



# Goat Droppings

The Official E-Newsletter of Phandemonium / Capricon

## Fall 2005 Inside this issue:

Capricon 26 (University of Fandom) Progress Report #1

Phandemonium Community Outreach: Book Donation Drive

Capricon Forums: Back and Better Than Ever!

Welcome to Phandemonium: Who Are We?

Phandemonium Bookclub

Phandemonium Movie Night

Out-of-CONtext

## Welcome to *Goat Droppings!*



Welcome to the first edition of the Phandemonium e-newsletter, *Goat Droppings!* Yes, we've taken our Capricon daily 'zine and will now be bringing it to you quarterly via email and web, so you can keep up-to-date year-round with the Phandemonium and Capricon community.

We hope you enjoy this new production, and welcome your comments! Feel free to email us at [goatdroppings@capricon.org](mailto:goatdroppings@capricon.org).

*Goat Droppings* is edited by Helen Montgomery. This issue's contributors were Greg Williams, Cary Williams, Leane Verhulst, Richard Jensen, and Helen Montgomery.

Check out the New and Improved Phandemonium Website, including our Capricon Archive! We need you to help improve our archive by sending in text and photo memories from Capricons past — visit us at [www.phandemonium.org](http://www.phandemonium.org) to view the archive and for more information on how to submit memories.

## Capricon 26 (University of Fandom) Progress Report #1

Greetings to all Faculty, Students, and potential Students.

It is my great honor this year to present Capricon 26, whose theme is the University of Fandom. This year's theme will include notable guests such as author Peter S. Beagle, and NASA's Bryan Palaszewski. Many other visiting faculty will be joining us - take a look at the web site for a complete list.

We have processed your feedback over the years, and the overwhelming request has been for MORE PROGRAMMING. Well, this year from Thursday afternoon to Sunday morning, we'll be presenting a wide variety of panels, seminars, classes and demonstrations from all areas of the fannish community. Authors, Scientists, Musicians, College Professors, Artists, and subject experts from a broad array of specialties will host educational AND entertaining sessions for your enjoyment. We'll be putting program information up on the web, so you can see what's going to be available - more will be added over time!

"HA! Not enough!" You say? Well, we agree. Being the world-class educational institution we are, (for this year, anyway), we have also scheduled special events to pull you out of the intense classroom environment, and into a large-group learning experience. Watch actors produce a Podcast live on stage, or take part in the Mars Rover Challenge to see how your driving and teamwork skills hold up against your fellow students. Take on the toughest trivia at the UFAN College Bowl, and use your mind to score the winning touchdown for your team. Dress up in your best for the Masquerade, and then dance the night away in style. Relax and enjoy the hilarious antics of Space Time Theatre, or attend one of several concerts throughout the weekend. Think you've got what it takes to be a Terragoat? Come and compete at the Olympiad! If you'd like to represent your school in Song, enter the Fight Song contest, by writing your song ahead of the con, and presenting it on Thursday Night. More of a writer than a singer? Enter the Dark and Stormy Night contest.

In addition to the programming and special events, all of the traditional activities of Capricon will be going on. Opening Ceremonies will be a blast - followed by the traditional Thursday night Reception. Stop by the renowned Consuite to get a quick snack, or a refreshing drink. Swing past the Cyber Café to check your e-mail, or look up an obscure reference on the web. Take in a movie at the Film Room, or the Anime room. (our Film Roast is back this year - funnier than ever!) View stunning works at the Art Show, or buy them at the ever-entertaining Art Auction. Feel the need to throw down? (dice or cards, that is). Our Gaming arena is the perfect venue. (Euchre tourney is back and better than ever!) This year's Filk Studio will be packed with special guests, don't miss out on the fun! Need other aural entertainment besides Filk? Tune in to Radio Capricon (UFAN college radio). Make sure you visit the Dealers Room, with 60+ tables of top tier merchandise to tempt you. Night time is the right time - to PARTY! The highly-acclaimed



Continued on Page 2

## Capricon 26 (University of Fandom) Progress Report #1

(continued from page 1)

Hospitality Floor will be Going Greek this year - have a drink, eat some food, join a fraternity! Don't forget Closing ceremonies - made special this year by our matriculation exercise.

Sounds like a lot to do in one weekend, doesn't it? That's why Capricon is a FOUR day convention. Programming begins on Thursday, continues ALL DAY FRIDAY, throughout Saturday, and ending on Sunday afternoon. Take the extra day off work—you won't regret it, and spending the extra night at the Sheraton won't break your back, OR your wallet. We've held down the room cost for this year, so you can enjoy a spectacular hotel with full amenities for only \$89.00 a night. The custom-built mattresses that the Sheraton used to use in only the premium rooms are now in ALL the rooms - you won't believe how comfy those things are! This is our 8th year with the hotel, and they love having us here.

Stay tuned to the WEBSITE - it's constantly being updated by our webmistress to reflect the most current information available.

REGISTER EARLY for the convention - we've invested a substantial amount into marketing efforts this year to attract fans from across the country, and around the world. While we love to meet new people, we'd hate to displace any of our regulars, and attendance this year will be limited to 1500 due to the quality of the programming, food and other amenities this year. You can register online, download a paper form, or return your mailed flyer, which should be sent by the end of September.

BOOK YOUR ROOM at the hotel -it's easy - you can do it right from the website, or by calling the Sheraton Chicago Northwest directly at (847) 394-2000. It doesn't cost anything to reserve the room in advance, reserving early gives you a better room type selection, and allows us to add more rooms to the block of a certain type if we need it. It also keeps YOU from being disappointed at the last minute by finding that there are no rooms left. If we all book early, there should be MORE than enough rooms to accommodate all of our attendees. NOTE: for those folks coming from out of town (or even from IN town), the hotel will honor the convention rate on Wednesday and Sunday nights as well.

It's going to be a GREAT convention this year - I've recruited the very best Concom I could find, and they are doing a phenomenal job - we can't WAIT to show off the University to the incoming class of 2006. Everyone has put a huge personal effort into making this the most enjoyable Capricon in history; we want the "class of 2006" to have fond memories of their time at UFAN for years to come. We might even come back in the future (2016?) and have an alumni reunion!

The faculty and I hope that you will be excited about this unique experience, and that you will choose to join us this February 9-12, 2006 for the best 4 days of college life ever.

Sincerely,  
Greg "Guido" Williams  
Chairman, Capricon 26  
President, University of Fandom



## Finding Capricon 26 Around the Country...



The Pink Panther loves his UFAN bag at Boskone! (Boston, February 2005)

Come see us next at Archon and Windycon!

Cary Williams introduces Capricon to a Klingon in Las Vegas—a potential new student for Cap 26!



Steve Stringfellow shows off his UFAN bag at CascadiaCon, the 2005 NASFiC in Seattle (September 2005)



Drinks anyone? Partying hard at Marcon! (Columbus, May 2005)



Greg Williams and Steven Silver at Capricon's table at this year's Nebula Awards (Chicago, April 2005)



## Phandemonium Community Outreach: Book Donation Drive

As part of Phandemonium's goal of helping to increase the science-fiction community in the Chicagoland area, we are starting a book donation program. The goal of this program is to bring science fiction books into school libraries.

We are asking that you bring some of your spare books to Capricon 26 and drop them off for us to then pass along to schools that do not have a wide enough selection of science fiction books. As many of these books will be going to junior high and/or middle schools, please try to donate books that do not have material that would be considered inappropriate (gratuitous sex and/or violence). At present, any books that are inappropriate for donation to schools will be donated to a local literacy program.

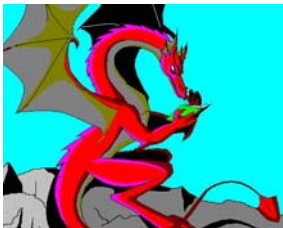
We are also seeking to collect classroom sets that can be loaned to the teachers along with suggested curriculum designed around these book sets.

Should you have any questions, are interested in assisting in curriculum development or would like to help with our community outreach efforts, please e-mail our Community Outreach Coordinator, Richard Jensen, at [outreach@phandemonium.org](mailto:outreach@phandemonium.org)

## Phandemonium Movie Night

The bad news is that the theater that hosted our Movie Night was purchased by a new owner and the Movie Night was discontinued. The good news is that the new management is working with us to develop new arrangements! We hope to have our Movie Night back in operation soon - Please watch the Phandemonium website ([www.phandemonium.org](http://www.phandemonium.org)) and the Forums on the Capricon website ([www.capricon.org/forums](http://www.capricon.org/forums)) for details.

## Phandemonium Book Club



We are really excited to report that our Book-club has now been meeting for over one year! Our eighth bimonthly meeting was held on September 11, where we had a rousing discussion of Cory Doctorow's [Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom](#).

Our next meeting, Sunday, November 20, at 7pm, will discuss Susanna Clarke's [Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell](#), which won the Hugo Award this year for Best Novel.

We meet at Borders Books & Music, 1700 Maple Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201 (Phone: 847-733-8852). We meet upstairs in the café. Look for the Capricon t-shirts!

Our January meeting will be on Sunday, January 8, and we will be reading [The Last Unicorn](#) by Peter S. Beagle, who will be the Guest of Honor at Capricon 26.

Copies of the selection for the next upcoming meeting are behind the counter at Borders (Evanston location only), and they have a list of Phandemonium members in a binder. Request the book, tell them to look you up in the binder, and you get a discount! If you have any questions, please contact [book-club@capricon.org](mailto:book-club@capricon.org).

## Capricon Forums: Back & Better Than Ever!

Our old community online Forums were eaten by a Grue (please don't make us give you the details – Capricious isn't fond of blood and gore...). So we went out and got new forum software, and set up our New and Improved Community Forums. Check us out and join the community at [www.capricon.org/forums](http://www.capricon.org/forums) -

you can browse without officially joining, but you must register as a member in order to post. Welcome, and we'll see you online!



## Welcome to Phandemonium: Who Are We?

Phandemonium is the parent corporation for Capricon, and if you attended Capricon, you're a member of Phandemonium. Our Board of Directors is made up of six Elected Members (2 retire and 2 new are elected each year), the current Capricon chair, the appointed Treasurer, and appointed Secretary. The current Board of Directors are:

Cary Williams (President)

Phoenix

Doyle Blooding

Vicki Ortega (also Acting Treasurer)

Peter Heltzer

Bernadette Burke

Greg "Guido" Williams (Capricon 26 Chair)

Leane Verhulst (Secretary)

The Board of Directors would like to express their gratitude to Marnie Gucciard, who retired from her position as Treasurer in September 2005 after many years of service to the corporation.

Please learn more about us and how you can be involved by visiting our New and Improved website: [www.phandemonium.org](http://www.phandemonium.org)

## Out of CON-text

"Green Things Live is Dead." - Guido

"I need to borrow Dave's breasts." – Peter Heltzer

"No nookie at the board meeting. It's in the bylaws."

"New rule. The boys are not allowed to interrupt the girls at the board meeting."

"I wear my badge over my heart. I can't help what else it's over." – Linda W.

"We have taken fun out of the bylaws." – Cary Williams