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The Kansas City in 2006

What He Said



YARDBIRD LE ZOMBIE-PICAYUNE

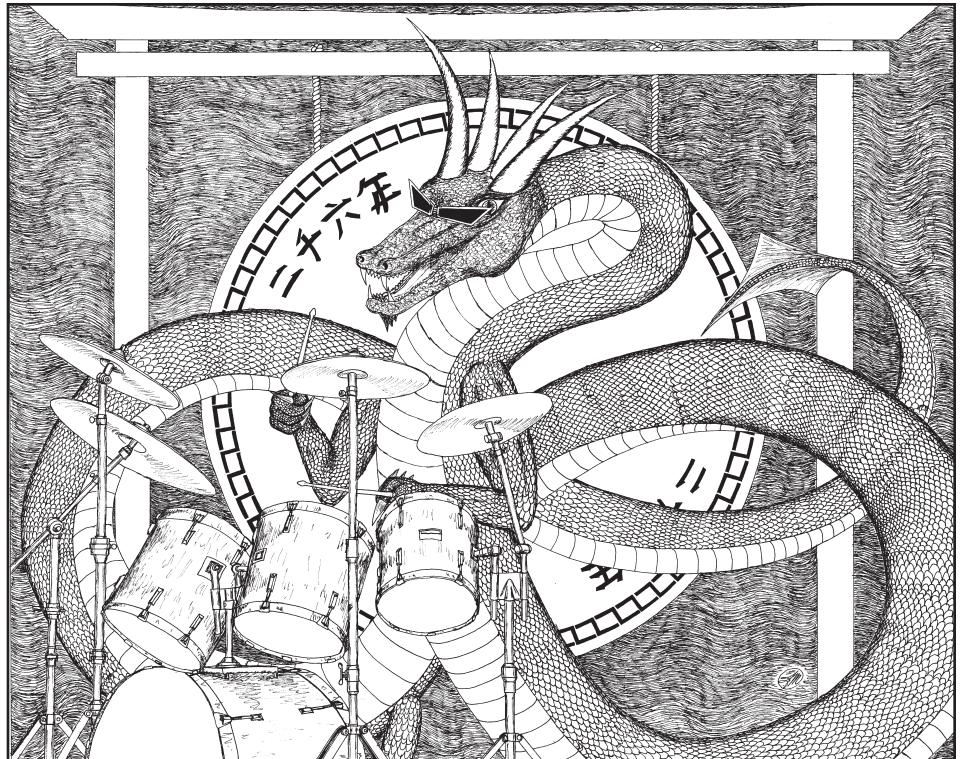


DECISION 2006: WHO SHALL HOST THE 64TH WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION? FANDOM PREPARES TO DECIDE IN TORONTO

Just about two years ago, a group of people met on a front porch in Kansas City, and, after a couple of hours of discussion, asked a simple question: "Are we out of our minds?" The vote was unanimous, and the Kansas City in 2006 WorldCon Bid was a reality.

The last two years have been a great deal of fun, and hard work too. We've traveled all over the country (and outside it, too), met fascinating folks from around the world, thrown more parties than we care to think about and spent even more hours sitting at bid tables talking to anyone who would listen about why we thought Kansas City was a great place to hold a WorldCon. We've become good friends with the members of our esteemed competition, the L.A. in 2006 bid. We have received an incredible amount of assistance from fans everywhere, without which this bid would have been nearly impossible to do. We sincerely thank everyone who has presupported the Kansas City bid.

And now, it's time to choose. Enclosed you will find the Site Selection Ballot for the 2006 World Science Fiction Convention. All members of TorCon, the 2003 WorldCon, have the privilege of voting. Obviously, we hope you will vote for Kansas City. While we've mentioned a variety of reasons for you to choose us in the past, we'd like to take this last opportunity to go over the things that make this bid special, the Kansas City area unique, and such a great place to hold a WorldCon.



1) Our Dates—The Kansas City Worldcon will be held on the traditional Labor Day weekend, August 31st through September 4th. The Los Angeles bid plans to hold theirs the weekend before. This has given rise to a bizarre grassroots movement for *both*, which has horrified everyone in each camp. One WorldCon in a year is plenty, as far as we're concerned.

2) History—One of the biggest reasons we decided to bid for 2006 was that it will be the 30th anniversary of the first Kansas City WorldCon, MidAmeriCon. Big Mac was a catalyst for fandom in the region, and we would like to provide the same experience for a new

A Note About Our Title

The "Yardbird Le Zombie-Picayune" was named in part to honor Charlie "Yardbird" Parker, one of Kansas City's finest jazz musicians. He was a major innovator and improviser, and as such is an inspiration to the bid.

"Le Zombie" is taken from the title of a long-running fanzine by Wilson "Bob" Tucker. It was chosen to commemorate his service as Toastmaster at the 1976 WorldCon in Kansas City, and to honor his recent selection as an inductee into the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame.

As for "Picayune," it has a long history as a newspaper name, and besides, *oui* likes it.

—The Minister

generation of fans, encouraging them to go home and start clubs, run conventions, and, in another 30 years, come back to Kansas City and help the locals continue the tradition (it'll be a tradition then, we'll have done it twice).

3) Barbecue and Jazz—With all due respects to our friends elsewhere, Kansas City is the home of the finest slow-smoked meats in the universe. Brisket, pork, ham, sausage, burnt ends, and, of course, ribs—you'll find your favorite here, served up like nowhere else. Should Kansas City be fortunate enough to win the privilege of hosting the 64th Worldcon, something truly unique is planned: a barbecue crawl! A bus trip to a number of Kansas City's finest emporiums, each serving up their specialties for your delectation. It is also our intent to pay tribute to Kansas City's jazz heritage by

showcasing a number of local jazz bands via a series of concerts during the convention.

4) Facilities—The Overland Park Convention Center went online on November 17, 2002, a scant 22 months after ground was broken, and over a month ahead of schedule. It has over 237,000 square feet of space, and amenities that include high-speed internet access, connectors for a/v and multimedia presentations, and digital repeaters built in to ensure that cell phones, pagers and other devices will function throughout the facility.

Attached to the convention center is a 412-room Sheraton hotel with over 25,000 square feet of function space. In all, there are 1,200 hotel rooms within walking distance and 4,000 rooms within five minutes of the Convention Center. The City of Overland Park, the hotels and the Convention

Center are working together to provide shuttle service between the facilities and the hotels throughout the convention.

5) Convenience and Cost—Kansas City is located in the center of the America, no more than a day's drive away for most of the country. And all parking, both hotel and convention center, is **free!** For those who prefer to fly, KCI is 30 minutes away from the Convention Center. And to help you get the most for your WorldCon dollar, regular rooms will be no more than \$99 per night!

For more information about the bid, or the Kansas City area in general, please check out our website: www.midamericon.org. Again, we'd like to thank everyone who has encouraged and assisted us during this process, and we hope to see you all in Kansas City in 2006.

WORLDCON VOTING: A PRIMER

To vote for Site Selection, you must be a member of TorCon. If you are an attending member and plan to attend, you may vote by mail or on-site. If you are a supporting member, your ballot must be received by August 15th.

If you are not currently a member of TorCon, you can join and vote simultaneously. Instructions are provided on the enclosed ballot. Two checks must be enclosed, one for your membership, (Attending: US \$185 until 1 July,

Supporting: US \$40) made out to TorCon, and one for the voting fee (US \$40), made out to "The 64th World Science Fiction Convention." The voting fees are turned over to the winning bid. By voting, you are guaranteed a supporting membership in whichever convention wins.

In addition to this newsletter, you will find we have enclosed the Site Selection ballot and an envelope for sending in the completed ballot. Now exercise that franchise!

Service Mark notice: "World Science Fiction Society," "WSFS," "World Science Fiction Convention," "NASFiC," "Hugo" and "WorldCon" are registered service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.

The benefits listed will be received if you vote in Toronto in 2003 and we win.

**Presupport: \$20 US, \$27 Can,
£12, €17, ¥2355**
supporting membership,
1/2 credit for conversion

**Yardbird: \$50 US, \$68 Can,
£30, €43, ¥5889**
attending membership,
listing in program book



**Preoppose: \$25 US, \$34 Can,
£15, €22, ¥2944**
supporting membership
1/2 credit for conversion

**Count Basie: \$100 US, \$136 Can,
£60, €87, ¥11,778**
attending membership,
listing in program book; a bid t-shirt & more

Important Notice: You can Upgrade your Presupport to a Yardbird or Count Basie anytime until the end of voting and still receive the benefits! See us at our bid table and/or parties at TorCon, or mail it in.

Upgrades must be postmarked no later than August 30, 2003.

For Up to Date Information on All Aspects of the Bid, see our Website: www.midamericon.org

Questions? Comments? Just want to chat? Our email address is: MidAmeriCon@kc.rr.com

Make checks (in U.S. funds) payable to Kansas City in 2006 and mail to:
Kansas City 2006, P.O. Box 414175, Kansas City, MO 64141-4175

KANSAS CITY AREA ATTRACTIONS

Country Club Plaza

The Country Club Plaza is Kansas City's most charming shopping, dining and entertainment district. With unique shops, horse-drawn carriage rides and a plethora of restaurants, it is a destination in and of itself.

www.countryclubplaza.com

Harry S Truman Home, Library and Museum

The major issues and events of Harry Truman's Presidency are highlighted in this new 10,500-square-foot core exhibition. Featuring two decision theaters, enhanced audio and video programs, and new interactive elements, this exhibition forms the centerpiece of the Truman Library's ambitious museum renovation. www.trumanlibrary.org

Johnson County Museum of History

The Johnson County Museum of History opened in 1967 in the former Greenwood School. The facility includes permanent and changing galleries, a research library, an education center and a museum store.

www.jocomuseum.org

Liberty Memorial Museum

Immediately after the armistice of November 11, 1918, a group of Kansas Citians gathered to propose a memorial to the men and women who served in the war and to those who died. The earliest ideas for the memorial included a museum of objects from the war. The museum has remained faithful to the initial objective: to collect, preserve and interpret the physical objects of World War I. The Liberty Memorial Museum is the only public museum in the United States dedicated solely to the history of World War I.

www.libertymemorialmuseum.org

Kansas City Jazz Museum

Inside the American Jazz Museum, the essence and living spirit of jazz legends fill the atmosphere, as the story of jazz and her greatest performers is told through the sights and sounds of one the most interactive museums in the country.

www.americanjazzmuseum.com

Negro Leagues Baseball Museum

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum features a 10,000 square-foot multimedia exhibit. It includes two film exhibits, two video exhibits, and 15 computer interactive stations. The

gallery is arranged on a time line of African American and baseball history from the 1860s-1950s. The centerpiece is the "Field of Legends" which features 12 life sized bronze cast sculptures of the most important players in Negro Leagues history. www.nlbm.com

Kansas City Museum

The Kansas City Museum is housed in the former Robert A. Long mansion, Corinthian Hall, located in the northeast part of Kansas City, Mo. The Museum features displays of regional history, natural history dioramas and a 50-seat planetarium. Before or after your visit, sample an ice cream cone, float or sundae from the Museum's 1910 soda fountain. The Museum is located at the corner of Benton and Gladstone Boulevards.

www.unionstation.org/kcmuseum.cfm

Kansas City Zoological Gardens

Explore the Kansas City Zoo and find yourself in the wild, natural habitats of exotic animals from around the world. Spanning more than 200 acres, the Zoo can provide a full day's journey or an afternoon getaway for your family. You never know what you will encounter, so load up your camera, grab your binoculars and get ready for your safari!

www.kansascityzoo.org

Mahaffie Farmstead/Stagecoach Stop

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm is the last remaining stagecoach stop on the historic Santa Fe Trail still open to the public. Three original buildings are preserved: The Mahaffie Family Home/Stagecoach Stop, two-story Ice House, and Wood Peg Barn. Other buildings include a large livestock barn, a 20th-century implement barn made from two wooden railroad boxcars, reproduction blacksmith shop and smokehouse, and a maintenance building that houses public restrooms.

www.mahaffie.com

National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame

This unique 172-acre complex is both an educational tour of the history and importance of agriculture and a celebration of the outstanding achievements by farmers.

www.aghalloffame.com

National Frontier Trails Center

Relive one of the most captivating sagas in American History at the National Frontier Trails Center. Traders who made fortunes daring to cross the hostile plains and families who left loved ones and braved half a continent of wilderness to fulfill the American Dream. These are stories that will touch your heart and speak to your spirit of adventure.

www.frontiertrailscenter.com

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City is one of the country's premier art institutions. It is currently undergoing a major expansion, scheduled for completion in 2005, which will allow even more of its treasure to be displayed. Its rich collections bring together masterpieces from every culture and period of the world, spanning over 5,000 years. It has prestigious collections of European and American art, but it is known above all for its magnificent collection of Asian art, notably the arts of China. The Chinese collection comprises masterpieces from every phase of Chinese art. The bronze age (1200 B.C. to 500 B.C.) is especially well represented in a series of ceremonial vessels and weapons. www.nelson-atkins.org

Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art

The Kemper Museum boasts a growing permanent collection of modern and contemporary art and presents 10-12 special exhibitions each year.

www.kemperart.org

Oceans of Fun Water Park

With over 60 acres of wet and wild adventure, there is no need to travel anywhere else. Pack up your shades and sunscreen and head out to enjoy a million gallons of refreshment in the Surf City Wave Pool. www.worldsof-fun.com/public/inside_park/oof/index.cfm

Old Shawnee Town

Old Shawnee Town contains a combination of original historic structures and replicas of buildings from the late 1800s to early 1900s. The first structure, the 1843 territorial jail, was dedicated July 13, 1966, and was followed by a celebration on July 16 and 17 known as the "Good Ol' Summertime." That event was

the forerunner of Old Shawnee Days. By the next summer (1967), when the first Old Shawnee Days was held, four buildings were standing in Old Shawnee Town: the jail, general store, bank, and funeral parlor. Today there are 17 original and replica structures on tour, along with the Trading Post, which serves as the main entrance and houses traveling historical exhibits.

www.cityofshawnee.org/parks/OldShawneeTown/oldshawneetown.htm

Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

Nestled among mature trees with paths to solitude, the 300 acre Arboretum and Botanical Gardens allows you to lose track of time and forget about the worries of the day.

www.opprf.org/arboretum.htm

Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site

Come and see the manual training school attended by Shawnee, Delaware and other Indian nations from 1839-1862. The Shawnee Mission served as an early territorial capital, supply point on the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails and a camp for Union soldiers during the Civil War. Visit this 13-acre National Historic Landmark and you will experience the rich tapestry of three historic buildings, period rooms and exhibits, special events, workshops and guided tours.

www.kshs.org/places/shawnee

Steamboat Arabia Museum

Unbelievable treasures and fascinating history await. Explore our museum and learn how the handsome steamer *Arabia* prospered on the rivers, perished in 1856 and was finally rediscovered 132 years later, precious cargo intact. This exhibit, in Kansas City, Missouri, is many things: history, ingenuity, tragedy, adventure, perseverance, preservation and a tribute to the pioneer spirit.

www.1856.com

Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio

Virtually untouched since his death in 1975, the two-and-a-half story, late Victorian-style house that Benton called home was constructed of native, quarried limestone and contains simple furnishings in neutral tones that contrast Benton's vibrant paintings. Several of Benton's paintings and sculptures can be viewed in the house.

www.mostateparks.com/benton.htm

Toy and Miniature Museum of Kansas City

The museum contains twenty-four rooms filled with antique dolls, dolls' houses, cast iron toys, trains, and scale miniatures.

www.umkc.edu/tmm/

Union Station

Union Station is a Kansas City historical landmark built in 1914. Union Station encompasses 850,000 square feet and originally featured 900 rooms. Beautifully restored in 1999, the Station today is a popular destination for the surrounding community as well as tourists. The complex is filled with restaurants, shops, theaters, traveling exhibits, special events and a science center called Science City. Union Station's Theater District has a 440-seat giant screen 2D & 3D movie theater, a domed planetarium theater and a live stage theater.

www.unionstation.org

Science City

This is where all the action takes place. Where young kids and adults alike go for a one-of-a-kind experience. Explore the more than 50 areas of Science City! We are all scientists, every day. Science City environments combine art, music and history with science principles and exploration. Science City is a special place where you can turn curiosity into knowledge. Enjoy your adventure!

www.unionstation.org

Worlds of Fun Theme Park

Worlds of Fun is jam-packed with over 175 acres of entertaining rides and fun-filled attractions! www.worldsoffun.com

Boulevard Brewing Company

In the "here today, gone tomorrow" world of brewing, Boulevard Brewing Company is proud of its more than 10-year history. Through our success, we have not only helped to satisfy Midwest Americans' thirst for fresh, flavorful, great-tasting ales and lagers, we are also participants in the revival of the regional brewery—once a great source of pride and patronage among locals throughout the United States.

www.blodbeer.com

Powell Gardens

Whether you're a Master Gardener or just beginning to exercise your green thumb, you'll find plenty of ways to learn new things at Powell Gardens. Our year-round education program offers classes about all things botanical—from arts and crafts to garden planning strategies.

The *Yardbird Le Zombie-Picayune* has been a production of the Minister of Words on Paper of the Kansas City in 2006 WorldCon Bid in his guise as the Immanent Editorial Avatar of the LAST SECOND PRESS. Illustration on page one by Joe Myers; illustrations on pages two and four by Rachael Mayo.

