

KOLCHAK

Far Out, My Idol



A Daredevils Adventure

Jerry Stratton

For the North Texas RPG Con
June 8, 2024

Kolchak: Far Out, My Idol

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A Kolchak: The Night Stalker adventure
for the *Daredevils!* RPG.

Set in January 1977.

The front and back cover images are from *Exploration Fawcett*,
the notes of Sir Percival Fawcett as published by Brian Fawcett.

godsmonsters.com/idol

Summary

Blurb

Carl Kolchak and guest stars investigate the infamous high-rise murders during Chicago's January, 1977, record freeze.

"January, 1977. Record cold temperatures have scientists talking about a new ice age. Cold in Chicago is old news; so is cold-blooded murder. But what happened in Chicago that January was so unprecedented, so outrageous, that even now I fear to reveal the chilling truth." Choose a pregen from regulars and guest stars of the *Kolchak: The Night Stalker* television series.

Background

Setting: Chicago

Time: Monday, January 10, 1977.

Reason: Unsolved murders.

Recommended pregens: Carl Kolchak

Useful archaeologist/anthropologists: Dr. Agnes Temple, Dr. C. Evan Spate

Useful anthropologist/paleontologists: Jack Burton

Useful spiritualists: Charles Rolling Thunder, Ali Lakshmi

Big Picture

An ancient astronaut freed from suspended animation during a recent archaeological find in Brazil has started a commune in Chicago. He is using his cultists to create new servants—bat people—and to create a new empire of cold. The alien is an apex predator: he needs the blood of humans, ritualistically prepared, to activate his climate terraforming device.

January, 1977

This is winter in Chicago, and the cold is epic, a record-breaking freeze. At least, however, it's not the typical wet cold: it's so cold there's no water in the air. The wind chill is deadly, however, even without that. From weather.gov:

January 1977 was the coldest January on record with an average temperature of 10.1. There were 12 days below zero in January 1977. December 28 1976 to February 8 1977 has the distinction of being the longest continuous string of sub-freezing weather in Chicago history, 43 days.

Of course, now we know the reason. Or, at least, Carl Kolchak does.

The Adventure

Timeline

December 1976							January 1977						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

December 5, 1973: Professor Jack Chadsworth leads an expedition into the Brazilian rainforests.

December 24, 1973: Chadsworth expedition ambushed by natives (bat-people).

January 2, 1974: Mark Forney killed to resurrect Xingubecàl.

January 12, 1974: Professor Chadsworth and his assistant Akino Bacall return with survivors.
Chadsworth takes job with Field Museum.

April 5, 1975: Chadsworth locates and steals the Haggard Idol for Xingubecàl.

May, 1975: Akino Bacall sets up the Children of Pachayaqi outside Chicago. Chadsworth leaves Field Museum to become his second-in-command.

January 3, 1977: At 3:53 AM, Xingubecàl murders Chicago Bears running back Larry Denton Trapp to activate the idol. **Cold snap begins.**

January 10, 1977: Adventure Starts. One of Carl's contacts hints there is more to the Trapp murder than the police are letting on.

Character summary

Title	Name	Employer	Notes
Dr.	Akino Bacall	Children of Pachayaqi	Ancient astronaut Xingubecàl
Professor	Jack Chadsworth	Children of Pachayaqi	Leader of Chadsworth Expedition
	Brian Fawcett	Independent	Son of Percival Fawcett.
	Mark Forney	Illinois State Tech	Anthropology grad student, murdered 1973.
Dr.	William Hemming	University of Chicago	Anthropology Department, expedition survivor
	Larry Denton Trapp	Chicago Bears	Murdered in ritual December 27, 1976.
	Scott Whitcomb	Field Museum	Subcurator in charge of where idol should be.

Murders

December 24, 1973: Chadsworth Expedition

On December 24, 1973, the Chadsworth expedition was ambushed by the bat-people servants of the ancient gods. Survivor Dr. William Hemming will be able to recount the savagery of the

attack, but will (mostly) recount it as having been bandits, but if further questioned who were mostly comprised by natives. Only if they can get through his hypnosis will they get the sense that these were more creature than man. There were a few survivors, such as Mark Forney, but they died of their injuries a few days later.

January 2, 1974: Mark Forney

Mark Forney, a grad student at Illinois State Technical College was killed in a ritual to transfer his life energy to Xingubecàl and resurrect him from suspended animation. Forney was also an athlete at ISTC, one of the ISTC Bobcats, and a cross-country runner. Forney was in the position of the sun in the arrangement of bodies.

The ritual was held on the day and time the earth was closest to the sun, 4:59 AM (which corresponds to 5:59 am Chicago time), to use the sun's gravity to grant pseudoscientific advantages to the chances of success. It focuses the rays of the temple. Very Einsteinian.

January 3, 1977: Larry Trapp

This is huge news. Larry D. (Denton) Trapp was killed atop a high-rise last night. He was surrounded by homeless people who were also gruesomely killed. He, and they, were dismembered, their body parts scattered in a strange but seemingly geometric pattern possibly around a center, which was Trapp. Trapp is a running back for the Chicago Bears. His trainer is Scott T. Mills, who may or may not have clues from his contacts with Trapp's family and questions from the police.

January 3, 3:53 am, was Earth's perihelion, that is, when it is closest to the sun.

There were traces of obsidian in the wounds, and there are probably shards still on the roof. If so, they can be identified by an archaeologist as Mesoamerican.

The pattern is the position of the planets, with Trapp at the sun.

The Cast

Independent News Service (INS)

The Independent News Service offices are on the third floor of the Old Colony Building, at 37 W. Van Buren Street/407 S. Dearborn Street, next to the L. INS is in suite 304 on the third floor. It consists of one long room for reporters' desks, an office for their editor, Tony Vincenzo, and a few secondary rooms such as the archives and the dark room. The newswire is located in the room with the journalists.

The Children of Pachayaqi

Officially, "Pachayaqi" means "peace" in the language of the ancient peoples of South America. Which ancient people is as vague as most communes. It's actually the name of the star system that Xingubecàl came from, and the messenger god of the Cheqasekbi, who is often portrayed in ways that look a lot like an ancient astronaut.

Any character familiar with the Inca or related cultures will recognize that the name Pachayaqi is very similar to the name Pachayachicachan, an ancient god known as the teacher of the world.

Xingubecàl is an ancient astronaut. He goes by the name Akino Bacall. He has been in suspended animation in a lost city in the Brazil rainforests for three thousand years. He is now idolized as a god by cult members at the Children of Pachayaqi.

He can mind-control people if they listen to him for an hour, even if under duress.

Laser Pistol: ignores armor; inherent accuracy +4; damage: d8; Range 4 (+2)/20 (+1)/60/120 (-1)/180 (-2). Negative modifiers apply to damage as well as to BCS. Xingubecàl has a Combat BCS of 3 (he has no skill in firearms).

Bat People have claws, a BCS of 12, and d6 damage; otherwise, they're an "average NPC".

The Calling of Cold ritual: A member of his cult, usually female, lures a great warrior to the top of a high-rise—usually a college or pro sports star. To prepare the food for Xingubecàl, the victim's body is placed face down on shards of pottery at the top of a high-rise, then disemboweled and carefully dismembered and lain out geographically inside a circle of several other bodies, mostly street people. Xingubecàl then uses the idol of H. Rider Haggard, which is a device for transforming planets to prepare them for his race.

The Chadsworth Expedition

Professor Jack Chadsworth led an expedition into Brazil and discovered Fawcett's lost city—and freed one of the aliens from suspended animation. Chadsworth is from Oxford, in England. His expedition was under the authority of the Royal Geographical Society. But, because the idol was in Chicago and the alien could sense that, that's where he returned. He took a position at the Field Museum and stole the idol. It hasn't been noticed yet. Professor Chadsworth wears Fawcett's signet ring, which he found in the lost city. Because he's perpetually being influenced by Xingubecàl's mind control, he can be absent-minded, and may misplace it. If the police find it at the Trapp murder site, they'll assume it's Trapp's and attempt to return it to his family. The family, in turn, may give it to Chicago Bears trainer Scott T. Mills.

Chadsworth has become the ancient astronaut's second-in-command and enforcer at the commune.

The Chadsworth Expedition was officially ambushed by natives. In fact, it was ambushed by the bat-people of the area, and Chadsworth was brought before the "tomb" of Xingubecàl. One of his students, a college sports star, Mark Forney, was killed atop the temple, open to the stars, and several of the Brazilian workers were arranged around him in the ritualistic pattern. Dr. Hemming saw this, but was hypnotized into not remembering it.

The Field Museum

The Field Museum won't know that the idol has been stolen until the characters come looking for it. It is (or should have been) in storage in the basement. There should be some clue that Professor Chadsworth was the last to dig around in those particular files or that particular bin.

The Authorities

Police Captain Joe "Mad Dog" Siska has pretty much given up on therapy at this point. The officers who work with him include Carstairs, O'Neal, Murdock, Ricco, Lawson, Anders, and Benson. Siska is who will be on the scene at most normal murders or assaults that Kolchak covers.

“You put that on the wire and I’ll have you 86’d permanently.”

“You want to take another trip in a police car, Kolchak?”

“Look, Kolchak, I gotta tell you something. Some people dream about retiring. I dream about breaking your face.”

“Another word out of you and I will book you on illegal entry.”

Gordy Spengler is a morgue attendant, one of Kolchak’s best sources at the police department. Spengler runs a lottery based on birth years of the morgue’s arrivals.

“I’ve been trying to call you. Did you know last week the number that won the stiff lottery was 418?”

“It may be in the personal belongings box.”

Other Experts

Dr. William Hemming at the University of Chicago’s Anthropology department was also on the Brazilian expedition. He’s probably marked for murder. He saw the freeing of Xingubecãl, but he does not remember it because the alien brainwashed him into forgetting. He does, however, have dreams involving the death of Mark Forney, which he can mention if prodded.

And, of course, if **Dr. C. Evan Spate** is a player character he’ll be especially useful.

Pop Stenvold is an antique arms dealer. He knows medieval weaponry and just about anything old that might be pawnable. He is also, however, writing his biography and will force anyone requesting information to listen to it in exchange for what he knows.

Brian Fawcett is the son of Sir Percival Fawcett. He donated his father’s papers and works to the **Chicago Natural History Museum** in 1953 during the publicity for his book about his father’s expeditions, *Lost Trails, Lost Cities*. Fawcett continues to believe that his father’s “objective was to search for a lost city, Z, which still has the origins of our civilization and may even be inhabited.” Brian Fawcett died in 1984, which means that he is still alive and available for contact during these events. His wife is Lily Ruth Ylass Hayward (they married in 1946 in Peru, following an earlier marriage that ended in death). He has lived in County Cork, Ireland (1906, birth); Devon, England (1911); Lima, Peru (marriage to Alvina Charlotte Heil, 1940, death, 1944, marriage to Lily Ruth Glass, 1946); Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (moved in 1952); and Cumberland, England, where he died in 1984. He gave the artifacts to an American museum rather than an English museum because (a) he resented the way that the English scientific establishment treated his father, and (b) the University of Chicago was active in Brazilian exploration at that time.

Any expert who is not open to ancient astronauts—which will be most of them—when asked about “the cold vastness of the upper regions of the air” in the Ancient Astronauts article will respond something like:

It was not an upper region of cold. They’re just rewording it to sound like modern conceptions of outer space. The Chekasekbi believed their gods lived in a sky world of ice. As far as I know there is no ice in space.

Potential Player Characters

Dr. C. Evan Spate

He should know some stuff about the Sir Percy as well as Chadsworth. He will recognize that the complete lack of knowledge about cult leader Bacall is very odd for a close-knit community of scholars like his.

Charles Rolling Thunder and Ali Lakshmi

Harrow Spirits can fight the spiritual compulsion the alien exerts over its servants. The farther from the alien, the higher the penalty to the alien's Will AST. The compulsion that the alien exerts has a Will AST of 12.

Locations

The Cheqasekbi Compound

The cult headquarters of the Children of Pachayaqi is against a river in some rolling hills. They have a very nice manor for Akino Bacall—shaped like a temple ziggurat—and a couple of long halls for the cult members. There is a garden for them to work in. They grow lots of squash, beans, potatoes, and corn. They also grow guinea pigs for livestock, and farm fish in a diversion from the river. It is winter now, of course, so they're consuming what they've preserved—Mesoamerican style.

They import clay from the Andean highlands, chaco, and mix it with water and salt for a creamy, milk-like sauce for dipping potatoes in, like the rest of Chicago uses ketchup.

Anyone reading Bacall's notes will find them written in an ancient South American cuneiform of the Tiwanaku style. The whole place is filled with vaguely proto-Incan imagery.

The Field Museum of Natural History

The Field Museum of Natural History was renamed from the Columbian Museum of Chicago in 1905. However, from 1943 to 1966, the period during which it acquired the idol, it was known as the **Chicago Natural History Museum**.

The stone idol, along with other items in the Percival Fawcett collection, was donated to the museum in 1953 as part of the publication of *Lost Trails, Lost Cities* by his son **Brian Fawcett**. All contemporary records about the donation will reference the "Chicago Natural History Museum."

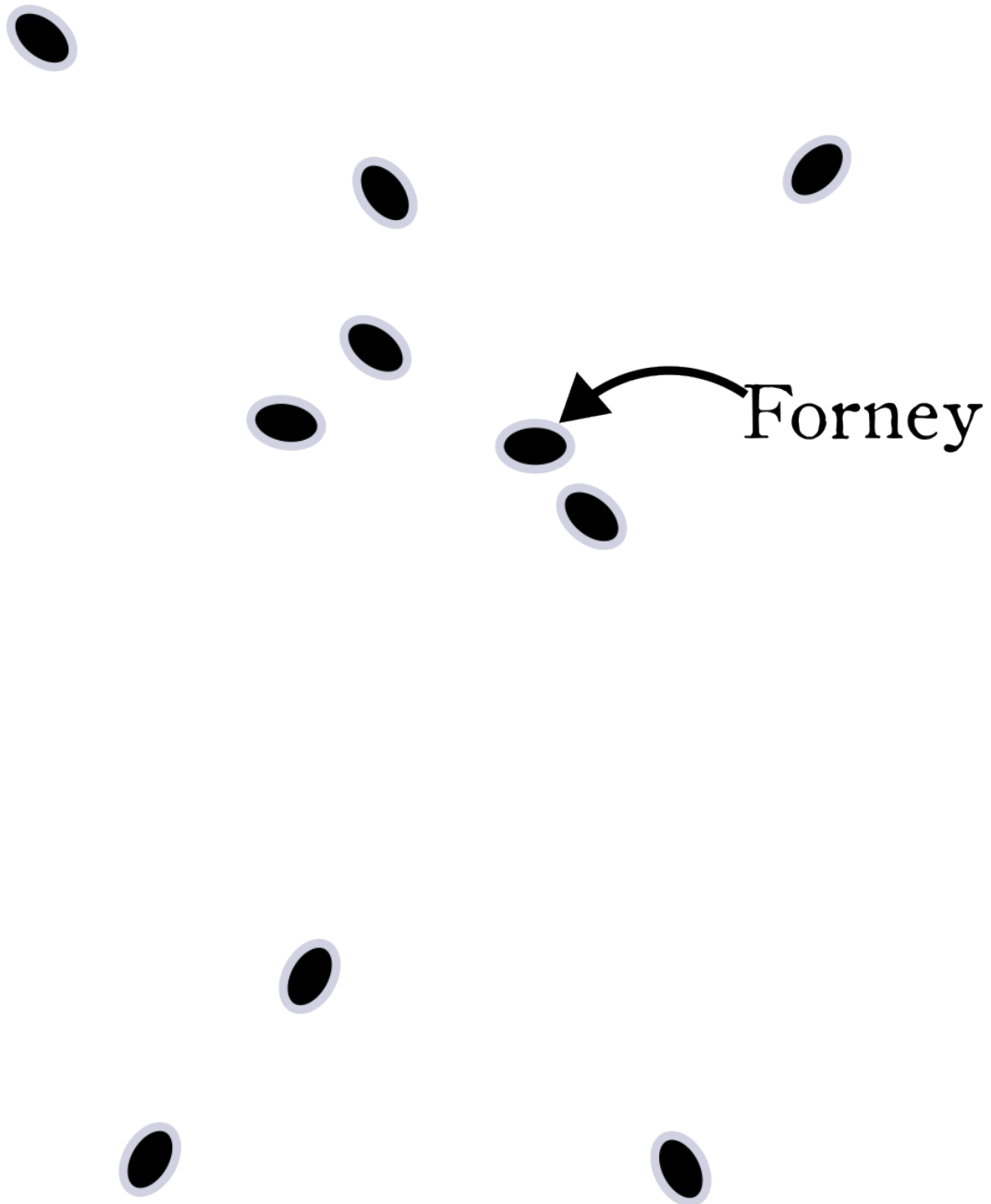
Professor Jack Chadsworth worked at the Field Museum from September, 1969 through May, 1975. The museum is not yet aware that the stone idol is missing, and unless there's other evidence will probably assume that it's been misplaced. The older archives in a place like this are always messy.

The current Field Museum building was built in 1921, so the current map can be used. Use the ground level for the basement and wing it.

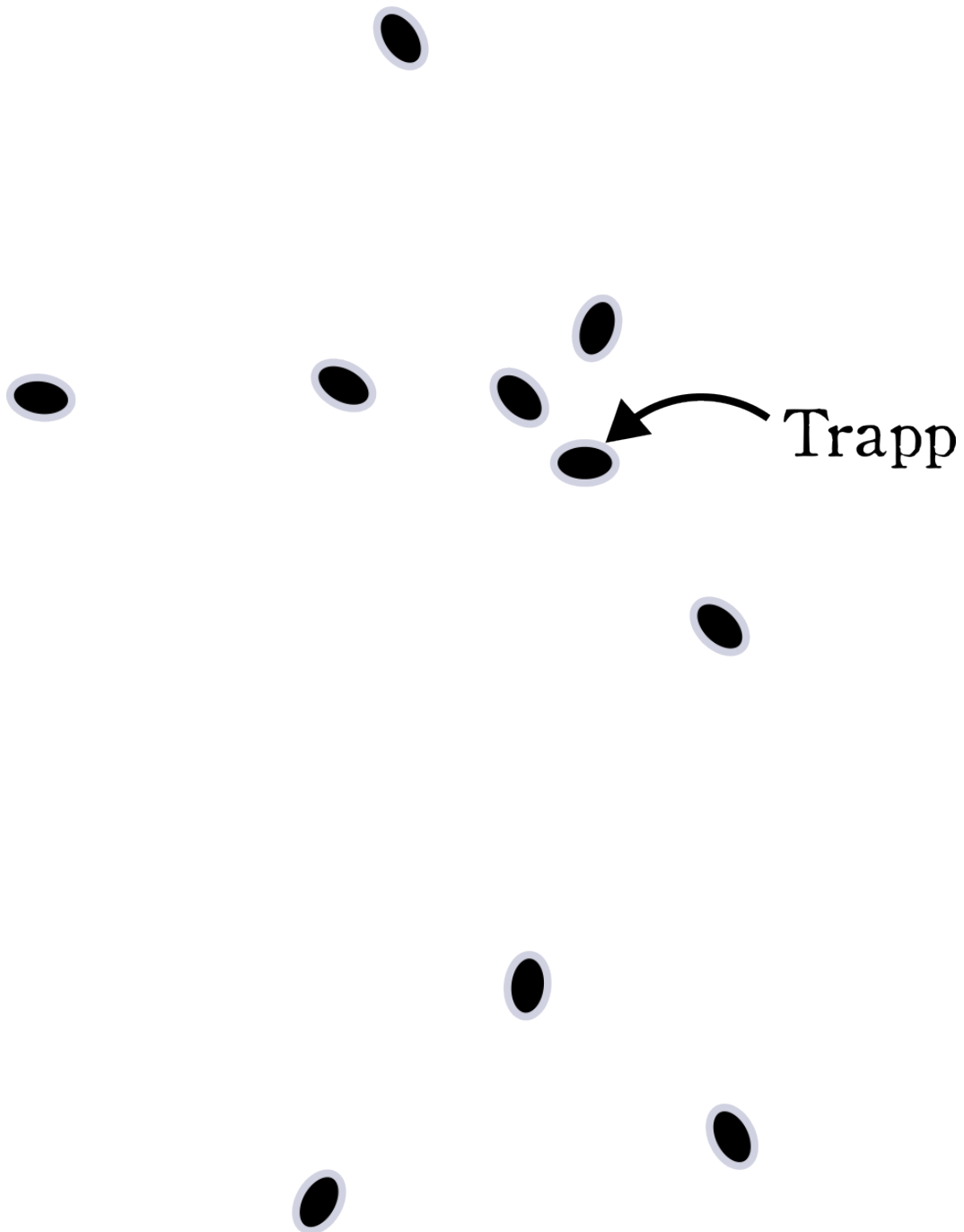
Scott Whitcomb is the sub-curator in charge of the Fawcett collection.

Maps

Ritual Body Arrangement (1974)

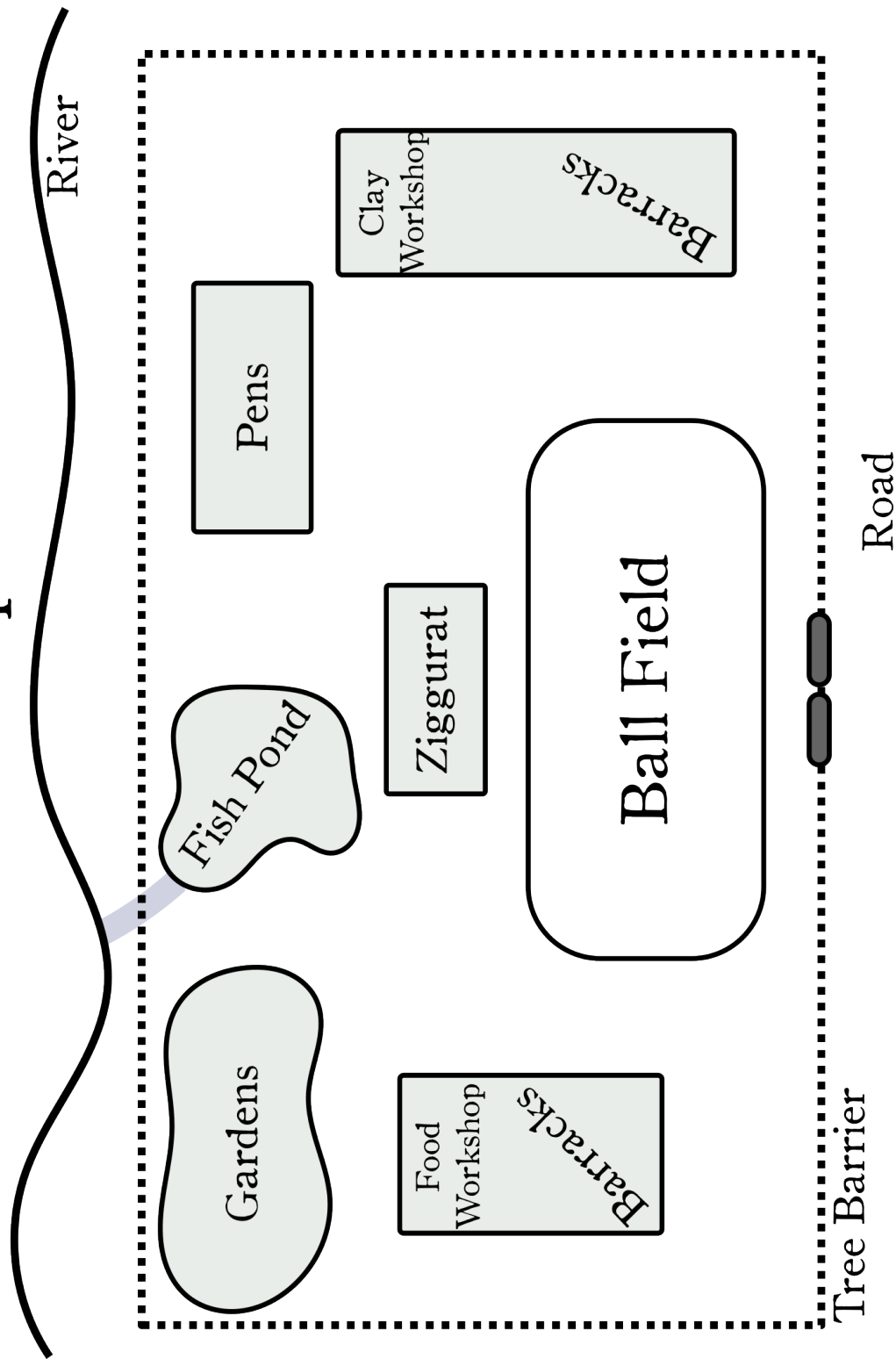


Ritual Body Arrangement (Chicago)

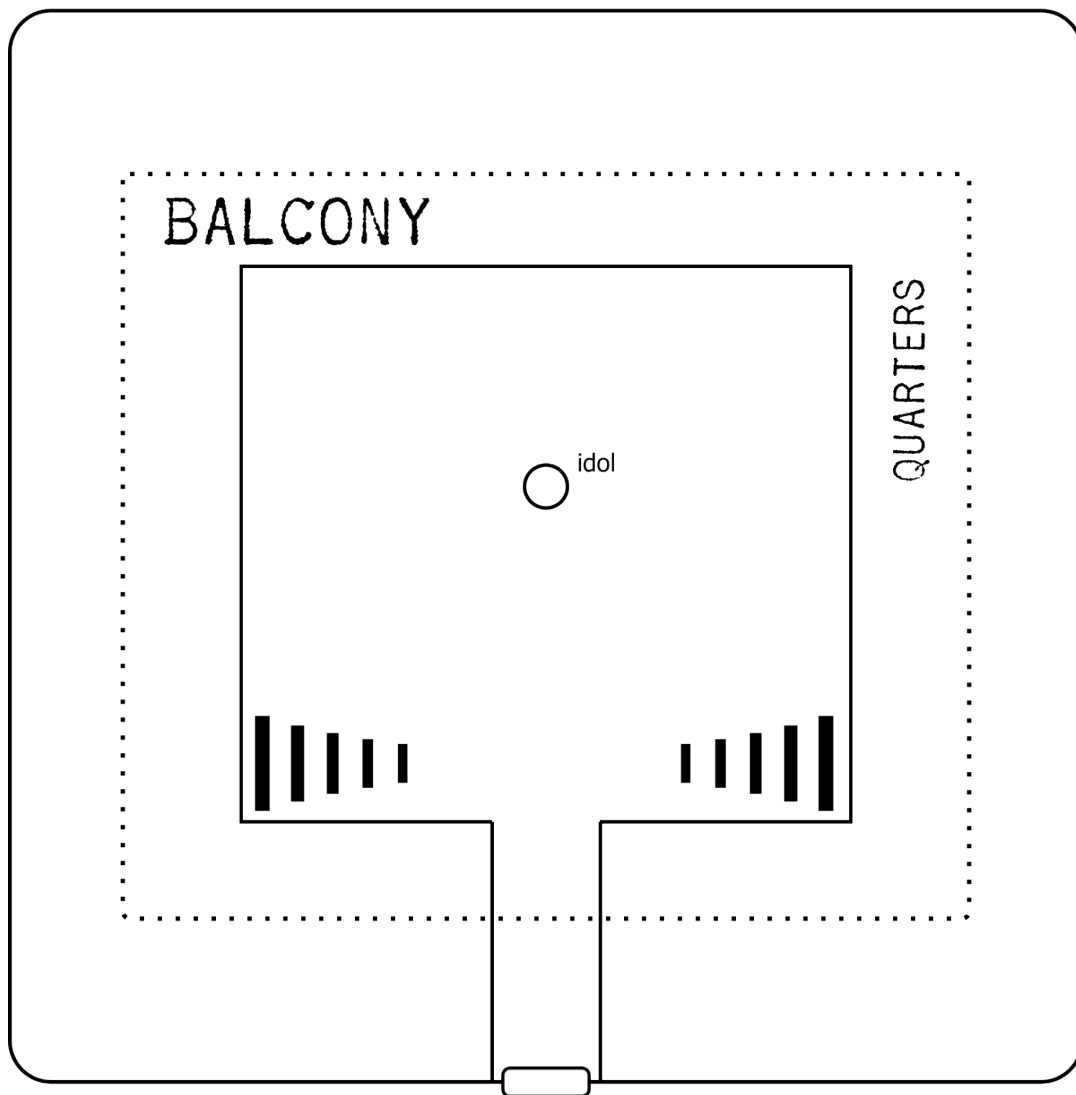


Cult Compound

Cult Compound



Ziggurat Temple



Random Names

Male

Bill Sparks
Kip Hayes
Randall D. Robbins
Kirk A. Evans
Maxwell Adkins
Chris L. Hutcheson
Samuel Y. Hunt
Steven Odell
Morgan Lester
Mel Sutherland
M. A. Evans
Roy M. Wilkinson
Marcos Jones
Jonas M. Hunt
Friedman Baker
Murphy Arlington
Tex Kelley
Garland Scott
Robert Penny
Dennis Clark
Michael Flanagan
Leo Robbins
Lee Chris Thurston
Steve Kirk Friedman
Aaron Dennis Bower
Frank Lee Stuart
Randall Baker
Madison Odell
Oskar Navrátil
Vladislav Krejčí

Females

Adrian McKenzie
Gina M. Jones-Sutherland
Kitty Wilma Brown
Ginger F. Wilkinson
Juanita L. Brown
Karen N. Hayes
Kelly Withers
Jill Stratford
Terry Stevens
Gabriel Anderson Friedman
Kerry K. Brown
Tess Robbins
Wilma Lucille Lewis
Ricki Boon
Joline Mildred Lester
Joe Flanagan
Dylan Smith
Tracy L. Farr-Travis
Charlene Lane
Carolyn A. Draper
Ginger Travis-Stratford
Tammy A. Stevens
Dale Philips
Elena Adkins
Erin Noble
Patricia Bradford
Carolyn Lewis-Barr
Fay Morgan
Xenie Mikešová
Ludmila Komárková

Kolchak's Monologues

Kolchak's opening monologue

January 10, 1977. The temperature hasn't risen above freezing for a week. Most days drop below zero. Scientists are speculating about a new ice age. Now, cold in Chicago is nothing new. Neither is cold-blooded murder. But what happened in Chicago in January of 1977 was so unprecedented, so outrageous, that even now I fear to reveal the chilling truth.

Kolchak's second monologue

Item. There is a commune just outside of Chicago. The Children of Pachayaqi. Eight years after the Summer of Love, the Children of Pachayaqi is doing surprisingly well for a community of lost souls. By all accounts, its cultists are healthy, happy, and always ready to sing the praises of their divine leader.

Are they brainwashed, or just happy to live outside of the rat race that is Chicago?

Kolchak's mid-game monologue

Item. Colonel Percy Harrison Fawcett, in the spring of 1925 led an expedition to Brazil's unexplored rainforests to find, as he described it, "the remnant of an old civilization... an old civilization who used stars to light their homes, a secret means of illumination harnessing forces unknown to modern scientists."

Item. Today's world contains much that is unknown to modern scientists. Sir Percy's ancient civilization had "eyes of piercing brilliance". They also had servants to do their dirty work, Morcegos, bat-men who lived in holes in the ground, who only came out at night. They were, according to the local tribes, "savages of the most barbarous kind".

Item. As Colonel Fawcett approached his lost civilization, his letters to his family noted very un-Brazil-like weather. "It is very cold at night, he wrote, but then added, "You need have no fear of failure."

Item. Those were the last words Sir Percival Fawcett ever wrote.

Kolchak's end-game monologue

Item. When Sir Percival Fawcett began the search for his ancient civilization supposedly lost in the jungles and mountains of Brazil, he recognized that his claims were unbelievable. "But," he said "I am going to give the facts. I leave it to you to accept or reject them."

These are the facts about January, 1977, and the Children of Pachayaqi. Whether you accept or reject them is entirely your choice.

Artifacts

Ancient Astronaut article

If any of the characters are likely to follow paranormal magazines or do some research (such as Carl Kolchak himself) they may run across this article from the December, 1976 issue of *UFO World*. See the handout for more details.

The author, Monica Garcia Alexander, is a pen name of one of the regular stringers for the magazine who writes many of its articles, Benjamin Lasalle. Lasalle can tell them of Sir Percival's book, and the location of the expedition's survivors. Lasalle is both a true believer and an opportunist. That is, he believes this stuff at the same time as he is putting together fake articles to make money and provide the public with the conspiracies that titillate them so much.

Much of this article is bunk, of course, but it does get some of the items correct as far as modern archaeology and anthropology is concerned.

- The ruins of Tiwanaku do tell of Pachayachicachan, the god from the air, who came from a sky world of ice.
- Colonel Sir Percival Fawcett did use psychics to inform his expedition.
- Professor Jack Chadsworth did indeed lead a new expedition following Fawcett's notes.
- There really is a Mongulala tribe, living in Brazil near the Tiwanaku ruins.

And of course the article correctly interpreted the information from the tribes that no one believes today. What the article gets wrong, however is:

- Professor Jack Chadsworth is not searching for ancient astronauts, and doesn't believe in them. Or, didn't, until he returned. His actions since returning—quitting his job, moving to Chicago, then joining his assistant in a commune—have everyone baffled.
- The expedition already happened, and ended four years ago.

The Ancient Tribe of Cheqasekbi

The Cheqasekbi is the greatest South American empire that many Americans have never heard of. The Cheqasekbi conducted human sacrifices on the tops of buildings in bizarre and mysterious rites apparently accompanied by a drunken ritual in which hundreds of intricately made beer goblets were shattered on the floor. The revelry was completed by the sacrifice of a young man whose body was then carefully placed face down on the shards of pottery that covered a 400-square-foot room. Other bodies, most of them decapitated, were laid out geometrically in graves around the base of the temple mound.

Victims, almost all outsiders, were disemboweled and torn apart shortly after death and laid out for all to see.

The temples of the Cheqasekbi are marked by a symbol about eight inches across consisting of a single dot in the center and nine dots embedded in circles around the central point. Cheqasekbi temples are built to exacting specifications, their blocks meticulously and precisely shaped to fit tightly together. Corners are

perfectly squared, indicating a knowledge of geometry unprecedented in the ancient world. Even 2,000 years later the drainage networks of the Cheqasekbi keep the floors of the temple dry.

Archaeologists say that much of the later Inca civilization was based on the culture and technology inherited from Cheqasekbi.

Sir Percival Fawcett's Signet Ring

Sir Percy's signet ring is gold. It is engraved with the Fawcett family motto, *Nec Aspera Terrent*, Latin for *hardships hold no fear*.

Anyone familiar with English culture or history will recognize that this is the signet ring of someone who has been knighted. A simple knowledge roll will let them know whose ring it is, and even if they fail it's not difficult to look up based on both the insignia and the motto. Antique arms dealer Pop Stenvold would certainly know, although the player talking to him will need to listen to his biography-in-progress in exchange for the information.

The ring will be found in the real world in 1979, in a pawnshop backroom in Cuiabá. So if it manages to get lost in this adventure, that will be awesome. But not necessary.

H. Rider Haggard's Stone Idol

The engravings on this ten-inch statue are highly controversial, and most scholars believe the statue to be a fake.

World Teacher [Or: World Reformer; counterculture scholars tie to Aquarian age.]

[From the] Gate [of] Heaven [Or: Outer Gate of Sky]

Preparer [unknown word: of climate/weather/time]

God Messenger [Or: God Caller/Summoner]

Pachayachicachan

Pachayachicachan, or "the teacher of the universe", came from the heavens to instruct the ancient peoples of Brazil/Bolivia in the arts of civilization. He was, however, a very bloodthirsty god, as he also taught the Cheqasekbi their rituals.

To anyone versed in the lore of ancient astronauts, these are clearly ancient astronauts. Most archaeologists and experts in the lore will scoff at such conjectures, but not so many in the seventies as today.

Exploration Fawcett, or, Lost Trails, Lost Cities

Chapter I: The Lost Mines of Muribeca

...there exists another remnant of an old civilization, its peoples degenerate now, but still preserving records of a forgotten past in mummies, parchments and engraved metal plates. The Jesuits knew of it, and so did a Frenchman who in the present century made several unsuccessful attempts to reach it.

I am probably the only other who knows the secret, and I obtained it in the hard school of forest experience backed by careful examination of all available records in the archives of the Republic [of Brazil] as well as certain other sources of information by no means easy to tap.

Chapter II: The Stone Idol

I have in my possession an image about ten inches high, carved from a piece of black basalt. It was given to me by Sir H. Rider Haggard, who obtained it from Brazil, and I firmly believe that it came from one of the lost cities.¹ There is a peculiar property in this stone image to be felt by all who hold it in their hands. It is as though an electric current were flowing up one's arm, and so strong is it that some people have been forced to lay it down.

I could think of only one way of learning the secret of the stone image, and that was by means of psychometry—a method that may evoke scorn from many people, but is widely accepted by others who have managed to keep their minds free from prejudice. It is based on the theory that every material object preserves in itself the record of its physical vicissitudes, and that this record is available to a person sensitive enough to tune in to the particular vibrations involved. The analogy of a radio receiver is by no means out of place, for the science of radio communication is delving deep into what a hundred years ago would have been regarded as rank superstition. Anyway, I am going to give the facts and leave it to you to accept or reject them, as you please.

I was quite unknown to the psychometrist, who held the figure in one hand and in complete darkness wrote the following:

I see villages and towns revealing signs of fairly advanced civilization, and there are certain ornate buildings which I take to be temples.

I seem to be transported across the country. Here the vegetation is dense, the flora most gorgeous, and the inhabitants far superior to the others. The country is hilly, and elaborate temples are partly hewn from the faces of the cliffs, their projecting façades supported by beautifully carved columns. Processions of what look like priests pass in and out of these temples, and a high priest or leader is wearing a breastplate similar to the one on the figure I am holding. Within the temples it is dark, but over the altars is the representation of a large eye, or eyes within eyes. The whole ritual seems to be coupled with a sacrificial system, though whether human or animal I cannot see.

As to the image; it is a maleficent possession to those not in affinity with it, and I should say it is dangerous to laugh at it..."

[Starts describing how he will plan for his own expedition.]

1. Currently in possession of the Chicago Natural History Museum.

Chapter XVII: The Front Door

We were most hospitably received everywhere as we headed north. Little *estancias* put us up, and provided us and the animals with food, all offers of payment being emphatically refused. At one of these places we were told that the dreaded Morcegos lived only ten days' journey to the north. These Morcegos—the 'Bat' people—are reputed to be savages of the most barbarous kind, ape-men who live in holes in the ground and come out only at night.

At the ranch of Colonel Hermenegildo Galvão I was told that an Indian chief of the Nafaqua tribe, whose territory lies between the Xingú and Tabatinga Rivers, claimed to know of a 'city', of houses with 'stars to light them which never went out'. This was the first but not the last time I heard of these permanent lights found occasionally in the ancient houses built by that forgotten civilization of old.... There was some secret means of illumination known to the ancients that remains to be rediscovered by the scientists of today—some method of harnessing forces unknown to us.²

[Continues heading north.]

The Darkest Continent (The Final Chapter)

There are curious things to be found between the Xingú and the Araguaya, but I sometimes doubt if I can stand up to that journey. I am growing too old to pack at least forty pounds on my back for months on end.³ If the journey is not successful my work in South America ends in failure, for I can never do any more. I must inevitably be discredited as a visionary, and branded as one who had only personal enrichment in view. Who will ever understand that I want no glory from it—no money for myself—that I am doing it unpaid in the hope that its ultimate benefit to mankind will justify the years spent in the quest?

Epilogue (by the son)

[Describes further efforts to reach the lost city. He ends by quoting his father:]

"...the season is good. It is *very cold* at night; but insects and heat come by mid-day, and from then till six o'clock in the evening it is sheer misery in camp.

"You need have no fear of any failure...."

Those last words he wrote to my mother come to me like an echo across the twenty-six years elapsed since then.

"You need have no fear of any failure...."

"If we should not come out," I remember him saying, "I don't want rescue parties to come in looking for us. It's too risky. Whether we get through, and emerge again, or leave our bones to rot in there, one thing's certain. The answer to the enigma of Ancient South America—and perhaps of the prehistoric world—may be found when those old cities are located and opened up to scientific research. That the cities exist, I know..."

2. In view of recent developments in atomic research there is no reason to dismiss the 'lamps that never go out' as myth. The world was plunged into a state of barbarism by terrible cataclysms. Continents subsided into the oceans, and others emerged. Peoples were destroyed, and the few survivors who escaped were able to exist only in a state of savagery. The ancient arts were all but forgotten, and it is not for us in our ignorance to say that the science of antediluvial days had not advanced beyond the level we have now reached.—Ed.

3. He was fifty-seven when he wrote this in 1924.—Ed

Images for handouts



A carving of Pachayachicachan.



A gold pendant of Pachayachicachan.



The symbol of Pachayachicachan and the Cheqasekbi.



The basalt statue of H. Rider Haggard (ten inches)

Real World Inspirations

Sir Percival Harrison Fawcett

When it comes to early twentieth-century explorers, Colonel Percival H. Fawcett is the epitome of weird. Most of what that UFO magazine article—taken from *Beyond Reality*, April 1980 (issue 42), p. 66—says about Fawcett is true. In fact, they *downplayed* how weird Fawcett was. They never mentioned the ten-inch stone idol that emanated something like electricity, or that Fawcett used *psychometrists* on the idol to track down where the lost city was.

I've downplayed it, too. The main changes I made to Fawcett's book were to simplify it and keep the players from going too far afield. I'm running this in a four-hour window, after all.

Sir Percy's son Brian is also real, but only his bare essentials are nonfictional in this adventure. I don't know where Percy's work ended up, but Brian didn't donate it to the Field Museum.

ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS OF TATUNCA NARA

BY RAMONA CORTEZ

During the first week in May of 1925, Colonel Sir Percival Fawcett, went into the lush tropical rain forests of northwest Brazil. The determined British explorer was in search of his dream — a city he felt certain was visited by ancient space travelers from a far-away galaxy many centuries ago.

For years, Fawcett heard detailed accounts of houses with stars to light them which never went out. He wrote in *Lost Trails, Lost Cities*, his classic text on exploration, "There was some secret means of illumination known to the ancients that remain to be discovered by scientists of today."

Shortly before his departure into the Brazilian jungle, he told a colleague, "the answer to the enigma of ancient South America — and perhaps the prehistoric world — may be found when those



eyewitness accounts, personal interviews, published reports and ancient tribal legend which tells of "strange, god-like beings from space who came from the sky over 13,000 years ago."

Besides underground cities and installations with forever-burning lights, von Daniken said he was told by a tribal chief, of metal equipment, objects and machines left behind by the ancients who arrived in "gleaming gold ships", instructed the first humans — then climbed into their space vehicles and disappeared again into the sky.

He also said that Tatumca Nara, a chief of the 5,000-member Ugha Mongulala tribe, told him that as a boy he explored one of those underground installations with his father.

He saw four sleeping humans in suspended animation — each body

Astute readers of this annual game will recognize that last year's adventure also came from this issue. This particular issue is filled with great ideas for Kolchak-themed games. The cover alone provides three, from *UFOs Are Stealing Our Soil!* to *Howl of the Ghostly Greyhound*.

The weird art on the back of the page is from Kevin Randle's *And Now A Word From The Aliens*, from the October, 1976, issue of *Official UFO*.

The text from Fawcett's *Exploration Fawcett* is the actual text, with very few changes.

The Tiwanaku

Since there are few real ancient ruins in Brazil (that we know of), I chose the Tiwanaku (also, Tiahuanaco) as a reasonable analogue to Fawcett's unknown ancient civilization.

“Cheqasekbi” is the nonsensical combination of possible Puquina words for “9” and “eye”. “Pachayaqi” is a messenger god in Nahuatl, which is of course unrelated to the others. The carvings of Pachayaqi are from the carvings of Viracochan Pachayachicachan, “teacher of the world” at the gate of the sun in Tiwanaku. The images are from *Pavel Špindler* and *Tony Hisgett* on Wikimedia Commons.

The Great Freeze

The January cold snap in Chicago is also real. In real life, it began in late December, 1976, and lasted through most of January.

The Night Stalker



***Chicago, 1977.** Record cold temperatures have scientists talking about a new ice age. Cold in Chicago is nothing new; neither is cold-blooded murder. But what happened in Chicago that January was so unprecedented, so outrageous, that even now I fear to reveal the chilling truth.*

Carl Kolchak and guest stars investigate the infamous high-rise murders during Chicago's January, 1977, record freeze. Choose a pregen from regulars and guest stars of the Kolchak: The Night Stalker television series.

Far Out, My Idol is an adventure for intrepid journalists and their stringers using the *Daredevils* RPG rules.

godsmonsters.com/idol