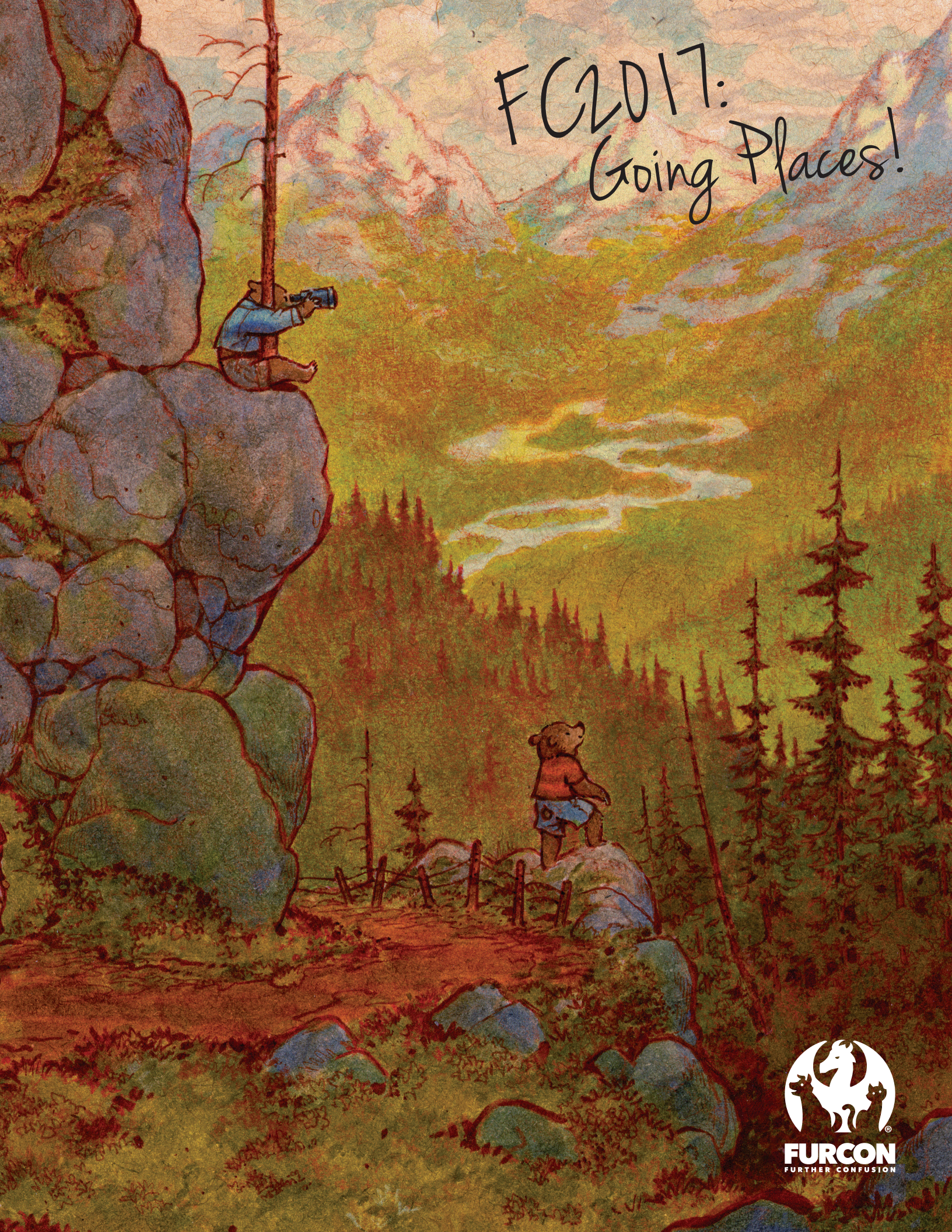


FC2017: Going Places!



FURCON
FURTHER CONFUSION

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Letter from the Chairman

Hello voyagers, and welcome to Further Confusion 2017: *Going Places!*

We've dedicated this year's theme to travelers and travel in all forms: road-trippers, jet-setters, and strangers in strange lands taking in the best of what's around and growing through their new experiences. I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of what I see in FC2017's theme and what led me to choose it for this year.

Personally, as someone who loves to fly and explore, I find myself drawn to new perspectives, new people, and new sights. I know much of our community shares this love, through conventions and beyond: As of press time, from pre-registrations alone, we expect guests from at least forty other US states and thirteen other countries at FC2017, likely many more. Through travel and cons, and travel *for* cons, we gather these relationships and experiences and make them parts of ourselves.

You are here!
↓

Further Confusion, too, is on an ongoing journey of growth and exploration. This is our sixth year calling the San Jose Convention Center our home, but our first in the new Grand Ballroom and Lower Level. Though this may not seem like a particularly distant venture, it comes out of our search for new and better experiences, and it is one that has given us new maps, routes, destinations and plans—and, of course, our share of unexpected stops and detours!

For all of their help in navigating, trailblazing, and carrying this convention along its journey, I thank all of Further Confusion's volunteer staff. Further Confusion is an event of Anthropomorphic Arts and Education, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, of which all convention staff and board members are volunteers. We put on this event for our charity and for our fandom, and like the furry community itself, we are all here for the love of art, friends, good causes, and imagination. From those who first mapped out Further Confusion in 1999, to those who are updating the guidebooks and working out in the field today, we are grateful for your contributions.

We are likewise grateful to all of our panelists, presenters, participants, and passengers on this adventure with us, who bring so much to share, and who bear with us as our itinerary varies and our packs fill up. Every year has its experiments, balancing the tried-and-true against the rules, challenges, techniques, and opportunities that each new year brings us. With your feedback and your support, we make the best of it and improve.

Whether you're joining us from two blocks away or halfway around the world, I thank you all for being here. I hope you have a really wonderful trip.

Jeff "Dax" Bowman
Chairman, Further Confusion 2017



Code of Conduct

The goal of Further Confusion is to enable our attendees to have the best time possible. While our attendee demographic generally consists of young adults and older, FurCon is an all-ages event. If you are not eighteen years of age or older (or fail to provide a photo ID with your birthdate at registration), your badge will be marked as a minor, and you will only be allowed admittance to general-audience programming. Please be prepared to show your badge at any time you need access to convention space or events—it identifies you as a fully-paid attendee of the convention. Further Confusion strives to maintain professionalism at all times.

We hope that each attendee enjoys the fun that our wide-ranging community can provide. Please consider how your actions reflect on the convention and how they may impact or affect others. We take pride in our appearance and we want you to as well, while still having fun. To this effect, if the convention becomes aware of any of our attendees engaging in illegal activities, either in convention space or in private hotel rooms, we will be forced to inform the proper authorities. Keep in mind that there are always other guests of the hotels and convention center, especially on the first floor and lobby areas. Offending the hotels' other guests is inappropriate; impressing them with how much fun and enthusiasm we have for our fandom is appropriate. What you consider to be acceptable behavior may not be so for others. Consideration of others is the hallmark of a mature individual and a healthy fandom, and we encourage that courtesy from all participants in our community.

Matters of safety for convention attendees and volunteers are generally handled by FLARE. FLARE can be contacted through Convention Operations, at the FLARE base, or by asking any convention volunteer. FLARE may ask you to stop an activity or to move it to a private room. Repeat offenders may be required to return their badges and to leave the convention premises. For your safety, we ask that all attendees promptly comply with requests made by FLARE. If you feel that FLARE has made an unfair request,

or has not been fair, you may bring this up at a later time with the convention chair or vice-chair.

Costumes, Clothing, and Behavior

Costumes of all designs and materials are welcome, provided that they are displayed in a manner appropriate for all ages. Collars, leashes and sled-dog like harnesses may be worn either with costumes or discreetly with your normal street clothing; overt and blatant displays of bondage/BDSM may result in FLARE asking you to leave public convention space or return your badge. As a rule, a minimum of a non-thong bathing suit must be worn at all times in public areas. "Anatomically correct" costumes must be likewise appropriately clothed in public areas.

No costume is no costume: We ask you to wear at least a shirt, shorts, and shoes in public areas of the hotel and convention center. Public exposure of genitalia, buttocks or (female) breasts is not permitted. Attendees wearing bodypaint, spikes, or other hazards should be careful not to damage venue furniture. Please do not use the lobbies of our hotels nor the convention center concourse/parking to decorate other attendees with makeup, liquid latex, or special effects appliances—please retire to a private hotel room instead.

Use common sense in public areas. If you have to ask or think twice about doing it in public, take it to your room. For example, kissing and holding hands, regardless of sexual orientation, are fine. Groping, tongue battles, and nudity, regardless of sexual orientation, are not.

In case of any dispute, FC Executive Staff has final say over what constitutes appropriate attire and behavior in convention space and events.



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Harassment and Assault

“No” means no. “Stop” means stop. “Go away” means go away.

If someone won't understand these simple rules, please contact FLARE. Harassment is any behavior that intentionally annoys or alarms another person. Unintentional or misinterpreted behaviors may also cause feelings of harassment. This includes unwanted physical or verbal contact, following someone in a public area without a legitimate reason, or threatening physical violence. Offenders may lose their badges and the matter may be referred to the proper law enforcement authorities. If you are being harassed, we strongly encourage you to immediately contact FLARE through a nearby convention volunteer or by calling or texting their number on the back of your registration badge.

Additionally, the act of wearing a costume or fursuit does not grant license for anybody to make inappropriate or suggestive comments, gestures, or unwanted physical contact with costumed attendees. Further Confusion is proud to play host to a wide variety of costuming, including but not limited to: mascot-style fursuits, video game and pop culture cosplay, fantasy/sci-fi genre cosplay, etc., and we wish to provide a positive and safe environment for costumers to enjoy.

Buying and Selling

Further Confusion has two main areas where merchandise and services are sold: the two Dealer's Rooms, which include the Artist Alley inside. Anyone who receives payment for goods or services (such as body painting, massage, etc.) in convention space must comply with all convention rules regarding this. The Dealer's Room Rules apply in this situation, regardless of the location, and vendors must ensure they have proper California Sales Tax IDs. If anyone wishes to request payment for goods or services and to donate the proceeds to the convention charity, Further Confusion must be informed of this ahead of time to allow for the convention to organize the correct tax reporting. Further Confusion takes its legal obligations very seriously in this area. Any solicitation for payment at

the convention that does not comply with these obligations may result in the offender losing their badge and being required to return all payments.

Parties, Alcohol, & Zero Drug Tolerance

Further Confusion does not tolerate serving of alcohol to minors. If you are hosting a party where alcohol is being served, it is your responsibility as host to ensure that the age of anyone drinking alcohol is checked. You should also designate someone not to drink, so that there is a fully competent person present to deal with any emergencies that might arise. Further Confusion does not tolerate the use of illegal substances. The violation of the above rules could subject you to the immediate loss of your badge and convention privileges and referral of the matter to other authorities.

Water Pistols, Silly String, & Weapons

Due to the potential damage to property, water guns, silly string and the like are prohibited in public areas of the hotels or convention space. If it looks like a real gun in any way, shape, or form, it should not be brought to the convention. The State of California has recently instituted new state laws regarding replica weapons. There should be no "live" steel or whips being wielded in any area of the convention. If a bladed weapon or whip is part of your costume, please have it peace-bonded. This can be done at the FLARE Base at any time. If you kill it, you have to eat it!

Photography and Video

Further Confusion wants you to have great memories from a fantastic convention. Photographs and videotape footage by attendees are generally allowed in all common areas of the convention with the exception of the Art Show. Specific rules regarding these matters may exist for selected events. Please consult the program guide at the convention for information relating to specific events.

When photographing or videotaping individuals or costumes, please use common courtesy and ask before photographing them. Please respect their rights if they do not wish to be photographed or videotaped. If someone asks



or otherwise indicates (remember, many folks in costume do not speak) that they do not wish to be photographed, do not photograph them!

Photography or videography for the purpose of sale or publication to the press is expressly forbidden unless written permission has been obtained from AAE, Inc. in accordance with its press policy. Individuals may take pictures and videotapes for private viewing or sharing with friends. We ask our attendees to be courteous to those they wish to take pictures of, especially if you wish to place those pictures or video clips onto any internet archive. In this case, please ask your subjects for their explicit permission to do this.

Attendees should be aware that footage gathered by volunteers in public areas of the convention, including events and panels, may be used in a highlights reel and that attendees may appear in the video without compensation. Consult the pocket program for specific video, audio, and photography restrictions for specific events. Further Confusion will require a release only for footage that is obtained in areas that are not fully public (i.e., private functions and personal interviews). These rules apply to all attendees (dealers, guests, or any level of regular membership). All members of the press and volunteers will conform to Further Confusion's press policy and we encourage attendees to become familiar with those rules as well.

If You Need Assistance

During operating hours, Further Confusion's Convention Operations center will help get you connected to the assistance that you need. The back of your registration badge has phone numbers for Con Ops and FLARE, which you may call at any time during the convention if you need assistance. Remember, we cannot address a problem unless we know about it. For less urgent matters, messages may be left with Convention Operations to be forwarded to volunteers. As with all messages left with Con Ops, please remember to give details of how, when, and where the recipient can contact you.

Further Confusion has a large volunteer staff to handle most aspects of the running of the convention. This allows the

Chair and Vice Chair to remain available to talk about any comments or concerns that our attendees bring to them. If you see them around the corridors, feel free to speak to them—even if they appear harried—ensuring our attendees have a good time is one of their primary roles! If you need to contact the convention Chair or Vice-Chair at any other time, you can do this by leaving a message for them at Convention Operations.

Have a Fun and Safe Con!

If you have questions or comments regarding Further Confusion policies, please send an email to info@furtherconfusion.org.



ABOVE: Art by Spalding Indigo (furaaffinity.net/user/espada-2).



FURTHER CONFUSION



GOING PLACES!

Above: Art by Charles Bunny.

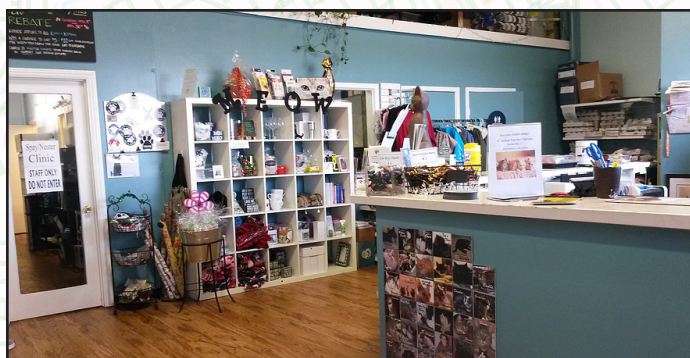


Our Charity: Nine Lives Foundation

Further Confusion is proud to partner with Nine Lives Foundation and contribute to their mission of helping feline friends in need in the Bay Area.

Nine Lives Foundation, based in Redwood City, CA, rescues cats and kittens who are considered special-needs, at risk of euthanasia, or cats that other shelters won't take. They proudly run a true no-kill shelter where they provide a safe environment and on site medical care for the over 150 cats and kittens they currently house at their facilities, including treatment and rehabilitation for sick and injured felines. Nine Lives will spend whatever time necessary to help the cats adjust to their new environment, and most of these otherwise "unadoptable" animals have found permanent loving homes through the efforts of the organization. In addition, the foundation runs a low cost spay/neuter clinic, believing that working actively to spay and neuter feral cats goes a long way to saving lives. Since 2015 the foundation found forever homes for 2,535 cats, and has performed over 3,500 spay/neuter procedures in 2016 alone. To be able to provide these low and no cost services Nine Lives Foundation is funded in part with private donations, and welcomes the support of cat lovers everywhere.

To learn more about Nine Lives Foundation or how to adopt a cat, visit ninelivesfoundation.org.



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Further Confusion 2017: Going Places!

Furry Travel Authority

a story by Kifted Jackalope

Cathy took a moment to straighten her uniform and took a deep, cleansing breath, gripping the sink in front of her with both paws.

“You can do this. You’ve been trained for this,” she reassured the ocelot in the mirror. With a smile, she added, “You got this.”

Taking one more deep breath, she smoothed her uniform down, made sure her ID badge was on straight, adjusted her nameplate, and ran the back of her paw over her newly minted Airport Security Supervisor badge.

The proud looking ocelot in her fresh, new uniform stepped out from the airport bathroom into the throngs of other furs racing about the airport terminal, all trying their best to get from one place to another with minimal hassle. Mothers struggled to keep tabs on all their cubs while fathers insisted that they all needed to hurry. Some looked anxiously up at overhead monitors, hoping they hadn’t missed a connecting flight. And the one thing they all had in common was the distress of going through airport security and the dreaded Body Imaging Threat Scan machines that everyone hated.

This is where Cathy came in. Her job was to keep the lines moving and get everyone through security as fast as possible. It sounded simple enough. But as Cathy was about to learn on her first day, the most daunting challenges are not covered in the training manual. And within moments of arriving at the security checkpoint lanes, it didn’t take long before the ocelot had her first dispute to deal with.

Cathy walked up on the scene of a kangaroo in a rather heated argument with the raccoon security officer.

“What kind o’ rubbish is this?” the roo demanded. “How do you not get what I’m tellin’ you? Just because I’m a kangaroo doesn’t mean I...”

“Sir!” the raccoon officer interrupted, waiving her paw in his face. “Like I said before, we do not discriminate against any marsupials here, kangaroos included. Rules are rules and you’ll have to abide by them if you want to go through.

All marsupials must have their pouches inspected before proceeding through security.”

“But... Lady, I’m a male! Really, I can prove it!”

Cathy decided it was a good time to step in and support her fellow security officer. She cleared her throat and quoted word for word from her training manual, “Sir, we do not discriminate against breed, gender, fur length, carnivore, herbivore, or color. Now please accompany the wolf officer over and present your pouch for inspection. Thank you and have a nice day.”

As the protesting kangaroo was escorted back behind one of the private pouch inspection screens, Cathy patted her associate on the shoulder. “Excellent. You handled that perfectly. When in doubt, quote the manual to them. You can’t go wrong with that approach.”

Cathy strolled away feeling extra proud of how well she and her team had handled that first incident of the day. And not a moment too soon, it seemed, as yet another argument had broken out, this time between passengers. Cathy’s ears perked up to the sounds of the angry discussion and she quickly made her way over to the source. She found a pair of male foxes just about to go through security, looking as innocent as possible, being growled at by other passengers in line behind them.

“We most certainly did not cut in line! We were here long before you all,” one of the foxes huffed.

“Alright, everyone. It’s under control. There’s an Airport Security Supervisor here now,” Cathy reassured everyone, pointing to her polished badge. “Now then, sirs, did you cut in front of these others in line? We do not tolerate that sort of thing, you know.”

“Absolutely not! We arrived long before they did and are simply making our second pass is all,” the other fox nodded smugly.

The ocelot blinked. “Second pass? You mean you’ve already been through security once? And you’re going again?”



The foxes both nodded. “Yes, that’s right. The first time we went through, we were in that squirrel’s line and his paws were okay but not great, really. Now we’re sampling the puma here. His arms look like they were just made to pat people down!” they grinned.

Cathy shook her head and muttered, “Vulpines...” under her breath as she stepped back and motioned them on through. It seemed the fastest way to get them out of there and get the line moving again. Any complaints would have to wait as a loud roar thundered out from one of the other checkpoints.

Everyone winced. Tails were tucked. Ears were pinned. Anxious travelers looked around warily, half expecting something terrible to happen. Cathy scanned over the crowd to see a lion with his arms raised, looking sheepish. Next to the lion, a security wolf rolled his eyes and shot him a look of annoyance.

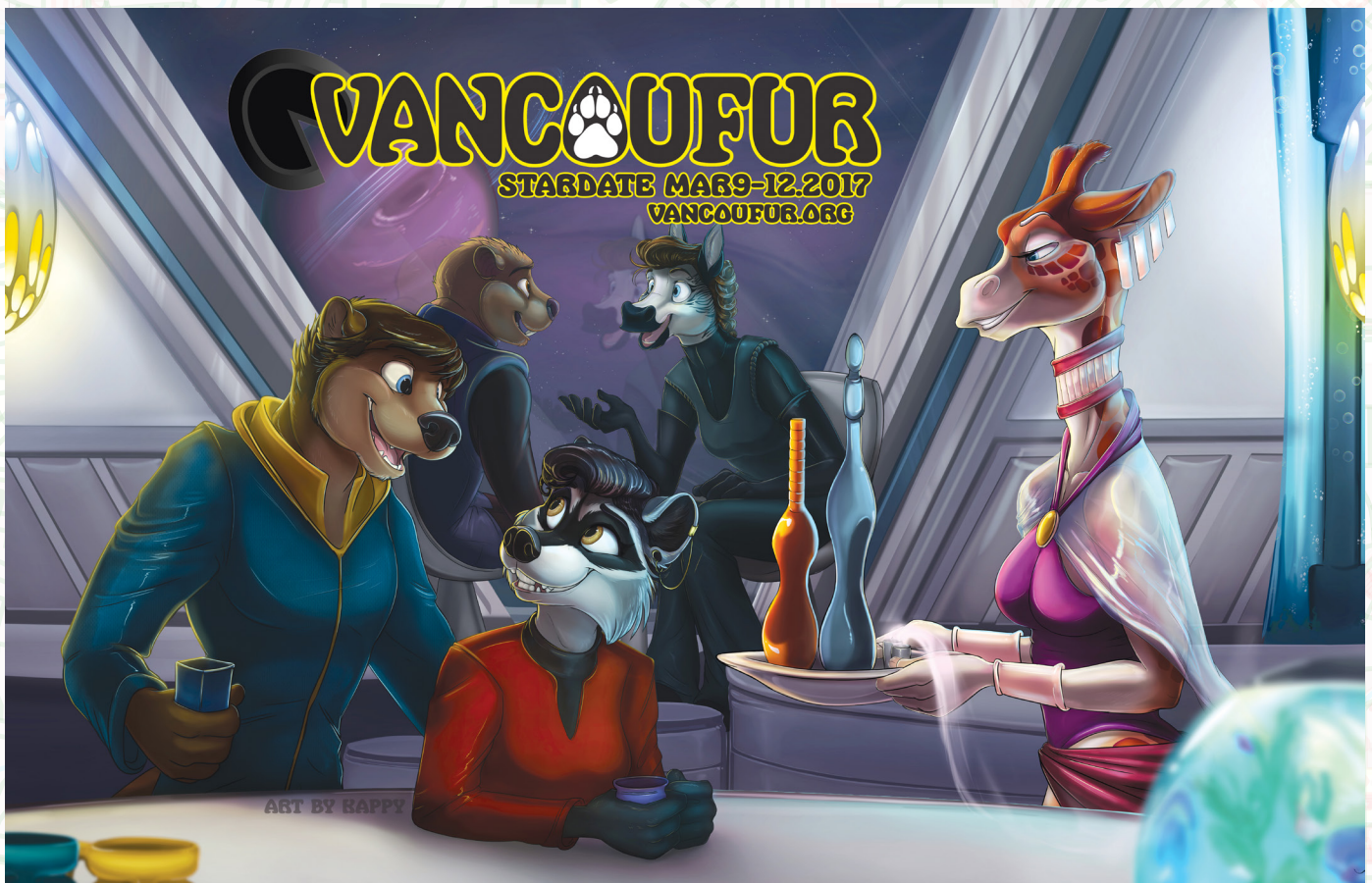
“Sir!” the wolf barked. “I told you we do not allow roaring inside the terminal!”

The lion nodded, blushing terribly and mumbled, “Sorry. I’m a bit ticklish there.”

Everyone exhaled sighs of relief and went back to their business. The ocelot’s ears perked up towards the sound of more angry travelers grumbling about holding up one of the lines. Not being quite as tall as the others around her, the ocelot made use of a nearby table to peer over the heads of other travelers. Several lines over, she saw one checkpoint where an otter in uniform was apparently in a long discussion with a large family of rabbits, holding up the line for everyone else. Grinning at the chance to save the day yet again, Cathy squeezed her way through the crowds to get the line moving again.

The scene at the security line kiosk was utter confusion. The mother rabbit was doing her best to keep track of her rampaging brood of cubs while her rather embarrassed looking mate pleaded with the security otter. Cathy walked up cautiously, careful not to step on any of the young, giggling bunnies running around in circles and all around and over their very tired and exasperated looking mother.

“What’s the holdup, here?” Cathy asked the otter who was trying not to drop the mess of boarding passes in his paws. The father rabbit blushed even harder if that were possible.



The otter did his best to stack the boarding passes back up and explain.

“Well, um... It seems we’re missing some boarding passes. They only have tickets for themselves and eight of their children,” the security otter explained.

Cathy turned to the pair of rabbit parents and asked, “Well, how many children do you have?”

“Twelve,” the mother rabbit answered sharply, shifting her eyes sideways at her embarrassed looking mate.

“And you only bought tickets for eight of them?” Cathy continued, looking between the father and the security otter who nodded and shrugged.

The mother rabbit rolled her eyes as her mate answered sheepishly, “Well, we only had eight children when we arrived. I mean - we’ve been in line a long time, you see...”

The ocelot blinked and blushed a little herself. “Oh. That... Oh! I see,” she stammered, looking down at the all the bunnies running around their feet and those crawling up over their mother and hanging off her ears. “Has, um, this ever happened before?” she joked.

The father ran his paw back over his ears and replied, “Well, when we left the house we just had the three but there was a lot of traffic and...”

Cathy nodded, holding up her paws for him not to continue that story. “Okay! Wow, that is way more information that the Airport Security Supervisor needs, sir. Right, okay - I guess we’ll just have to double up on some seats then, won’t we? Send ‘em on through and we’ll let the airline figure it out.”

The otter looked close to panicked as he pulled out his six-inch three-ring binder of security protocols and scanned through the pages. “Gosh, I dunno if that’s allowed,” he muttered, scratching behind his ears and looking for any rules that applied to ‘in-line breeding’.

Cathy grabbed his arm and hissed into his ear, “I don’t care. Shove them into carry-on bags if you have to, but get them to the gate before even more cubs show up!”

The otter nodded and motioned them on through as the mother tried to keep her hyperactive kids from crawling through the baggage conveyor while her mate attempted to try Cathy’s suggestion of putting some of them in handbags.

Cathy backed away slowly while the family of rabbits sorted themselves out just as another disturbance caught her attention. This time it was two leopards, each pointing at the other one and both claiming not to know how the catnip



ABOVE: Art by James “Southpaw Fox” Aikens (furafinity.net/user/greypawz)

ended up in their luggage. If that weren’t enough, at the same time on the next line over, a family of rats was arguing with the security fox concerning the need for all twenty of their bags, insisting that each was of vital importance and critical to their well-being. Just as Cathy was about to enter into that dispute, an entire group of squirrels began arguing loudly that it was perfectly normal to have five carry-on bags filled with almonds and that they saw no rules stating otherwise anywhere in the terminal.

Cathy looked from one side of the security checkpoint to the other at all the arguing passengers. Off to the side, the kangaroo from earlier was coming out of the privacy corner threatening a lawsuit over where the security wolf had been sticking his paws. The line next to them was being held up as the same two foxes had decided to see if the security bear had better ‘roaming paws’ than the puma did. Cathy opened her mouth to speak, not sure what to say or where to start. But she never got the chance.

A series of beeps and alarms sounded across the terminal, making ears flatten and tails fluff out. Everyone looked





ABOVE: Art by Roger Adkins aka Walter Ringtail.

around wide-eyed at each other and shrugged, looking for someone that knew what was happening. Cathy sprang up on top of a table and scanned the horizon, pivoting her ears for any sign of danger. A pleasant, yet unnerving, voice came over the speakers for an automated announcement.

“Attention. Attention. An unattended bag has been discovered in the terminal. Please do not stampede until told to do so. This may or may not be the apocalypse. Repeat: Please do not stampede until told to do so. We will let you know when it is time to run screaming for your lives. Please do not approach or anger the bag.”

A series of gasps and whimpers pulled the ocelot’s ears back and to the left behind her. She turned and saw a large circle opening up around a small carry-on bag sitting idly by the otter’s security podium as travelers pointed and backed away with tails tucked. The security otter took the appropriate measure of climbing up on top of his podium and calling out desperately for help.

Using her natural gifts of speed and agility, Cathy sprinted through the crowds of terrified travelers yelling out assurances that everything was going to be alright, the Airport Security Supervisor was on the case! She ducked down between the legs of a wary tiger and popped out into the open circle of travelers surrounding the offending bag.

“Quick! Destroy it before it eats one of us!” the security otter squealed, holding his tail and trying to get higher on the podium.

Cathy approached the bag carefully, while everyone around her their collective breaths. Somewhere off to the side, a bear fainted from all the excitement with a loud thud. She crept closer. The bag moved and giggled.

“I told you it was evil!” the otter screamed, reaching for the ‘STAMPEDE!’ emergency button on his podium.

“Wait!” Cathy held up her paw. “I’m the Airport Security Supervisor in charge here!”

The otter’s paw hovered precariously over the panic button. Everyone around her looked with eyes and ear

poised, and tails held tight. The ocelot eased her back foot over and flipped open the top of the bag with her toes. For a moment, nothing happened. Then a very young bunny popped her head up and giggled, "Hee!"

Everyone breathed a collective sigh of relief. The security otter peeked over Cathy's shoulder with suspicious eyes. The bunny held her arms out to be picked up and laughed some more as Cathy lifted her up in her arms.

The otter leaned over and whispered into Cathy's ear, "The bomb squad is still coming just to be safe!"

Cathy ignored him and looked down at the bag on the floor and back to the young bunny girl in her arms.

"The rabbit family from earlier! I said to put their cubs in carry-on bags - I was kidding!" She looked at the otter. "Quick! We've got to get her back to her family! Buzz me through!"

The otter sat back down and scratched his ears, opening up the giant protocol binder.

"Well, I mean, do you have a boarding pass?" he asked, thumbing through the manual for any mention of bunnies as carry-on luggage.

"What?" I'm your supervisor! Here - look at my badge! Now I need to get through!"

The security otter squinted at the ID card and muttered, "Well, that could be any ocelot, really. The manual is pretty clear on you needing a boarding pass - or, it says here you can wait in the interview room while I get my supervisor. I'm pretty sure there's a ball of yarn in there for you to play with, so that'll be nice, I think. Oh, and I'm supposed to ask if you have now or ever carried catnip for someone, marked territory in a public place, or engaged in aggressive shedding with intent to..."

Cathy rolled her eyes and pointed at the bag still on the floor, "Look! Another unattended bag! It's happening all over again!"

The otter squealed and climbed up on his podium again, clutching to protocols manual in his paws. Cathy ducked past the otter with the giggling rabbit in her arms as the Body Image Threat Scan security badger tried to block her path.

"No one gets through until I've had a look at their B.I.T.S.!"

"No time! Airport Security Supervisor emergency!"

"I have to look at your B.I.T.S.! No one gets on a plane until we show everyone their B.I.T.S. or you'll have to be respectfully groped!"

Cathy turned and whistled loudly, waving down the two foxes from earlier. "Over here! This badger needs someone to inspect thoroughly!"

As the two foxes came bounding over, Cathy whispered to the badger, "They're with me. Just inspect them twice and we'll call it even. Gotta go!"

The ocelot spun around the scanner while the very confused badger was awkwardly hugged by two overly-enthusiastic foxes. The bunny in her arms clapped her paws and cheered to do it again as they sprinted through the airport terminal.

"Comin' through! 'Scuse us! Whoop! Careful - Airport Security Supervisor emergency! Oop, sorry about that!"

Cathy ran along the corridor of boarding gates, weaving in and out among the scores of travelers, holding the young bunny in her arms and looking for any sign of a large family of rabbits. She vaulted over a luggage cart, much to the delight of her bunny passenger, and continued her desperate search, hoping the bunny's family hadn't somehow left already.

Just when all seemed lost, the ocelot caught the site of large ears sticking up in a crowd at one of the gates. With paws screeching across the floor, Cathy took a sharp turn and headed for the gate. Her smile of triumph quickly faded, though.

"Oh, you have got to be kidding."

The banner above the boarding gate read, "Welcome Y'all to the 2017 Jordan-Hares Family Reunion". Cathy looked around, stunned, at several dozen families of rabbits milling about and young bunnies running rampant all over.

"Attention! Hello! Yes, over here!" the ocelot called out, holding the giggling bunny over her head. "Is anyone missing a cub? Hello? Is your family one short? Do you have fewer cubs than you came in with?"

The families of rabbits looked at each other and some tried to count on their paws the number they had with them. There was a lot of discussion and shrugging between them followed by more confusion.

"Okay, let's try this. Did anyone, um, grow their family while waiting in line at security?"

Several paws went up. A couple of voices from the back called out, "Isn't that kind of a personal question? Yeah, it was a long wait!"

Cathy groaned. "Well then, let's try this. All those who have exactly twelve cubs, please step forward."

Several voices spoke at once, “Do you mean before or after we went through security? Twelve now or twelve when we started? My wife is pregnant, if you can hang on a minute I think we’ll have twelve here pretty soon!”

Just as Cathy was about to throw up her arms and surrender, the bunny she was carrying squealed, “Mommy!” and pointed excitedly, squirming around in her arms.

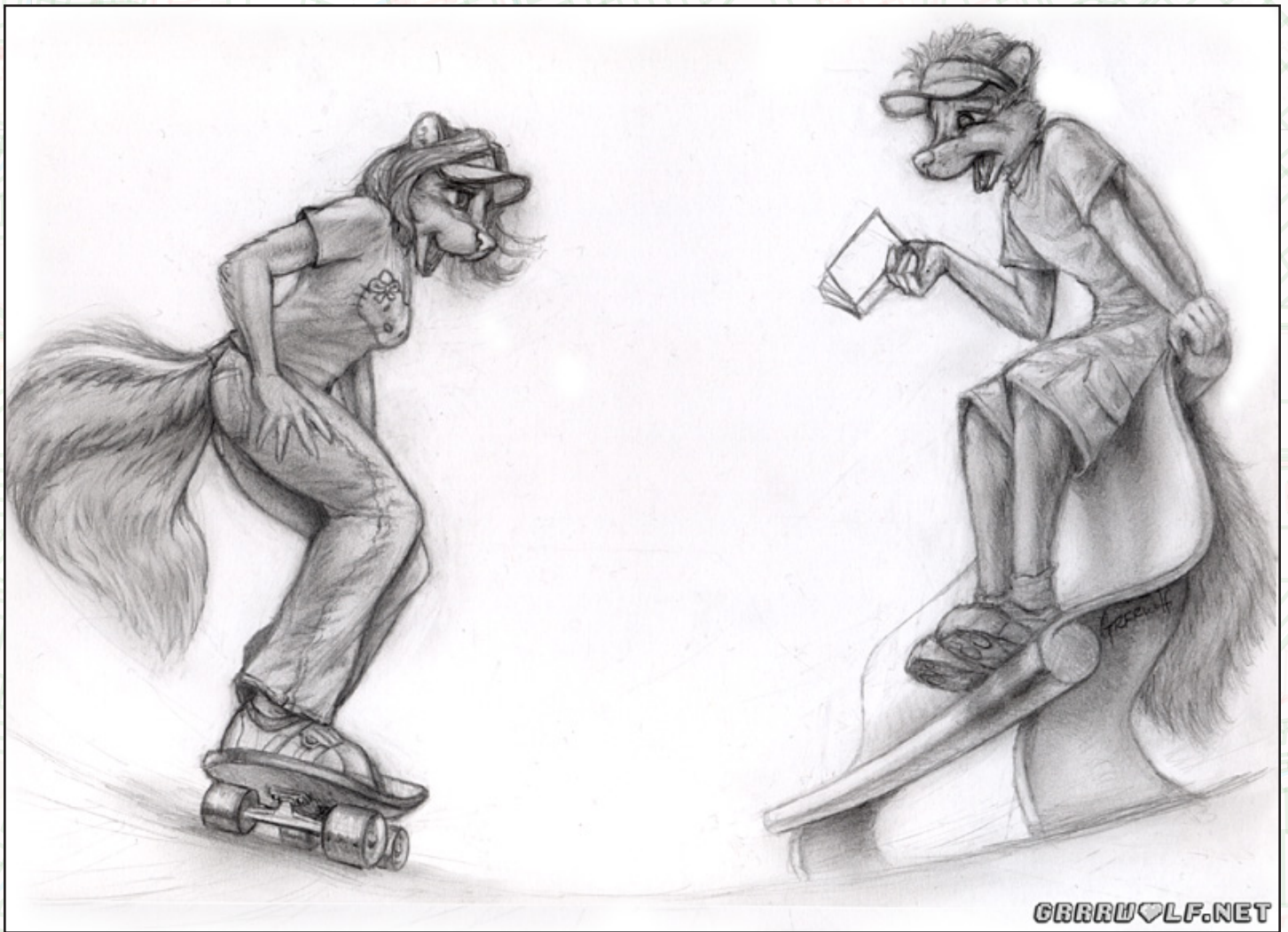
Cathy looked over in the direction she was squealing at and at last recognized the family from earlier, her parents still trying to keep up with all her siblings.

Looking very much relieved, the ocelot walked over to return the giggling ball of energy back over to her dad and noticed that her mother was looking quite pregnant, glaring at her mate.

The father rabbit blushed and stammered, “Well, you see, the plane was delayed, so...”

Cathy winced and held her paws to her ears, “That’s way more information than the Airport Security Supervisor needs, sir. Just try to keep better track of the ones you have, okay?”

After waving goodbye to the brood of giggling bunnies, Cathy plopped down on a nearby bench for a well-deserved breather. The clock on the wall said her shift was nearly over. All in all, it had been a pretty successful first day. Cathy chuckled and wondered if all this was actually just a normal shift.



GRRR^WOLF.NET

ABOVE: Art by GrrrWolf (grrrwolf.net).



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miyagami noriko

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Levi
Mattea "Tia" Ezgar
SteffLaBunny

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Mike AP sykes (MICHAEL LY)
SikDrift (Arvin
Pagdanganan)
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Programming Co-lead

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Kenneth "Fennecus Kitsune"
Coane
Brokken T-Wolf

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(Makyo)

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(Admiral Baker)

Artemis Staff

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(Vice Admiral Baker)

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Smith)

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Dance Second

Thumper

Dance Competition Lead

Diggy

Dance Competition Second

Doryuu

Dance Competition Staff

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IsoWolf

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Yonoa

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Mav

Fursuit Lounge Second

BarkerJr

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Joshua "Buster Clouds"
Stamper
Malkontent Blizzard
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GONZALEZ

Fursuit Track Second

amenophis

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Flipper

Masquerade Second

Helvetica
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David Johnson (DJ Wolf)

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Kyreeth

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Kashra

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Mike Folf

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SkyboundTerror
Volcano

FLARE

9

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badkarma (lou pasquale)
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Stone)
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The Wendy Lady
(Wendy Mehner)
Trey
Unit 42 (Bill Hay)
Wren

*Due to our press deadlines,
we aren't able to include every
staff member here. We are
very grateful to all of our staff
members, especially those who
join us late in the year or even
at the convention. Thank you
very much for helping us put on
this show!*



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Chasing Paradise

a story by Bradley Cohen

6:00 AM on a summer day. It was made apparent by the ringing of Robert's alarm clock. The fox slammed his paw onto the alarm clock to turn off the alarm, then proceeded to get out of bed. He put on tropical shirt and some cargo shorts, getting ready for his flight to Hawaii. He put his suitcase in the trunk of his car and drove to the airport as the darkness of the night sky faded to daylight.

The airport was very crowded that day, and every minute spent in traffic would lower Robert's chances of making his flight. The first nightmare was finding a parking space (and wondering why he didn't call a shuttle so he could skip this madness). It took twenty minutes to find an empty space, and his flight was scheduled for departure at 8:30 AM. He ran to the crosswalk with his suitcase in his paw, waiting to cross the street between the parking garage and the pick-up zone. When the crossing light turned on, he ran straight to the baggage claim and up the stairs to the Pacific Airlines ticket booth. After showing his ID card and paying his fare, he headed to the worst part of any airport: the security line.

The security line, unsurprisingly, was very long. Robert wasn't sure if he would have enough time to buy a bagel and coffee. It was 8:02 AM, and time was only moving forward, but the line was painfully slow. Every passing minute was a higher chance of missing his flight. He saw two wolves in

uniform scanning each passenger, knowing that it was the final hoop he had to jump through. It was 8:27 when he finally reached the body scanner. "I'm in a really big hurry..." he said. "Can we make this quick?"

"That's what everyone says..." replied one of them. "Take off your shoes and put them on the conveyer belt with your bag."

He reluctantly followed their instructions and completed the security scan without incident. He grabbed his shoes the very second they came out of the X-ray machine and hastily put them on, grabbing his bag and running to his gate. It was 8:29 and the last passenger was entering the boarding bridge. Robert ran as fast as he could, holding out his boarding pass and yelling "Don't close that door!"

After presenting his boarding pass (and breathing heavily), he was allowed to proceed. He found his assigned seat and put his bag in the overhead compartment, happy that he made it to his plane on time. He rested his tail on his lap and breathed a sigh of relief. Then he got a message from the captain...

"We regret to inform you that we have been delayed by one hour. We apologize for the inconvenience."



Navigating Further Confusion

an insider's guide to our crazy convention by Jeff Bowman (Dax)

Furry conventions are bizarre and paradoxical.

How else could you describe them? This is a fandom dedicated to anthropomorphic animals: a concept wide enough to include ancient mythology, modern cartoons, fine art, writing, commercial characters, costuming of all sorts, science fiction, and real-life prospects of transhumanism, all without canon material, corporate sponsors, or even a particularly-firm definition. How on earth does that nebulous and collectively-owned mess turn into real physical contracts, badges, panels, parties, insurance policies, and dollars toward charities?

It took me several years from attending my first furry convention—Further Confusion 2006, which I attended for one day—to obtaining a full understanding of what is involved and how it all comes together. It's a staggering amount of work and is the product of thousands of hours of volunteer labor, from people offering their professional skills, to those learning as they go. This is all done to support good causes and to help bring people together among friends, parties, and the sharing of these joyous animalistic universes that we build here together.

With this article, I hope to share some of what I've learned to help reflect the thought and labor behind the glamorous and unglamorous job titles you see on our staff listings. Frankly, I also hope to draw attention to this fantastic event-running community that forms around Further Confusion and its cousins around the world, and to encourage you to become a part of it. These are events created by and for the furry community. Your support is truly what powers it to grow and improve each year. **The more help we have, the more we can do—for ourselves, for our charity, and for the furry community as a whole.**

Now, without further ado, let's start the tour!

Overall Structure

Technically, Further Confusion is simply an annual event put on by a 501(c)3 nonprofit business known as AAE: Anthropomorphic Art and Education. Like all nonprofits, AAE has a Board of Directors, which annually selects a Convention Chair to run its main event. This Chairperson works with their chosen department leads (con executives) to select the theme, set priorities for the year, and make it all happen. These departments vary widely in their size and duties, but are all major responsibilities every year:

Hotel

Our hotel department is tasked with getting folks the room that best suits their needs, for both guest rooms and meeting rooms, and managing the business relationships with our individual venues and with our San Jose Convention Center hosts at Team San Jose. Beyond merely keeping up communication with our host venues and overseeing our guests' and VIPs' reservations and requests, our hotel department works with our venue staff to ensure the smooth transition between Team San Jose's collective booking system (Passkey) and each individual hotel's reservations. It's also our hotel team's job to pass along programming needs and panel names, place and confirm water and catering orders, manage parking arrangements, and arrange party rooms and room assignments—all while keeping an eye on our hotel room block and overall bill.

Business

It's all about the Benjamins here! Business keeps its eyes on the money. This work includes our Dealer's Room, Art Show, and Registration systems, which includes coordinating the decorator services and union scheduling needed to load in our Dealer's Room efficiently and economically.



For our Dealers and Art Show artists, this also includes managing their own registration systems, accepting and tracking their money with an eye on our tax requirements and documentation, answering our dealers' questions, and designing and making the maps for each space. Registration also includes managing our software and payment services along with the badge ordering and printing processes for the thousands of badges we issue.

In addition to those larger duties, our Business department helps manage the budget assigned to each of our departments, coordinates payments for vendors and supplies, and interacts with our selected charity each year.

Operations

Operations keeps the core services of the convention running, and is made up of several independently-led teams. Our Logistics team keeps track of all of the convention's property and equipment, including its storage outside of

the convention, and its delivery to and from the con in January. Our Con Ops and Info Desk teams ensure that there are always helpful faces behind the desks and that folks always have what they need. Our Volunteers team keeps track of all of our GoFurs and directs them to various departments to assist. Our Hospitality staff ensures that our staff of nearly 200 volunteers don't have to go hungry while running around on shift, including all of the purchases and preparations to keep our volunteers well fed and hydrated. Finally, our partnership with FLARE helps to keep the peace for the thousands of attendees that we host each year.

HR

With nearly 200 staff members per year, FC is quite a bustling small business, and the processes involved in hiring and record-keeping can take on a life of their own. It becomes a challenge just to keep track of all of our volunteers and their hierarchy and make sure that everyone is hired on with the right forms, mailing lists, and email



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addresses. Our Operations leads often do double-duty to help keep track of everyone.

IT

As you might expect from a convention born from an internet-centric fandom, FC treats email and website access as critical pieces of con infrastructure for our worldwide volunteer staff, working with our email, chat, and web service providers. During the convention, IT is also responsible for ensuring connectivity to our business services (like registration) and streaming services (for our increasingly popular live streams).

Programming

The roles of our programming team could easily fill an article this length of its own. For any event that goes on a particular place and time, programming schedules it, coordinates a spot for it in our venues, and publicizes it online and in print. Programming also manages the teams for our main stage events, like our Masquerade, Dance Competition, and FC: Unleashed! variety show. They also manage ongoing furry-con services like our gaming rooms, photoshoot, fursuit lounges, dances, and DJ offerings. Finally, our programming team also solicits, tracks, and vets over a hundred attendee-submitted panels per year, with the help of our team of Track Leads, to ensure that our selected panelists are in the right rooms with the right equipment and everything they need to run their event.

A/V & Facilities

A/V, in short, helps our largest and most popular events—including our dances—look and sound their best. For an event of our size, in an event center of SJCC's size, the preparations here can span many weeks with many vendors and tens of thousands of dollars of equipment. Our AV and Facilities teams order and manage our sound, lighting, cameras, and projection to make our showcase events look and sound their best while ensuring that our stages, rigging, and equipment go up and come down safely and efficiently.

Our A/V staff has grown to take on additional "Facilities" roles: They keep our labor schedules aligned with union

rules, and organize the electrical needs to support the power our lights, speakers, and fursuit lounge fans consume!

Marketing

Our Marketing team handles our public presences on the web and on Twitter, represents Further Confusion at other local conventions by tabling, running ads, and throwing con-sponsored parties. They also are in charge of putting on our annual FC picnic each summer, and handle all of the art, gifts, signage, publications, and community outreach needed throughout the year including our conbook and pocket program. In addition to directing our team of staff artists, art directors, and editors, our Marketing execs run our Media team, which produces press passes and vets/escorts credentialed press at our event.

Board of Directors & Convention Chair

This returns us to the Board of Directors and Convention Chair, who respectively manage the year-over-year aspects of our convention (such as tax filings, finances, and multi-year contracts) and single-year aspects (such as coordinating between departments, keeping to deadlines, and filling in resources when and where they're needed). Each year, the Board selects a new Convention Chair, who arrives with fresh new ideas and insights. Finally, and most importantly, the Board provides oversight, feedback, resources, and advice to help along the Chair and their team.

How to Get Involved

As you can see, there's never a dull moment at Further Confusion! It takes a whole year's worth of work to produce FC, and there's plenty to do before, during, and after the convention. **The more help we have, the easier it is, and the more we can improve our event while letting everyone, especially staff, have a ton of fun.**

If any of this sounds interesting, or you'd like to learn more, come see our GoFur desk at Con Ops or email info@furtherconfusion.org any time throughout the year.

Thanks for reading, and we hope that you enjoy FC!

A Dolomite Verse

poetry by Brett Kooistra

Near a mountainside, below in the shade
A village waits in an emerald glade.
Beside hills rolling green and tall church spire
Stand aspens of gold, their branches afire.
Beyond lies a wilderness, wild and roaming
Of which tales are told in the hours of gloaming.
Of daemon knight and goblin lord
With twisted mace and steaming sword.
Whose evil deeds are all but gone
When they perish in the light of dawn.





CHARLIE
NAX

ABOVE: Art by Charlie Nax (twitter.com/Charlie_Nax)

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Max
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Sexual Activity: No Data
Shadow
Sharon Hom
Shievina
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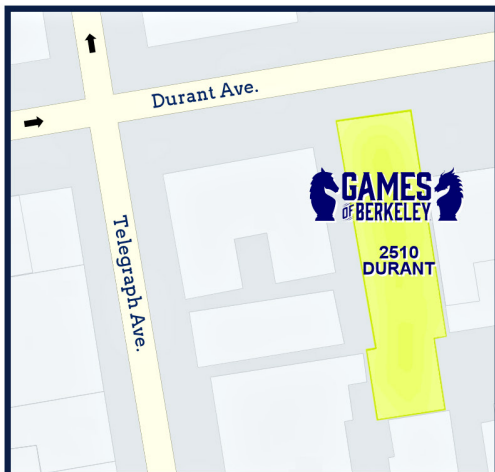
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Letter from the Board

On behalf of all the members of the Anthropomorphic Arts and Education Inc. Board of Directors; Welcome to Further Confusion 2017!

Running a convention of this size and complexity is a long and difficult task now requiring more than a year's worth of planning. Even so, it's something that we all enthusiastically embrace as a labor of love. Of course, it would all be for nothing without you, the attendees. It is your continued and growing support that makes it all worthwhile. We are so glad you chose to spend your time with us!

For those of you returning to us you'll notice a few changes over previous years. We are in a new space in the convention center more centralized between the hotels. We now have a larger main stage, larger art show, and larger dealer area which we courage you to explore. Also, our panels spaces have changed and are now spread out among both hotels.

So, once again, we welcome those of you returning and those who are joining us for the very first time to what we hope will be a fantastic time here at Further Confusion!

Sincerely,

Board of Directors - Anthropomorphic Arts and Education Inc.

Vince "Berg Polarbear" Cardinale
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Jeff "Dax" Bowman

Special Thanks

All of our brother and sister conventions around the world
All of our fabulous Volunteers and Go-Furs
All panelists, dealers, DJs, and performers
All artists who contributed work to this book or to convention collateral
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Grey White (for our theme-defining debut art)

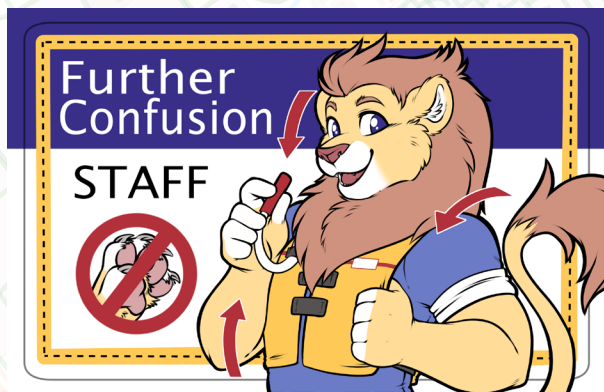
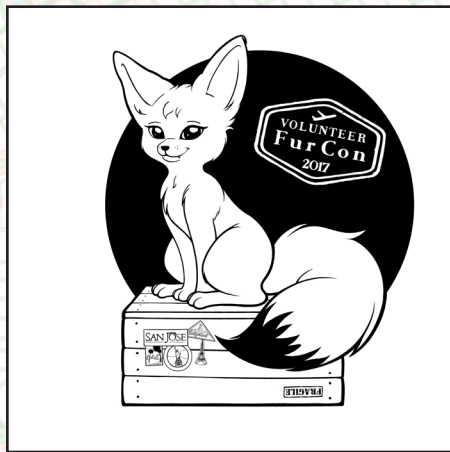
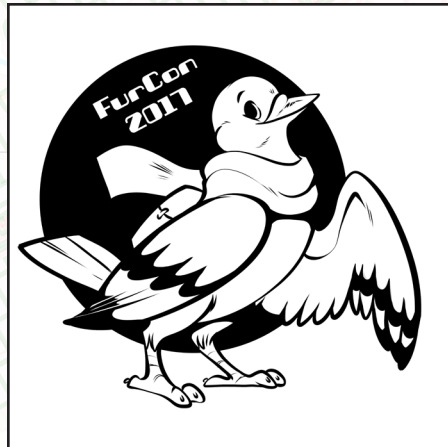
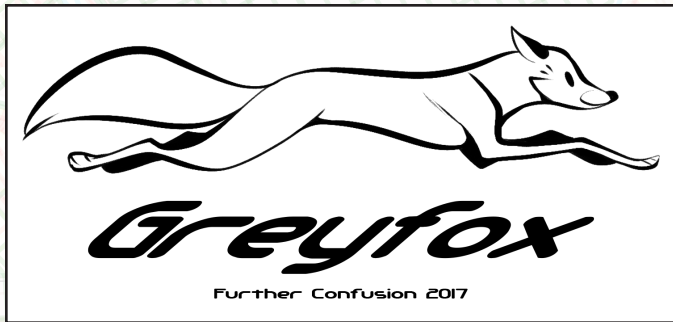
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ABOVE: T-shirt art by Laura Garabedian.

Featured FC2017 Artwork



Many thanks to our wonderful staff artists for this and all of our convention artwork!

