



# THE NAVEL

IF IT'S NOT IN THE NAVEL, IT'S NOT FLUFF

## COLOPHON

As always, email things to [locs@plokta.com](mailto:locs@plokta.com) or text or picture message to **XXXXXX XXXXXX**. You can also drop bits of paper into the box in the ops room.

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## THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT NAVELS NUMBER 5

Legend claims that Tortellini were inspired by the goddess Venus' navel. An Italian mediæval legend tells how Venus and Zeus, weary one night after their involvement in a battle between Bologna and Modena, arrive at a tavern in a small town on the outskirts of Bologna. After eating a hearty dinner and becoming slightly drunk, they decide to share a bedroom. The innkeeper, captivated after watching them, creeps to their room and peeks through the keyhole of the bedroom door. However, all he can see through the keyhole is the navel of Venus. This vision leaves him spellbound—so much so that he immediately rushes to the kitchen and creates a pasta inspired by Venus' navel...and so were born Tortellini. (<http://www.barillaus.com/faq.aspx>)

## Navel Manoeuvres

By popular demand the *Out of the Unknown* episode 'Level Seven' will be repeated on Monday in Christleton at 1pm [*Mark Slater*]

Following interest in Library Thing at the library cataloguing panel, Fran Dowd will demonstrate LibraryThing.com in the bar on Monday after the closing ceremony.

## More Healthy Exercise

We're taking the kids swimming again, at 9:30 am Monday. Families (including a swimming parent) are very welcome Apologies to Claire Goodall and David Wake, both of whom had to dodge multiple randomly small swimming objects today. [*Alison Scott*]

## Hair Raising

Current score for ½r: £17 21 for loss of facial hair, £40 15 against, leaving us with noticeably more money for LFF, and noticeably more visibility for ½r's face. Contributions, both for and against hirsuteness, are still welcome.

## Eastercon News

Inevitably, the LX bid for the Eastercon won by many votes to 3. The 2009 Eastercon will now be held in Bradford at the Cedar Court Hotel (and numerous others). Guests of Honour are Tim Powers, Jon Courtney Grimwood and Dirk Maggs. FGoH Bill & Mary Burns [*Good guests!—Eds*]. Website: [www.lx2009.com](http://www.lx2009.com) Rates at a low £35 (£25 unwaged,

£25 under 25, £15 under 17, £5 under 12, free under 5 or if you attended an Eastercon before 1964) for the rest of this con.

## Things You Never Wanted to Know About Navels

Bridget Bradshaw informs us that when she was at university she met a bloke who could put a yoyo in his navel. A YoYo biscuit. It's not so much the doing that bothers us as the contemplating.

## Random Bits of Fluff

Liam Proven's sexuality is safely held in escrow awaiting probate. [*An anonymous glorifier of terrorism*]

Could David Farmer please contact the League of Fan Funds about his JETS vote. Come to the LFF table in the Dealers' Room. [*Claire Brialey*]

John Meaney is visiting the con for the day! Buy him a beer!

Vote for JETS—many of the candidates are at the convention.

The Art Show took about £1600—quite low for an Eastercon.

## Lumps of Dead Animal

We've been appreciating the hotel's way with searing lumps of dead animal this weekend. The carvery was great value for £6.95, with roast beef the way both Marianne likes it (cooked way past the point of edibility) and the way Alison likes it (lean the cow against the radiator).

The lunchtime buns with hunks of dead animal were also very yummy, as was the chef.

### Convention Plugs

Year of the Teledu would like to thank everyone who has written limericks, solved cryptograms and thought about Big Issues. Gold Stars to all those who came to the Teledu challenge. It is only coincidental that the challenge was won by the young lady who took off most of her clothes.

For more Teledu fun, discussions and big ideas, come to Year of the Teledu, July 20th-22nd in Leicester. Membership is limited so join while you still can. [*YOTD*]

Redemption 09, 20-22 February 2009. Even though Redemption is still looking for a hotel, it is selling memberships for £40 and this goes up to £45 on 20 April and possibly higher when they know how much the new venue will cost. Rumours are that Chester and Chipping Norton are among the front runners in the hotel quest. [*Steve Rogerson*]

### More Minicon News

Saturday night's parties included DreamHaven Books 30th Anniversary party, a Peeps party, the LiveJournal party (still going when I wandered by shortly past 3am), and several other entertaining affairs, but my Party of the Night Award has to go to Amalgamated Spleen, Inc. I cheerfully signed my spleen organ donor card and obtained their "Harvest Me Now" badge ribbon, but it was the combination of convivial company and theme execution that took home the prize. In addition to their usual signage, our friends at ASI served up five unique wines un-

der their Flenser label: Albino Wino, Cordwater, Stealth Bovine, Sluice Juice, and my personal fave, Pardonnay. As the label on the back of the bottle explained, "We *hate* Chardonnay. Absolutely detest the stuff. So we figured we could ferment a diseased pancreas and end up with something a damn sight better than Chardonnay. Turns out we were wrong." [*Geri Sullivan*]

### Survival of the Fittest

Caroline Mullan went to the Blue Planet Aquarium and learnt about a shark that has two entire sets of genitalia. Cool. Even better, it incubates eggs in each womb and hatches them live in utero. In each side, the strongest baby sharklet eats all its siblings. Yummy. And when they finally get into the ocean, the stronger remaining baby eats the other.

The cabal is now considering how this can be adapted for Orbital children's programming.

### Around the City Walls

People who missed the guided tour shouldn't shy away from trying to walk the walls alone (although strolling with some company is better). [*Or sign up for Mike Scott's tour tomorrow—Ed.*] Go down Watergate Street, admire the arch and climb up. Either way will do, but try going south, past The Roodee (Chester Racecourse), crossing Grosvenor Road, passing The Castle (with the impressive Flag Tower) and then along the River Dee. Military history can be found at the Cheshire Regiment museum just up St. Mary's Hill. Then continue over the Bridgegate. Instead of walking the high wall

here, you can also admire it from below and walk up through the Roman Gardens, following the wall to the north. Climb the wall again before the Newgate, and continue up to Thimbleby Tower. That has a view of the partly excavated Roman amphitheatre. Walking North brings you to the wonderful Eastgate Clock, with a nice view of busy Eastgate Street. Walk north past the Cathedral until you reach the north wall along the Shropshire Union Canal. Past the Northgate you get to St. Martin's Gate over the busy ring-road. Admire the Northgate locks, where you might see some canal boats being passed through (there's an impressive height difference to overcome, which gets done remarkably quickly). Look quickly at the railway intersection near the Water Tower before you turn south again and step down at the Watergate. [*Jan van't Ent*]

### Daytime Paper Doll Masquerade Results

#### Kids

**Best hand-drawn:** Tilly "Cinderella"

**Best colouring:** Meriol "Blue mini-dress"

**Best alien:** Danae "Alien"

**Future of fannish fashion:** Charlotte "Diamonds"

#### Adults

**Best recreation:** Michelle "Rose Tyler"

**Best use of a brass bra:** John O'Donnell "Heroine"

**Subtlety in the face of fandom:** Tanya Brown "Purple Dress"

**Blatant self-promotion:** Teledu

**Best in show:** Deirdre Counihan "Alanna from 'The Panther'"