

90 Fantasy Fans Convene at Festival

By CHRIS WOODYARD
Courant Staff Writer

NEW HAVEN—From literary types to novice gladiators, witches and laser warriors, some 900 aficionados of fantasy and horror fiction gathered at a New Haven hotel gathered for the weekend for the eighth annual World Fantasy Convention.

Fantasy is not to be confused with science fiction, which is mostly aimed at technological possibilities, said convention co-chairman Howard E. Kenney of Andover.

"There are a lot of science fiction conventions, but only one devoted to the convention's literary awards."

For devotees like Baltimore magician Carl Harpold, the convention at the Park Plaza Hotel provided a chance to have books autographed by the likes of Stephen King, author of the best-selling novel "Cujo," and to stroll through a fantasy art gallery.

Fantasy films like "Conan, the Barbarian" and the continuing stream of horror movies have boosted interest in fantasy fiction, said Harpold, who claims to have attended more than 100 science fiction and fantasy conventions in the past eight years.

Repulsed in a green medieval-style tunic and wearing a necklace from which was suspended a squirrel's skull, Harpold was one of a few fans who dressed up for the three-day affair.

Guns and swords are supposed to be unsatisfactory because of convention "weapons policies" intended to keep the public from panicking at the sight of laser guns or blade-wielding warriors.

A police SWAT team showed up at a Washington convention after somebody claimed they saw people with laser guns, but police, said Harpold, recalled. The guns were phony, of course, but it's still a kind of thing that scares people, he said.

Steve Kennedy and Susan Kijewski, co-authors of the novel "The Dark Tower," complete with weapons, anyway, Kennedy was equipped as what he called a

"standard desert barbarian warrior."

"Some do get carried away on the fantasy trip," fellow barbarian Kijewski said.

"But this is part fantasy, part science fiction," Kennedy said. Most fans came as their normal selves in normal clothes. They came to see authors, who took advantage of the occasion to sell books and to see who would win the convention's literary awards.

Author Paul Hanel, who wrote "Mythwood" and "Undersea," said much of fantasy fiction has mythological roots, with heroes triumphing in psychological dramas.

Some convention-goers were more interested in socializing than literary criticism.

"I came here mostly for the strange people," said Steve Henderson of Pittsburgh.

Pilot, Passenger Hurt When Plane Crashes Into Barn

A 49-year-old Durham man and a 30-year-old Marlborough woman were seriously injured Sunday morning when their single-engine airplane crashed into a barn in Durham.

Richard Slater of 379 Pent Road, Durham, and Linda Corbal of 346 S. Main St., Marlborough, were riding in the plane, identified as a PT 26, when it crashed into the barn while Slater was attempting to land on a landing strip on his property.

Slater and Corbal were taken to Middletown Memorial Hospital in Middletown, where Slater was undergoing surgery Sunday night. He suffered multiple injuries. Corbal also suffered multiple injuries and was listed in serious but stable condition.

State police and the Federal Aviation Administration are investigating the crash.

BEWARE THE SMURF — And her big brother, who ventured forth to collect treats on Halloween night. Both Casey, 4, and brother

Shock Therapy Victim's Widow Gets Settlement

By DEBRA HURLEY
Courant Correspondent

MANFIELD — The widow of a man who died after receiving electric shock therapy at Natchaug Hospital six years ago has been awarded an out-of-court settlement.

The settlement came on the eve of the trial. The plaintiff, Natalie A. Monty, had sued the hospital, its former medical director, Dr. Olga A.G. Little, Little's husband, former hospital President Dr. Mervyn B. Little, and Dr. John Diers.

Monty's attorney, Leon M.

Kaats of Hartford, would not discuss particulars of the settlement, which is still being finalized, but he said the settlement is in "the neighborhood" of \$300,000.

"We are very pleased with the settlement and relieved that it's finally over," Kaats said. The settlement came on the eve of the trial. The plaintiff, Natalie A. Monty, had sued the hospital, its former medical director, Dr. Olga A.G. Little, Little's husband, former hospital President Dr. Mervyn B. Little, and Dr. John Diers.

Monty, a former army intelligence officer who had served under Gen. George S. Patton, was admitted to the private psychiatric facility for rest and treatment of depression Feb. 11, 1976.

Monty showed improvement his first week, but the three doctors decided to administer shock therapy, the suit said.

The day before the settlement, Natalie Monty told the doctors that her husband had undergone electric shock treatment before, court papers said. She told doctors that he had difficulty remaining regular breathing after undergoing shock treatment in 1971.

Brian, 6, set out from their home at 41 Westfield Road, West Hartford, plastic pumpkins in hand ready to be filled with goodies.

Parents Play Role in Classroom To Help Ensure Better Schools

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"It's our sense that parents are definitely involved more," said J. William Kious, a senior associate at the National Committee for Citizens in Education in Columbia, Md.

"It's occurring to more and more parents that the only way to have an insurance policy for good schools is for parents to get involved," he said.

In response to parents' aspirations, administrators are relinquishing some of their traditional prerogatives.

Buckley School Principal Edward H. Timbrell said that, until about a decade ago, if he thought a child should repeat a grade, he simply sent a registered letter informing the parents of his decision. His word was final.

Now, he says, if the parents agree to an advertisement in the newspaper, he usually gives in. "I wouldn't force the issue," he said. "The parents are at odds. It won't be best for the child."

Parental involvement in their children's schooling is so pronounced that an advertisement in the newspaper, he said, is the breakup of marriages. Divorced parents, as well as a step-parent, may insist on attending separate parent-teacher conferences. That's not a popular request to a teacher who feels overworked and underpaid.

"I welcome the fact that both parents are interested and do want conferences, but it is a concern in terms of my time," Rohlfis said.

Rohlfis used to tell her students to take their report cards home to their mother and father. Now, it's their mother or father, as Rohlfis tries not to upset the child who has only one parent at home.

Overall, parents are more of a boon than a bane. Buckley School relies heavily on its 32 parent-volunteers because paid aides are a luxury in these days of no-frills school budgets. There are only three paid teachers' aides at Buckley. Timbrell said, too few to assist all 16 teachers.

Rohlfis has three parent-volunteers to help her teach reading and another volunteer to tutor one Southeast Asian student.

"There's a lot of things that I couldn't do without them," Rohlfis said.

In addition, each class has two room parents who assist the teacher on field trips and special activities.

Timbrell says more fathers are becoming involved in their children's schooling, but male volunteers are uncommon. Lee Poterbaugh, the father volunteer at Buckley, and he plans to stop when he finds full-time employment.

While teachers appreciate the tutoring and clerical services provided by parent-volunteers, the pupils in Room 5 are less enthusiastic about having their mothers or fathers around.

But the suit said that on Feb. 24, 1976, Dr. Olga Little administered two convulsive doses of electric shock to Monty in rapid succession followed by a more sustained non-convulsive electric shock.

Monty failed to resume breathing after her treatment and was pronounced dead an hour later at 5:50 a.m.

The lawsuit charged the doctors were negligent in failing to properly diagnose Monty's condition and to determine whether electric shock therapy would be a safe and appropriate treatment.



Mary Laverty, mother of a student at Buckley School in Manchester, quizzes another student.

Kathleen Egan, Egan parents are taking an interest in what happens inside the classroom.

"It's weird when they're here," Brian Sombric said. Kimberly Colangelo said she is glad that her parents are too busy to volunteer.

"My mother works, and my father who is in the building doesn't see me," she said. "He doesn't have time to come. I like it that they are getting involved with my mother and father around."

But Kayley Marsh said she volunteers having her mother volunteer in school. "I don't know why, I just do," she said.

Q. Do you think this current scene is drugstore-oriented?

A. It's a scare that's going to worry everybody and discount where they buy the drug. While it's true that it is a pharmacist and pharmacist educator, believe that it can be in the public's best interest to buy their drugs from a knowledgeable individual, the fact is that pharmacists sometimes will merchandise drugs just like a supermarket or discount house will. So the control over the drug isn't necessarily any greater in a pharmacy than it is in a supermarket.

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In addition to the newer forms of parent activism, the Parent Teacher Association still thrives at Buckley. Last year, it carried the parents of about half the school's 400 children.

The PTA also funds traditional PTA fund-raising techniques as book sales. The PTA also gave \$25 to each teacher to use for their class. It may seem like a small sum, but Kennedy was grateful. She bought a paper shopping bag and a notebook that the school had not provided.

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The PTA also lobbies against special needs by the Board of Education.

PTA President Joan Laverty knows it is not easy to get every parent involved in the school.

At the open house, the PTA recruited members as parents walked through the school doors. On the second floor, Laverty also tried to lure parents to join her organization.

"If they slip by the first floor table, they'll feel too guilty to pass me by," she said.

Q. Can we be sure that the supreme law of the land has been tampered with?

Q. At a wholesaler level, at a distributor level?

Q. Yes.

A. No, except that most people buy drugs come with a label of inner seal. First of all, the cap could be sealed. Then you take the cap off and you see the inner seal, which is there to show proper tampering and also to improve the moisture barrier.

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