting in the car for my wash to dry, I waved to two families of immigrants and welcomed them to the USA and the Town of Rotterdam as they

walked north on Hamburg Street from the Super 8 motel near the roundabout.” Your hospitality is laudable, but how did you know that they were freshly arrived immigrants? Were they wearing name tags? Or Greg Abbott campaign buttons? (Is that the Super 8 where we stay when we’re up there visiting Donna’s sister?)



IT'S WEIRD HOW IT'S WAY MORE NORMAL AND SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE TO SUGGEST SOMEONE SPEND 10-15 HOURS WATCHING SOMETHING WHEN IT'S TV RATHER THAN MOVIES.

(xkcd by Randall Munroe, 20 January 2023)

I stumbled onto an old episode or two of *Barney Miller* last month on one of the cable channels (MeTV? WeTV? BeTV? The names all blur together) and was impressed by the humor, which struck me as remarkably like that in the original *Night Court*. A bit of research revealed that the creator of *Night Court*, Reinhold Weege, had previously been a writer and script editor on *Barney Miller*, so I guess it figures. (There was also an overlap on theme-music composers.) So now I'm passing some of my viewing time during the writers' and performers' strike by watching *Barney Miller* (which I never saw in its original run) from start to finish. Hey, it's orders of magnitude better than any "reality" show.

The true reality TV, of course, has to do with the parade of indictments relating to the former president and teller of the Big Lie. Unfortunately, it appears to

be a very slow-moving maxi-series whose plot twists may not be resolved for several seasons. I wish I could skip to the end and see if the bad guys go to jail and the country is saved.

It'll be autumn by next ish, so enjoy what's left of the summer, and a pleasant equinox and a healthy and happy New Year 5784 to those who are about to celebrate it. Take care of yourselves.

>Portions of the preceding aren't going to the Republican Party because they weren't indicted.<