



Capricious Says:  
"PICK IT UP, OR YOU MIGHT STEP IN IT!"

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Thursday  
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# Goat Droppings

## Welcome to Capricon 32: Amazing Adventures!

Hi! Welcome to Capricon! If you're new, glad to meet you! If you're an old friend, great to see you! Thanks for joining this weekend on our Amazing Adventures!

*Goat Droppings* is the official Convention newsletter, and will be published every morning. It will be full of things to do, program changes, interviews with our Guests of Honor, and of course, Out-of-CONtext quotes! If you would like to be an intrepid reporter, please drop your submissions at Operations in the Oak room.

We have some wonderful Guests of Honor this weekend! Please join us in saying hello to Cory Doctorow, Les McClaine, Steven H Silver, and Javier Grillo-Marxuach. We're quite excited by this line up, and have some great programming that features them. You're going to enjoy meeting them all!

In addition, two of our past Author Guests of Honor, Gene Wolfe and John Scalzi, have returned to be with us this weekend.

What's in store for you? Some fun special

events, including the aforementioned Mr. Scalzi DJ-ing our 80s dance on Friday night. Entertaining and informative program items throughout the entire weekend. A jam packed Art Show and Dealers Room for you to peruse. Stop by the Fan Tables in the main hallway and meet other fannish groups that may be of interest to you. Evening adventuring? Hoo boy—do we have a party lineup for you this weekend! We think it's a record number of parties, actually—don't forget to vote for your favorites!

Volunteers are always needed, and we appreciate you immensely. So much so, in fact, that if you work for us, you have the opportunity to earn back your membership cost! Stop at the Gophers desk to sign up.

Questions? Problems? We're here to help you have a satisfying adventure! Stop by the Info Desk or Operations and let them assist you.

Have an Amazing Adventure this weekend! Let's get started!

## PROGRAMMING CHANGES

Remember: The Pocket Program trumps the Program Book. *Goat Droppings* trumps the Pocket Program.

The Anime schedule can be found at Registration and Info Desk. Anime is not in the Pocket Program this year. Big thanks to D'Andre Williams and Brent Warren for taking over Anime at the last minute!

"In Search of the Higgs Boson" (Thurs 6:30pm) has been cancelled.

Teen Lounge is not open Thursday evening.

Our three annual Euchre events are not in the Pocket Program. Euchre 101 is Friday at 7pm. The Euchre Tournaments will be Friday at 8:30pm, and Saturday at 11pm. All three will be in the 16th Floor Lounge.

## CHARITY EVENTS

Our Food Drive benefits the Vernon Township Food Pantry.

Our Book Drive benefits the Science Fiction Outreach Project.

Our charity Art Auction on Saturday will benefit Adopt A Classroom.

## May We Suggest—Thursday

The adventure begins on Thursday!

In addition to the start of Programming, the Consuite, Art Show, Dealers Room, Capricon Café are all open today.

We have some great Special Events for you today. Join us at the 5th Annual Midwinter Faire, starting at 5:30pm in Lake Michigan A/B. Games, crafts, pizza—meet up with your friends, grab a slice, and plot out your Adventure!

From there, head over to Opening Ceremonies at 8pm in River A/B. You'll meet our Guests

of Honor, get the full scoop on this weekend's happenings, and see what crazy set design our team has come up with for this year!

Immediately after Opening Ceremonies, run up to your room, change into your (family friendly) jammies, grab your teddy bear, and head back down to Ravinia A/B for our *Princess Bride* Pajama Party at 9pm! With popcorn!

The party floors are also starting hard and fast on Thursday, with 8 open parties! Don't forget to make a note of which party gets your vote for Best Thursday Party.

## Interview with the Special Guest: Javier Grillo-Marxuach

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

The Man In The High Castle by Philip K. Dick, with The Forever War by Joe Hal-deman a close second.

*What's your favorite (fit to print) memory about working on Lost?*

I only realized the true power of *Lost* at the dog park in my Los Angeles neighborhood of Silverlake. I used to take my dog there regularly and got to know the other usual morning visitors pretty well. Among them was a very nice young guy whose dog was dying of cancer. The dog was this majestic, chocolate-colored animal whose undoubtedly once-beautiful body had been ravaged and become bone-thin. One day, when it was clear that this man's companion animal was very much on his last days, I sat with them on one of the benches, and the man told me that he knew his dog was not long for the world, but that he kept bringing him to the dog park because it made the dog happy, even if he couldn't really roughhouse too much with the other dogs. "He's a great dog," the man said to me, and I replied "and he has a great owner." We wept quietly for a while, and then - when that was over - sort of stared at each other awkwardly... so the man then asked me what I do for a living. I shrugged and said "I write on *Lost*" - the man's expression immediately turned from absolute grief to absolute fanboy hysteria as he lifted his hands *Home Alone* style to his face and shouted "OH MY GOD, CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT'S REALLY HAPPENING ON THAT ISLAND?!"

*Why do you think some comics are successful as films, and others are not?*

The margin for success in any adaptation is extremely narrow. One bad decision - casting, a director, a writer's take on the material, the wrong costume, the wrong VFX design - can make any movie go south very quickly. It's easy to armchair quarterback these things after the fact, so I am loath to make too many generalizations. My rule of thumb in getting involved with an adaptation has to do with how much do I need to change it - is it adaptation or is it reinvention? If it's reinvention, it's usually not worth my time - because the final result may not wind up being recognizable to the fans of the original, so what's the point?

*What inspired The Middleman? Did it come about in bits and pieces, or did it spring out fully formed?*

I came up with the idea in the late nineties, when there were a lot of "freak of the week" shows on the air (*Buffy*, *Angel*, *The X-Files*, *Charmed*, etc.) - I wanted to do a self-aware version of that kind of show that instinctively understood that it existed in a world where everyone knew these things from popular culture. In that initial version, Wendy actually had the same role as Ida... but eventually, I realized that I couldn't just do a show of pop culture references and needed a sympathetic point-of-view character to anchor the thing, so the receptionist character split into Wendy and Ida - wide-eyed apprentice and crotchety enabler. The script came together in 1998, when I was a writer on *Charmed*, in a way, *The Middleman* was my critique of a lot of the genre shows that were on the air that time.

*You're walking along the path, and come to a fork in the road. Do you go left or right, and why?*

I'll get back to you on that after I roll a D-20 for initiative, do a perception check and make sure the fork isn't booby-trapped.

*How did you come to name your dog The Kremlin?*

When he was a puppy, he was a lot darker than he is now, so when he would curl up to sleep, he looked like one of those furry hats you used to see on Soviet leaders standing outside The Kremlin in archival footage. Also, his avowed belief in the Dictatorship of the Proletariat.

*You wrote Doctor Who / The Middleman crossover fanfic. Are there any other crossovers you think would be fun to write?*

I am sure that Rule 34 will pre-empt any attempt I make to wring some humor out of this question.

*What's your favorite memory of San Diego Comic Con?*

Getting a standing ovation from 1,200 people after the reunited cast of *The Middleman* read the unproduced final script of the series.

*What is the most amazing adventure you have yet to experience?*

I am glad I don't know the answer to this question... as I am probably neurotic enough that I would have already cost-benefit-analyzed myself out of having the adventure by the time it ever showed up. I find that in life and work it's much better to grab on to the safety bar and let the ride be the adventure.

## Parties!

Do we have Evening Adventures? You bet we do! This year we have, in fact, what we think is a record setting number of parties!

We would like to give a tremendous Thank You to all our party hosts. Please note - they host parties out of love, and out of their own bank accounts. Please be respectful of the party hosts, and give them some in person thanks as well - either verbally or in the tip jar.

Please note two really important rules: First, **no alcohol off the party floors (15 and 16)**. Second, **wear your badge**, please, and be **prepared to show photo ID as well to prove you're over 21**.

As we usually do, we're asking you, the attendees, to vote for your favorite parties. This year's categories are: **Best Thursday Night Party**, **Best Themed Drink**, and **Best Overall Party**.

Ballot boxes can be found on the 15th and 16th floors during the evenings, and in Operations during the day. Please note that you must provide your badge number, and you can only vote once!

### Thursday Night Parties

- 1510 Potions Class
- 1514 Farscape / Chicago Scapers
- 1515 The Coronation of Rowe II, Marquess of Illinois
- 1607 Mike & Mike: The Bachelor Party
- 1624 Minneapolis in 2073
- 1627 Rock Band
- 1634 Cow Asylum

Follow us on Facebook (Capricious G Oat) and read our blog at <http://capricon.org/blog/> to see what we're up to all year long! There's something fun and fannish happening every month - Don't miss out!

## Out of CON-text

"We might drop the sperm one." - Helen Montgomery

"Board games or polyamory or whatever's going on that weekend." - Michael Thomas

"I'll take WTF moments in fannish history for \$500, Alex..."  
- Chris Krolczyk

"I have 144 neon jelly bracelets." - Sondra de Jong

"Between the two of us, we become Steven Silver."  
- Helen Montgomery & Michael Thomas. In unison.

Goat Droppings is edited by Helen Montgomery. Capricious drawing by Deb Kosiba. This issue's contributors were Helen Montgomery and the Capricon Concom. © Phandemonium, Inc. 2012

