

All
Year

(APL) The Mithrandir Show—Wildlife 1:00
The Hamster sleeps, eats, drinks, runs on his wheel, dashes through his tubes, and climbs the bars. Later, with the Hamster Barrier in place, he comes out into the Lounge and runs around, to the great enjoyment of all.

(MTV) Music Boxes—Music
Thomas collects an assortment of modern and antique disc-playing music boxes.

(QVC) The Star Toys Museum—Toys
As the flood of new *Star Wars* merchandise continues in the wake of *Attack of the Clones*, Thomas struggles to keep up.

Feb (TRV) Boskone—Con 4:00
Thomas and Don travel to New England to visit family & friends, and to attend the annual Boskone SF convention in Boston. Along the way they stay one step ahead of the snow, and ride out the blizzard safe in New Hampshire with Lisa Barnett & Melissa Scott. (Live)

2 7 47 True Confessions
Don realizes that, despite all claims to the contrary, he really doesn't Love Raymond.

Mar (20) (24) Galaxy Con—Con 2:00
Don is a guest at Galaxy Con, an SF/Media convention five minutes from home. He sells lots of books.

(FAM) Batman Moves Out—Spinoff 1:00
Rob leaves Meerkat Meade to make his own way in the world.

(TRV) Technicon—Con 3:00
The boys travel to Blacksburg, VA and are reunited with old friends.

Apr (9) (13) (16) The Vanagon—Auto
After Don's Rabbit gives up the ghost, a new vehicle joins the Meerkat Meade fleet—a 1990 VW Vanagon with some unusual talents.

(SCI) The Leaves of October—Book
Speed-of-C Productions reissues Don's classic SF novel. (Repeat)

May (A&E) Maryland Library Association
Don travels to Ocean City, MD to give a presentation on science fiction to the Maryland Library Association. The presentation is very well-received.

(H&G) Garden Party
Meerkat Meade is the site for a giant "May the Fourth Be With You" and Hugo Nominations Thank-You Party. The gathering is attended by Library people, costumers, and assorted other members of our outrageous entourage, and continues late into the night. A grand time is had by all.

(TRV) Balticon—Con 4:00
Thomas and Don are guests at the Balticon SF convention in downtown Baltimore. Surrounded by friends and colleagues, they both have a grand time.

Jun (DSC) Time's Winged Chariot—Birthdays
The boys quietly observe their birthdays — Don's 45th, and Thomas' 39th. Thomas loses weight, exercises, and changes his eating habits. Don, adopting his first pair of bifocals, increasingly begins to take on a resemblance to Benjamin Franklin.

(SCI) A Voice in Every Wind—Book
Speed-of-C Productions publishes a new title in Don's "Scattered Worlds" series. This pair of linked novelettes is set on the alien planet Kaa, whose inhabitants communicate by scent and taste as much as by sight and sound.

TV GUIDE AT WORK

Changes in the Workplace

The Anne Arundel County Library System, where Don has spent most of his professional life, gets a new Administrator and adopts a new, different computer system. Meanwhile, the Severna Park Branch is closed for two weeks for recarpeting (during which time every book and bookshelf must be moved and replaced), and Don's beloved Branch Manager is replaced. Don searches for additional stress-inducing experiences.

At Papa John's, where Thomas works happily delivering pizzas, another beloved manager is forced out and replaced. The ensuing stress has hilarious results! (24/7)

All Year (4) (8) (11) (25)

Jul (45) Shore Leave—Con
Thomas attends Shore Leave in Cockeysville, MD, where he enjoys good times with old friends and new ones.

(H&G) Kilts—Fashion
Thomas adopts a new temporary obsession, as he begins to sew and wear kilts.

Aug (H&G) DVDs and MP3s
The DVD revolution comes to Meerkat Meade, with an ongoing effort to replace VHS versions of favorite movies with DVD editions. Similarly, the boys continue using their iMac to convert music on CD and audiotape to MP3 format.

Aug (TRV) Torcon—Con
Sep Along with their friend Amanda, Thomas and Don drive to Toronto for the 61st World Science Fiction Convention. At the con, the boys don their Jedi robes for a Worldcon wedding (see box on this page).

(COM) Torcon Masquerade—Farce 6:00
Thomas and Amanda are contestants, with Don as their helper, in the worst-run Worldcon Masquerade in recent memory. The comedy of errors leaves our heroes frustrated and exhausted, but ultimately amused.

(SCI) Hugo & Spectrum Results—Awards
Don's novel *Dance for the Ivory Madonna* is a finalist for the Gaylactic Spectrum Award, and garners 56 nominations for the Hugo Award.

Sep (HIS) Renfair—Festival 5:00
Along with their friends in the Greater Columbia Fantasy Costumers Guild, Thomas and Don attend the Maryland Renaissance Festival, and then a festive dinner at Applebee's. A grand time is had by all.

(SCI) PsiScouts #1: At Risk—Book
Speed-of-C Productions releases the first of the PsiScouts novels, billed as a cross between X-Men and Buck Rogers. Series is published under Don's pseudonym, Phil Meade.

(WEA) A Visit From Isabel—Drama
Hurricane Isabel blows into town, devastating much of the East Coast and plunging Meerkat Meade into power-less darkness for sixteen hours.

TV
GUIDE

ROMANCE

The Wedding

Taking advantage of an historic judgement by the Ontario Supreme Court, Thomas and Don, along with three other couples, officially tied the knot in a ceremony at the Toronto Worldcon. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. Dr. Cheri Dinovo of the Emmanuel-Howard Park United Church of Canada. Although neither Maryland nor the United States legally recognize the union, the boys are as married as any couple on the planet. (1:00)



Aug 28 (HIS)

Oct (TRV) Albacon—Con 3:00
Thomas and Don again travel to New England for Albacon, the annual Albany-area SF convention. There, Don ties for second place in the Masquerade with his Byzantine costume. The boys also manage to visit family in Boston and Lisa & Melissa in New Hampshire.

(CSP) Everybody Loves Howard—Politics
As the Presidential Election season approaches, Don and Thomas find themselves enthusiastically supporting Howard Dean, excited about a politician for the first time in a long, long while.

Nov (CAR) Clone Wars—Cartoon
Cartoon Network's *Clone Wars* cartoon brings a return of *Star Wars* excitement to Meerkat Meade.

(TRV) Darkover Grand Council—Con 3:00
Don & Thomas attend this favorite SF convention in Timonium, Maryland. During the annual Clam Chowder concert, Thomas sings with the group and over \$2700 is raised for the benefit of Children's Hospital.

Dec (SCI) Curse of the Zwilling—Book
Speed-of-C Productions releases Don's paranormal thriller, billed as "Buffy meets Hogwarts."