

Editorial:

Written this year by your capable vice president Kate. We haven't had a proper Launchpad edition since 2000, but finally two people enthusiastic for a legitimate excuse to avoid studying have been voted into power (Mwah ha ha ha ha) and we have decided to have a go at producing a magazine suitable for our discerning readers. Writing a magazine is harder than it looks, there are vast amounts of pizza and donuts involved in the creative process and we have spared no expense in this area; (we would like to take this opportunity to invite people to make a contribution towards the Kate and Gwen Pizza and Doughnut Fund.)

However as your vice presidents we are willing to take on this task, we will attempt to:

1. Uncover truths and unearth conspiracies.
2. Fight the demons, vampires and the forces of darkness.
3. Boldly go where no one has gone before.
4. Defend earth from the Go'uld.
5. And 'Feel the Force'

At all times!

There, aren't we great! Definitely worthy of many donuts I think! – Ook.

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Your Marvellous Committee aka Masters of the Universe!

President: Luke “Pushover” Mauder (lm2557)

- ? The Official Power Base of the society.
- ? Very nicely sorts out all our paperwork...
- ? & room bookings...
- ? etc etc etc...
- ? Society rep for Games Soc.

Vice Presidents: Kate “The Vampire Slayer” Bowyer (kb2990) & Gwen “Hermione” Hitchcock (gh2782)

- ? The Actual Power Base of the society!
- ? Apply ourselves to eating all donuts, pizza, cake, ice-cream etc. that comes our way.
- ? Bossing Luke (& everyone else) around.
- ? Lurking in the library & video store.
- ? Editing this work of genius.
- ? Saying “Ook”.
- ? Being creepy.

Secretary: Elinor “The Invisible Girl” Milne (elinormilne@hotmail.com)

- ✧ Will be responsible for taking notes when we finally organise an official meeting that’s not just tagged onto a video evening!

Social secretary & Webmaster: “Other Sam” Hobday (Sam.Hobday.00@bristol.ac.uk)

- ? Social Butterfly!
- ? Keeper of the X-box.
- ? Provides twister/dance mats at house parties.

Treasurer: Tom “Please Can We Have Some More Money?” Smith (ts1043)

- £ Looks after all our lovely cash...
- £ We love you!!! Now about that society DVD player....

Dave the Hobbit Memorial Post: Dave T Hobbit (davethehobbit@hotmail.com)

- ? This honorary post includes the titles: Sci-Fi Lawyer, Leech on Society, Hippopotamus Cleaning Rep, Society Rep for Bag End, Master of Chairemonies, Witchfinder General, Alcoholic, Society Jewellery Man, Jimmy Saville Rep, Silly Beard Rep, Evil Rimmer Rep (he’ll whip you to within an inch of your life and then have you), Medallion Man, Aardvark Herder in Chief, Contingency Fbod Ark Builder, Raider of the Lost Ook (only mildly dodgy :-), Infinite Vampire Sequel Rep, Officer in Charge of Radishes, Officer for the Development of Plan 10 from Outer Space, Chief Muppet Herder, Master Babel-fish Breeder, Sarcasm rep., Arbiter of Secretary nomination arguments, Minister for Silly Hats and Chief Officer for the Defusing of Virgins
- ? Proposed titles (to be voted in at next meeting): Society pervert, Society Cheerleader.

How to write your own stand-alone Buffy Episode

- 1) *Pre Credits*: Buffy is with: a) Spike
b) Angel
c) Willow

...and they are: a) fighting.
b) having sex .
c) having a moment of UST.

Funky theme music!

- 2) Buffy runs away in a hurry and is attacked by a: a) vampire
b) unknown monster
c) giant bunny

...which escapes after: a) a brief punch up.
b) getting beaten to a pulp.
c) beating Buffy to a pulp.

- 3) After telling Giles & the Scooby Gang about the monster they inquire why she was out there. She tells them: a) the truth.
b) a lie.
c) just mumbles something inaudible.

- 4) To discover exactly what the monster is the gang consult the: a) books.
b) internet.
c) Powers That Be.

- 5) Having identified the monster they realise the World must be Saved for the sake of:
a) Hugs!
b) Puppies!
c) Christmas!

- 6) Buffy decides to fight it: a) alone.
b) using magic.
c) with Spike/Angel.

- 7) After the gang has turned up anyway, the monster is defeated and it is revealed to have been:
a) created by a main character messing with magic.
b) part of Spikes evil plan.
c) something from Giles past.
d) a man in a mask.

- 8) After solving this mystery: a) Buffy gives a motivational speech.
b) they go to the Bronze.
c) there's a big Group Hug.

The moral of this story is: a) Don't trust Spike.
b) Don't mess with forces beyond your control.
c) Even the Slayer needs friends. (Soppy Americans!)
d) Bunnies are EVIL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Cookery page:

The Ultimate Chocolate Chip Wookie.

You will need:

4oz Plain Flour

1oz Cocoa

4oz Margarine

2oz Sugar

1/2tsp Vanilla essence (not essential)

Chocolate chips (white/plain/milk are all suitable and can be mixed to add variety)

Method:

- 1. Light the oven, gas mark/180°C. Place the shelf near the top of the oven. Grease a baking tray.*
- 2. Cream the margarine, sugar and vanilla essence.*
- 3. Sieve the flour and cocoa together into the creamed mixture and stir carefully until fully mixed.*
- 4. Add chocolate chips to taste, and stir into mixture.*
- 5. Divide into about 16 pieces & mush into wookie shape. Place well apart on the baking tray and flatten each with a fork dipped in cold water to give a fur effect.*
- 6. Bake for 15 minutes. Cool on a wire tray.*
- 7. Enjoy. These are nicest dunked in tea or coffee, so select your beverage and go watch TV. The chocolate in the cookies is good for depression so the cookies are an ideal accompaniment to any last episode of a series.*

From our resident chocoholic, Kate

Beer Trek

<u>Show</u>	<u>Character</u>	<u>Drink</u>
ALL	all	and count along with the self-destruct lady
ALL	all	and fall out of your chair when the bridge is hit and everyone falls out of their chairs
ALL	all	for a 47, or permutation thereof
ALL	all	for an unacceptable answer*
ALL	all	for any mention of late 20th century earth
ALL	all	for homosexual undertones in dialogue or situations
ALL	all	for identity affirmation*
ALL	all	for someone else's log (besides the captain)
ALL	all	when a character is sexually harassed by a holodeck character
ALL	all	when a character tells another character, "You're with me."
ALL	all	when an exploding panel sends someone flying; drink again if someone replaces them
ALL	all	when anyone runs or orders a diagnostic; drink the rest of your beer for a level 1 diagnostic
ALL	all	when someone does one last thing at a console before they get up
ALL	all	when someone is beamed directly to sickbay
ALL	all	when someone is outside the holodeck, but dressed for a holodeck program
ALL	all	when someone is stranded or left behind
ALL	all	when someone is the sole survivor of something
ALL	all	when someone removes their com badge (or someone removes it for them)
ALL	all	when someone says "get us (or them) out of here (or there)!"
ALL	all	when someone says "on my mark... Mark!"
ALL	all	when someone says something in an alien language, then translates into English
ALL	all	when someone stuck in the holodeck tries and fails to end the program
ALL	all	when someone uses the holodeck to solve a problem
ALL	all	when the computer says that a character is not aboard the ship or station
ALL	all	when two characters look like they're about to kiss, even though you know they're not
ALL	any alien	for a rant about how cool their fucked-up society is
ALL	any alien	when they curse in their own language
ALL	any alien	when they say "human" like it's an insult (Play Beer Trek, <i>hu-man</i> ?)
ALL	any Borg	when something is "irrelevant"
ALL	any Borg	when something is removed from a dead Borg
ALL	any Borg	when "You will be assimilated." Finish your drink if the character actually is.
ALL	any Captain	for "No, wait! Why not take me instead?"
ALL	any Captain	when the captain defies orders and saves the day
ALL	any Captain	when they ask for more time
ALL	any Doctor	when the doctor gives orders to a superior officer
ALL	any "emotionless" character	when they totally show emotion
ALL	any engineer	when they give a repair estimate
ALL	any Klingon	when "it is a good day to die"
ALL	any Vulcan	for the mind meld
ALL	none	for a garbled distress call
ALL	none	for a paradigm shift*
ALL	none	for a warp core breach
ALL	none	for Jeffries Tubes

ALL	none	for mention of or reference to Shakespeare
ALL	none	when something is venting plasma
ALL	none	when the crew suffers the same fate as the ship they're investigating
ALL	none	when the main deflector array is reconfigured for another purpose
ALL	none	when there's a missing research team
ALL	Q	when he's hitting on someone, or in bed with someone
TNG	all	when they play poker
TNG	all	when there's a crew recital / play / performance in Ten Forward
TNG	all	the rest of your beer when there's a guy in a uniform miniskirt
TNG	Data	when he "is attempting to do so"
TNG	Data	when he doesn't get it
TNG	Data	when his head is open
TNG	Data	when he does something super-fast
TNG	Data	when you see Spot
TNG	Guinan	when she sets someone straight
TNG	LaForge	for Geordi-vision
TNG	LaForge	when he invents something
TNG	LaForge	when he rolls his chair from one station to another
TNG	LaForge	when he tells the bridge "we've got a problem..."
TNG	LaForge	when you can see his eyes
TNG	none	when you can see out through the top of the bridge into space
TNG	none	the rest of your beer for a saucer separation
TNG	Picard	when he crosses his legs like a girl
TNG	Picard	when he says "make it so"
TNG	Picard	when he uses a loophole in negotiations
TNG	Riker	and sing "Action MANNNN!" when he walks in like he's "Action Man", or stands like he's Action Man
TNG	Riker	for "rrrrred alert!"
TNG	Riker	when he mentions 'Imzadi'
TNG	Riker	when he squints in anger or derision
TNG	Riker	when he steps over a chair to sit on it
TNG	Troi	when she 'senses something'
TNG	Troi	When she mentions 'Imzadi'
TNG	Troi	when she mentions or eats chocolate.. eat some yourself.
TNG	Wesley	when he wears a sweater
TNG	Wesley	when he's a dork. actively, not just standing there
TNG	Worf	when he gets his ass kicked
TNG	Worf	when he's a pussy Klingon (actively, not just standing there)

Footnotes

Drinks in the Buffer - when the drinks come so fast that you're a bunch of drinks behind, drink for having too many drinks in the buffer.

Identity Affirmation - when a character asserts who they are. This covers anything from McCoy saying "I'm a doctor..." to Picard introducing himself to the captain of another vessel: "I am Captain Jean-Luc Picard of the Starship Enterprise."

Paradigm Shift - once in a great while, something actually does change in the Star Trek Universe: someone dies, suddenly there are warp speed limitations, etc. We celebrate these occasions with a drink.

Self-referential Star Trek - mention of events or people from past episodes

Unacceptable Answer - when a crewmember responds with a line that is more dramatic than practical. Example - Picard: "Geordi, what's going on down there?" Geordi: "Something very strange..."

For extended version (incl. Other series) visit: <http://planetofthegeeks.com/trek/beertrek/>

BTVS Drinking Game:

1 sip:

- Every time Buffy dusts a vampire.
- Every time Buffy gives a motivational speech.
- Every time Giles consults his books.
- Every time spike has a plan to overthrow buffy.
- Whenever dawn is annoying.
- Every time Buffy puns.
- Whenever Buffy goes through a graveyard.

2 sips:

- Every time willow does magic.
- Every time Buffy kills something that isn't a vampire.
- Every time someone who isn't Buffy kills something.
- Whenever Giles doesn't understand an American reference.
- Whenever Giles drinks tea.
- Every time Xander or Giles is kidnapped/beaten up.
- Every time Buffy pummels someone for information.
- Every time Buffy sleeps with someone.
- Every time Xander's love interest is evil.
- Every time Faith does something evil

3 sips:

- Every time Tara does magic.
- Every time Xander is seen fixing something.
- Every time Willow, Xander or Giles sleep with someone.
- Whenever Buffy hides the fact that she's been beaten up.
- Whenever someone makes a bunny reference.
- Every time a main character is killed off.
- Every time they're fighting for hugs, puppies and Christmas.

4 sips:

- Every time Faith does something good.
- Every time there's an apocalypse.
- Every time something soppy and American like 'love' or 'heart' or 'friendship' beats the bad guy/girl/monster instead of good old fashioned violence.
- Every time Buffy dies.

Event requiring special action:

- Spike and Buffy get along (just shagging doesn't count).
- Every time Buffy looks happy.

Drown yourself in drink!

Jokes & quotes!

Star Wars Things To Say When Your Parents Make A Surprise Visit...

- * "Exciting is hardly the word I would use."
- * "Unexpected this is, and unfortunate."
- * Gesture around the room and say to your roommates, "If they don't go for this, we're gonna have to get outta here pretty quick."
- * Say to them, as they come in the door, "You've got a lotta guts coming here after what you pulled."
- * If they say "Hi son, we just stopped by to see if you would JOIN US for lunch." Reply with "I'll never join you!" (distort your face) Then throw yourself down the nearest shaft.
- * Ask them for money, then if they ask why they must pay _____ (fill in the amount)... Have a friend yell "Because he's holding a thermal detonator!" (Everyone dive for cover).
- * If they ask why the place is in such a mess reply with, "Your eyes can deceive you - don't trust them ... I've let go my conscious self and acted on instinct."
- * "I've got a bad feeling about this."
- * "Lock the doors, and hope they don't have blasters!"
- * If they ask how you are doing in school say, "When I left you, I was but the learner, now I am the master."

Quotes we like....

- ? *In response to an insult:* 'yeah...well...don't think I don't have the perfect comeback... I do!!! It's time will come!!!!' (Xander)
- ? *(French accent)* I mock you with my monkey pants! (Oz)
- ? Seize the moment cause tomorrow you might be dead (Buffy)
- ? It's the computer age – nerds are in... They're still in right? (willow)
- ? Paranoia is a state of heightened awareness. Most people are persecuted beyond their wildest delusions. (Claude Steiner)
- ? The theory of Space & Time is a cultural artefact made possible by the invention of graph paper. (Jaques Vallee)
- ? The quality of weirdness has always been high (Bob Rickard)
- ? Accept anything. Then explain it your way. (Charles Fort)
- ? Everything has to be somewhere & nothing can ever be anywhere other than where it is. (Hugo Rune)

Very Secret Diary of Ringwraith No. 5

Day 1

Just opened Christmas pressie from Sauron. Pretty, pretty, pretty, pretty ring!

Day 1,000,967

Got box of chocolates as Christmas bonus from Dark Lord, again. As per usual, Sauron ate all the toffees and left the strawberry creams. How I detest this life of vile servitude. Still disembodied.

Day 1,001,056

V. bored in Barad-Dur. Nothing to do but play Scrabble with Orcs. Is v. annoying as Orcs only know Black Speech of Mordor. You try spelling *Azg Nazg Gimbatul* for a triple word score. Yeah, I didn't think so.

Day 1,001,102

Suspect Sauron gearing up for something. Walked in on him applying ceremonial sparkly mascara. Suspect he will be v. happy when he has body back and can really dress up again.

Day 1,001,105

Yes, Sauron definitely gearing up for something. Have been given orders to sally forth and hunt down hobbit and close personal hobbit friend, who have somehow gotten hold of Ruling Ring. Witch-King of Angmar's suggestion to place pictures of Ruling Ring on milk cartons and wait for calls to come in was ignored.

Day 1,001,106

Have been given brand spanking new horse.
Not for spanking, of course.
Go me!

On minus side, still disembodied.

Day 1,001,107

V. close to nabbing Ringbearer tonight, but head Nazgul suffered attack of giggles while observing excessive cuddliness of Ringbearer and his three "companions."

Suspect Gandalf chose Ringbearer on account of big blue eyes and pouty lower lip, rather than possession of heroic-type fortitude.

Will catch up with pretty-boy Hobbit and harem of pint-sized boyfriends in Bree. V. much looking forward to post-slaughter booze-up.

Day 1,001,109

Drat that Aragorn. Drat Isildur and all his Heirs. Generations of pervy Hobbit-fanciers, of no use to anyone. Son of Arathorn has Hobbit-napped the Ringbearer. To combat disappointment at failure to achieve goals set by Sauron, spent all night boozing it up in Bree. Breelanders v. informative. Drinks: 10 Mai Tais (then impaled innkeeper on swizzle stick)
Killed: 17 human men. Go us!

Day 1,001,115

Have been following Isildur's heir and pack of Hobbits for six days. Aragorn obviously into Ringbearer. Sam will kill him if he tries anything.

Day 1,001,116

Got slightly over-frisky with Ringbearer at Weathertop. Aragorn went all wonky and possessive and set me on fire. And indeed, Sam did try to kill me although did not notice had been hit in knees with frying pan until later on.

Day 1,001,119

Met she-elf girlfriend of Isildur's Heir today. Was so busy laughing at concept of Aragorn the Hobbit Fancier having "girlfriend" that inconveniently got washed away in stream.

Horse dead, armour all rusted. Must return to Mordor for oiling.

No, not that kind of oiling.

Rather a pervy wraith-fancier, aren't you, what?

Why Star Wars is better than Titanic

- ⚡ Titanic had DiCaprio in it.
- ⚡ Titanic's big, but it doesn't have hyper drive.
- ⚡ Star Wars has WAY cooler action figure potential.
- ⚡ Yoda could use the Force to lift Titanic out of the water.
- ⚡ Leia is a princess, a senator, a freedom fighter, and Jedi material; Rose is just marriage bait.
- ⚡ Ewoks throw better parties than either first class or steerage.
- ⚡ When flying towards the Titanic, Wedge can't say "Look at the size of that thing!" and really mean it.
- ⚡ It would be much scarier to get chased around the boat by a raving madman with a lightsaber as opposed to a handgun.
- ⚡ Titanic is egalitarian by portraying poor people as sympathetic characters. Star Wars is egalitarian by promoting bug-eyed amphibians to Admiral.
- ⚡ Said bug-eyed amphibious Admiral manages NOT to lose his ship.
- ⚡ We know Cal is the bad guy because he sneers at the poor and treats his fiancée like property. We know Darth Vader is the bad guy because he strangles people and blows up planets for fun.
- ⚡ Leo can't dance OR fly an X-wing.
- ⚡ People have not lost their lives trying to re-create scenes from Star Wars on the bow of a cruise liner.
- ⚡ Rose braves icy water to rescue her man. Leia braves Jabba the Hut.
- ⚡ Two names: John Williams and George Lucas.
- ⚡ There are always enough escape pods in Star Wars.
- ⚡ Do you know what the Empire does to self-proclaimed "kings of the world"?
- ⚡ If Luke were handcuffed to a pipe below decks in a sinking ship, he would use the Force to get the key.
- ⚡ "I'd rather be his whore than your wife" just doesn't have the same sting as "I'd rather kiss a Wookiee."
- ⚡ Han is frozen in carbonite and turned into a wall ornament. Leo simply freezes.
- ⚡ We knew the boat was gonna sink. But who could've anticipated "Luke... I am your father"?
- ⚡ Han Solo would've missed the iceberg!
- ⚡ Stormtroopers blast big holes in stupid minor characters; everyone in Titanic was a minor character.
- ⚡ When Star Wars was proclaimed coolest movie of all time by half of planet earth, George Lucas did not make a fool of himself at the Oscars.
- ⚡ Titanic morals:
 - 1) gamble
 - 2) cheat on your husband
 - 3) pose nude for pictures
 - 4) premarital sex is OK if you're infatuated
 - 5) let undesirables drown.
- Star Wars morals:
 - 1) fight evil
 - 2) do good
 - 3) respect all life even if it's ugly and slithers
 - 4) rescue princess
 - 5) save planet.

How To Write Your Own FanFic

1. Copy the tables shown below and cut them out.
2. Fold individual pieces from the 1st category, place in hat/bag, shake & pull out a piece at random.
3. Continue with the other categories. More than one option may be drawn for each category but don't cheat and draw again from an earlier category after an incompatible match is drawn for a later one. Categories must be drawn in the order shown.
4. To decide who wins the battle toss a coin; Heads good guys win, Tail they lose. This adds an extra element of story telling since it may be that the conclusion is different to the battle's outcome, e.g. good guys lose the battle but the conclusion says they defeat the bad guy anyway!

Good Female Characters

Buffy TVS
Willow
Scully
Counsellor Troi
Capt. Janeway
Princess Leia
Velma
Daphne
Xena & Gabrielle
Storm
Lara Croft
Hermione

Good Male Characters

Spike
Mulder
Cmdr. Riker
Spock
Han Solo
Chewbacca
Obi Wan Kenobi
Shaggy & Scooby
Austin Powers
Arthur Dent & Ford Prefect
Harry Potter

Location

X-Files office
Spooky Island
A dark alley
Enterprise/Voyager
Death Star
UoB Student Union
Dark, mysterious forest
Dr Evil's secret lair
Top of the Statue of Liberty
Beta Z
Room full of mattresses

Exciting Event

Alien invasion
A major character is kidnapped
An important artefact is stolen
Moment of UST
Mysterious phone call
A murder is observed
A mass orgy occurs
Time loss
Planet is destroyed to make way for a hyperspatial express route
R2-D2 & C3PO arrive

Clue

A dead body
A map
There are muddy footprints
Some stolen goods are uncovered
A reference is found in a book
Feel a disturbance in the Force
Find a snagged piece of cloth
Empty jar of peanut butter
A carrot
Discarded clothing
“Sense something”

Evil character

Darla & Drusilla
Darth Vader
Jabba the Hutt
Dracula
6 foot bunny
Scrappy Doo
Sauron
Dr Evil
Magneto
CSM
Aliens
Lord Voldermort

Weapons/Strategy

Magical powers
Lightsaber
Phasers
Stakes, crucifixes, etc
Fist fight
Sword, chalcram, etc
The One Ring
Run away
Mud wrestling
‘Soppy American Philosophy’
Guns

Conclusion

Location blows up
Bad guys defeated, good guys snog
Mass orgy
Good guys about to lose, Millennium Falcon arrives to save the day
Bad guy wins, good guys run away
Ride off into sunset
Bad guy revealed as a man in a mask
Time travel was involved
Bad guys defeated for the sake of Hugs, Puppies & Christmas
Secret government conspiracy unmasked.

...And here's one we made earlier...

Harry Potter and **Hermione** are fleeing **Lord Voldermort** when they discover a Sub-Etha Sens-O-Mattic, in their desperate bid to escape they press one of the buttons and are transported on to the **Star Ship Enterprise** during one of it's many visits to late 20Century earth. Stumbling down a corridor they feel the ship rock and shake, coming to a view port they look out to see that the **planet Earth has been destroyed to make way for a hyperspatial express route!** Recovering their composure they notice **muddy footprints** on the floor, which they follow to the nearest holodeck. Upon entering the deck they observe a graveyard scene with oppressive rolling mists, creepy suspenseful music and old gothic headstones... suddenly they are attacked by **Dracula**, who swoops down from above and bites Hermione who falls lifeless to the ground. Taking up his wand Harry uses **magic** to create sunlight!!! As his final act before succumbing to his dusty end, Dracula bites Harry killing him also. But this is not the end for our hero's!!!! Detecting the unauthorised holodeck usage the ships computer alerts the bridge...ignoring protocol, **Counsellor Troi** and **Cmdr. Riker** go to investigate. Awaking as the undead Harry and Hermione kill them both before **riding off into the sunset**.....at which point they also disintegrate into ashes.....The End.

Vampires of the Discworld

“There are many kinds of vampires. Indeed, it is said that there are as many types of vampires as there are types of disease*. And they're not just human (if vampires are human). All along the Ramtops may be found the belief that any apparently innocent tool, be it hammer or saw, will seek blood if left unused for more than three years. In Ghat they believe in vampire watermelons, although folklore is silent about *what* they believe about vampire watermelons. Possibly they suck back.”

*Which presumably means that some are virulent and deadly, and others just make you walk in a funny way and avoid fruit.

Guide to the Vampires of Uberwald**

Generally speaking cutting of a vampires head and/or staking it through the heart Buffy-stylee is a pretty effective method of killing it. But since Uberwald is a very large and complex collection of Kingdoms precise methods of execution vary depending on the vampire's point of origin.

So once you've very politely inquired where your assailant is from you can follow these simple guidelines.

<i>Vampires from:</i>	<i>Method of execution:</i>
Splintz:	Put a coin in its mouth & cut its head off.
Klotz:	Stick a lemon in its mouth, after you've cut its head off.
Glitz:	Fill its mouth with salt, hammer a carrot into each ear then cut its head off.
Ah:	Cut the head off & boil in vinegar.
Kashncari:	Cut off its toes & drive a nail through its neck.

We all know that fire or anything holy will kill deter a vampire. But here are some general tricks that will slow one down:

- + Stealing its left sock & hiding it somewhere. (They are pathologically meticulous and will spend eternity looking for it)
- + Throw poppy seeds at it. ('Cause they're anal-retentive & will have to stop & count them all!)

***“On the rare maps of the Ramtops, it was spelled Überwald. But Lancre people had never got the hang of accents and certainly didn't agree with trying to balance two dots on another letter, where they'd only roll off and cause unnecessary punctuation.”

How To Pick An Episode To Watch Using A Hat...

1. On small pieces of paper write out the number of series you have at your disposal.
2. Fold these pieces, put them into cowboy hat, shake and pick one at random. This tells you what series to watch.
3. Find out how many episodes there are in the series. If for example there are 20+ then write the numbers 0, 1, 2 on pieces of paper and repeat step (2). This gives the 1st digit of the episode number.
NB- if 10 or under episodes this step is unnecessary.
4. Also write out the numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 9 and repeat step (2). This will tell you the 2nd digit of the episode in the series.

This method obviously works since we managed to pick an X-files episode for which Kate's video was still in its cellophane wrapper!



Essential Information for the Boys

? = women
t = time
£ = money
E = evil

$$? = t \times £$$

Women equal time & money

$$t = £$$

However time is money

$$\therefore ? = £^2$$

Therefore women = money²

$$£ = \sqrt{E}$$

But, money is the root of all evil

$$\therefore ? = \sqrt{E} \times \sqrt{E}$$

Therefore, women = (evil)²

$$\therefore ? = E$$

In conclusion women are evil

You have been warned.....

Reviews Page

Film: Donnie Darko

“twenty eight days
six hours
forty two minutes
twelve seconds...

...that is when
the world
will end”

Rating: ★★★★★

Donnie Darko’s world suddenly contains a 6foot rabbit no-one else can see, an old ex-nun, ex-science teacher named ‘Grandma Death’ and the new love of his life. However all this is about to end....

We learn about time travel and why Smurfs are illogical beings who don’t have mass orgies.

This is a must see film, although you may find yourself looking over your shoulder in case the bunny turns up.

Doesn’t contain much ‘hide behind a cushion’ scariness, but trying to think about the plot is likely to give you a major headache, as with all time-travel films.

There is also an excellent song towards the end... In fact the whole sound track’s pretty darn great.

The moral of the story is: If a meet a giant bunny rabbit let yourself get killed by a jet engine.

Film: Pirates of the Caribbean

Despite sounding like a crappy theme park ride Pirates of the Caribbean manages to achieve excellence through the comic genius of the actors, in particular the notorious Capt. Sparrow (Jonny Deep).

A pirate ship manned by the damned coupled with a Titanic-esque love triangle (don’t let this put you off though) provides all the essentials for a film you’ll want to download & watch again!



Rating: ★★★★★

***Film:* Dracula 2001**

Loosely based on the original Bram Stocker novel. This new twist by Wes Craven sees Dracula, the last of his kind, entombed in a London vault. Disturbed by thieves he is unleashed on the modern world; and the race is on for his former guardians to save a young woman with whom Dracula shares a powerful connection.

For the Girls.

The Vampire Hunter (Jonny Lee Miller) and Dracula (Gerald Butler) are both played by guys you wouldn't kick out of bed.

For the Guys.

This film sees the reforming of The Three Sisters (Colleen Ann Fitzpatrick, Jennifer Esposito and Jeri Ryan). Well endowed, sex-crazed women with fangs and slutty outfits.



Rating:



Please everyone submit a film or book review to us to be put in the next exciting edition of Launchpad!

Dear Counsellor Troi,

How has science fiction and fantasy affected your life? Are you persecuted by your peers? Do you feel isolated? Write to me, Deanna Troi, official Launchpad counsellor, and share your pain.

All entries are anonymous and where necessary names have been changed to protect identities...

It iss lossst.... My preciousss.... Lossstst!..... Nasssty hobbitssssss stole it they did.... ach! Bagginsss we hatesss it for ever!

Ssshire, that's where it livesss preciousss..... gollum gollum.... we needssss it preciousss... Where iss it? Where iss it?

Gollum, gollum.

Needs?... Or wants?... This object is clearly of great importance to you. But it is a crutch that you must learn to function without. Be confident in the inherent charms of your own personality and I'm sure that you can learn to act alone without the supposed security of this item. You admit yourself that you lost this 'precious' so it seems unlikely that the hobbit intentionally stole it, you are transferring your anger at yourself onto him, and that isn't fair. Learn to take responsibility for your own mistakes and become a functional member of society.

Dear Counsellor Troi,

I look like Jesus & everyone teases me about it. I am also being bombarded with rainbows, they're too much. Everyone uses me as a foot-rest! I can't cope! To escape the torment I am currently in retreat at an undisclosed location. What should I do?!? – Anon

You must learn to face these issues instead of running from them, hiding will only delay the inevitable. Be proud of your messiah like looks. Why not use them to manipulate others into worshipping you? There are plenty of gullible people who will believe you are the second coming, especially if your talents extend to raising the dead and turning water into an alcoholic beverage of your choice (in fact this will make you popular with everyone).

Why is it I wonder that you fear rainbows so much? Perhaps it is a subconscious manifestation of your fear of your underlying homosexual tendencies? Don't be afraid – as a rule science fiction societies are a very accepting lot.

Dear Counsellor Troi,

I'm always miserable and I drag everyone else down with me with long depressing speeches. I think my problems started when I was 16, my dad left, then I discovered I was in a minority group and I get persecuted for it all the time, then two serious boyfriends dumped me, my mom died, my sisters a kleptomaniac and I've been sleeping with a homicidal dead guy. I thought I was coping but recently my best friend turned evil and tried to destroy us all. What shall I do? – Anne.

Well Anne, clearly you have a lot of issues... Are you sure you don't have feelings for the cardiackly challenged man? While it is not my practice to encourage necrophilia perhaps he could be a source of support for you at this time? While you may feel very isolated as a minority, I'm sure there is at least one other person who is in this minority. Perhaps you could devise a way to bring more people in this situation into your group?

If that doesn't work...have you considered suicide?

Umm... Hi Counsellor Troi,

I have a very serious and rare problem, I have an overwhelming urge to steal other peoples seats..... especially Jesus'..... I know that this is wrong since he is the only Son of the Almighty and all that. But I can't seem to stop!.... Maybe its genetic or something?

People also say I have an unnatural obsession with rainbows.... I'm not sure what they mean by that.... I mean.... sure I like them..... I have a rainbow scarf, hat, top, jumper, gloves,

I'm also rather nervous since the men in white coats know where I live. At present I'm hiding out in the country with a friend.... But that won't stop them..... not with top secret government tracking systems! How can I convince them all that I don't need to be locked up?! – An omylouse

I'm a dedicated hard-working man, in a position of power & responsibility, I enjoy my work but lately I've noticed that everyone keeps telling me what to do then calling me a pushover. I try to delegate to my underlings but they have no concept of how the hierarchy of command works. I need to find a way to get them to accept my decisions and stop questioning my every move. I've tried, God knows I've tried, but nothing seems to work! They still see me as a weak willed figurehead who has no more power than a minion. - Skywalker

Counsellor,

You should consider sacrificing someone who is not such a major character with few family ties or friends. You will meet much less resistance this way.

I'm so misunderstood..... My flat mates tease me relentlessly about being weird and are reluctant to take me out in public..... of the people I've met on my course, few appreciate my more endearing qualities.....and my family worry about my mental state and won't tell their friends what I'm really like..... As a result I feel very isolated.....

I'm very traumatised at the moment and am having to take exams as well!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
 Will I ever find true love again???????? Will I ever pass
 biochemistry????????.....and will I ever succeed in exiting a car in a dignified manner
 while wearing a skirt???????? Yours in desperation.... Invisigoth.

Firstly it is impossible to exit a car in a dignified manner while wearing a skirt, you'll just have to learn to wear nice underwear so it doesn't matter so much. It is a good idea to make sure the underwear is matching as this saves embarrassment if you have any traffic accidents

while in your drunken state. Don't worry about being a lightweight either as it means you'll spend less on nights out.

I understand that the loss of your loved one must have been a terrible shock, I assume you have kept the ashes? Perhaps you should speak to Anon (see earlier letter), he has a certain skill with necromancy. This will save time searching for another true love.

Don't worry about failing Biochemistry again, it is the source of all evil and not understanding it can only be good for your soul. Anyway, it's fun being a student.

Dear Counsellor Troi,

I live with a friend of mine, don't get me wrong, she takes good care of me (no not like that!) but at times I find myself overwhelmed by the sheer amount of sci-fi she surrounds herself with. I have tried to get into it myself but I cannot seem to muster more than a casual interest. I think I need to find myself a hobby to take my mind off it, is there any support group I could join? Please help I'm at my wits end over this. – Cosmic

Dear cosmic... unless I am very much mistaken you are a hamster...correct? Running in a wheel, building nests and munching sunflower seeds are all perfectly acceptable hobbies.

Currently there is no support group for pets of sci-fi fanatics, however I believe there is one for pets of vet students, which you also are... maybe you could find support there.

In the mean time, don't persecute your 'friend' by being noisy during The X-Files.

Dear Counsellor Troi,

I wish to complain on behalf of my species. We are persecuted in many worlds, some to the point of extinction. We are portrayed in myths and novels alike as vicious monsters only interested in gold and young maidens. I very much appreciate this opportunity to set the record straight. To begin with yes we are attracted to gold, in a similar way to the magpie we have a eye for the glint of gold wherever it is stored. We often live in luxuriant surroundings, as we, like sophisticated men, like to surround ourselves with beauty. As to the devouring of maidens it is true that some of our number do enjoy a tasty virgin now and then, but we equally well like roasted pork and are quite partial to a few vegetables too. In fact a number of my acquaintances are devout vegetarians on discovering the distress caused to humans by this dietary habit.

It is not only gold that our love of beauty finds attractive, we also enjoy all the fine arts; poetry, opera, fine paintings, theatre. In fact there is a whole wealth of culture that is preserved only by us now that the societies that gave rise to them have passed into vague legends.

I hope that this brief insight into our true nature will help increase your understanding of us and that in turn the cruel persecution of my race will cease before we are forever wiped from the worlds. – Draco

It's not often that dragons write in to support pages. I'm not really trained to deal with your specific problems... however..... I sense.....deceit on your part... now stop eating virgins and filling up my letters page with strange rubbish.

Film Listing

6 th October	1900 2100	Resident Evil Babylon 5: A Call To Arms
13 th October	1900 2115	Star Trek Nemesis Scooby Doo
20 th October	1900 2110	The Terminator Final Ep: What You Leave Behind
27 th October	1900	The Hitchhikers Guide To The Galaxy
3 rd November	1900 2000	The Animatrix (Selected Episodes) Matrix Reloaded
10 th November	1900	Gremlins Night (1 & 2)
17 th November	1900 2130	Sphere BTVS Final Episode
24 th November	1900 2115	2001: A Space Odyssey Empire Of The Ants
1 st December	1900 2045	Critters Daredevil
8 th December	1900	The Lord Of The Rings: The Two Towers (Extended Version)