

# Orion

THE CANADIAN MAGAZINE OF TIME AND SPACE • ISSUE #8 • APRIL/MAY 2007

A MOMENTOUS  
ANNIVERSARY...



IN THIS ISSUE:

**THE HAUNTING OF MACGRATH • CANADIANA**

AND NOT MUCH ELSE BECAUSE I JUST HAD A BABY AND MY BRAIN HAS MELTED

# MURPHY'S LAWYER

MARK SHAINBLUM'S LITTLE PIECE OF MIND

## A COMICOPI-CENTENNIAL!



I was only four years old when Canada celebrated its centennial in 1967. By all accounts, the country had quite a party, but my memories of it are fuzzy and mostly limited to that maddening “Ca-naa-daaa, one little two little three Canadians” jingle that was being pumped out 24 hours a day.

Let’s just say that I’m honoured to be old enough to be part of *this* centennial, a hallmark to the creativity and persistence of Mike Aragona, Jeff Boman and the rest of you who’ve been keeping this worthy endeavour going for seventeen years! As I said in my first *Orion* issue published in *Comicipia*, “In a world where the bottom line increasingly seems to dictate everything, people dedicating themselves to the expressing of pure creativity is little short of heroic, and I’d like to be a part of it. Moreover, even in these blog day afternoons, you’re still making the effort to produce *Comicipia* on *paper*. I love the web, but online content sometimes seems to lack – not just the *permanence* of print, but even the basic *reality* of print.”

I raise a metaphorical glass to all of us, and wish us all another hundred issues! See you all here in 2024!

Best!

Mark Shainblum



# Orion

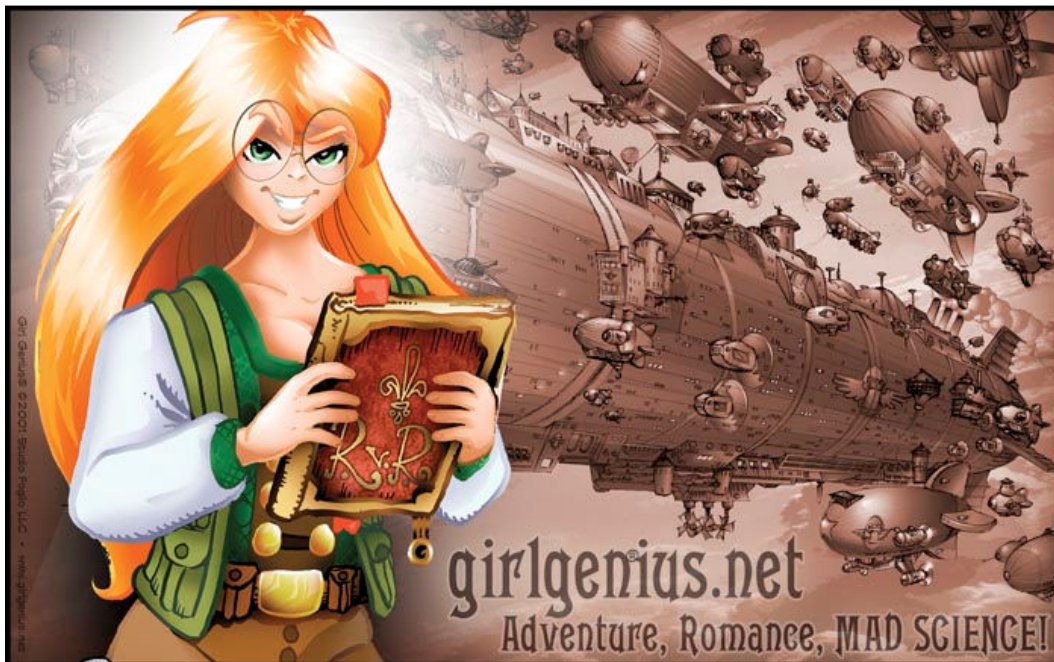
THE CANADIAN MAGAZINE OF TIME AND SPACE

ISSUE #8 • APRIL/MAY 2007 • FOUNDED 1981 • MARK SHAINBLUM, EDITOR  
ANGLOMAN ILLUSTRATIONS BY GABRIEL MORRISSETTE  
COVER ILLUSTRATION FROM CANADIANA BY A.J. KRAUST

*Orion: The Canadian Magazine of Time and Space* is published by Matrix Comics for inclusion in Comicopia and for limited external distribution. ISSN 0710-2410. All contents copyright © 2007 Mark Shainblum. *Angloman* copyright © 2007 by Mark Shainblum and Gabriel Morrissette, *Canadiana: The New Spirit of Canada*, copyright © 2007 Sandy Caruthers, Jeff Alward and Mark Shainblum. Guest artwork © 2007 by Brenda Hickey and A.J. Kraust. *The Haunting of MacGrath* copyright © 2007 Mark Shainblum, artwork © 2007 by Jeff Alward. Used with permission. My wife and I made a person. That's just weird. **Printed in Canada.**



Matrix Comics • Tel.: (514) 369-9090 • [mark@matrixcomics.com](mailto:mark@matrixcomics.com) • [www.northguard.com/mbs](http://www.northguard.com/mbs).



My latest webcomics obsession, the brilliant and hilarious *Girl Genius* by Phil and Kaja Foglio.



**WRITTEN BY MARK SHAINBLUM  
ILLUSTRATED BY SANDY CARRUTHERS, JEFF ALWARD  
AND SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST A.J. KRAUST**

**CANADIANA CREATED BY SANDY CARRUTHERS**

*Only one page of Canadiana this time out, but what a page it is! I “met” webcomics artist A.J. Kraust on ComicSpace.com, the new online MySpace-type social networking site for comic book people. She produces World Break, her own spectacular fantasy webcomic, which you can find online at <http://worldbreak.ashen-ray.com>*

*I fell in love with her style, and when our previous guest artist Brenda Hickey wrapped up her commitment to Canadiana, I asked A.J. if she’d be willing to step in for a single episode. Much to our surprise and delight, she did. I think you’ll enjoy the results.*



Canadiana fan art by our dedicated fan, Jen “Kittie Orion” (yes, I said Kittie Orion). More of her work is online at <http://ninpukittie.deviantart.com/>



# MEDIAWATCH

REVIEWS AND OVERVIEWS OF THIS AND THAT

*Webcomics*

## THE ALAN MOORE OF BREAKFAST CEREAL

**BREAKFAST OF THE GODS: THE LAST GOOD MORNING**

[WWW.WEBCOMICSNATION.COM/POYORICK/BOTG/](http://WWW.WEBCOMICSNATION.COM/POYORICK/BOTG/)

By Brendan Douglas Jones

Brendan Douglas Jones is the Alan Moore of breakfast cereal! That's a strong (and infinitely weird) statement, but *Breakfast of the Gods* is a strong (and infinitely weird) webcomic.

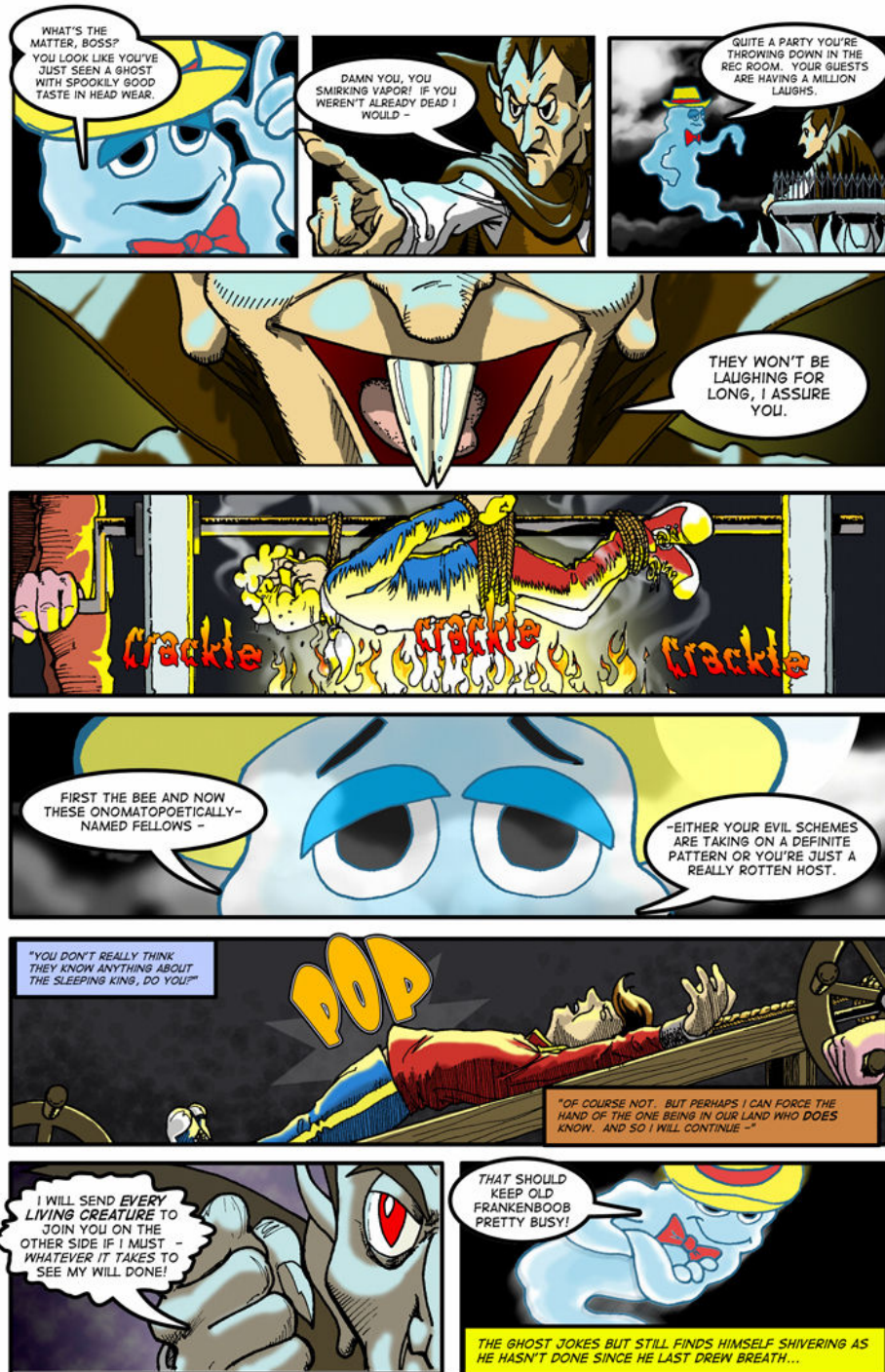
Like the best art, reading this comic strip makes you uncomfortable, not least because it makes you aware just how deeply corporate icons like Tony the Tiger, Sugar Bear and

Count Chocula have buried themselves in our collective psyche. No one in North America who grew up on Saturday morning cartoons will need any explanation or backstory to follow this comic (though presumably, someone from France or Botswana



would find it utterly incomprehensible).

Jones' recasting the icons of Thiamine, Ribflavin and super-sweet sugar coatings as heroes in a Tolkienesque drama (with hints of the Crisis on Infinite Earths) is just brilliant. Or, dare I say it... it's GRRREEEAT!

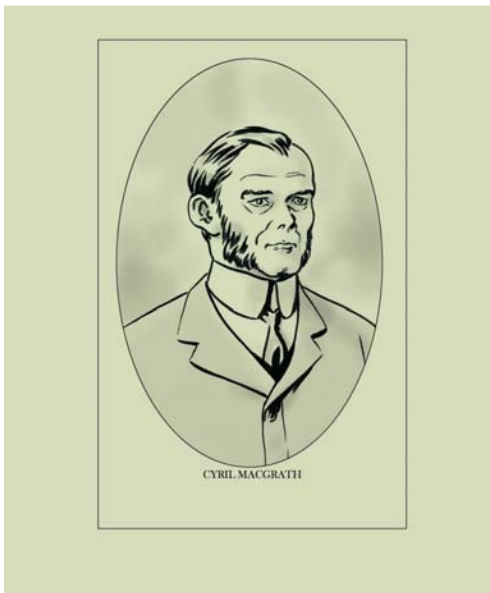


SOMETIMES, WHODUNIT IS THE WRONG QUESTION.

# THE HAUNTING OF MACGRATH

More pages from new weekly webcomic by Mark Shainblum and Jeff Alward

Online at [www.webcomics.ca/haunting](http://www.webcomics.ca/haunting)







HER NAME IS  
**CECILIA...**

**CECILIA LAWSON,**  
AGE 21, DAUGHTER OF  
**SAMUEL AND EMILY LAWSON,**  
FIFTH COUSIN TO THE FAMOUS  
**BANKERS AND BREW**  
**MASTERS.**

AH, I'D WONDERED  
ABOUT THAT.



NO DOUBT.

FOUND SOMETHING,  
MACGRATH?

JUST A MOMENT,  
INSPECTOR.



IT APPEARS TO BE A  
**GOLD LOCKET COVER.**

JUST THE COVER?

YES, AND, IF I AM NOT  
MISTAKEN, **TORN VIOLENTLY**  
FROM THE REST OF  
THE PIECE.



THE SAME VIOLENT HANDS THAT WRAPPED THEMSELVES AROUND MISS LAWSON'S DELICATE NECK, I'D WAGER.

THIS IS *SENSELESS*, MACGRATH! WHY WOULD THE KILLER TAKE THE TIME TO *BREAK* A PIECE OF JEWELRY?



A VALID QUESTION, ONE THAT WOULD BE EASIER TO ANSWER IF THE CRIME SCENE HAD NOT BEEN SO THOROUGHLY *TRAMPLED* BY THE GREAT UNWASHED PUBLIC.

AND, FRANKLY, THE EVEN *LESS* HYGIENIC POLICE SERVICE. I COULD NOT MAKE OUT ANY *WHEEL TRACKS* OR *FOOT-PRINTS* AT ALL. FOR ALL I KNEW, THE MURDERER MIGHT HAVE DROPPED HER BODY FROM A HOT AIR BALLOON.



THE CONSTABLE FOUND HER PURSE, WITH ALMOST *THIRTY DOLLARS* CASH STILL INSIDE.

SO THE MOTIVE WAS *NOT* ROBBERY.

YOUNG, PRETTY LASS LIKE THAT, THERE'S *OTHER THINGS* THAN MONEY SOME MEN'D WANT, AND THEY'D TAKE IT, TOO.



MARK MY WORDS, MR. MACGRATH. I WILL FIND THE *BASTARD* WHO DID THIS, AND I WILL SEE HIM *SWING*. BY *GOD*, I WILL SEE HIM *SWING*!



I SHARE YOUR INDIGNATION, GREASY. BUT WE SHALL DO POOR MISS LAWSON NO GOOD IF WE ALLOW *OUTRAGE* TO CONSUME OUR *REASON*.

EMOTION MAKES US *BLIND*, AND VENGEANCE AND JUSTICE ARE INCOMPATIBLE BEDFELLOWS.



GREASY DID NOT SEEM ALTOGETHER CONVINCED. HIS PHILOSOPHY OF POLICE WORK OWED MUCH TO *LEAD PIPES* DEFTLY APPLIED IN BACK ROOMS. STOPPING TO CONSIDER THE *FACTS* WAS A NOTION ENTIRELY FOREIGN TO HIS NATURE.

WE'LL SEE, MR. MACGRATH. WE'LL SEE.



"IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO TELL GREASY THAT I HAD BEEN ENGAGED BY THE MORE FAMOUS BRANCH OF THE LAWSON FAMILY TO INVESTIGATE THIS MATTER ON THEIR BEHALF."

"THE NOTE FROM THEIR SOLICITOR HAD BEEN QUITE EXPLICIT. THEY WOULD REQUIRE REGULAR AND DETAILED REPORTS OF MY PROGRESS."

*the Hardy  
Broken Locket*

"I SHOULD HAVE USED THE RIDE BACK TO MONTREAL TO ORGANIZE MY THOUGHTS, AND PONDER THE INCONGRUITIES OF THIS AFFAIR."

"FOR INSTANCE, HOW AND WHY DID POOR MISS LAWSON'S BODY END UP IN A DITCH IN COTE ST. LUC, A THINLY POPULATED OUTPOST OF FARMERS AND RACCOONS OVER FOUR MILES OUT OF TOWN?"

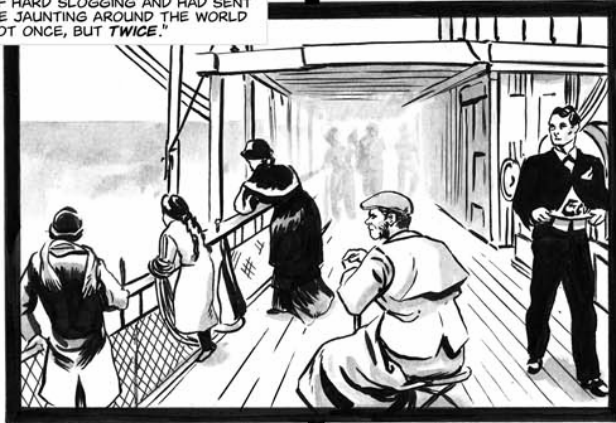


"BUT MY THOUGHTS KEPT DRIFTING TO THE PREVIOUS AFFAIR AND THE UNFORTUNATE MR. DEVOORS."



"I CHIDED MYSELF FOR MY OBSESSION, BUT I COULD DO NOTHING TO ESCAPE IT."

"THE AFFAIR HAD COST ME MONTHS OF HARD SLOGGING AND HAD SENT ME JAUNTING AROUND THE WORLD NOT ONCE, BUT *TWICE*."



"THUS IT WAS DOUBLY INFURIATING WHEN MY MENTOR SIMPLY *SNIPPED* THE GORDIAN KNOT OF THE BELGIAN AFFAIR WITHIN A QUARTER HOUR OF HEARING MY REPORT."

"HE DISMISSED MY THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL *INTRIGUE* AND SPYMASTER *SKULLDUGGERY* WITH THE WAVE OF A HAND..."



"...AND CORRECTLY SURMISED THAT THE UNFORTUNATE MR. DEVOORS HAD BEEN DONE IN BY ONE *HUGO VILLIERS*, HIS OWN PERSONAL SECRETARY, FOR REASONS ALTOGETHER TOO SORDID AND DISGUSTINGLY *OBVIOUS* TO RECOUNT."

"HEAVEN FORBID THAT ANYTHING SO INTERESTING AS A *SPY CASE* TURN UP IN A COLONIAL BACKWATER, ONE SUPPOSES..."

NEVERTHE-  
LESS,  
BACKWATER OR NO, CANADIAN  
INDUSTRY  
PRODUCES  
GOOD, STRONG  
ROPE."



"A FACT MR. VILLIERS INVESTIGATED RATHER MORE *CLOSELY* THAN HE WOULD HAVE LIKED, SOME WEEKS AFTER I RETURNED FROM LONDON."



"THERE WOULD BE NO ESCAPE UNTIL I GAVE HIM A STATEMENT OF SOME SORT."

HONORÉ, YOU *KNOW* I CANNOT COMMENT ON THE PARTICULARS OF ANY CASE OR CLIENT...

