

Beyond the Fringefan

[#538]

BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN and his wife are both suffering pain lately. The pain felt by his wife is mostly in the neck and caused by bone breaks that have not healed yet after several months. He's experiencing pains in the neck too, as well as in other anatomic regions, but it's caused by dealing with insurance providers. (This follows several years in which said pain had been minimal. Well, nothing good lasts forever.) He plans to work through the pain until he succeeds in getting proper care for his wife as she continues (it is fondly hoped) to recover 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)). Meanwhile, he'll induce pain in a few dozen correspondents by disseminating **Beyond the Fringefan** #538, for readers of **APA-NYU** Volume 21, #9 (e-APA-NYU #214) and other caregivers, caretakers, and Care packages, published September 2023 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **THIGAMAJIG**. Cartoon above by Susan Camilleri Konar for *Six Chix*, 1 March 2023. All uncredited material copyright ©2023 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa.

HOME IS WHERE THE HASSLE IS: Donna has been home for over a month, and we're still dealing with bureaucratic convolutions regarding her home care. She got to do a phone session with a therapist (as in shrink) in mid-September. After a dozen calls to resolve the question of which of two different agencies was responsible for sending physical therapists, she finally got her first visit from a Dr. A.A. on Tuesday 26 September. Visits from nurses and home aides remain to be resolved.

We heard back from the company that makes the electrical bone-stimulating machine (which the neurosurgeon's assistant had told us about). Unfortunately, what the rep told us was that Medicare will only cover the use of this machine on long bones, not neck bones. Medicaid would cover it, but we're not poor enough to be on Medicaid (and unlikely to be, I hope to whatever deities are in charge of such things). So we can spend \$1500 out of pocket on a machine that's apparently expected to function for less than a year. We've been dithering about it, but will likely go for it, since other measures don't seem to have effected the healing she needs.

Me? Can't complain too much. The arthritis doesn't seem any worse. The orthopedist Dr. F.N. tried prescribing me a few different anti-inflammatory drugs over the past several months (Gabapentin, Pregabalin, and Cymbalta) in the hope that one would ease the pinched nerve that causes the numbness

in my right foot, but none of them made any improvement that I could feel, and they all had some side effects that I didn't like, so we discontinued them. I'm still walking and biking around, so that's not bad. A recent dental checkup has led to the discovery that one of my upper right molars is rotting, so the near future will hold an extraction and probably an implant. Good thing it will soon be oatmeal and soup weather.

I haven't been affiliated with a synagogue since the last century, but these High Holy Days I tried attending services by streaming them over the Internet (something I couldn't do if I were more Orthodox, since the use of electrical technology would be prohibited), from Temple Emanu-El in Manhattan. It wasn't quite the same as being there, but it felt more appropriate than what I'd been doing for the previous decade or three (reading from the prayer books by myself). My only complaint was that the Yom Kippur services ended a good hour and a half before sunset, leaving me unoccupied for the last part of the fast. Other synagogues seem to have different schedules, though, so I'll research them before making my selection next year. May all who read this be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life, whatever and whomever they believe in.



Leo Cullum | | CartoonStock.com
 (Leo Cullum for *The New Yorker*, date uncertain)

Fringe Reception: Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 21, #8 (e-APA-NYU #213)

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

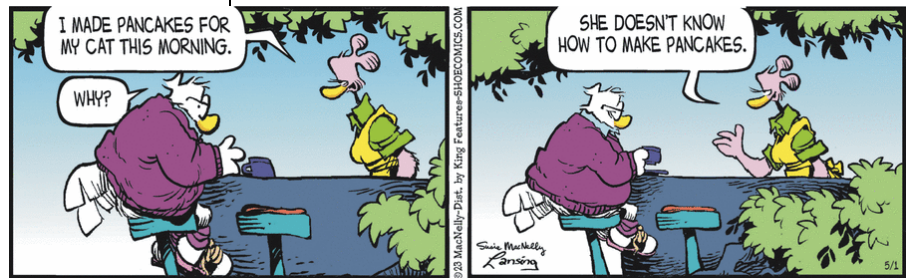
“most Revolutionary War battles were fought in NY & NJ (Washington slept here), but are not taught;” also seldom taught is that the city of New York was held by the British loyalists throughout the war. The Battle of Brooklyn ended with General Washington evacuating his troops across the East and Hudson rivers into New Jersey. /*/ Congratulations on once again having a functioning sink in your kitchen. /*/ I didn't realize that “Utopia” meant “nowhere”; I thought the initial syllable came from the Greek “eu-” meaning “good.” /*/ (¢self) Writing a zine on a smartphone is above and beyond the call of sanity. I've done lengthy text exchanges that left me exhausted. /*/ (¢me) “I thought they insist on having Democrats & Republicans watching each other and handing out only their party's ballots.” That had been my understanding, too. I did mention at the time that I was registered independent, and Devora told me it didn't matter. Either they waived that rule on this occasion simply in order to get things moving after all that

had gone wrong, or perhaps it doesn't apply in primaries. /*/ *The Flash* was on one of the premium channels I get, so I saw it last month. I thought some of the time-travel convolutions were incoherent, and could see why it wouldn't have gotten great word of mouth. I liked the character as depicted in the 1960s comic books and in 1990s TV, but it seems to me that the Barry Allen who's shown up lately isn't the same guy at all.

THE 22 IMMUTABLE LAWS OF MARKETING VS. THE NEW RULES OF MARKETING AND PR (Chas Belov): I find it hard to believe that there are any truly immutable laws in marketing, or any other commercial activity. Maybe “Advertising is bullshit, but it can be entertaining bullshit”—something I seem to recall saying to one of my supervisors at Wieden+Kennedy (she replied that she couldn't find anything to disagree with in the statement). /*/ Clearly the authors of both those books were themselves engaging in marketing by choosing those titles. /*/ (¢APA-NEWS) I don't remember much about the movie

Catch-22 other than the recurring “Help him, help the bombardier” scene. I remember a lot more bits and pieces of the novel, which I’d read perhaps five years earlier. I guess that means I much preferred the novel too. /*/ (çme) I’m still planning to be a poll worker if they want me. The <nyc.electiondayworker.com> website has only just begun listing the days for this year’s general election, and I’ve marked myself as “available” on all the days starting from 1 November. We’ll see what day(s) and location(s) they assign me. /*/ “The Wild Heart of the Sensuous Teddy Bear” was the apazine of the late Elizabeth Willig. /*/ As far as I can tell, Anni Ackner only published one “book”—more of a pamphlet, actually—*Nobody Loves a Visual Arts Critic*, which was a collection of the columns she’d written for Mike Gunderloy’s zine *Factsheet Five* and was produced by Gunderloy’s small Pretzel Press operation. It had a very small print run and probably went out of print almost immediately. “Archaic Barrel” shows up in a few web searches, but it wasn’t a book; it was an apazine she did for FAPA. /*/ “¿When are the cat days?” National Cat Day appears to be 29

October in the U.S., but International Cat Day is 8 August. I’d think that would conflict with the dog days—watch out for the fights! Wikipedia also notes that “In Japan, National Cat Day is celebrated on February 22, as the date resembles the words ‘nyan nyan nyan’ (meow meow meow). The date was decided on this date in a poll between cat-keepers by the Executive Cat Day Committee in 1978.” That still leaves 362 Not-Cat days (363 in leap years).



(Shoe by Susie MacNelly and Ben Lansing, 1 May 2023)

ICONOCLAST (Joel Nelson): (çme) “As power banks are in the back pack of a techie man; so are children of the youth.? (Psalm 127)” Probably so. I’m frequently glad to have Ethan at hand. Still, I plan to bring along my own power bank next time I do poll work. /*/ Free tourist sites are indeed the best.

When *Star Trek: The Next Generation* was originally broadcast, we’d just gotten our first VCR, and so we were able to watch the entire series, time-shifted a day or a week per episode. By the time *Deep Space Nine* premiered half a decade later, we’d filled up dozens of tapes with other programming we wanted to get around to seeing, and our viewing of *DS9* fell by the wayside sometime early in the second season (I think). Last month I found that the BBC America channel was showing the series and was somewhere in the middle of the second season, so I started watching it again. I’m enjoying the plots a lot; the political jockeying on Bajor sometimes seems to presage what’s been happening here on Earth in the past few years. The only problem is that BBC America is showing 12 or 13 episodes a week (six or seven Tuesday morning and a similar number Wednesday morning). That, added to *Barney Miller* (as I mentioned last issue), is filling up my viewing time to overflowing...and just this week I read that the Writers’ Guild strike has been settled. I think I’ll be able to finish watching *Barney Miller*, but I may not get to the end of *DS9* until the next strike.

WHO’S ZOOMIN’ WHO: The recent passing of Shelley Belsky has reminded me (among other things) of the #nyusfs IRC chat channel, which was her idea back in the 1990s. The channel still exists, and I still log on and join it every Tuesday evening, but it’s been years since anyone but Deb and me has shown up. Perhaps its time has come and gone. (Yeah, the same could be said about APA-NYU; you don’t need to remind me.) Yet some whose typing skills aren’t what they might be, or whose dexterity has waned with age, have remarked that they find it off-putting to try to type in responses at the same time as other people are adding to the dialogue.

The age of COVID has sparked significant advances in technology, though, and most of us now have the capability to participate in Zoom chats that obviate the need for fast typing. I’m asking here if anyone is

likely to be interested in participating in Zoom chats if we can set them up for the same time slot as the IRC chat has held: Tuesday evenings from 8 to 10 pm, Eastern time. You can e-mail me at the usual address if interested; if I get any response, we can try it out in late October.

I got the newest COVID booster shot last week, along with this year's flu vaccine—one in each arm, to provide soreness in stereo. In a couple more weeks I'll get the RSV shot too, to ease my mind for the winter. The pharmacy also offered vaccinations for pneumonia, shingles, and a couple of others, but I need to check with my PCP to see which of those I've already had.

A pleasant autumn to all. (I'm hoping for a bit of Indian summer, so I'm not putting my shorts away yet. It's just a bit annoying putting rubber bands around my pants cuffs to keep them out of the bicycle chain.) May your Columbus Day and Indigenous People's Day not get into a fight, and try not to be too SADD about the dwindling daylight. See youse around Halloween.



(Bizarro by Wayno and Piraro, 6 November 2021)

>Portions of the preceding have been formatted to fit your screen and edited for content.<