

Beyond the Fringe- fan

[#544]

BEYOND THE FRINGEFAN spent much of the month of March getting a batch of numbers organized and ready for his tax preparer to crunch. He's now waiting to find out whether he can deduct the money paid

for home health aides, an electronic bone stimulator, and the stair lift he had installed last year 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)). (But he's given up on deducting the exterminator services.) This is **Beyond the Fringefan** #544, for readers of **APA-NYU** Volume 22, #3 (e-APA-NYU #220) and other brilliant deductors, published March 2024 as a combined production of Quick Brown Fox Press and Syscrash Consulting, both subsidiaries of **THIGAMAJIG**. Cartoon above by Roz Chast for *The New Yorker*, 7 April 1997. All uncredited material copyright ©2024 by Marc S. Glasser. Member fwa.

SCHRÖDINGER'S BUGS: MMPC, the exterminators, sent their dog Mika and her handler Herbie for a return visit on 1 March (they'd last been here in October). Despite the allegedly unambiguous report of infestation in Donna's room that we'd had from sniffer Goosey and handler Rick just four days earlier, Herbie said Mika was not smelling any bedbugs there, or anywhere else in the house. This was disturbing to me, since it suggested that having a dog sniff around is not as reliable a method of proving the presence or absence of the bugs as had been previously implied. Which dog can you believe?

INTRODUCING... THE 1040-F.I.* FORM * THE TAX RETURN FOR THE FINANCIALLY INCOMPETENT

① How much money do you guess you made last year?

☐ Under \$10,000.

☐ Somewhere between \$10,000 and \$100,000.

☐ More than \$100,000, but I don't know how or why.

② Did you save any receipts?

☐ I tried, but I just couldn't.

☐ I think there're some in a shoebox. I'll go look.

☐ No. What am I, an accountant?

③ Check payment preference.

☐ How could I owe anything? My year was lousy.

☐ Here's \$15,000. If you need more, let me know.

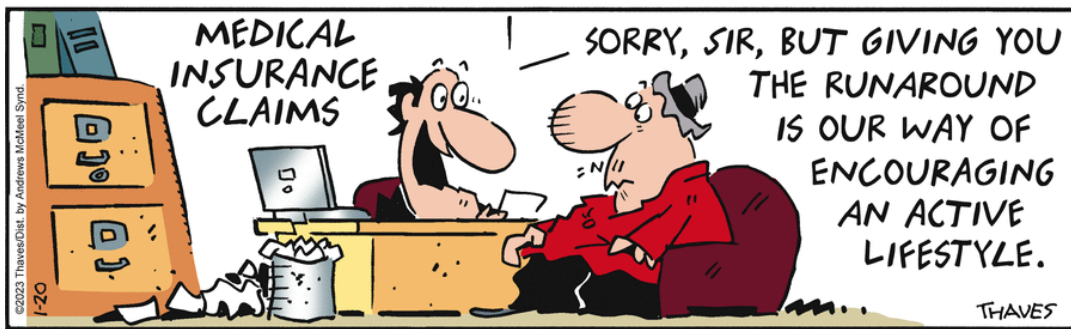
☐ Blank check enclosed. You fill it in. Whatever.

Roz Chast | CartoonStock.com

Moreover, this inspection was a few days past the 90-day warranty on MMPC's services performed Thanksgiving week. If we still have bugs hiding somewhere owing to imperfect work by MMPC, and they manifest themselves more obviously in the next month or two, MMPC could refuse to do any further treatment without additional payment and we could be in for a lot more hassle. Kevin from MMPC has suggested another canine inspection in another 30 days, and Ethan, last I checked, was trying to nail him down on exactly what MMPC will do if we get a positive reading from that.

LONG IN THE TOOTH: Dr. D.H. the dental surgeon put in my new implants on 29 February. He warned me that the jawbone was just a bit thin at one of the sites, and the screw was going to penetrate up into my sinus cavity just a bit. Completely routine, he said; there's a protective membrane lining the cavity, which almost *never* gets punctured during a procedure like this one. Then I got two pages of post-surgical instructions, including "don't blow your nose for a week after the procedure." I told him that was a non-starter, as my nose is always runny during the cold weather, and I'd have postponed everything three months if I'd known. He said, "You can blow your nose if you need to; just take it easy." I guess I wasn't too much of a blowhard that week, because two weeks later, he took the stitches out and declared that I was healing well. Next step should be the fitting of crowns onto the implants in late June or early July.

BIAS BELTED: We heard back from the agency that provided Donna's new wheelchair, saying they were sending the missing seat belt. However, what came in the mail the following week was not a seat belt but something called a "gait belt." This is something an aide or physical therapist uses with a patient who is learning to walk again, to help the patient maintain balance. It is explicitly not to be used to keep a patient from falling out of a wheelchair. So we called again and were told that our insurance would not cover the actual seat belt. Why? No one could answer. We could get the belt if we were willing to pay a co-pay of \$30, but it would still be up to us to install it.



(Frank and Ernest by Thaves, 20 January 2023)

But I remembered a little hole-in-the-wall shop on Nostrand Avenue called Pace Medical Supply, where I went a couple of years back when the brakes on an older wheelchair weren't working, and they'd fixed them while I waited, at a reasonable price. I called, and they were willing not only to sell but also to install the seat belt for the same \$30. Problem solved. Donna is happy with her new wheelchair.

Fringe Reception: Comments on APA-NYU, Volume 22, #2 (e-APA-NYU #219)

COVID vs RSVP (Chas Belov): I'm so asocial that I've no way of knowing if the social convention of RSVP is waning. The only event I've been invited to in decades that had an RSVP was my grandnephew's bar mitzvah last year. /*/ (cAPA-NEWS) In the 1980s and 1990s, I aimed to time

my morning routine so that I'd hear one of Charles Osgood's bits on WCBS upon arising and another before leaving for work. It worked about a third of the time. /*/ (cBlackman) "I presume Bishop is not Jewish, since we're not supposed to say the Y-word." That would also

apply to James Morrow, author of a novel in which it is revealed that God is dead and His two-mile-long corpse is floating in the north Atlantic. Observant Jews, and those less observant of us who are still uncomfortable pronouncing any form of the Tetragrammaton, have great difficulty providing reviews of those books (...and in talking about those Witnesses who show up at the door to proselytize).

JAMISON, TAKE e-LETTER (Mark L. Blackman):
“February is not only the 43rd anniversary of my joining APA-NYU, but the ~50TH ANNIVERSARY~ of my joining my 1st apa (TAPS).” Hmmm...February was also the 50th anniversary of my first convention (the third *Star Trek* con in New York), of my first meetup with NYUSFS, and of the bestowal by SEKIII of the descriptor that I still use as my zine title. I should’a’ done something to celebrate. /*/ May your vertigo ease soon. If the doctors can’t figure out the cause, can they at least offer meds that will ameliorate the symptoms? I know someone our age with vertigo who has meclizine prescribed for it; it seems to help a lot. /*/ (¢APA-NEWS) And Norman Jewison was approached to direct *Fiddler on the Roof* at least in part because the producers assumed from his family name that he was Jewish. He wasn’t. /*/ Schickele also wrote arrangements for three albums that Joan Baez recorded in the mid-1960s.

ICONOCLAST (Joel Nelson): (¢Belov) “I’m lucky enough to have a library on whose loading dock I can leave garbage bags full of books.” The Brooklyn Public Library’s website now explicitly informs would-be donors, “Brooklyn Public Library no longer accepts donations of books and other materials from the public.... It is a better use of our resources to purchase new books and media, including best-sellers and the most recently-updated reference materials, which are delivered ‘shelf-ready’.... It takes a great deal of resources to evaluate, sort and process donations of books and other materials....” Finding a place to donate books is becoming a chore. /*/ “I hear that a couple of you have in your part of the world a King’s Highway that is still officially called King’s Highway.” The Kings Highway in Brooklyn lost its apostrophe at least a century ago. There seem to be King’s Highways in many parts of the world—not surprising when you consider that there used to be kings in many parts of the world. There’s a King’s Highway Historic District in central New Jersey. And I remember traveling along El Camino Real in California a few decades back, and suddenly realizing that I was practically home, since El Camino Real is just Spanish for the King’s Highway.

The day after April Fool’s (!), I’ll be doing another 16-hour day as a poll worker, this time at one of the buildings on the Brooklyn College campus less than a mile from here. (I don’t expect much excitement there, since this primary is only for presidential candidates, and the major parties’ nominees have already been anointed.) I ought to be recovered from the sleep dep by the weekend. Other than a plethora of medical appointments, there’s not much else on the agenda until Passover.

Have a suitably blessed April that’s neither too wet nor too taxing, and I’ll be back in a month.



And Moses told Pharaoh, “Let my people go.
Also let my dog out, so he can go.”
(*I and Done* by Eric Scott, 1 November 2023)

**>Portions of the preceding recommend that New Yorkers catch cold now
and get it over with before congestion pricing takes effect.<**