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The Current


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Whole Show Blow-by-Blow

The Current for Show July 15, 2005

Satire

It's Friday, July 15th.

Tonight, just past the stroke of midnight, over 12 million copies of 'Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince' go on sale around the world.

Currently, I don't know where author JK Rowling gets off making fun of Prince Harry and the royal family. Just because Harry dresses up like a Nazi and doesn't look like his dad, doesn't mean you can call him 'half-blood'. I mean, whatever happened to eccentric?

This is The Current.

Leeds Reporter

When her son still hadn't returned home 12 hours after last week's horrifying London bombings, Maniza Hussain feared the worst. She called the police. She worried Hasib might have been one of the victims on the number 30 bus. Police soon determined he was on the bus.

But after viewing closed circuit video, they don't believe he was a victim. They believe Hasib was responsible for the attack. The next day, anti-terrorist squads raided the homes of Maniza Hussain and four other families in Leeds, a working class city in northern England. Friends, families and neighbours are trying to understand how three men, born and bred in Britain, could have murdered their neighbours.

To get a sense of how the bombings are affecting the community, we were joined by Phil Squire. He's a radio reporter for the [BBC](#) and he was in Leeds.

Inside Recruitment Drive

They seem such unlikely bombers. A lad who loved cricket. A boy who helped out in the fish and chip shop. A husband and father who looked after disabled children. British raised -- many British born, living very British lives.

And yet, police believe they seethed with a hatred so intense they killed themselves just so they could kill their neighbours. What made these ordinary men from north England become human bombs? British newspapers reported on a leaked government dossier last week which reveals that a network of extremists is targeting university and college campuses to find the foot soldiers of modern terrorism.

[MJ Gohel](#) is a security and intelligence analyst with the [Asia-Pacific Foundation](#), an international intelligence think-tank based in London. He has investigated the profiles and nature of terrorist individuals. He joined us from his office in London.

Doctor

The London bomb blasts inspired some incredible acts of bravery and resourcefulness. Strangers became comrades and commuters became heroes. Dr Peter Holden was attending a conference in London at the [British Medical Association's](#) Headquarters on Tavistock Square. The number 30 bus blew up right outside the Associations' building.

A trained triage specialist, he has helped out at major disasters. So on the next two and half hours he took command control - of a team of 15 other senior doctors - and turned the BMA's central courtyard into a casualty ward to treat dozens of victims. Because of his training, he quickly recognized it was a bomb and waited briefly to see if the attackers had planted a second device. Then he went to help.

[Dr. Peter Holden](#) is a General Practitioner in Britain and a specialist in emergency care at trauma scenes, and he was in London.

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The Current: Part 2

Science Sci-Fi – Krauss

We started this segment with some wit and wisdom from Montgomery Scott. Scotty wouldn't be too impressed with broadcast technology but talking across vast distances was a fantastic idea long before it was a reality. So, the creators of Star Trek didn't feel bound by what card-carrying physicists felt was possible. And they came up with a new way to get from A to B.

And this doesn't even mention time travel and traveling at warp speed. But lately, researchers working on the frontiers of theoretical physics have produced results that seem closer to the imaginings of science fiction than academia. Some of the staples of science fiction may not be strictly fiction after all.

In recent weeks, researchers have shown that time travel is possible that wormholes may indeed be tunnels linking remote areas of space and time to each other, and researchers in the United States and Austria have successfully teleported single atoms. That's just a few million zillion atoms short of what's needed to teleport humans, but hey, Rome wasn't built in a day.

To help us get our heads around some of the mind-bending research that's blurring the lines between science and science fiction, we were joined by Lawrence Krauss. He's a Canadian who teaches physics at [Case Western Reserve University](#) in Cleveland, Ohio, and he's the author of [The Physics of Star Trek](#) and the upcoming book, *Hiding in the Mirror: The Mysterious Allure of Extra Dimensions*. He was in Cleveland, Ohio.

Science Sci-Fi –Sawyer

Well, this kind of science may not be actually stepping on the toes of science fiction writers, but it does have implications for their work. It vindicates some of their ideas, while debunking others.

It's a two-way street though. While scientists' research can inspire the work of writers often it's the science fiction authors who are pushing the boundaries of what

scientists do.

[Robert Sawyer is a Toronto-area science fiction writer](#) whose novels have won science fiction writing's most prestigious awards, the Hugo and the Nebula. His most recent novel is *Mindscan*. We recently spoke with him when he was attending a science fiction convention in Calgary, and started the conversation by asking him whether he'd ever used time travel, wormholes and teleportation in his novels. He was in Calgary.

Science Sci-Fi –Burns

Science fiction's job is to dream, but often, the quality of science in science fiction movies and television is just nightmarish. Which is too bad since so many people are exposed to science largely through popular culture. That's what inspired a new company called Hollywood Math and Science Film Consulting - a collective of academics hoping to help Hollywood use science and math creatively and correctly.

One of the partners of [Hollywood Math and Science Film Consulting](#) is [Dr. Lizzie Burns](#). She's a biochemist at [Oxford University](#), and she's also a painter and playwright. We reached Lizzie Burns at her home in Oxford, England.

First Voice Promo

Coming up next Stay tuned for First Voice - Cree musician Thomas Roussen goes to The Crow Hop, a prairie jam in Regina where aboriginal poets, musicians and performance artists strut their stuff.

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