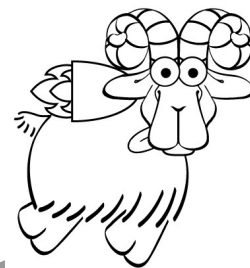


GOAT DROPPINGS

Volume XXXI, Issue 2

Capricious says: "Pick it up...or you might step in it!"



Friday, February 11, 2011

How's the Escape going so far?

We have lift-off!

Our weekend Escape is off to a great start. Loads of people turned up for the Midwinter Faire and enjoyed the conversations, crafts, massage, and games, plus of course our new Thursday night tradition of pizza!

Opening Ceremonies revealed that Capricious had a bit of difficulty piloting the escape pod after Capricon 30, and accidentally crash landed, breaking the remaining cache of beer.

We welcomed our Guests of Honor—John Picacio (Artist GoH), Stephen Boucher and

Janice Gelb (Fan GoHs), and John Scalzi (Author GoH). Our concom decided that we wanted to do something that would help John Scalzi write faster, and we know how much he loves his Coke Zero. So we built a giant set of scales, and gave him his weight in Coke Zero! If you missed it, you are sooooo sad right now!

For reference, the newest unit of measurement, a Scalzi, is 204 cans of Coke Zero, or 75.6 liters.

Welcome to Capricon 31!

May We Suggest - Friday

Friday is chock full of fun fannish stuff! There's loads of programming, the Dealers Room and Art Show are open, Anime is running full speed, tons of gaming, readings and music in the Café, and so much more!

For programming, don't miss John Picacio talking about Breaking Into the Art World, and John Scalzi's reading. Former Capricon GoH Gene Wolfe will also be joining us on Friday for a reading in the Café. Thee Bluebeard returns to Capricon with a show at 7pm in the Café (family friendly). We also have a LARP,

Time Travel Review Board, running at 7pm in the "Curtain Room" just past Consuite.

The big Friday night event is our Geek Prom! The Dance returns with a flashback to the 80's. An award will be given for Biggest Hair, a Prom King and Queen will be crowned, and you'll have an opportunity to have your photo taken so you'll never forget your Geek Prom experience (a small fee to cover expenses and a donation to the SFWA Medical Fund will be charged for photos).

Have a great Friday!

Programming Changes

New Panel! David Lee Pancake will do a Sculpy demo at 4pm on Friday in the Art Show.

The Euchre 101 panel 7pm Friday is cancelled.

New Panel! "John Scalzi: Erotic Counselor" (Sat 11:30pm, Lake Wobegon) John Scalzi advises you on your erotic conundrums. 21+ only.

Our Special NASA Guest, Bryan Palaszewski, is unable to attend Capricon this year, so his presentation at 11:30am in River C is cancelled.

Where am I?

You've probably noticed by now, but a few things moved around this year. Most notably, Consuite is now in the old Osteria restaurant. Please consult the maps in your Pocket Program and around the hotel for more details. Any questions, please stop at Info Desk or Operations.

Please remember: All signs MUST be posted on the grid triangles around the hotel. Any signs put on official Capricon signage or hotel surfaces will be removed. Also remember no open alcohol in function spaces (in other words, keep it on the 15th and 16th floors). Play well with others. Don't run with scissors. Sleep, shower, and eat throughout the weekend. Thanks!

Interview with the Gatt: John Picacio, Artist Gatt

Is art for a wage ever as satisfying as a work that you produce for a show?

Actually, I'm so busy doing cover art for clients that I rarely produce a piece that goes unpublished. Is that satisfying? Absolutely. The point of art isn't just self-expression; it's emotional communication. It's connecting in that way with people's imaginations and dreams. The more people I'm connecting with on that level, the better. A well-known fine artist once told me that commercial art and illustration could never be a sacred act because it was always beholden to someone's pocketbook. I rebutted by asking him if his supposedly 'fine art' needed patrons for him to stay alive, for which he reluctantly said 'yes'. And then I asked him which was the higher calling - the artist who has no aspiration or obstacle beyond simple self-expression? Or the artist who overcomes corporate bean counters and fickle tsunamis of world marketplace whims in order to create a transcendent work of art, connecting minds and souls with stories and insights? I'll take the latter challenge. That's what I do for a living.

What is your number one comfort food?

Probably pizza. My wife claims New York still has the best. I've always thought Gino's East in downtown Chicago was not only the best pizza I've ever had, but probably amongst the best food ever. No other pizza I've ever had comes close. It's the truth, Chicago.

What SF / F book(s) have you read so many times that the binding fell apart?

I would say my paperbacks of George R. R. Martin's A SONG OF ICE AND FIRE. I'm currently doing artwork for the 2012 calendar and those paperbacks are so beat-up, marked up, and dog-eared from the process that they look more like accordions than books.

Best escape that you've seen in film, TV, or literature?

So many come to mind, but if I had to pick one, it's probably still BLADE RUNNER. Everything about that film still transports me to a more creative and inspired place, even after all these years.

What current SF / F artist deserves more attention?

If you haven't seen the work of Sergio Toppi, I invite you to Google him and prepare to be awed. He's an Italian master who has influenced Bill Sienkiewicz, Howard Chaykin, Frank Miller, Brad Holland, amongst legions of others. You'll never look at Walt Simonson's art the same way again after looking at Toppi. He's now in his 70's, still going strong. Here's a great gallery of Toppi art: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/9120653@N06/5197749120/in/set-72157625430209062/>

How is parenthood treating you?

It's a grind but we're very fortunate to have a fabulous baby daughter named Samantha Kate Picacio, born this past July 5th. My gigs don't afford timeouts though so like I said....:)

What is your funniest (yet fit to print) convention memory?

Watching one of the greatest sf/f editors we have confront the dark lord Sauron himself in an all-out, all-night drinking contest. And when I say Sauron, I'm talking about the massive New Zealand stuntman, Sala Baker, who played Sauron in the LORD OF THE RINGS films. Who was the editor? I'll leave that identity to your fertile imaginations. Who won? Let's just say what happens at Worldcon stays at Worldcon.

What's one item on your "bucket list"?

Winning a Hugo for Best Professional Artist. I haven't managed that one yet, although I've been fortunate enough to be nominated the last six consecutive years. We'll see what happens this time. :)

Top three things you're taking with you when we have to leave the planet?

Excluding family, of course....I'd say pencils, paper and erasers, so I can keep doing what I do.

Parties!

Don't forget to vote for your favorites!

Please remember no open alcohol off the party floors!

Friday Night Parties

- 1501: London Worldcon Bid
- 1514: Farscape / Chicago Scapers
- 1515: Goat's Head Homebrewers Guild
- 1525: GT (General Technics)
- 1534: MIB Pirate Party
- 1601: Lance's
- 1627: Texas in 2013 Worldcon Bid
- 1628: Minneapolis in 2073
- 1634: Cow Asylum



Got a submission for *Goat Droppings*? Drop them off at Operations. Submission deadline is 9pm for the next edition.

The Ides of Phandemonium

A new monthly social gathering, held on (or close) the 15th of each month! Our first will be Tuesday, February 15 at 7pm at the Ram Brewery across from the Capricorn hotel—it's the post-Capricorn Zombie Goat Party!

Out of CON-text

"Pull it out. That's what I do." - BLuR

"I have extreme nipple tolerance." - Hobbes

"It's tall, black, and stiff." - Erik V. Olson

"I did Unger, but he left." - Thom Foss

"I had the biggest uvula on the North Shore." - Mike Unger

"That's where my pants went!" - Megan Totusek

"We could use Cary's chest." - Dave McCarty

Goat Droppings is edited by Helen Montgomery. This issue's contributors were Helen Montgomery and the Capricorn Concom and YOU!