

## WHAT IS THE HERTSON SCROLL?

JANUARY 17TH, 2001 RECLUSIVE ONLINE ROLL-PLAYING ENTHUSIAST NIGEL HERTSON DIED FROM A RARE CASE OF CUS, OR CONTEMPORARY URBAN SCURVY, BROUGHT ON BY JUNK FOOD INDUCED MALNUTRITION.

HERTSON LEFT THE WORLD WITHOUT FRIENDS OR FAMILY (ASIDE FROM A RAGTAG TEAM OF FELLOW VIRTUAL ADVENTURERS IN THE DIGITAL CAVERNS OF MITHROYL) AND SO IT WAS LEFT TO HIS LANDLORD, DEBORAH MCFEW, TO DISPOSE OF HIS AFFECTS. HIS PALTRY BELONGINGS CONSISTED MAINLY OF THE FOLLOWING: STACKS OF MANGA, VINYL FIGURINES OF SAILOR MOON AND HER UNIFORM-CLAD FRIENDS, JUNK FOOD WRAPPERS, ONE RAKKE OR IKEA CHEST OF DRAWERS (VERY LIKELY SECOND HAND AS "DAVID IZ A FART FACE!" IS WRITTEN IN CHILDISH SCRAWL ON THE BACK), A PC WITH MULTIPLE BOOKMARKS OF WEBSITES DEVOTED TO GILLIAN ANDERSON AKA DANA SCULLY THE GINGER-HAIRED THESPIAN OF X-FILES FAME, A FOAM ADJUSTABLE CHAIR/LOUNGER, A MATTRESS AND BOX SPRING, A COLLECTION OF SCI-FI PAPERBACKS, AND AN "AB ROLLER" STILL IN ORIGINAL PACKAGING. THE ONLY POSSESSIONS NOT COVERED IN GRIME WERE HIS PC AND A WELL-THUMBED COPY OF CORVETTE FEVER. UPON FURTHER INSPECTION MS. MCFEW NOTICED A PLASTIC-WRAPPED CYLINDER CIRCLED IN TWINE THAT WAS CONCEALED BETWEEN THE MATTRESS AND THE FAR WALL.

THE OBJECT HAD A NOTE TAPED TO IT.

*'Some men are destined for great deeds and some get kicked out of their parents' basement and have to hole up in mold-infested establishments while they scale the perilous threads of the WorldWide Web on the government's dime. I was just such a person until I met M. who told me this tale as payment for guiding his newbie ass through the nearly impassible hanging bridges of Mithroyl Mountains. The tale came to M.'s grandfather who*

*heard it from an unknown source who whispered it through the ductwork while M.'s grandfather was serving 3 days of solitary confinement at Boonville Correctional Center. It was on this grandfather's prison deathbed that the tale was related to M.*

*Under great personal risk, I am compelled by the Seven Virtues of the Behemoth Brotherhood and by the Knights of Mithroyl Code of Honor to record this epic so that some day, when the world is ready, the saga can be received. These four ivory walls, this weary bed, and Sailors Moon, Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and that irrepressible imp, Sailor Mars, have been the only witnesses to the prescient tale, that even today, as I close my world-worn eyes, haunts me. I have gone to great lengths to protect the message. Please, don't let it fall into the wrong hands.*

*Signed:*

*Nigel Hertson, Rogue and Rambler, man of  
the downtrodden and future Corvette owner,  
Esquire'*

## MYSTERIES OF THE SCROLL TODAY

WHEN MS. MCFEW REMOVED THE WRAPPING FROM THE OBJECT AND UNRAVELED THE EXTRAORDINARY 60-FOOT SCROLL, SHE PUZZLED OVER ITS CRYPTIC CONTENTS. THE SCROLL'S MEANING REMAINS A MYSTERY TO THIS DAY, AS FEW HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DECODE ITS BIZARRE, VEILED SCRIPT.

MOREOVER, EXISTING TRANSLATIONS ARE RIDDLED WITH CONTROVERSY AND HAVE YET TO BE AUTHENTICATED BY ANY LEGITIMATE SCHOLARLY INSTITUTION.

THIS PROBLEM WAS EXACERBATED BY DEBORAH MCFEW'S COUSIN WHO, WHILE VISITING FROM BOSTON, MADE A DRESS OUT OF KEY STRETCHES OF IT FOR HER DAUGHTER'S DEBUT ROLE AS BEATRICE IN FORREST HIGH'S LACKLUSTER ADAPTATION OF DANTE'S DIVINE COMEDY: INFERNO RELOADED. THIS UNKNOWING ACT OF IRREVERENCE CULMINATED IN TRAGEDY WHEN THE DRESS WAS BURNED IN A FORREST HIGH ARSON ATTEMPT TO POSTPONE FINALS.

AS "M'S" IDENTITY REMAINS ELUSIVE WE HAVE RELIED ON THE INNOVATIVE SLEUTH WORK OF PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARS. THE LEMMINGS INSTITUTE'S NOTED CRYPTOLOGIST AND SELF-DESCRIBED VANGUARD HISTORIAN, DR. JONATHAN POWELL REVEALS HIS EXEGESIS OF WHAT REMAINS OF THE ENIGMATIC SCROLL IN THE FILM "WHAT MANNER OF PERSON ART THOU?"