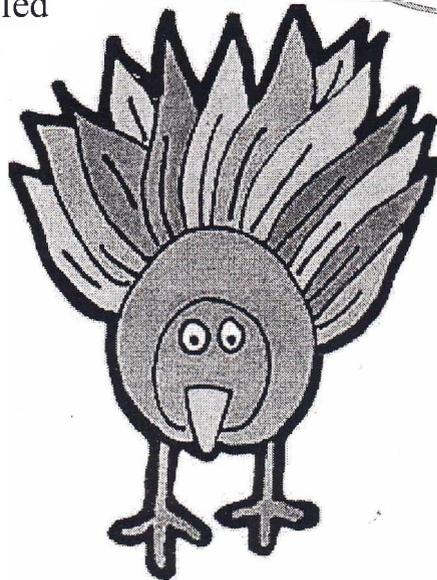


# Timebound

Having gained the ability to read after a freak irradiation accident, Tom convinced himself that his fears of axe murderers were paranoid fantasies until he stumbled across the encyclopedia entry for "Thanksgiving".

FooFoo save me! It's a nation-wide cannibal conspiracy!



**Timebound**, the monthly newsletter/clubzine of the Kansas City Science Fiction & Fantasy Society, a not-for-profit corporation. All material, save where otherwise noted, is ©2000 for the contributors, and all rights are hereby reassigned to them.

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<p><b>ADVERTISING RATES</b></p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>per issue</th> <th>3 mos</th> <th>6 mos</th> <th>1 year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>full page</td> <td>\$20</td> <td>\$50</td> <td>\$80</td> <td>\$120</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1/2 page</td> <td>\$10</td> <td>\$25</td> <td>\$40</td> <td>\$60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1/4 page</td> <td>\$5</td> <td>\$13</td> <td>\$20</td> <td>\$30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		per issue	3 mos	6 mos	1 year	full page	\$20	\$50	\$80	\$120	1/2 page	\$10	\$25	\$40	\$60	1/4 page	\$5	\$13	\$20	\$30	<p><b>THE ELECTRONIC KaCSFFS</b>  <i>Info Line:</i>          816/545-GROK (4765)  <i>Web Domain:</i>  <a href="http://www.kcsciencefiction.org">www.kcsciencefiction.org</a></p>
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**November, 2000, Vol. XXIV #9.** Contributors this issue include: Bob Tucker, Bob Webber, Carol Doms, Cheryl Peugh, Crispin Burnham, Susan Satterfield, Karl Foss, Star Straf, and Tim Frayser. Also, a loc from Brad Foster.

Cover by the editor; clip art artist unknown.

Interior art: Brad Foster, page 14, 22; Jim Shull, page 28.

Interior clip art from CorelDraw 4, Key ClipMaster Pro, Corel WordPerfect Suite 7, and Masterclips Premium Art Collection.



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*NautilusCon in 2004!*

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## OCTOBER ISSUE ERRATA

Page 4 — Pat Taylor reports our statement that Ty Gephardt is the youngest-ever KaCSFFS member is incorrect. Pat remembers a Kacsfan buying a membership for her 7-year-old daughter. That would be back in the age of fannish dinosaurs, right Pat? {What would you know about that, you Johnny-come-lately hairless ape? —T.T.} Hey, Terry, we were addressing Pat. Quit horning in!

Page 24 (November Calendar) — Dates for the Borders' Book Talks are again listed incorrectly. As always, the Fantasy Book Talk is the 2nd Monday and the SF Literati Book Talk is the 4th Monday.

I'm sure it's just a coincidence that when I was finishing this, I removed my aluminum-foil-lined beanie, and that Jason Gasper recently asked again about the specifics for artificial brainwave manipulation on KDL.

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## NOTICE OF CHANGES

Laura Barnes has resigned as Activities Coordinator, due to "inheriting a family", as she puts it. A volunteer is sought to replace her.

## KaCSFFS Meeting & Thanksgiving Dinner

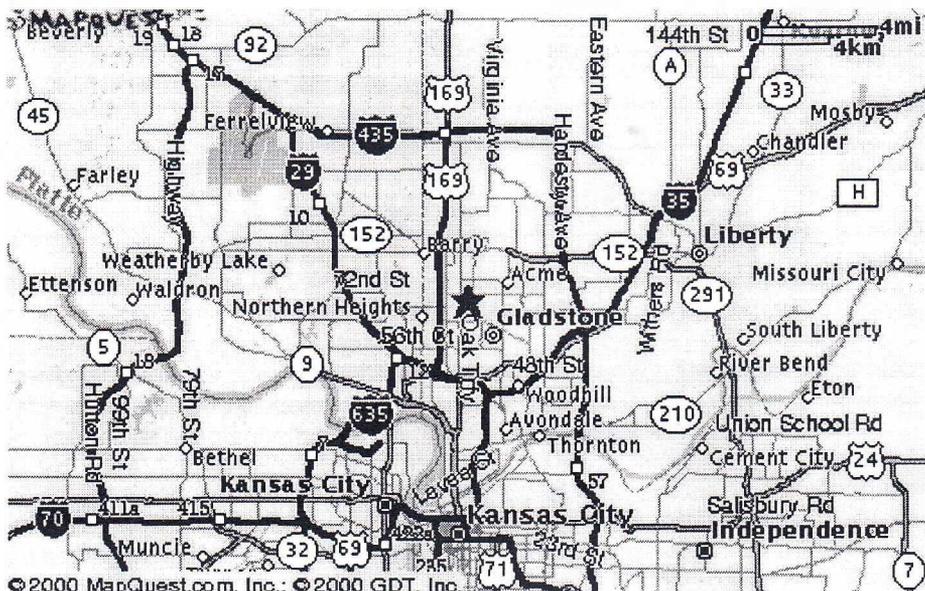
The November KaCSFFS meeting/Thanksgiving Dinner is on the 18th at 6 PM. Again, that is *six* PM, an hour earlier than normal.

The meeting place is the Gladstone Community Center, 800 NE 69th St, Gladstone, MO. This is the same location as last year's November meeting/dinner (see maps below and on the NEXT PAGE).

**POTLUCK DINNER:** Our Thanksgiving potluck dinner last year was so

successful that we are repeating it. Director Ted Poovey requests that everyone who has not decided what to bring contact him by phone or e-mail (see contactinfo on page 1).

**CLUB OFFICER NOMINATIONS:** Those wishing to run for elected positions on the KaCSFFS Executive Board need to nominate themselves at the November or December meetings.



*Area map; for local map, see next page*

## ConQuest Meeting

Per Tim Keltner there will be no general con meetings until January.



*There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch — TANSTAFL!*

# MESSAGES THROUGH TIME

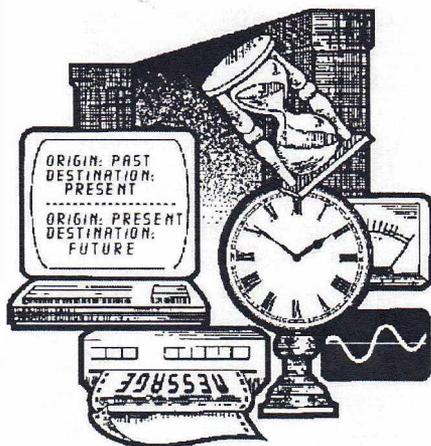
## Editor's Remarks

### Giving Thanks

One might think it difficult to give thanks for a year in which my good friend Harold McEldery lost his life-mate, one which saw Robin Bailey battling a cancer which nearly killed him, and one in which I developed a persistent pinched nerve that often makes it difficult to concentrate on a task.

Yet I do have things to be thankful for. One is the very positive response I have received for my efforts on this newsletter, or clubzine... I don't care which it's called. I am also hopeful that

my new job will work out, after working temporary for years following the closure of the office where I last had a so-called "permanent" job. Unfortunately this *does* mean I will likely have less time for fanac, so I can't promise a 2-ounce issue six or seven times a year, as I have done for my first year as editor. However, I would like to continue for another year, as I haven't accomplished everything I set out to do.



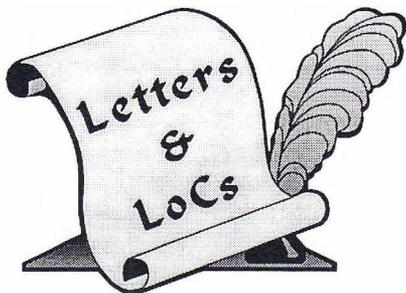
**Thish**— Maybe we should call this our “Thanksgiving leftovers” issue. ChiCon con reports, a Borders Literati book discussion, and the long-delayed appearance of the KDL Juvenile Fantasy Recommended Reading list all should have appeared in previous issues.

Not leftover from previous months: After 25 years, Bob Tucker is publishing a fanzine again! His e-mail zine is reprinted, starting on page 9. Cheryl Peugh provides another no-punches-pulled book review, and Brad Foster has graciously sent us more original illos, one of which appears on page 22.

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*The Gulf and More in Zero Four!*

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**From: Brad W. Foster**

<bwfoster@juno.com>

PO Box 165246, Irving, TX 75016

Greetings David~

*Timebound XXIV-VIII* [Oct] showed up in good shape this past week, and I was flattered to see you decided to put one of my strange little characters on the cover again. Thanks.

And a quick check of my records shows that that little guy is the last of the batch that

I sent. So, to keep up my end of this thing where I get these wonderful issues showing up in my mail box now and then, I'll try to put together three new pieces for you in this envelope. Hope you like them and can spread them over the next few issues.

Amazing to see the Jim Shull illo in this issue. He pretty much stopped sending stuff to zines way back when I first got involved, and I've always regretted not getting to see more of his absolutely beautiful artwork. Where did you get this one? Will there be more to come?

*Your wish is our command, Brad! See page 28. Like all the older artwork used in Timebound, this is from Ken Keller's art files. Much of this dates from the progress reports for MidAmeriCon, the '76 WorldCon here in Kansas City. Ken inherited others from the late Tom Reamy, editor of the thrice-Hugo-nominated fanzine Trumpet. —DS*

I had to read the full text of Robin Bailey's review of "Andromeda" to Cindy, [it] had us both laughing. Cindy actually caught a few minutes of the show last weekend while looking for a news broadcast, and she said her own first impression on seeing it was it looked like recycled *Battlestar Galactica* outfits, too!

You are publishing the thickest, and most interesting, sf club zine I've run across in quite sometime, with plenty of interesting reading, and I'm amazed you can get these out so often. So, if no one else has mentioned it recently, thanks!

Cindy and I are about halfway through our season at the Texas Renaissance Festival (just north of Houston each weekend). Then there is a new sf/comics/media convention starting up in Dallas at the end of November called UnCommon-Con that I'll be attending. But, after that, I actually have a couple of months where we *don't* have to either be preparing to go to, or unpacking from, yet another

convention or art festival, and I hope to get down to some serious drawing board time, not to mention maybe at last getting up that website I've been threatening people with for about two years now!

stay happy~ Brad W. Foster

*Thanx again for all the egoboo, Brad. And thanx even more for your illos! If you get the website up, be sure and send us the URL and we'll gladly plug it.*



*The following item was withheld from last month's minutes:*

Carol Doms brought up the suggestion by Keith Stokes that Harry Warner, Jr be invited to ConQuesT 2001 as a special Superfund guest. This was moved, seconded, and approved, and David Sooby is to contact Mr. Warner, who lives in Hagerstown, Maryland.

## **OCTOBER KaCSFFS MEETING MINUTES**

The following is the minutes of the October, 2000, KaCSFFS meeting, taken by Secretary John Taylor.

The meeting was called to order at 7:41 on October 21 by Treasurer Darice Shirber-Poovey, while Director Ted Poovey took care of some late business.

Lance Mallia, tastefully attired in Mongol garb, announced that the hot-dog stand at Raytown Roundup made a net profit of \$554.28, despite the handicap of extreme environmental conditions. He feels that next year, if the club is up to it and weather cooperates, we should easily double that.

Carol Doms asked about the award for best-decorated booth; Lance said that we should be happy with survival.

Laura Barnes of the Activities Committee then introduced our guest speaker, artist and KaCSFFS member Keith Russell, who presented a slide show of his airbrush technique, followed by a retrospective display of his artwork. It was well-met, and a lively question-and-answer period followed.

Ted then produced the ballots for guests for ConQuesT in 2002, and explained that we were voting for slates rather than individuals. Jeff Orth and William McCullough volunteered to be the chairs for 2002, and were accepted. Ken Keller described the guest nominees, with additional help from the audience. We then voted.

While the votes were being tabulated, Barbara Walley gave a report on behalf of Susan Satterfield about Contraception. The hotel is sold out, and this meeting was the last chance for club members to join at the club rate. She also had information about the next Contraception (2001). It will be the second week in November (9th-11th). All rooms in the hotel except for 30 blocked contractually will be reserved for the convention. The theme will be Super-Heroes: Fortress of Partytude. Ted read a letter from Harold McEldery saying that the best memorial for Cindy would be something at ConQuesT in her honor.

Much time was taken up balloting for guests for ConQuesT. Ballots had been prepared in advance, and an election was taken and tabulated. (Results are





confidential awaiting confirmation from the guest list.)

Ted reminded us that nominations for club officers are in December and election in January, and asked that members consider volunteering. The post of Director will be vacant.

Carol Doms announced that the Borders Book Talk for October would be on *Call from a Distant Shore* by Steven Barnes. She also had Nosferatu tickets.

Ted and Darice stated that a Thanksgiving sign-up sheet was in the back of the room. The November meeting will be on the third Saturday of November at the Gladstone Community Center.

Jason Gasper again asked for donations and volunteers for the Hall of Fame benefit auction at ConQuest.

Ken Keller said that David Sooby would have new directories at the November meeting. Jim Murray said that 37 people had signed up to attend "Phantom Menace of the Opera" at the Martin City Melodrama on Saturday, November 4th.

Tim Keltner announced that all ConQuest 34 positions are filled, but apprentices are recommended. A progress report will be issued in November. John Taylor reminded the members that results of guest of honor balloting would not be reported.

Keith Russell stated that he had artwork prints for sale in the lobby.

Ted Poovey produced ballots for the 2003 guest of honor, and a list was selected.

Tim Keltner moved that we adjourn, but he was interrupted for two more announcements. Dee Willis read the October birthday list, and stated that the cake provided by Inger Myers is chocolate. Ken Keller reminded all that the post-meeting food-function at Nichols Lunch would occur. Then Tim's motion was seconded, and the meeting ended.

Respectfully Submitted, John Taylor, Secretary.



## News & Announcements

### Another Successful Contraception!

Contraception 12, the adults-only relaxacon here in K.C., spearheaded by a dedicated group of KaCSFFS members, was another resounding success. We don't have any attendance figures, but we can report that everyone we talked to seemed to be having a great time. Thanks again to Susan Satterfield, Becky Rickart, Dee Willis, Barbara Walley, Nea Holton, and everyone else (you know who you are!) Expect con reports next ish!

### Bob Tucker's *Le Zombie* Online

From: Bob Tucker <btucker@davesworld.net>

Keith Stokes, all-around good guy, has posted back issues of *Le Zombie* and *e~Zombie* on the net. Issues 68, 69 and 70 may be found there now. [And you can

read #68 right here, starting on the next page. —DS] The address is <[www.kcsciencefiction.org/currentlez.htm](http://www.kcsciencefiction.org/currentlez.htm)>.

= Bob Tucker

### R. Kelly Cutler Becomes Sole Life Member of KaCSFFS

While under the influence (of what, we're not sure... probably several things) at Contra, Kelly made the mistake of offering ye editor enough money for a lifetime membership. Naturally we were happy to separate the sucker gentleman from his cash. After coming to his senses the next day and discovering his pleas and threats were to no avail, Kelly consulted the by-laws and discovered it was necessary for the board to approve the lifetime membership. Unfortunately he did not escape on this technicality, as the Executive Board meeting was the very next evening, and although each of us board members tried very hard to convince the others to vote against him (as John Taylor said, it would be *much* more interesting if the vote was 3 to 2), the vote was unanimously to accept Kelly as our sole living Lifetime Member. (Robert Heinlein was either a Lifetime or an Honorary member, or both, depending on how you interpret it.) So sorry, Kelly — we're keeping your money!

### Kacsfans Attend Martin City Melodrama

Thanks to Jim Murray for organizing the group attendance of "A Phantom Menace of the Opera". Although reference to *Star Wars* was restricted to a cameo appearance by Darth Vader, attendees generally agreed they had a good time. After the show, most Kacsfans adjourned to the two local barbeque restaurants. Ye editor went to the 135th St BBQ, which served massive quantities; many boxes of leftovers were in evidence upon leaving. Although the BBQ sauce was not to ye editor's taste, food preparation was excellent.

### Small Film Cadets Group Attends "Red Planet"

Although our usual free movie screening heroes, Vince and Ken, were unable to score passes for "Red Planet", Tim Keltner came through with a limited number for Thursday, Nov 9th. We didn't hear any reviews, though. Hint! Hint!

---

*Hardly a fan is now alive who was born in 2025.*

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## KaCSFFS Birthdays

Doug Morgan	Nov 3	Dee Willis	Dec 1
Kerri Knorr	Nov 4	Bob Hise	Dec 3
Michael McCain	Nov 7	John Vaughan	Dec 13
Ty Gephardt	Nov 16	Alexander Holton	Dec 27
Mike Smalley	Nov 17	Sharleen Lehotsky	Dec 21
Tina Black	Nov 18	Linda Wright	Dec 29
Joyce Downing	Nov 23	Paul Burns	Dec 31
Pat Taylor	Nov 23	Tim Keltner	Dec 31

We were amazed (startled, astounded... Analogued?) to find a new issue of Bob Tucker's famous fanzine *Le Zombie* in our e-mail mailbox. It's already been reprinted a couple of places, including Roger Tener's e-zine *Chronicles of the Dawn Patrol*, which about half of KDL gets, but it's our newsletter and we'll reprint Bob Tucker if we want to! Bob has already produced another two issues. Those with Internet access can read them; see the announcement on page 8. —DS



# LE ZOMBIE

Number 68 «» October 2000

Published every time a zombie awakens by Bob Tucker at Bloomington, Illinois. <btucker@davesworld.net>

**FOOTNOTE DEPT:** In this erudite fanzine the airport indicator code BMI will be used for my hometown; it saves space and patience. Further, "ibid" means Take My Word For It — Would I Dare Exaggerate? "op.cit." means I Guess So — You Think Maybe I've Got A Memory Like An Elephant? And "ipse dixit" means Oh, Go Look It Up. There now, you are forearmed and also erudite. You are ready for the gala revival issue of LeZ, the broody fan's fanzine.

**PREHISTORIC FANDOM DEPT:** The first issue of LeZ was published in December 1938, a bitterly cold month but a gala day for fandom. They danced in the streets when word went around that a new fanzine had at last arrived. Mr. Roosevelt was still the president — Franklin, not Teddy. That first issue was a two-page rider to a weekly newszine called *Fantasy News*; it was composed on a genuine prehistoric typewriter using genuine prehistoric wax stencils. Jimmy Taurasi published his newszine and my rider on a genuine prehistoric mimeograph and mailed them far and wide for one or two cents a copy. To see a genuine prehistoric photo of an erudite editor toiling over a prehistoric typewriter and cutting a prehistoric wax stencil go to <[http://fanac.org/Fan\\_Photo\\_Album/m01-020.html](http://fanac.org/Fan_Photo_Album/m01-020.html)> (photo credit Karl Blakney)

The last issue of LeZ, number 67, was published in December 1975 and was printed by an esoteric method called planography. The print run was five hundred but I no longer remember the postage costs. \*op.cit. That issue contained a few illustrations among its 24 pages and was my trip and con report to a far away land called Oz, where I attended the worldcon in Melbourne and then prowled about Australia and New Zealand afterward. (And at some strange city in New Zealand I sat in a bar with Mike Glicksohn and drank mysterious purple liquids. \*ibid. It changed my life and gave me a regal air. And Mr. Glicksohn bleeds purple to this day, much to his students' amazement. \*ibid.)

Twenty-five years since the last issue? That's not too many. Those early issues were filled with Departments such as you see here, and now and again I inadvertently made history by saying or doing something that landed me in the erudite pages of the *Science Fiction Encyclopedia*. That is a proud but no longer a lonely thing — the copy at hand contains 1386 pages and it's difficult to be lonely in that crowd. I am being crowded cheek-by-jowl.

TRAVELING GIANTS DEPT: The recent Chicon was about 150 miles away but I didn't go there — I stopped going to worldcons about ten years ago when I could no longer tolerate the huge crowds, the atmosphere of a five-ring circus, and the giantism for the sake of giantism. Worldcons used to be pleasurable and fun.

But this year Eureka! Parts of the con came to me. A few weeks before the worldcon opened a camera crew came down from Chicago to interview me: Tom Veal, Dick and Leah Zeldes Smith. They spent a happy afternoon taping me and my infallible memory (\*ibid), listening to my colorful lies and improbable fan stories, and drinking my root beer. The movie was shown at the convention.

During the week just before opening ceremonies the traveling giants became more numerous with eight stopping in on their way to the big city. Uncle Timmy Bolgeo of Chattanooga brought in a carload of four, my granddaughter Joan Marie Knappenberger brought in three from St. Louis, and then there was Cathy Cupitt who stepped off the train from Australia. Fern and I met her at the Amtrak station and whisked her away home where we kept her for two or three days before letting her go on to Chicago. She was and is a delightful woman and she gets her own Department below.

There were yet more visitors after the worldcon. The four traveling giants from far off exotic Chattanooga came by once again and treated us to lunch before going home. Later on Neil Tetens and Tom Meserole stopped in while in the midst of their travels; Neil was going to a train show in Minnesota while Tom was returning from one in California. (We get a lot of free meals in this manner.) The company caused a shortage of ginger ale and pepsi in the household, but no one would touch the prehistoric bottle of Jim Beam tucked away in the cabinet — they looked askance at the mold floating on the surface. Fake fans all.

FANTASTIC COINCIDENCE DEPT: If you are a gambling fan what are the odds on this happening — You are a university grad student in Australia working toward your doctorate, you have chosen the subject "space opera" for your dissertation and you are deep into research. You find that an American fan coined the term "space opera" in 1941 in an obscure fanzine called *Le Zombie*. You attend some conventions, you haunt the libraries in different Australian cities, and lo! you find several issues of that zombie fanzine in the library collections — among them the precise 1941 issue where the term first appears. Eureka! and all them there joyous expressions! It happened to Cathy Cupitt.

CATHY CUPITT'S DEPT: She first found me in the SF Encyclopedia and our paths joined there. She contacted me by email and we exchanged information about her research and my coinage; we made arrangements to meet; and several days before the con opened she stepped off the train from Australia (\*ibid). BMI has not been the same since she was here. She quizzed me to her heart's content and I struggled manfully to not tell too many exaggerated stories; I tried to stay as close to factual history as I remembered it; when I could not remember I fell back on the Encyclopedia. I want to believe that I made her trip worthwhile.

Eventually Cathy stepped back on board that train and went to Chicago and the convention. She was on the program and to see pictures of her go to <<http://kcsciencefiction.org/00world06.htm>>. (Photo credits Keith Stokes.) When you reach that site click on Friday Daytime and Hugo Awards page three to find pictures of the charming lass from Perth, Western Australia.

CLOSING TALES DEPT: And so ends another issue of the erudite fanzine that has been entertaining fandom since 1938, nevermind the missing 25 years of silence. This not-too-humble editor thanks Roger Tener, Ross and Nancy Hatha-

way, and Timmy Bolgeo for providing models to emulate. If you did NOT get this issue it means I have screwed up the group-posting formula. You may hang me in effigy and bemoan the lost erudition. Brood now.

«» Bob Tucker

*We asked Bob about "jiant", and he replied it is another typo preserved by fannish tradition, like 'filk' and 'bheer'. —DS*

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*After 25 years of slumbering, another Zombie awakens!*

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## KDL Juvenile Fantasy Recommended Reading List

The following titles were recommended by KDL subscribers during an extended discussion a few months ago. Ye editor has checked names and titles for accuracy. Note ye editor removed certain recommendations, such as the Heinlein juveniles, from this list because they are SF and not fantasy. Also, beware that what someone else thinks is appropriate for a juvenile may include material you find inappropriate (such as the prominent rape scene in Donaldson's *Lord Foul's Bane*.)

Alexander, Lloyd

*The Chronicles of Prydain series*

(Anonymous); *1001 Arabian Nights*

Anthony, Piers

*Apprentice Adept series*

*Xanth series (only the first few)*

Aspirin, Robert

*Myth Adventures series*

Barrie, J.M.; *Peter Pan*

Baum, L. Frank; *Oz series*

Burroughs, Edgar Rice

*The Tarzan Series*

*The Mars (Barsoom) Novels*

Carroll, Lewis; *Alice in Wonderland*

*Through the Looking Glass*

Cooper, Susan

*The Dark Is Rising series*

Duane, Diana

*So You Want to Be a Wizard*

*Deep Wizardry*

*High Wizardry*

Emerson, Ru; *Night Threads series*

Garrett, Randall; *Lord D'arcy series*

Harvard Lampoon editors;

*Bored of the Rings*

Jones, Diana Wynn/Diane W. Jones

*The Magicians of Caprona*

*Fire and Hemlock*

*A Sudden Wild Magic*

*Witch Week*

L'Engle, Madeleine; *A Wrinkle in Time*

LeGuin, Ursula K.

*The Wizard of Earthsea* trilogy

McCaffrey, Anne

*The Dragonriders of Pern series*

Norton, Andre (many fantasy novels, including:)

*The Witch World series*

*Operation Time Search*

Pratchett, Terry; *The Discworld series*

Radford, Irene (no specific title given)

Rowling, J.K.; *Harry Potter series*

Scarborough, Elizabeth

(no specific title given)

Schmiz, James H.

*The Witches of Karres*

Tolkien, J.R.R.; *The Hobbit*

*The Lord of the Rings*

Thompson, Ruth Plumly; *Oz series*

Wrede, Patricia (no specific title given)



# Book Review

by Cheryl Peugh

## *The Shadow of Albion*

Authors: Andre Norton and Rosemary Edgehill

Target audience: Adult

This novel is, to me, a prime example of someone's hobby becoming a work relatively uninteresting to anyone except those with the same hobby. In the novel, meticulously worked out, is an alternate history of England and America with three major diversions from our own time: (1) The revolution in the American colonies failed (2) the Stuart Kings rule England, and (3) Napoleon marches unchecked across Europe. The "what if" speculation of events in history are the centerpiece of *The Shadow of Albion*. The most glaring aspect of this novel is that, except for a few magical elements thrown in and the alternative history, the book could have been a straight Regency adventure/romance.

The main characters in *The Shadow of Albion* are two Sarahs—one the Marchioness of Roxbury in the alternate England, and the other an American, Sarah Cunningham, of our own time. They don't, thank ghod, exchange places—I would have found the novel an unbearable cliché if that had happened. In the alternate England, the Fair People of the Hills, i.e. elves, still exist and meddle in the affairs of men. Since Sarah, the Marchioness, is dying, they agree to bring Sarah Cunningham from our world to the alternate world in order to take her place. Sarah Cunningham does not know who she really is until near the end of the novel because some kind of magical ritual is performed to help her think she is the Marchioness.

All the classical elements of a Regency are there. As Marchioness, Sarah marries the Duke of Wessex, a spy for the English King. Together, they try to rescue the true French King in order to stop Napoleon's depredations. Thrown in are the Marquis de Sade as a French spy, and Talleran as a player who tries to kill Louis, the true King, and a Danish treaty gone awry which needs to be fixed. While on their adventure, Sarah and Wessex fall in love.

I found the novel bland and unexciting. The book tries to do too much, yet too little. The alternate history is plausible, but too much time is given to the setup. The characterization is stereotypical because so much of the book is dedicated to the political machinations. On the other hand, the part that wasn't political was all too blandly Regency romance. The magical elements seemed to be there only in order that *The Shadow of Albion* be classified as a fantasy. The Fair People play little to no role in the book except as a plot-furthering device. The first half of the book could have been written by Georgette Heyer writing badly. When Sarah comes to the realization of who she is, nothing changes for her and this, to me, invalidated the whole reason to write this novel. This example of a hobby (history, and Regency history in particular) left the book ponderous and shallow. *The Shadow of Albion*

could have been much more exciting if we could have seen the alternate Americas through Sarah's eyes and not the much worn over themes of the doings of dukes and kings and princesses. It is my opinion that the book was written entirely by Rosemary Edgehill (eluki bes shahar is the name some of you might recognize). Andre Norton, in all probability, probably lent her name and her extensive knowledge of history to the book but little else.

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*Yngvi is NOT a louse!*

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## RECORD ATTENDANCE FOR TREK SHOW

Thirteen were in attendance at the opening of our October 14 Saturday session, the largest Laser Ranger gathering yet. Some came just to see the special edition of the *Star Trek* classic episode "The Doomsday Machine". A special effects company re-did all the FX scenes as CGI (computer animation) in a (so far unsuccessful) attempt to sell Paramount on the idea. Thanks

to Kevin Dilmore, from Paola, KS, for providing this very special showing.

Crispin Burnham was Capt. Laser for the regular part of our show. The theme was "I See Dead People". Leading off was the low-budget "Carnival of Souls", of interest primarily for being filmed in Lawrence. The acting was so bad we gave it the MST3K treatment — the comments from the Rangers were more entertaining than the film!

The Mexican-themed dinner break was a resounding success. Ty Gephardt won "Best Costume", as the only one who came in make-up, looking like an escapee from "Night of the Living Dead". Tracy gets an honorable mention for wearing an elegant hooded cloak.

Intermission shorts included a DVD-quality copy of "Troops", recently the Internet's most popular download, a 'Star Wars' meets 'Cops' parody.

Our second feature was the Oscar-winning "The Sixth Sense", the most highly rated horror film in decades, and deservedly so. It inspired a great discussion. Our session ran very late, but no one objected as we had a great time!

## Future Sessions

*Saturday, Nov 25:* The busiest shopping weekend of the year may not be the best time for our "Don't Call 'em Chick Flicks" theme, featuring "Steel Magnolias" (1989), a comedy-drama featuring Julia Roberts in her Oscar-nominated, star-making role, and the multiple-Oscar winning romantic comedy "Shakespeare in Love", quite simply the best film of 1999. If no ladies show up, we may substitute another title for "Steel Magnolias".

*December:* A change of venue to Tracy Majkol's residence. We're still waiting on Tracy to decide date and theme. Possibly it will be more anime; Tracy has the *Bubblegum Crisis* series, and David plans to buy the first "Patlabor" movie soon.

*Saturday, January 13:* Back at David Sooby's home theatre for "DC Superheroes" theme featuring "Superman" (1978) and "Batman" (1989). Anyone requesting "Batman" (1966) will be gassed with Smilex.

*Kassie gave a cow-eyed look and asked us to run this. How could we refuse?*



Kassie's Pick:  
*Milking Fanzines*  
by Bob Webber

Reprinted from *Stet 9*, "The Old  
Fan's Almanac," December 1999

Although many fanzine fans are familiar with the egg-laying potential of fanzines, fewer know that fanzines also can be milked. Fans who are aware of the lactative possibilities of fmz can avail themselves of a rich source of personal nourishment.

Fanzine milk contains important minerals like irony, mercury, and carborundum. It is an excellent source of fiber, and presents only a low risk of brucellosis and other diseases associated with more conventional sources of milk.

There are several modern breeds of milk-producing fanzines, most easily distinguished by the number and conformation of their staples. The single-staple fanzine is currently the most common breed, but produces less milk than the traditional two- and three-staple varieties. The question of which of these is more productive has not yet been satisfactorily resolved.

Selective breeding programs to increase fanzine milk production usually result in larger fanzines but infrequently in larger volumes of milk. An undesirable side effect, long-horn stapleism, is sometimes observed in products of these programs.

This condition makes its fanzine victims savage and hard to handle, and they often wound unwary handlers. Recently developed techniques (usually seen in modern farms which use the dry reproduction method) pollard the fanzines at birth. Although these farms can produce quite large fanzines, they most often can breed only two-staple fanzines, which some breeders consider a problem.

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*Fandom is a way of life!*

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## *Peering Into the Future*



Next issue, hopefully, will contain the final installment of the "KaCSFFS Space Opera". I've heard a couple of people talk about doing a follow-up, but haven't seen any submissions yet!

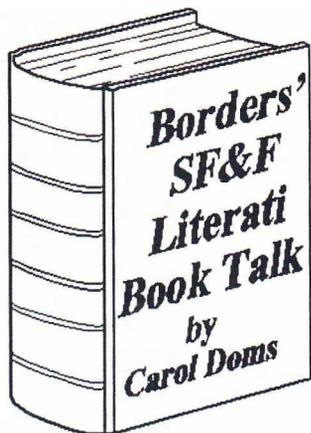
Also, expect Contraception con reports.

Plans for next year: Assuming we're still Editor, we hope to start serializing "The Enchanted Duplicator". There are also another one or two Dave Kyle fan histories we'd like to reprint.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>DECEMBER</b>					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 <b>KaCSFFS Xmas Party</b>
10	11 Fantasy Book Talk	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 <hr/> 31 Contemplation	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29 Contemplation	30 Contemplation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			1	2	3	4 Martin City Melodrama
5	6	7	8	9	10 Contracept'n	11 Contra
12 Contra	13 Fantasy Book Talk	14	15	16	17 Contra Meeting	18 <b>KaCSFFS Meeting</b>
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24 ChamBana- Con	25 Laser Rangers  CBC
26 CBC	27 SF/F Literati Book Talk	28	29	30		

We're still playing catch-up here. Carol sent this to us some time ago. —DS



Borders Books, 119th & Metcalf

August 28, 2000, 7 PM

## Link by Walt Becker

Attendance: 11 (one by e-mail proxy)

### How many...

started the book: 9

liked the book: 4

finished it: 9

disliked it: 0

will finish it: 0

neutral/mixed reaction:

We liked it, *but...*: 5 (Or: Maybe it the book was alright, *but...* would you recommend it?...That's another category.)

**Comments:** Started with the email comments by our proxy vote (Ron) who reported the following:

I find this type of material intriguing and thought provoking. Reading through the novel, I wondered if the historical references to the Shining Ones were based on fact or just fiction. The part at the back suggested there was some possible truths to the myth. I found the story line somewhat plausible. Hey, it could have been that way. I read the Von Daniken books as a teenager... *Chariot of the Gods*, etc. Anyway, his books put forth a lot of those same types of theories. So I liked that part of the story line.

What I found not so believable was how these scientists came through all of these 'fights' and action sequences with these known mercenaries. Maybe it's a stereotype of scientists, but that is usually not their forte (Professor Indiana Jones aside). So, I found that part of the story a little distracting.

Overall, I liked the book; it was an interesting read. The fact that everything was lost to the bottom of the ocean at the end was also somewhat interesting.

Onward to "live comments": SPOILER ALERT for the following.

I agree with Ron on liking the early part of the book. The Shining Ones are part of the Aztec mythology... I also agree with his Indiana Jones comment... If they had set up Jack (main character) as an Indiana Jones type early in the book, I would have bought into it more, when he went up against the mercenaries. Some of the archaeological "booby traps" I would expect an archaeologist to be able to deal with, but the others...

I had a problem with the alien technology being intact for an awfully long time... But he (the author) at least tried to explain it (No oxygen in the area preserved the technology). But then he (the author) seemed to throw a crisis to propel the story line along. Then it became a Tom Clancy novel (a.k.a. Techno Thriller).

Where the book failed in my opinion is when they discovered the 'alien' and it "proved" that evolution didn't work. That took a great leap of faith in science. The theory changed the rest of the world and I just could not buy into that. Aliens breed with early humans to breed us. You can conclude that humans did not evolve (alien

intervention), but he (author) makes the claim that all life on earth did not evolve. That's bad science. I saw this as the author's attempt to debunk Darwinism.

Is this purely fiction or is he offering a theory as well? He did a lot of research on archeology and he did provide a bibliography in the back of the book. I just finished *Darwin's Radio* by Greg Bear. I highly recommend it. It too is about a missing link and includes human genetics and paleontology. I wanted to be a paleontologist when I was a kid. I think we all did when we were kids.

I did buy into Von Daniken's books when I was younger. I still don't know what to think about those and other mysteries. The crop circles, etc... are they all hoaxes? Just because some of them are hoaxes does that mean all of them are? We're Science Fiction fans, intriguing mysteries like those are part of the fun... even if they are discovered as a hoax.

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Borders Books, 119th & Metcalf  
October 23, 2000, 7 PM

## ***Call on a Distant Shore* by Stephan L. Burns**

Attendance: 12

<b>How many:</b>	started the book: 6	liked the book: 3
	finished it: 4	disliked it: 0
	will finish it: 2	neutral/mixed reaction: 3

### **Comments:**

This is an airplane book... fun to read... It does not deal with the issue of first contact (serious issues) and the story is complete (not open ended for sequelitis)... I was happy that he (the author) did not wimp out on the ending... I thought the book was fairly predictable... It was a very easy read... I finished this book in a week, reading chunks of it at a time... This is not a book that is going to "change your life"... I would not recommend this book... Actually I would recommend this book to non SF readers... for SF readers this is light weight... He (the author) could have explored cyber hacking or aliens... That is why I think there might be a sequel with a focus on the aliens... I was afraid that this (Book ) was a set up for a sequel... But it wrapped up the story nicely...

I enjoyed the character interaction... What do you do when you start to see "images" and hear "things" that no one else seem to see or hear... Does this mean you are going crazy?... How does one come to grip with that?... This is more of a character driven book than hard SF... slightly plotted and it did just plod along... The cyber hacker Jamal had agoraphobia (really bad) and he designed security systems... Jamal's girl friend Amber was a trip!, she was a lot of fun... there were enough complications to keep this book interesting... I like how each character interpreted the alien's message... For example the Reverend saw this as a message from God... others thought they were going insane and sought psychiatric help and Jamal was the only true believer in aliens...

I also think it was a good idea on the author's part to place this story in present or about 10-15 years in the from now with a reasonable guess of what changes would take place... He (the author) seemed to do his research... he seemed to make

a logical jump in what technology would be like in 10-15 years from now... For example his medical advances are acceptable... I liked his reference to Max Headroom in the book...

I also enjoyed the fact that your imagination got to fill in the "blanks" in this book... What do the aliens look like?... that is vague... but your imagination filled in the rest... I also thought that the aliens on the moon Phobos deflecting asteroids from earth and some catastrophe happened (again, use your imagination) and sent a call for help.

**Next book talk:** November 27th — *Darwin's Radio* by Greg Bear. Also, it is time again, to select books for the up coming months in 2001. Voting done in our usual chaotic style, worse than our Presidential election this year... But then we still have winners (book wise) by the end of the evening. All are invited to join us for any book talk.

**Note:** This is the last book talk of the year. There will not be one in December. Next book will be *Centurion's Empire* by Sean McMullen on January 22, 2001.

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*Yngvi is a louse!*

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## L. Sprague de Camp

November 27, 1907 -  
November 6, 2000

*This is an edited version of the obituary from de Camp's official website, at <[www.lspraguedecamp.com](http://www.lspraguedecamp.com)>. Used with permission. —DS*

L(yon) Sprague de Camp, noted science fiction and fantasy writer of the Golden Age, born in New York City on November 27, 1907, passed away on November 6, 2000 in Plano, Texas. Formerly a resident of Villanova, Pennsylvania, Sprague and his late wife Catherine called Plano, Texas their home since 1989. Catherine Crook de Camp, Sprague's wife of 60 years preceded him in death on April 9, 2000.

He is survived by his sons, Lyman Sprague de Camp and Gerard Beekman de Camp; and brother Lyman Lyon de Camp.

L. Sprague de Camp, who served as a Lt. Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve during the Second World War, will be cremated; and his ashes, together with those of Catherine, will be laid to final rest at the Arlington National Cemetery.

L. Sprague de Camp was educated during his early years in New York City. He earned his BS in Aeronautical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology in 1930 and his MS in Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology in 1933. Although he worked as an educator, lecturer, engineer, patent expert, and publicity writer, Sprague de Camp devoted most of the last-half century to writing over 100 science fiction and fantasy novels.

His other work also includes historical novels; biographies of H.P. Lovecraft and

Robert E. Howard; and recognized non-fiction pieces that include *The Ancient Engineers*; *The Day of the Dinosaur*; *Great Cities of the Ancient World*; and *The Great Monkey Trial* among others.

Many of Sprague's early works appeared in the science fiction magazines of the late 1930's and included the thinking bear series with "Johnny Black" in *Astounding*, and the "Gavagan's Bar" fantasy stories (written with the late Fletcher Pratt) in *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*.

Sprague de Camp edited and contributed to various stories about the life and adventures of a swashbuckling character, "Conan", originally created by the late Robert E. Howard; and went on to produce new Conan stories in collaboration with the late Lin Carter and others. Two theatrical movies have been released starring Arnold Schwarzenegger as "Conan".

Sprague de Camp was a master of that rarity, "humorous fantasy". As a young writer collaborating with Fletcher Pratt, he set forth the world-hopping adventures of Harold Shea. These magical adventures of the classical world are still available today in the omnibus volume, *The Complete Compleat Enchanter*. In 1992, at the urging of Harold Shea fans, Sprague de Camp and Christopher Stasheff collaborated on "The Enchanter Reborn" and the travel adventures continued. The fannish saying "Yngvi is a louse!" is from a Harold Shea story, as detailed in the "Neo's Corner" column of the May 2000 *Timebound*.

Sprague de Camp's 1993 sf *Rivers of Time*, a collection of nine stories about Reginald Rivers, a twenty-first century safari guide who takes clients back to the Paleozoic and Mesozoic period to hunt dinosaurs, was published by Baen books.

Perhaps Sprague's most beloved sf novel is the time travel classic *Lest Darkness Fall* (1941), which is still in print today.

A world traveler with his collaborator wife Catherine and other colleagues, Sprague de Camp experienced many unusual events in his lifetime. He was chased by a hippopotamus in Uganda and a sea lion in the Galapagos Islands, watched tiger and rhinoceros from elephant back in India, and was bitten by a lizard in the jungles of northern Guatemala. He spoke several languages and was a member of many scholarly, professional, literary, and social organizations.

In the spring of 1994, Sprague de Camp spent Easter on Easter Island in the South Pacific doing research for his non-fiction book *The Ape-Man Within*. In 1996 Donald M. Grant published Sprague's autobiography *Time and Chance*. In 1997 *Time and Chance* received the Hugo Award for Best Non-fiction Work.

In 1979, he appeared as Guest of Honor at FoolCon II, an sf convention at the Johnson County Community College, here in the Kansas City area.

Sprague received the coveted Gandalf (Grand Master) Award for Lifetime Achievement in Fantasy in 1976; and the Science Fiction Writers of America's Nebula "Grand Master" Award in 1979. These and Sprague's numerous other awards were a source of honor from the profession to which he devoted himself since the 1930s.

In recent years health issues slowed him down and arthritis in his fingers made typing on his electric typewriter very difficult. None the less, he continued to keep up with his reading materials, always thinking about the next story.

Though the man is gone, the many works of L. Sprague de Camp still live on. "The Wheels of If," first published in 1940 was recently reprinted with two of Harry Turtledove's original novellas in *Down in the Bottomlands (and other places)*.

L. Sprague de Camp will be remembered and deeply missed by those who knew him and loved him.

# ChiCon Con Reports

**From: Susan Satterfield** <ssatterfield@kc.rr.com>

Since it's been five years since I've been to WorldCon, the best part of Chicon for me was seeing all my friends that I haven't had a chance to see since 1995. It was also a lot of fun introducing Russ and Jill to their first WorldCon.

The Chicago facilities are fantastic, but I feel they could have been used to better effect. Programming was scattered around all over the place, making it a bit difficult to figure out where you were supposed to go. Some programming took place at the Hyatt, others at the Fairmont, and then sometimes you discovered that the original place scheduled had been changed. We went to one panel which changed locations twice while we were standing in line to go in. Some of the rooms didn't have microphones, so if you were in the back of the room you could forget about hearing anything.

The Con Suite was really nice and the parties were lots of fun, but crowded and *hot!* The Hugos went off fairly well, being only about 20-30 minutes late, but the Masquerade was over an hour late getting started which made for a very late night for all the people in costume (as well as those in the audience). We watched most of it through the closed circuit in our room, but we missed part of it when our television decided it didn't want to stay on the channel assigned to the convention. Finally, an engineer came up and fixed it, but by then the masquerade was almost over. Then it took an additional hour for the judges to make their decisions. I was so glad we decided not to physically attend the event, it would have been a nightmare.

I can't really say how I feel overall about the event, because with the bad news from back home it was really difficult to get into the con spirit. Cindy's passing still hasn't sunk in and about an hour before I found out that she had left us, we received word that our cocker spaniel, Peaches, had died. Friday was a strange day for us and those events colored the rest of the weekend.

Susan

**From: Karl Foss** <karl@mail-call.com>

I don't have much WorldCon experience, but compared to Baltimore in '98, this con suite was poorly stocked and didn't open until noon... just popcorn, chips, and pretzels, and only 4 types of soda. They did have beer, but I'm not a beer drinker, so I didn't check out the selection.

The *Farscape* panel was good, but we were up front, so we could hear (they didn't have microphones). It was so popular, they had to reschedule a second one at midnight to accommodate the huge crowd. They had announced that they had free T-shirts and hats!

One of Keith's [Stokes] panels was moved from a normal room to an area next to the Art room area that was loud and near an announcement speaker (and again no microphones).

There were lots of parties as usual... lots of great restaurants to eat at... we had network games running in our suite... we saw Sue (the dinosaur) and the "Star Wars" exhibit. We rode on and walked some familiar streets (from the Midtown Madness racing game... some of you probably remember watching Brian Lind drive

(crash) the big bus thru the streets and jumping bridges in downtown Chicago at ConQuest).

There was more... but I'll let others tell their stories!

Karl

*Karl is the spouse of Kacsfan Mary MacNaughton —DS*

**From: Keith Stokes** <sfreader@unicom.net>

I walked through the consuite once. It looked like a nice room. The food and drink didn't look exciting, but my experience with WorldCon consuites has been that they aren't worth attending. The only exception being Conadian (and I liked that one for the entertainment).

Keith

**From: Carol Doms** <cadoms@qni.com>

World Con was "a bit odd" to quote Brad Foster, our ConQuest Artist GoH this year.

Programming: I think I averaged a panel per day. Quite frankly, the programming topics didn't interest me that much.

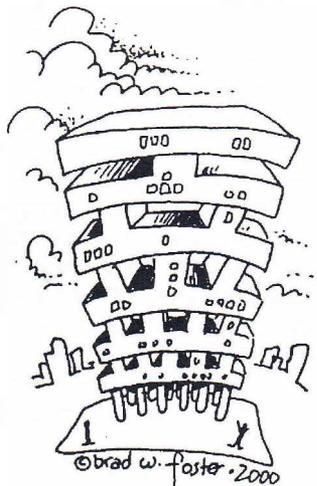
However, the few programs that I did go to were good. In part due to a good mix of panelists, I think.

As usual, there were too many programs with poor guessing skills on size of room and audience. Some, I would say was just plain stupidity on the Programming committee side. A friend of mine said he went to the Joe Haldeman and Robert Silverberg panel that seated 50 people. Needless to say, that panel was overflowing. (My friend speculated that they didn't want to offend any pro, by putting some for their reading in a larger room than others.) Come on! They've got to figure that some "guests" are going to be more popular than others.

*Farscape*, which was a good panel, also suffered from the same problem. Either they need more Program committee folks watching the more popular shows and telling their committee that it will need room or ....? It seems they were trying to stick all Media related panels in Fairmont regardless of the room needed.

Also I was surprised that they hosted the Hugos and Masquerade at the Fairmont. In '91, both those events were in the Hyatt in the huge room below, which can accommodate more people. For this one they first wanted people to dress up and come, then they were telling folks don't come: watch it on TV, there is not enough room for everyone at the Hugos. We did watch it on TV but it had such an awful white noise you couldn't hear the Toastmaster or the acceptance speeches, until the last few Hugos when they corrected it.

Con Suite: An embarrassment to Midwest fandom. I was at the elevator on the last day when some folks were going to drop off stuff to the Con suite (they were leaving). These folks were from California, they said that "this was a typical Midwest con suite." Dennis, another fan from the Midwest, and myself told them this was not the case. Guys, ConQuest may not have the best food in the world for



*I don't care HOW much function space it has. Expecting the fans to levitate into the new ConQuest hotel is just NOT going to work!*

a con suite, but in quality it is far above Chicon.

Art Show: Another major gaffe. Poor lighting, no quick sale. They had several auctions, but they would cancel those and you never knew when a piece you bid on went to auction. You had to keep checking. Also 7 bids to get to auction. Brad Foster told me he sent in his money, but never received any information or follow up from the Art show people. I was also surprised not to see art work from Mitch or David Lee, or others whose art I expect to see at World con. Apparently (according to Brad) notices were sent so late that many could not get their art there.

On the other hand...I was encouraging folks to see the Classic SF Art show that Phyllis and Alex Eisenstein displayed from their collection. Beautiful, good lighting, great pieces. It made me want to read the stories that some of these items were created for. A lot of Kelly Freas work and Emsh [*Ed Emshwiller —DS*]. Thank you, Ken, for telling me about this. All in all, Chicon was mixed. I did enjoy some of the parties and talking to fans. Spent 2 hours talking with a couple of fans from St Louis and one from Rhode Island, in the hallway of floor 12 of the Fairmont (we were waiting to see an art work that didn't make it to the art show). As usual, we make our fun.

=== Carol Doms

**From: Samantha Star Straf <star@prairienet.org>**

My first WorldCon was 1991 in Chicago so it is almost as if I have come full circle. This was my 9th and Pooch's second, we had a great time but in summary "It was a great Windycon, but not quite up to WorldCon level" nothing left me with the sense of "wow" that WorldCons are supposed to do. But saw friends that I hadn't seen in 20 years, and lots of our old college gang.

Mostly I hung out with friends and re-connected with folks, did make a few panels (mostly on splintering of fandom) and picked up a few things in the dealers room.

The "Kewl" award goes to my friend Jeremy Bloom who is working on *Frequency*, a CD audio SF&F magazine—web page at <[www.frequencymagazine.com](http://www.frequencymagazine.com)>. They currently have a downloadable MP3 story: Swanwick's hugo-winning short story, "Scherzo with Tyrannosaur".

I've heard good things about the dealers' room but I found it to be too book heavy—so many book dealers that I would imagine they would suffer—and to the loss of other types of dealers. We were actually hoping to get an expansion set to a game we have and found *no* game dealers at all. There were various other things that I was hoping for that weren't available.

I did like the longer panels and the longer intermission—I felt bad though that because of waiting for an elevator I missed a reading that 'no one showed up at' (Mark Shepard). I ran into him later and let him know I did show up but a few minutes late. (Dang, missed a chance to buy him a drink.)

The crowds seemed even more cliquish than they had been at prior WorldCons, though maybe it's that I'm just jaded and bitter.

They did a great job with the fiik tracks and concerts.

I was very glad that they had video feed to the rooms, after the Hugos I wasn't going to be smashed and crowded for the costumes. (Thanks Benji; I was very glad to see Benji get an 'above and beyond' award at closing ceremonies for making the video feed work.)

I think they did a good job on smoking—had some confusion at one point when the bar was closing down and wanted to kick people out of the 'designated smoking

area'.

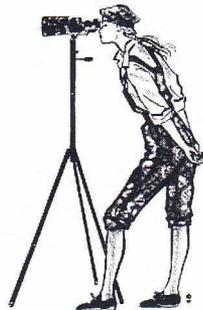
But mostly I realized life has changed some really amazing ways since I walked into Chicon in 1991.

Star

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*He was a young fan, and eager*

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# Media Watch

By Crispin Burnham

## 'Star Wars: Episode II' Still Going And Going...

Rick McCallum, producer of 'Star Wars: Episode II', told the official Star Wars Web site that it will take three years total to finish the prequel, even though principal photography wrapped in September.

"We've now come back to California to start the editing and continue other post-production activity," McCallum said.

McCallum added, "Next year we'll have our planned next rounds of shooting to pick up any live-action elements necessary, just as we did for [The Phantom Menace]. From there, the film will be in post-production right up until the planned release in the summer of 2002. So out of the whole three-year process (including a year of pre-production) we're filming for only about 14 weeks or so."

## Del Toro Pumped For "Hellboy"

Director Guillermo del Toro ("Blade 2") told the official Hellboy.com website that he's eager to direct a feature-film version of Mike Mignola's Dark Horse comic series.

Del Toro is also reportedly recruiting Mignola to work on "Blade 2" — the sequel to 1999's "Blade" — as a conceptual artist.

Del Toro hopes to make "Hellboy" with producers Larry Gordon and Lloyd Levin ("Tomb Raider"). Del Toro told the Austin Chronicle that "Hellboy" is "the film I want to make most," according to the Web site. "I would literally do that movie for no money up front. I would bet my entire salary on the back end. Not a dollar for my services."

## Smith Says 'MIB' Gang Is Back

Will Smith told TV Guide Online that there will be some familiar faces in the upcoming "Men in Black 2", the sequel to his 1997 hit "Men in Black".

"The whole gang is back!" Smith told the site, referring to co-stars Tommy Lee

Jones and Linda Fiorentino. "Oh and how they bring Tommy's character back! ... I can't let it out, but it's so brilliant." Jones' representative confirmed to TV Guide Online that the actor has signed on for the sequel.

Smith added, "It's great when a sequel can have a better script, because it is so rare that the second film is better than the first one. But this one is ridiculous! ... [Director] Barry Sonnenfeld has the script and is working on it now, but the [threatened actors' union] strike is kind of holding things up."

Smith said things are less certain for a follow-up to his 1996 blockbuster "Independence Day". "We've been talking about it," Smith said, referring to 'ID4' writer Dean Devlin and director/writer Roland Emmerich. But, he added, "when you've got a movie that made that kind of money, rest assured somebody is talking about a sequel."

### **Bond To Go British Again?**

James Bond will dump his German import and slip behind the wheel of a British Aston Martin sports car in his next movie, according to the Popcorn U.K. Website.

Citing the British tabloid newspaper the Daily Mail, the site reported that Ford Motor Co., current owner of Aston Martin, will push to place the £200,000 (\$290,000) Aston Martin Vanquish in the next Bond film.

If true, it will mark a return to form for the ultimate spy. Bond, played by Sean Connery, drove a bulletproof Aston Martin DB-5 in 1964's "Goldfinger". But in 1995, 007, played by Pierce Brosnan, changed to the German-made BMW Z3 in "GoldenEye". Bond also drove Beemers in the last two Bond films, "Tomorrow Never Dies" and "The World Is not Enough".

### **"The Specials" Aren't "Mystery Men"**

James Gunn, writer of the SF film "The Specials", told Eon Magazine that the independent superhero satire isn't a cut-rate version of last year's "Mystery Men".

"If somebody says 'The Specials' is about second-rate superheroes, that's where the similarities end," Gunn told the magazine.

Gunn added, "Besides that, 'Mystery Men' is a slapstick action film. Our movie is a character comedy. It's about human beings. It's about being a superhero as a human being. It's not about being a superhero and fighting. They're totally different movies. I would actually say that in some ways 'Mystery Men' and 'X-Men' are more alike than 'The Specials' and 'Mystery Men'."

"The Specials", which opened in limited release on Sept. 18, tells the story of America's "seventh-best superhero team" and stars Gunn, Thomas Haden Church, Paget Brewster, Rob Lowe, Jamie Kennedy, Judy Greer, Kelly Coffield, Sean Gunn, Jordan Ladd, Mike Schwartz and Jim Zuvelic.

### **Batman Director Talks**

Darren Aronofsky, director of the upcoming "Batman: Year One" movie, told the Dark Horizons Web site that he can't say much about the top-secret project.

"I've only just been hired to do it, so I haven't anything much to say," Aronofsky said.

Aronofsky is writing the screenplay for Warner Brothers' fifth installment in the Batman franchise with graphic novel writer Frank Miller. The director (Pi) wouldn't even dispute rumors that Paul Newman would play Bruce Wayne at the age of 75--a

rumor that has been denied. "I have no idea," he said. But the director did say he's working on an SF movie idea that he hopes to finish before Batman.

### **Raimi Confirms Malkovich In Spidey**

Sam Raimi, director of the upcoming "Spider-Man" movie, told E! that John Malkovich will indeed play the film's villain, the Green Goblin, according to the Popcorn U.K. Web site.

Raimi's confirmation apparently lays to rest recent rumors that scheduling conflicts forced Malkovich to drop out of the movie, which is based on the Marvel Comics series of the same name.

Raimi added that he's "thinking hard" about casting Alicia Witt (Urban Legend) in the role of Mary Jane Watson opposite Tobey Maguire's Peter Parker, Popcorn reported.

Raimi told Cinescape Online, meanwhile, that he's anxious about directing a movie based on such a cultural icon. "I live in fear every moment on this picture. I absolutely do. It's terrifying," Raimi told the site. "There are tremendous challenges. How do we pull off this shot? How do we make Spider-Man look real? How do we make the web look like a real spider's web? But the biggest challenge, I think, is in meeting the fans' expectations of what this fantastic character should be. That's really my goal."

### **King's *Dragon* To Get Animated**

WAMC Entertainment, a Los Angeles-based production company, has optioned Stephen King's novel *The Eyes of the Dragon* for an animated feature film, the Screendaily.com Web site reported.

The novel, which King wrote for his daughter in 1987, tells the story of a kingdom inhabited by dragons, magicians and knights.

WAMC told the site that the project's screenplay is due for completion by early 2001. Character design will be originated in the United States, while sets and background will be created in Europe, the site reported.

### **Paramount Auctions *Trek* Reruns**

Paramount is selling reruns of its three Star Trek series from the 1980s and 1990s to cable networks for a record license fee of \$364 million, Variety reported.

The SCI FI Channel is reportedly one of the cable networks interested in bidding, the trade paper reported; SCI FI already runs the original Star Trek series.

TNN, TNT, Fox Family and FX, and the Odyssey Channel are also reportedly keen on acquiring the *Trek* reruns.

The three series are *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* and *Star Trek: Voyager*. *Voyager* is wrapping up its seventh and last season on UPN; the other two series ran for seven years each in syndication.

### **Lucas Called Duchovny**

The *X-Files* actor David Duchovny told fans that he got a call from George Lucas to appear in 'Star Wars: Episode III', but hasn't accepted it, according to a report on the Empire Online Web site.

Speaking in a French Internet chat, Duchovny said, "I'm a fan of *Star Wars*, but I'm not sure of having the time to act in it. ... I've got tons of projects in production

after *The X-Files* series."

Duchovny will appear in 11 episodes of the upcoming eighth season of his hit Fox show. In addition, he's set to star in director Ivan Reitman's upcoming SF comedy movie "Evolution", which is about aliens trying to invade Earth. "In 'Evolution', I play a professor who is charged with saving the world from aggressive aliens," he said. "I think that it's a transition that will take me away from *The X-Files* towards other roles."

Duchovny added that he's not eager to return to television once *The X-Files* ends. "I think it will be difficult to do another series, since people will always remember my work in *The X-Files*," he said. "I think it's the best time to turn the page and do something else."

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*It is a proud, but no longer lonely, thing to be a fan*

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## CONVENTIONS

*With the exception of specific cons in which KaCSFFS members have shown an interest, such as Gateway, those which the editor could identify as media cons were removed from the following list. If you think a con should be added or removed from this list, please notify the editor. Sources for this info: Roger Tener's Chronicles of the Dawn Patrol newsletter; Convention Listings by Jenga <[www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/4677/mainpage.html](http://www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/4677/mainpage.html)>, and Locus Online <[www.locusmag.com/index.html](http://www.locusmag.com/index.html)>.*

**ChamBanaCon 30** (Nov 24-26 '00) Relaxacon. Champaign-Urbana, IL; Clarion Hotel, 1501 S Neil, Champaign, IL. 62801; (217) 352-7891 or (800) 257-6667. GoH: Andrew J. Offutt, FGoH: Kim Williams, TM: Wilson "Bob" Tucker. Memb: \$25 til Nov 15, \$30 thereafter & at the door. Info: ChamBanaCon PO Box 199016 Indianapolis, IN 46219-9016; email: [turkey@chambanacon.org](mailto:turkey@chambanacon.org); website: [www.chambanacon.org](http://www.chambanacon.org)

**Contemplation** (Dec 29-31 '00) Best Western Columbia Inn, 3100 I-70 Dr SE, Columbia, MO 65201; (573)474-6161; \$49 sgl/dbl, \$54 tpl, \$59 quad. GoH: Kevin Randall, AGoH: JR Daniels, David Lee Anderson, Dell Harris, Angela Lowery, FGoH: Jim Murray, Gaming GoH: Doug Ferguson (WOTC). Memb: \$15 prereg, \$20 at the door. Info: Gene Raiti, Contemplation 2000, PO Box 28, Columbia, MO 65205-0028; email [gener011@aol.com](mailto:gener011@aol.com)

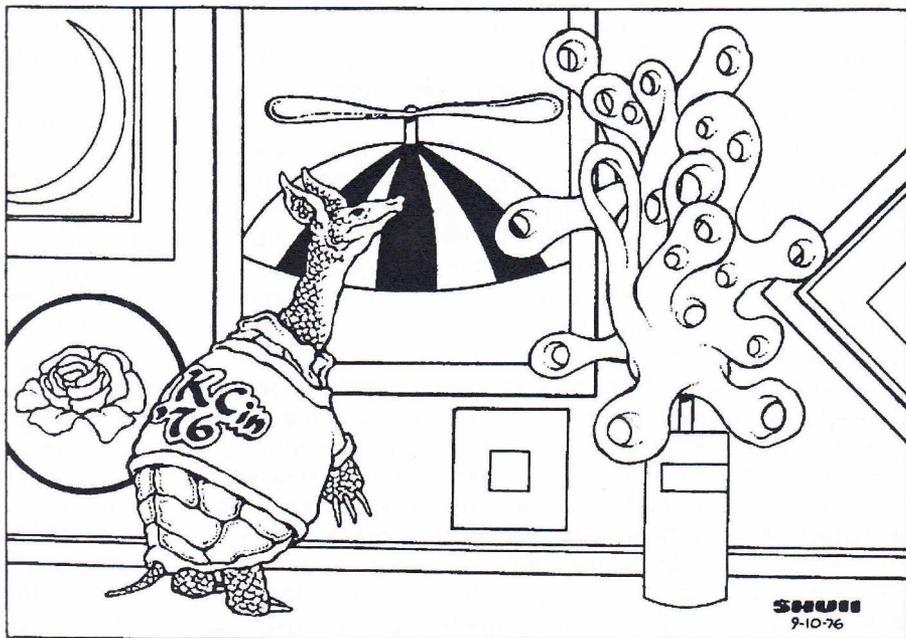
**Czarkon 12** (Jan 26-28 '01) SF and aviation relaxacon, plus annual meeting of The Dawn Patrol. Howard Johnson East, Independence, MO; (816) 373-8856. GoHs: Robin Wayne Bailey, Jack Doremus, Richard and Michelle Zellich, Tim Frayser. Memb: \$20 to 01/01/01, \$30 thereafter & at the door. Info: Nancy & Ross Hathaway, 2541 Summerchase Ave, Rosamond, CA 93560; (661)256-3415; e-mail: [takki2takki@earthlink.net](mailto:takki2takki@earthlink.net); website: [www.sff.net/people/sfreader/czarkon.htm](http://www.sff.net/people/sfreader/czarkon.htm)

**AlphaOmegaCon** (Feb 23-25 '01) Combo Media, Gaming & General SF con. Guests: Everett McGill, Clancy Brown, Alice Borchardt. Memb: \$25 til 11/30, \$35 12/1 to 2/1, \$40 thereafter & at the door. Gaming badges \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Info: SASE to DarkStar Productions, 7410 W 119th St #113, Shawnee Mission, KS 66213-1110; website: [darkstr.home.mindspring.com](http://darkstr.home.mindspring.com)

**Name-That-Con 14** (Mar 9-11 '01) General SF con. Ramada Inn at Six Flags,

I-44 & Allentown Rd, Eureka, MO (St. Louis area), 636/938-6661. Theme: Formaldicon—The Preservation of Fandom! Guests: GoH Philip José Farmer, AGoH Kelly & Laura Freas, TM Mickey Zuckert Reichert, FGoH Paula Helm-Murray, Jim Murray, Margene Bahm, UFO Guest Kevin Randle. Memb \$20 til 11/30, \$25 12/1 to 2/1, \$30 thereafter & at the door. Info: NTC 14, PO Box 575, St Charles, MO 63302; e-mail [ntc@stlf.org](mailto:ntc@stlf.org); website [www.scsffs.org/ntc](http://www.scsffs.org/ntc)

**ConQuest 32** (May 25-27 '01) General SF con with emphasis on literature. Park Place Hotel, Kansas City, MO; (800) 821-8532. GoH: James Morrow; AGoH: Bill Hodgson; TM: Stephen Pagel; FGoH: Roger Tener. Many authors, artists and editors. Auction to benefit the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame. Info: ConQuest, PO Box 36212, Kansas City, MO 64171; e-mail: [SFreader@unicom.net](mailto:SFreader@unicom.net); website: [www.kcsciencefiction.org/conquest.htm](http://www.kcsciencefiction.org/conquest.htm)



## LOCAL MEDIA CONS & OTHER EVENTS

*A primary source for this information is one of the web pages associated with the KaCSFFS website: <[home.unicom.net/~sfreader/sflinks.htm](http://home.unicom.net/~sfreader/sflinks.htm)>. Thanks again to our Webmaster, Keith Stokes.*

**ShaunCon 18** (Nov 16-19, 00) Gaming con from the Role-Players Guild of KC. Radisson Hotel, Overland Park, KS; 913/888-8440. Memb: \$23, \$25 at the door. Info: RPGKC, PO Box 7457, Kansas City MO 64116-0157; hotline 816/455-5020; website: [hometown.aol.com/rpgkc/shaun.html](http://hometown.aol.com/rpgkc/shaun.html); e-mail [rpgkc@aol.com](mailto:rpgkc@aol.com)

## **Internet Humor: The 1999 Darwin Awards** **forwarded by Tim Frayser**

For those sheltered few of you who are not fully aware of the Darwin Awards; these awards are given annually (and posthumously) to those individuals who did the most for the human gene pool by removing themselves from it.

**Gravity Kills:** A 22-year-old Reston, Va., man was found dead after he tried to use 'occy' straps (the stretchy little ropes with hooks on each end) to bungee jump off a 70-foot railroad trestle, police said. Fairfax County, Va., police said Eric A. Barcia, a fast-food worker, taped a bunch of these straps together, wrapped an end around one foot, anchored the other end to the trestle at Lake Accotink Park, jumped... and hit the pavement. Warren Carmichael, a police spokesman, said investigators think Barcia was alone because his car was found nearby. "The length of the cord that he had assembled was greater than the distance between the trestle and the ground," Carmichael said. Police say the apparent cause of death was "major trauma." An autopsy was scheduled for later in the week.

**Launched on the Fourth of July:** Three young men in Oklahoma were enjoying the upcoming Fourth of July holiday and apparently wanted to test fire some fireworks. Their only real problem was that their launch pad and seating arrangements were atop a several-hundred-thousand-gallon fuel distillation storage tank. Oddly enough, some fumes were ignited, producing a fireball seen for miles. They were launched several hundred feet into the air and were found dead 250 yards from their respective seats.

**Catch!** A man in Alabama died from rattlesnake bites. "Big deal" you may say, but there's a twist here that makes him a candidate. It seems he and a friend were playing catch with a rattlesnake. You can guess what happened from here. The friend (a future Darwin Awards candidate) was hospitalized.

**Gimme a Light!** In a west Texas town, employees in a medium-sized warehouse noticed the smell of gas. Sensibly, management evacuated the building, extinguishing all potential sources of ignition-lights, power, etc. After the building had been evacuated, two technicians from the gas company were dispatched. Upon entering the building, they found they had difficulty navigating in the dark. To their frustration, none of the lights worked. Witnesses later described the vision of one of the technicians reaching into his pocket and retrieving an object that resembled a lighter. Upon operation of the lighter-like object, the gas in the warehouse exploded, sending pieces of it up to three miles away. Nothing was found of the technicians, but the lighter was virtually untouched by the explosion. The technician that was suspected of causing the explosion had never been thought of as "bright" by his peers.

**And The 1999 Darwin Award Winner Is:** Telephone relay company night watchman Edward Baker, 31, was killed early Christmas morning by excessive microwave radiation exposure. He was apparently attempting to keep warm next to a telecommunications feed. Baker had been suspended on a safety violation once last year, according to Northern Manitoba Signal Relay spokesperson Tanya Cooke. She noted that Baker's earlier infraction was for defeating a safety shutoff switch and entering a restricted maintenance catwalk in order to stand in front of the

microwave dish. He had told coworkers that it was the only way he could stay warm during his twelve-hour shift at the station, where winter temperatures often dip to forty below zero Fahrenheit (which also is forty below zero Celsius). Microwaves can heat water molecules within human tissue in the same way that they heat food in microwave ovens. For his Christmas shift, Baker reportedly brought a twelve pack of beer and a plastic lawn chair, which he positioned directly in line with the strongest microwave beam. Baker had not been told about a tenfold boost in microwave power planned that night to handle the anticipated increase in holiday long-distance calling traffic. Baker's body was discovered by the daytime watchman, John Burns, who was greeted by an odor he mistook for a Christmas roast he thought Baker must have prepared as a surprise. Burns also reported to NMSR company officials that Baker's unfinished beers had exploded.

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*Amazing, Fantastic, Astounding... Analog!*

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# DIRECTOR'S TWO CENTS

Hello Friends.

Well, we are at the time of year to talk about what we are thankful for. Isn't it too bad that so many of us do not do that every day? I know that this month I always pay special thanks to our veterans (living and dead). Some gave their lives and/or body parts for our freedom and to free others from oppression. Whether you agreed with the politics of the moment. Ultimately, that is what every veteran is doing.

We have so many things to be thankful for in our lives. There are our friends, look around you and think what your life would be without them. Our family — blood relation and otherwise. Our health, it may not be the best or the worst, but no matter what someone out there is worse off than you are.

I am thankful for the support the club has given me in my two terms as Director. I saw the support everyone gave Ben and I am sure my successor will get everyone's support. Everyone in the club makes the club great and that is our strength. Thank you all for giving me the chance to make my first mark in Kansas City fandom.

Remember your dishes of food for Thanksgiving — call Darice or email with what you will bring to <dated@planetkc.com>. I am looking forward to eating what so many wonderful cooks make!

Also, remember that the Christmas meeting will be December 9th at the Howard Johnson's on Noland Road at 6:00 PM.

See you all at 6:00 PM on November 19! And thank you for being you.  
Best wishes.

Ted Poovey

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# Timebound

% KaCSFFS

PO Box 36212

Kansas City, MO 64171-6212

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NICKI & RICHARD LYNCH  
(exchange)  
PO BOX 3120  
GAITHERSBURG, MD 20885

20885-3120

