



Merry Christmas 2007

Hello, my fellow revelers. How 'bout a few pictures?

My favorite one is first. I had asked Val to show us what working out could do for your build. So we took a picture of him while he was flexing his back. For me, this picture is attractive because of the unintentional humor in it. Val looks as if he's mad as a hornet, and about to attack that Christmas tree. Then, once you see this new way of looking at it, you can almost imagine that the tree is an hombre, fast on the draw. He and Val are facing off across a great distance, each with his finger on the trigger.



I got Dominic to pretend to look like an old type of workman, a bit like the farmer in "American Gothic". We don't have a pitchfork, so Dominic posed with a steel rake. He's standing on the steps that he just built. We sacrificed the "drama of the entry", as one realtor referred to the 18-foot-high empty space above our stairs. Instead, we got ourselves a nice pantry, one to complement the kitchen makeover that has been going on for the last year and a half. Dominic doesn't complain much about scope creep anymore. That's because he's starting to like to build things and change things, as long as he gets to start by tearing things down.

Fiona is working for a hardware store. We took this picture when she was on her coffee break. She loves working with hardware, but gets a little tired of working on a cash register all day. The register is right at the entrance of the store, and a lot of women customers bustle over to the cash register and say,

"Oh good, there's a woman here. Can I get some advice from you?" Her manager thinks that having Fiona at the check stand is therefore a great business decision.

She disagrees. She said to him that part of the employment agreement was training, not just running a register. He promptly gave her a 10 cent-an-hour raise, told her he didn't want to lose her, and promised her more time on the floor. We'll see.



Gabriel has been doing lots of things, but the only one that I have a picture of is his turning 23. He is living in a luxurious house with 3 roommates. The four of them decided to save money by turning off the heat. So this lovely architectural creation has no heat.

Gabriel is still training in martial arts, and he still works at the same penthouse restaurant he worked at last year. However, he is now training to be a bartender. After the first of the year he'll be in the main bar. The money will be good for him, as will the excessive boredom that this job will eventually engender.



Here's a picture of me, wearing a blouse that Dominic gave me for Christmas last year. About twice a year I dress up. This was one of those times.

Merry Christmas. Whichever kind of god you believe in, may she bless us every one.



Gotha

Dominic