

B2 THE HARTFORD COURANT, Monday, November 1, 1982



BEWARE THE SMURF — And her big brother, who ventured forth to collect treats on Halloween night. Beth Casey, 4, and brother Brian, 6, set out from their home at 41 Westfield Road, West Hartford, plastic pumpkins in hand ready to be filled with goodies.

900 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 during 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 fantasy convention," the bookstore owner said.

For devotees like Baltimore magician Curt 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.

Representing 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 unfashionable because of convention "weapons policies" intended to keep the public from panicking at the sight of laser gunmen or blade-wielding warriors.

A police SWAT team showed up at a Washington convention after somebody complained they saw people walking around with machine guns, Harpold recalled. The guns were phony, of course, but it's still the kind of stuff that scares people.

Steve Kennedy and Susan Kijamich of Boston came in costume, complete with wooden swords, anyway. Kennedy was equipped as what he called a

"standard desert barbarian warrior."

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

"But this is part fantasy, part Halloween," 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 Hasei, who wrote "Yearwood" and "Undersa," said much of fantasy fiction has mythological roots, with heroes triumphing in psychological dramas.

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

"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 Pont Road, Durham, and Linda Corral of 346 S. Main St., Marlborough, were riding in the plane, identified as a P-28, when it crashed into the barn while Slater appeared to be attempting to land the plane down on a landing strip on his property.

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

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

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 H. Little, and Dr. John Diers.

Monty's attorney, Leon M.

Katz 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," Katz said.

Monty filed a \$1.5 million lawsuit against the four defendants in 1977, a year after her husband, Percy, died after he did not regain breathing upon receiving the shock therapy.

According to papers filed in Tolland County Superior Court, 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 treatment, Natalie Monty told the doctors that her husband had undergone electric shock treatment before, court papers said. She told doctors that he had difficulty regaining regular breathing after undergoing shock treatment in 1972.

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 his treatment and was pronounced dead an hour later at 5:40 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.

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 Roux, 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' assertiveness, 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 argue that their child should be promoted, he usually gives in. "I wouldn't force the issue," he said. "If you and the parents are at odds, it won't be best for the child."

Parental involvement in their children's schooling is so pronounced it sometimes survives 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," Robits said.

Robits used to tell her students to take their report cards home to their mother and father. Now, it's their mother or father, as Robits 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 33 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 18 teachers.

Robits 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," Robits 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 Potterton is the only father volunteering 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.



Mary Lavateri, mother of a student at Buckley School in Manchester, quizzes another student. Kathleen Egan, more parents today are taking an interest in what happens inside the classroom.

"It's weird when they're here," Brian Sombrie said.

Kimberly Colangelo said she is glad that her parents are too busy to volunteer.

"My mother works, and my father (who is taking classes in accounting) has to watch my sisters," she said. "He doesn't have time to come. I like it that way. I get embarrassed with my mother and father around."

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

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

Through such traditional PTA fund-raising techniques as book sales, the PTA was able to donate a \$1,000 swing set last year.

The PTA also gave \$25 to each teacher to use for their class. It may seem like a small sum, but Robits was grateful. She bought a paper puncher and other supplies that the school had not provided.

The PTA also lobbies against spending cuts by the Board of Education.

PTA President Johan Lavery 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, Lavery 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.

128 Is Magic Number for Wood Buyers

Associated Press

If you burn wood for heat, the number 128 is familiar to you. If not, it should be.

It's the number of cubic feet in a cord of wood — usually four-foot lengths of wood stacked four feet high and eight feet long — the legal unit of measuring firewood sold in Connecticut.

And because firewood does not come neatly packaged and is labeled and is not metered like fuel oil, "consumers must know what they are buying for, Consumer Protection Commissioner Mary M. Heslin warns.

The most frequent complaint to

the Consumer Protection Department is from a homeowner who responded to an advertisement for firewood in a newspaper. The wood is delivered, cash is paid and a week later, after the owner has stacked it, he discovers that he has received only half of what he had paid for.

"Be careful not to simply pull a telephone number from a newspaper ad and order firewood," Heslin said. "Be even more cautious when someone just 'drops' by and offers you a 'good deal,' especially if the truck or seller is from out of state."

One of the concerns that people frequently have is the cost of medicine, and I appreciate that.

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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.

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

A. It's a scare that's going to worry everybody, no matter where they buy the drug. While it's true that I, as a pharmacist and pharmacy educator, believe that it can be in the public's best interest to buy their drugs from a knowledgeable individual, the fact is that pharmacies 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.

Drug Firms Expected To Use Tamper-Resistant Containers

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have to go to a physician every time. I can cite you remarkable statistics on the value of self-medication.

The major part of the self-care movement is trying to educate people that you don't always have to take a drug that you can even change life styles. There are other alternatives to drug therapy.

Q. Are we an overmedicated society?

A. I'll tell you that I take drugs infrequently. In my OTC course, I try to promote in my students, who are going to be practicing pharmacists, that they have an obligation to help people self-medicate intelligently, whether

are potentially harmful, as all drugs are — all drugs are potentially harmful — then I kind of draw the line.

Q. Have people been relying more on prescriptions since this wave of incidents?

A. It's too soon to tell. The first thing that people are running scared on is the obvious thing with this Tylenol. The second thing they're running scared on is anything that is in a capsule. It's sort of unfortunate because capsules represent something that's easy to swallow. Some people can choke on a tablet because it starts to break apart in your mouth, but

that doesn't happen with a capsule because it gets kind of slippery and goes down easily, breaks apart easily in your stomach and gives you a fairly fast response to the drug.

Q. Can we be sure that the supplies sent to the drugstore haven't been tampered with?

A. At a wholesaler level, as a distributor level?

Q. Yes.

A. No, except that most prescription drugs come with a kind of inner seal. First of all, the cap could be sealed. Then you take the cap off and there's an inner wax seal, which is there to show tamper resistance and also to improve the moisture barrier.



HENRY A. PALMER