

KOLCHAK

The Wrong Goodbye



A Daredevils Adventure

Jerry Stratton

For the North Texas RPG Con
June 3, 2023

Kolchak: The Wrong Goodbye

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for the Daredevils RPG

The front cover image is from the CIA's Project Gondola Wish. It has otherwise nothing to do with this adventure. The back cover image is Ber•Tals, the clothing store where Sandra Lemik works.

Summary

Blurb

Carl Kolchak and guest stars investigate Chicago's 1976 Christmas murders.

They say the only perfect murder is the random murder. It's Christmas in Chicago, and police are stymied by the seemingly random killings the press has dubbed "The Christmas Party Murders". Will Kolchak and his loose band of night stalkers solve the mystery? Choose a pregen from many of the guest stars who appeared on the Kolchak: The Night Stalker television series.

Background

Setting: Chicago

Time: Wednesday, December 22, 1976.

Reason: Unsolved murders.

Related episode: Mr. R.I.N.G.

Recommended pregens: Carl Kolchak

Also useful: Emily Cowles, Dr. Leslie Dwyer.

Big Picture

At the Tyrell Institute, a Soviet defector's psychic experimentation on dead men backfires. The psychics of the Tyrell Institute who are attempting to reanimate corpses are committing murder. Any unfinished business by the corpse will be imprinted onto the psychic, who will use the corpse's language, tics, mannerisms, and skills to finish that task. A few of those unfinished tasks are murders.

The research is run by Dr. Dmitro Bondar, a professor from Kharkov University, Ukraine, who defected to the United States. In the Soviet Union they experimented on rats; in Chicago, they're experimenting on dead men. The project hires psychics to stimulate dead men, but the dead men stimulate back, in a delayed reaction that causes the psychic to seek to complete some final wish. Often this is merely to call an old friend or lover and apologize for some slight, or tell them how much they meant. Less often, the final wish is revenge on someone the dead man hates. In rare cases, this revenge takes the form of murder.

Christmas, 1976

This is winter in Chicago. There is snow and ice, and it is cold, a wet cold when the wind comes from Lake Michigan. There are Santa Clauses in front of every department store and decorations everywhere.

The Adventure

Timeline

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

December 2: Miss Emily receives letter from Melissa Garfield about dead husband calling.

December 3: Dick Brubaker dies of electrocution for the rape and murder of seven women.

December 9: Patricia Pembroke reports resumption of harassing phone calls. Police ignore.

December 15: Miss Emily receives letter from Rocky Minetka about dead wife calling.

December 17: Christmas party insult at Michigan Avenue National Bank of Chicago; Gene Briggs dies later that evening of a heart attack.

December 19: Donna Lemik murders Sandra Lemik at the family Christmas dinner under the influence of Dick Brubaker. "She attacked like a man."

December 20: Donna Lemik bail paid by Beloit Bail Bonds.

December 21: Miss Emily receives letter from Deborah Platt about dead husband calling.

December 21: Karen Drexel dies of a stroke.

December 22: David Wolcott knifes and kills Benjamin Lewis under the influence of Gene Briggs; caught on the grainy video of the era; mannerisms similar to that of a dead man who would in fact have liked to kill him.

December 22: Adventure Starts.

December 23: David Wolcott bludgeons Steven Drexel to death under the influence of Karen Drexel; he used the same fry pan that Karen often used to attack Drexel.

December 24: CIA shuts down Pacific Kinetics and surreptitiously murders David Wolcott.

Character summary

Title	Name	Employer	Notes
Captain	Avery Akins	Chicago Police	Secretly works on CIA coverups
Accountant	Gene Briggs	Michigan Ave Bank	Heart attack, December 17
Dr.	Dmitro Bondar	Tyrell Institute	Soviet defector
Rapist	Dick Brubaker	Unemployed	Electric chair, December 3
Fixer	Dan Smith	Sole practitioner	Acquires bodies for Tyrell Institute
Mrs.	Karen Drexel	Housewife	Stroke, December 21
Programmer	Stephen Drexel	Consolidated Data Systems	Murdered by Wolcott, December 23

Psychic	James Engle	Tyrell Institute	No murders, only phone calls
Secretary	Betty Goodman	Michigan Ave Bank	Gene Briggs's girlfriend
Dr.	Ernest Harrell	North Texas State	Knows Dr. Tammy Dwyer
Psychic	Donna Lemik	Tyrell Institute	Arrested for murder, December 19
Saleslady	Sandra Lemik	Ber-Tals, Randolph & State	Murdered by sister, December 19
Accountant	Benjamin Lewis	Michigan Ave Bank	Murdered by Wolcott, December 22
Psychic	David Wolcott	Tyrell Institute	Arrested December 23
Colonel	Jeffrey Wright	United States Army	Protects Chicago-area special projects

Corpses bought by Tyrell Institute

Most of these corpses should still be in cold storage in the Institute's basement. All of them should be traceable to Dan Smith and/or Pacific Kinetics.

Corpse	Target	Last wish	Psychic
Gene Briggs	Benjamin Lewis (coworker)	Murder	David Wolcott
Dick Brubaker	Sandra Lemik (victim)	Murder	Donna Lemik
Karen Drexel	Stephen Drexel (husband)	Murder	David Wolcott
John Fairfield	Patrick Fairfield (son)	Profess pride	David Wolcott
Robert Garfield	Melissa Garfield (wife)	Profess thankfulness	James Engle
Mary Gloucester	Morris Gloucester (husband)	Lay tulips	Donna Lemik
Sharon Minetka	Rocky Minetka (husband)	Profess happiness	Donna Lemik
Mickey Platt	Deborah Platt (wife)	Profess love	David Wolcott
Maxwell Thompson	Lois Stoller (wife)	Harassing phone calls	David Wolcott

There are more; invent them as needed.

Murders

December 19, Sandra Lemik

Sandra Lemik (28) and her sister Donna (24), have never gotten along. Donna is literally a know-it-all, often knowing what Sandra and the rest of her family is thinking or about to do, or, Cassandra-like, what evils are about to befall them. But it still surprised everyone in the family when Donna choked Sandra to death Sunday evening at the family's Christmas dinner. They always hold their family dinner on the Sunday before Christmas, to allow the individual families to have Christmas dinner on their own, or with the in-laws. The murder happened in the kitchen, while Sandra was returning from the bathroom, and just after someone had mentioned the crime.

As the opening murder, this is a real headliner. The family had only just seen justice done when Sandra Lemik's rapist, Dick Brubaker, went to the electric chair. Now Lemik is dead by her own sister, a self-proclaimed psychic. The tabloids are having a field day, although only the National Enquirer includes that Donna is a psychic; their headline: "**Psychic Murderer**".

Donna Lemik attempted to animate Dick Brubaker's body on Friday, December 18, at the Tyrell Institute.

In 1972, Dick Brubaker raped Sandra Lemik. Donna had warned her sister not to go out that night. She couldn't say why, she just had "a feeling". Brubaker tried to kill her as he did all his victims, by strangulation with his bare hands, but he was interrupted when two of Lemik's friends came upon the scene. Brubaker escaped, but was caught several months later, tried, and sentenced to death in a 1973 trial, based mostly on Lemik's testimony. Two weeks ago he went to

the electric chair. This is news in Chicago, as there have been very few executions in Illinois; the last was in 1962 when James Dukes was electrocuted for murder.¹

Sandra Lemik worked at Ber-Tals, a clothing store at 10 West Randolph near State Street, as a saleslady. Coworkers describe her as quiet, but she seemed to brighten up a few weeks ago.

Their parents are Gary and Nancy Lemik; they have two younger brothers, Gary (26) and Michael (25). Neither Sandra nor Donna are married, but Gary and Michael are. Gary and Susan Lemik have two children, a boy (Lee) and a girl (Lindsey); Michael and Mary Lemik have one boy, Michael Jr.

Her brothers live elsewhere in the city; Sandra has her own apartment as well. Donna lives with their parents.

December 22, Benjamin Lewis

Benjamin Lewis and Gene Briggs were accountants at Michigan Avenue National Bank of Chicago, 30 North Michigan Avenue. At the bank's office Christmas party on Friday, December 17, Lewis and Briggs got into an argument and then a fight over Betty Goodman. Briggs, who had already been nursing a grudge against Lewis, went apoplectic.

Their friends had to pull them apart. "Ah, keep walking east until your hat floats, you cake-mouthed bastard," said Briggs as he left the party. He died of a heart attack that night, which was a surprise to no one. That kind of simple, uninjured death is what Tyrell Institute is looking for, so they offered the family \$200 to "donate the body to science". They did this through a third-party ghoul, Dan Smith.

David Wolcott attempted to animate Briggs's body Tuesday afternoon at Tyrell Institute.

On Wednesday morning, Wolcott knifed Lewis. Goodman swears she heard the killer say "take that, you cake-mouthed bastard" from another room. She didn't think to look because that was a common insult of Lewis's coworker, Briggs. By the time she remembered Briggs was dead, and opened the door, the killer had left. There are two entrances to those offices; the killer used the less obvious one, which is accessible mainly via a wandering hallway that only officeworkers use. The killer was caught on the bank's grainy video camera. Everyone watching it sees Briggs in the way he walks.

The killer's mannerisms has the police wondering if Briggs is really dead. They receive confirmation later in the day, from Pacific Kinetics Laboratory, that they have Briggs's body. When Wolcott murders Steven Drexel, they will match him to the grainy video.

December 23, Steven Drexel

Steven Drexel was only recently freed from the abuses of his wife, Karen Drexel née Adams. They were the stereotypical abusive wife and submissive husband. His friends had long tried to convince him that he needed to divorce her, but Steven both loved his wife and was very afraid of what she'd do to him if he tried to leave her.

On Tuesday, December 21, Karen had a stroke while berating him for his behavior at the office Christmas party—the office's final day was Tuesday, and their office party had been that evening. She was going for her favorite fry pan when she collapsed.

1. The next will be John Wayne Gacy in 1994, by lethal injection. In the real world, capital punishment in Illinois was in lawsuit limbo from 1972 to 1977. This is Television Chicago.

Dan Smith purchased the body on December 22, a Wednesday. Wolcott attempted to animate Karen on Thursday, December 23. He entered Drexel's apartment that evening, called him a knucklehead and a cheese-eating jagoff (Karen's favorite insults—the neighbors, Drew and Patty Bishop on one side and Hamilton and Nancy Bradley on the other—can confirm this) and then grabbed the same fry pan from the wall and repeatedly slammed it over Steven's head.

His friends are completely amazed, and theorizing some sort of weird love triangle between the Drexels and Wolcott, but the police can find no evidence of any relationship between Wolcott and either Steven or Karen. They do match him to the Briggs video, however, and announce both murders solved.

Drexel was a programmer at Consolidated Data Systems, a Chicago-area business that specializes in data management for factory maintenance and industrial processes.

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.

Phone Calls from Beyond

Emily Cowles is the "advice for the lovelorn" columnist, as well as the crossword editor. She has lately been receiving letters for advice on what to say to loved ones who call after death. If Emily Cowles is a player character, her response to this is up to the player. If she's an NPC, she didn't think much of it on the first one. On the second one, she pitied these poor women. On the third, she's starting to think there's a new scam of some kind going on—but so far, no one has asked for money.

The strangest manifestation of Project R.A—D.I.O. is not the murders but the phone calls from the dead. **Emily Cowles** has heard of some of these by way of letters to her advice column.

The first letter arrived December 3, from **Melissa Garfield**, 58. Her Robert died on November 18, a week before Thanksgiving at the age of 61, of a heart attack. He's called three times so far to thank her for being such a wonderful wife. He's definitely dead. She saw him die, but you can't dig him up; she donated his body to science, according to his wishes, to a man named Dan Smnith of Pacific Kinetics Laboratory.

The second letter arrived December 16, from **Rocky Minetka** who doesn't know how to handle his wife, Sharon, calling from beyond the grave.

A third letter will arrive December 21, from **Deborah Platt**, about her husband Mickey.

If Emily is a player character, whether she discovers these letters will depend on how seriously she takes her day job. If Emily is a non-player character, she may mention "these poor women" in passing to Carl, if he ever shows up at the office.

Captain Joe Siska and his team are mostly ignoring a minor harassment crime. **Patricia G. Pembroke**, when she first moved into her apartment in 1968, was harassed by an anonymous

caller. He was never tracked down, and the calls stopped after a few weeks. These calls restarted on December 10. What happened is that Lois Thompson (now Lois Stoller) divorced her husband, Maxwell Thompson, in 1964, for mental cruelty and habitual drunkenness. He immediately began harassing her over the phone. She changed her number. Eventually, Patricia Pembroke got that same number and in a few months the harassment started up. It stopped when Maxwell realized this was a different person. The police could have tracked down the owner of the original number if they'd wanted to back in 1968, but the harassment stopped before they got around to it and the case fell through the cracks. Today it would take more serious searching of records to find out who had the number before Pembroke did.

The Psychics

The psychics employed by Pacific Kinetics/Tyrell are recruited via rumor and by watching the newspapers for odd stories.

Dr. Bondar normally assigns the psychics to work with corpses of their own gender; it appears to be easier to make the psychic connection. However, he does occasionally experiment with cross-gender connections, which is how Donna ended up being imprinted with Dick Brubaker's last wish to kill Sandra.

When a psychic attempts to stimulate a corpse, that corpse's final wish is imprinted back on them, if it had one. This will also imprint some of the dead person's skills and knowledge on the psychic. This may be as simple as a phone number and a name, or as complex as mannerisms and *modi operandi*. When a psychic carries out the last wish of the dead person, they do not remember the episode.

Not all of the last wishes are murders. More commonly, they want to call some loved one to tell them how much they meant, or some friend to thank them for all they've done. A few will also want to call someone they've looked at as enemies, such as an ex-spouse. Because of this, all of the psychics have one weird thing in common: they all complain about high telephone bills, and they all turn uneasy when asked about it and refuse to report it.

James Engle has some of the knowledge and mannerisms of **Robert Garfield**, a retired telephone repairman. James has called Robert's wife Melissa three times since Robert's death in November to talk to her about how much he loves her.

Donna Lemik has some of the knowledge, mannerisms, and brawling skills of Dick Brubaker, as well as of **Sharon Minetka**, an elderly woman whose last wish was to tell her husband Rocky how happy she was with him, and **Mary Gloucester**, whose last wish was to place tulips on her long-dead husband's grave. Donna will, on passing a florist, often unconsciously buy some and go to the St. Boniface Catholic cemetery to lay them at Morris Gloucester's grave.

Donna lives with her parents. Her **diary** (and other evidence taken from their apartment) is in custody of Police Captain Avery Akins. Her diary contains the information that her new job is at "Pacific Kinetics Laboratory" as well as that she has been contracted out to Tyrell Institute. Her parents know that she works at Pacific Kinetics, but not that she has been contracted out.

Donna Lemik is being held by Tyrell and the CIA. Now that David had the same thing happen to him, she realizes what's going on and that she killed her sister due to these experiments. If she were released she would immediately tell the truth; the CIA may choose to kill her, but they're keeping her alive for now because it might be a useful cover to have an obviously crazy woman

attempt to justify the murder of her sister by saying she'd been taken over by a dead man. If the investigation is tied up, you may choose any one of three (and possibly more) outcomes, depending, probably, on what the investigators have turned up and what the press is saying.

1. Donna escapes and attempts to track down someone, anyone, who can help her. She may go to her family first and tell them the truth, and then run when it's obvious her family doesn't believe her. Or she may go to the investigators if she knows about them. Or she may attempt to go to the press, but unless the press is Carl Kolchak, they're unlikely to believe her. They may report on what she's claiming, or they may not.
2. The CIA kills Donna and makes it look like a suicide—pills are the obvious choice. They will fabricate a suicide note that describes a long-simmering hatred between them that the family denies, though they will admit that Donna was sometimes trying to be around due to her Cassandra-like predictions. Depending on the investigator's skills, they may be able to discover that the suicide note is fake and/or that the death was not self-inflicted.
3. The CIA doses Donna with LSD and releases her. She will go to the press and the police and tell a rambling and incoherent story about a dead rapist possessing her to kill her sister.

David Wolcott has some of the mannerisms and sayings of Gene Briggs, such as the “you cake-mouthed bastard” that he said to Benjamin Lewis before knifing him. Other sayings include “keep walking east until your hat floats”. He also has some of the insults of Karen Drexel, such as knucklehead, cheese-eating, and jagoff. Just about everyone who gets in her way is a bellyscratcher. David also has some of the more mundane knowledge of **Maxwell Thompson**, a city worker whose last wish was to harass his ex-wife, **Mickey Platt**, an elderly man retired from electrical engineering whose last wish was to tell his wife Deborah how much he loved her and enjoyed their life together, and **John Fairfield**, a factory worker whose last wish was to tell his son Patrick in college how proud he was of him.

After Wolcott is arrested, the Project Scanate (the CIA) will, through Captain Avery Akins, slip a poison into his meal, making it look like he died of a heart attack. It's not untraceable, but it will require specifically looking for it, which the medical examiner is unlikely to do.

Pacific Kinetics Laboratory

Pacific Kinetics is a front for the Tyrell Institute's secret government research. Everyone who needs to work in the public or who needs to work for them but not know who they're working for will be employed by “Pacific Kinetics Laboratory”. Their phone number is a Chicago number; it goes to their offices but is then routed to an office within the CIA's Washington offices. Pacific Kinetics is located at 1423 W. Taylor Street, in the Near West Side, by the Medical District.

Unless they're interviewing someone, nobody is in the offices; they are always locked unless there's an appointment, which can be made over the phone. There is a laboratory in the back; it is furnished as a stereotypical medical lab but has never been used.

After David Wolcott's arrest, the police will know that both killers work for Pacific Kinetics, and Tyrell will know that there's something happening with Project R.A.-D.I.O. They will shut down Pacific Kinetics and bring in a CIA move team to tear down the offices.

Dan Smith acquires bodies for the Institute. This is not generally difficult, as the Institute pays well. When an unblemished body dies, he offers the family from \$100 to \$500 depending on what he thinks they'll take, and talks up the scientific advancement and the lives saved from their loved one's sacrifice. Smith is on the Institute's payroll via their front company, Pacific Kinetics. He makes daily passes through local hospitals looking for appropriate bodies. Occasionally, he will be directed to acquire a specific body, such as when the rapist of Donna Lemik's sister was about to die. Bondar thought the connection might intensify Donna's psychic strength.

James Engle moved from St. Louis, Missouri, to work for Pacific Kinetics on November 3.

Donna Lemik had just begun working for Pacific Kinetics in late November. While she interviewed at the Pacific Kinetics offices, they "contract her out" to Tyrell Institute, something she was warned not to talk about. Her bail was set at \$50,000. It was paid by **Beloit Bail Bonds**, who were paid the customary \$5,000 by Pacific Kinetics. Donna is currently in the custody of Tyrell Institute. Roger Beloit will not normally divulge his clients, but might be tricked or convinced in a variety of ways. The bond fee was paid by Dan Smith; the address he gave Beloit turns out to be Pacific Kinetics.

David Wolcott has been working for Pacific Kinetics since late October. He, also, has been bailed out, by Wheaton Bail Bonds on behalf of Wolcott's wife Patricia Wolcott. Patricia received the money from Pacific Kinetics, though Ellis Wheaton does not know this.

Tyrell Institute

The Tyrell Institute is located in an entire block at 1544 S. Rockwell Street, between 15th Street and 16th Street, in the Douglas Park neighborhood of Chicago.

The Tyrell Institute was founded by Eldon Tyrell, a young pioneer attempting to meld the fields of robotics, anatomy, genetics, and artificial intelligence to cheat death. He is also a master chess player.

The official name of this project is Remote Activation—Dormant Involuntary Operatives.

The lab dedicated to this project is a large cramped room that looks like a morgue. The corpses are on slabs and the room and slabs are very cold. There is an impressive-looking Pavlita Generator whirling on the ceiling. The viewing room where the psychics work is attached; corpses are wheeled into the room when the experiments are performed.

Dr. Dmitro Bondar is defected from the Soviet Union in May, 1974. He previously worked at the Research Institute of Psycho-Neurology at Kharkov University in the Ukraine, where he experimented with transferring psychic impulses from human psychics to dead lab animals, mostly rats. They were able to record brain activity in dead animals under the influence of the psychics. Here, he is using the information gleaned from Dr. Edward Swirlbach's Quantum Vitality Superpositor (a form of Pavlita Generator—see *The Big Creep*) to amplify the psychic signal and stimulate brain activity in human corpses. Bondar speaks Russian, Ukrainian, and a heavily-accented English.

Senator Duncan Labeau Stevens is the "senior member of the appropriations committee that funds Tyrell". "I don't know where you get your information, Mr. Kolchak, but at Tyrell they were working on a highly secret project having to do with miniaturizing computers." "The military mind thrives on secrecy."

General Adrian Brodie is who Senator Stevens contacts when he needs to report a snoop journalist. Brodie is assigned permanently to Tyrell Institute.

Peter Vreeland is who Senator Stevens contacts in Washington about the same journalist.

Public relations for Tyrell is handled by **Gray Nelson** whose main job is to say as little as possible using as many words as possible; and also to pass on names of people who know too much to General Brodie and/or Captain Akins.

The accountant for Tyrell Institute, whose name is on city documents (such as tax documents) is **Lynn Noble**; he lives in a house with his wife, Kerri. While he doesn't have any information about Tyrell's research, he does drive into the Institute every day. He has an ID card that can be stolen (though it would have to be used immediately—he'll report it missing the next morning), and a trunk in his car that can be hidden in.

Project R.A.-D.I.O.

The acronym is for Remote Activation—Dormant Involuntary Operatives. The project is almost completely run by Dr. Dmitro Bondar. Dr. Bondar defected from the Soviet Union in May 1974. He almost immediately began working at Tyrell, mostly using mice and rats. In October 1976 they began using human subjects, both psychics and corpses.

The experimental process is as follows:

1. Dr. Bondar studies the history of the corpse and matches a psychic to that history. Usually this means that a female corpse goes to a female psychic, and a male corpse to a male psychic, but circumstances, such as happening to get the rapist of one psychic's sister, can change that.
2. The psychic studies the history of the corpse so as to be able to connect with the corpse's psyche more effectively.
3. The corpse is moved to the Pavlita generator lab, which is electromagnetically shielded from the rest of the world to insulate the psychic and the corpse from stray thoughts.

The CIA

Tyrell Institute's R.A.—D.I.O. project is funded through the CIA's Project Scanate. Scanate mostly deals with remote viewing experiments, attempting to validate the supposed successes of Soviet parapsychological research. Scanate is an amalgam word, for "Scanning by Coordinate".

CIA surveillance is handled by a man in a yellow-green Ford Pinto, license plate New Mexico LO 5287. LO is a code for Law Officer, making this more of a threat than a surveillance.

He works with a van labeled "Joe's Vacuum Cleaner Repairs. Free pickup and delivery." There is a phone number that tells everyone they're all booked up for the foreseeable future.

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.”

Police Captain Avery Akins is the liaison with the CIA to quiet speculation on secret projects. He’s a lot less talkative and far less emotional than Siska. He tells Kolchak to leave and moves on. If Kolchak does not leave, he instructs people not to talk with Kolchak. And they obey. Akins is who will be on the scene at any crime involving a military or CIA research project such as Tyrell Institute.

Colonel Jeffrey Wright is who Tyrell Institute calls to detain anyone who needs to be detained, such as pesky reporters. He has a team for hot entry and takedown, and that’s pretty much all they know how to do.

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. Ernest Harrell was a real person at the University of North Texas in Denton. He died August 26, 2004, “from complications with cancer”. Harrell was “a peacemaker, intellectual and champion for the principles of southern hospitality. He was born in San Angelo, Texas, in 1944, joined the NT psychology staff in 1971, and would serve as department chair from 1991-2004. His specialty was neuropsychology. The investigators may run across his name if they find the UFO World article:

Said Dr. Ernest Harrell, a psychologist of North Texas State University, “The Russians do a lot of telepathic research and it’s extremely likely that they are attempting to make cosmonaut contact. The implications are obviously huge.”

The real Ernest Harrell was a charter member of the American Psychological Society from 1988. His wife was Carol Ann, sons Jeffrey and Alex, mother Clara Lee and brother Alan. (From the North Texas Daily, Vol. 89, No. 1, Tuesday, August 31, 2004.)

Harrell is easily contacted via North Texas State. He is friendly and talkative if the investigators are, too. Harrell follows parapsychology news throughout the world, and is aware that a Dr. Dmitro Bondar, one of the parapsychology researchers at Kharkov (the Soviet Union, not Russia—Kharkov is in the Ukraine) defected in 1974 and is now working somewhere in Chicago. It’s something to do with the paranormal, but it’s with a private organization and he’s not aware of the organization’s name. He will likely make jokes about the various mistakes in the article, from the use of “Russia” as a stand-in for “Soviet” to the opening being about remote viewing but the ending being about psychically stimulating dead animals. Everyone’s trying to do the former. The latter is Frankenstein-level stuff. “The implications are obviously huge.”

If they contact Harrell, consider giving Kolchak’s player Kolchak’s mid-game monologue.

Dr. Harrell also knows Dr. Dwyer.

Potential Player Characters

Carl Kolchak and Dr. Leslie Dwyer

While this adventure riffs quite a bit off the Tyrell Institute episode, Mr. R.I.N.G., Kolchak himself does not remember the events of that episode. He does have a confused narration on a cassette tape somewhere. On the other hand, Dr. Leslie Dwyer *does* remember the events. Unlike Carl, Dr. Dwyer knows when to take a hint and acquiesce to authority. Her memory was never wiped, as they believed her when she promised never to divulge what happened, and they also hope to use her expertise later.

Dwyer can, of course, relate anything from that episode to the other player characters if she is a player character.

Mr. R.I.N.G. began on April 2, Sunday, 1972, making it one of Kolchak's earliest adventures, and about 3-½ years before the events listed here for *The Wrong Goodbye*—assuming you set this adventure in 1976 as I did.

I believe that somewhere, someplace, they or someone else, will put some other R.I.N.G. together without the help of Leslie Dwyer. And who... who will program him then?

Dwyer knows about Dr. Bondar's defection, and that he works at Tyrell Institute, but knows nothing about the research other than that it involves psychics.

Maria Hargrove

If Maria Hargrove is one of the player characters, she may remember Pacific Kinetics when the name comes up, as they contacted her about a psychic study—they believed her to be psychic. She thought it sounded like a scam and ignored it, but may be able to make use of the invitation to get into Pacific Kinetics and then Tyrell Institute.

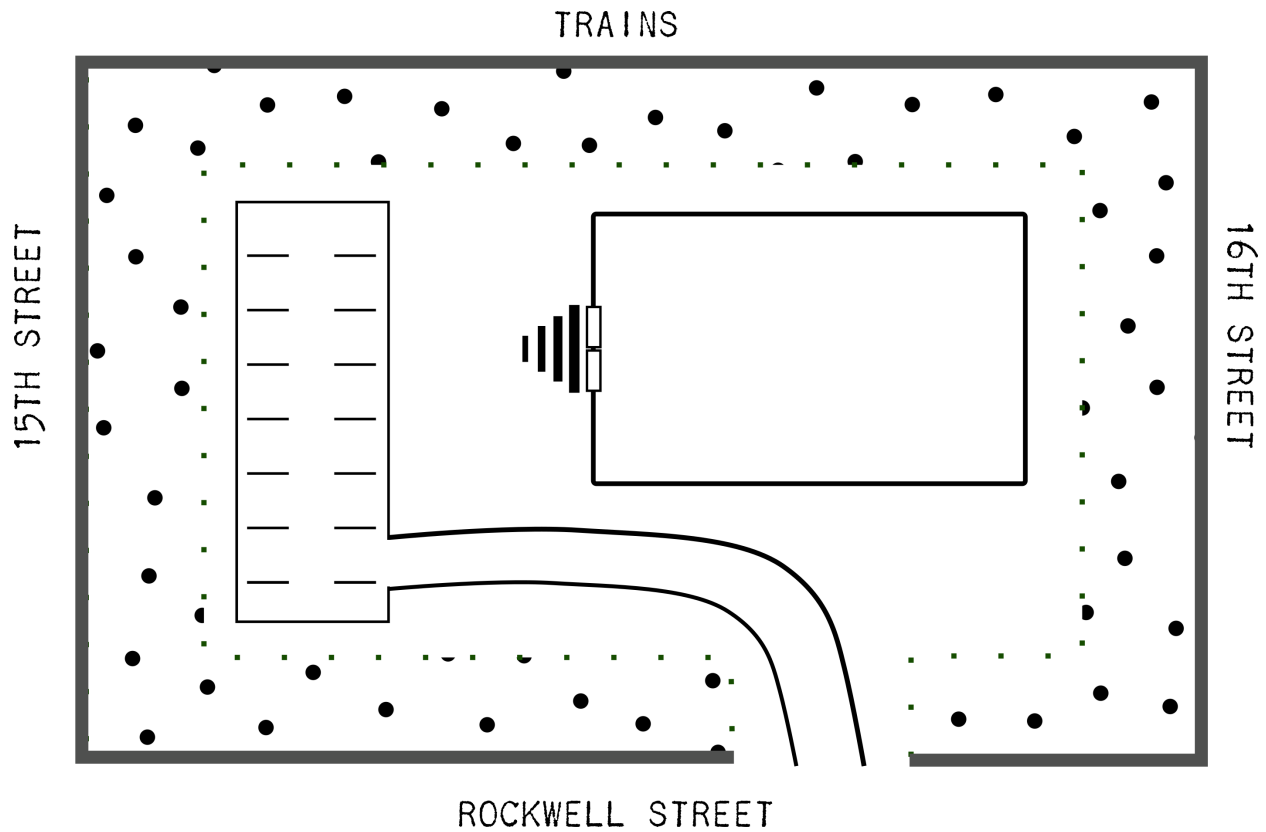
Post-Adventure

Tyrell Institute may spinoff a subsidiary which will become the Tyrell Corporation in Los Angeles. Possibly to continue their research but segregate their dead bodies from any past life by shipping them across the country. CIA projects often segregate different teams or siloize information by setting up one part on the east coast and one on the west.

Project Scanate will morph into Gondola Wish in 1977, later Stargate in 1991, and be canceled in 1995.

Maps

Tyrell Institute

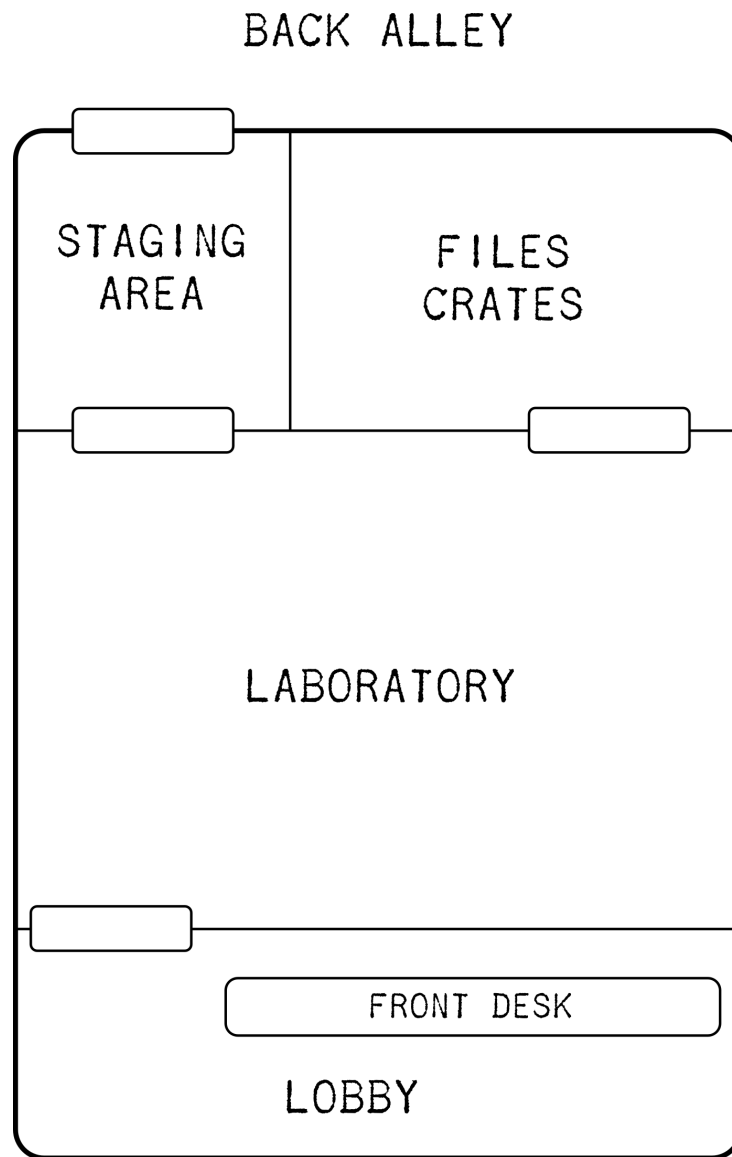


The Tyrell Institute building and grounds are a half block hidden by a lot of greenery in what looks like a tree-lined residential area. Tyrell Institute is at 1544 S. Rockwell Street, between 15th and 16th Streets, in the Douglas Park neighborhood, near Douglas Park. In 1976 the park is still named after Democrat and pro-slavery Senator Stephen A. Douglas; it won't be changed to Republican anti-slavery activist Frederick Douglass until 2020.

The grounds are surrounded by a ten-foot stone wall that encloses the trees.

Bondar's personal notes are in Ukrainian, which uses the Cyrillic alphabet. The more recent experimental notes are in English with an occasional lapse into Ukrainian.

Pacific Kinetics Laboratory



TAYLOR STREET (MEDICAL DISTRICT)

Pacific Kinetics is located at 1423 W. Taylor Street, in the Near West Side by the Medical District. It is its own building along a row of minor restaurants and other businesses. It is two stories; the second story is unfinished; empty rooms and windows overlooking the street. The building was built by Pacific Kinetics in May, 1975.

The files contain empty papers as well as literal *lorem ipsum* gibberish. The crates contain more lab equipment.

Random Names

Male

Scott T. Mills
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
Scott Whitcomb
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

Player Handouts

Kolchak's opening monologue

The experienced criminologist will tell you that the only perfect crime is a random crime. The experienced journalist will tell you that there is no random crime. This is a story about the perfect murders, at the perfect time, in the perfect city: Christmas, 1976, Chicago.

The press dubbed them “The Christmas Murders” for the logical reason that the first murder happened at a Christmas party. The Powers That Be claim these murders are unrelated. A random family crime. A random downtown crime or two. Just random deadbeats passing through the windy city.

They don't know how right they are.

Sunday, December 19, 3:30 PM. Sandra Lemik finally put her past behind her. The serial killer who tried to murder her four years ago was dead—electrocution by the state. The family Christmas dinner was almost normal again. Almost. Until Sandra's sister stood up, met Sandra in the kitchen, and strangled her to death. The same death Sandra survived four years before.

Kolchak's second monologue

Wednesday, December 22, 8:55 AM. Accountant Benjamin Lewis always arrived at the National Bank on Michigan Avenue early. Today he would leave early as well. On a stretcher, with a sheet over his face. The last thing Lewis's secretary heard was an argument. An argument with a man who died five days earlier after the office Christmas party.

Kolchak's mid-game or end-game monologue

Note: you may want two versions of this, one using the generic “government” and one mentioning “Tyrell”, depending on whether they know about Tyrell Institute yet.

After the Second World War, the United States collected Nazi scientists. The scientists were rehabilitated, and the United States went to the moon. In the Cold War, we're collecting Soviet scientists, from Warsaw Pact nations few have ever heard of outside of the military industrial complex. Their research is weirder and more dangerous than anything the Germans ever contemplated.

Item: Dr. Dmitro Bondar defected from Khakov University, in the Ukraine, in 1975.

Item: Dr. Bondar immediately went to work for Tyrell Institute. All of Tyrell's projects are top secret. Dr. Bondar's is very top secret.

Item: We do know Dr. Bondar's specialty at Kharkov. Pavlita Generators. Psycho-Neurology. Experiments with psychics, and rats. Rats are common enough in psychology labs. Dr. Bondar's rats were dead. His psychics made them twitch. Psychics. Dead rats. What is he doing at Tyrell?

UFO World 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 November, 1976 issue of *UFO World*. See the handout for more details.

Russian Scientists Explore Telepathic Communication

Top Soviet scientists maintain they are well on their way to telepathic communication with cosmonauts in deep space. They warned that if their country masters that art of direct mind-to-mind communication, they could use it for military purposes.

Soviet scientific researchers carried out top secret experiments for a two-year period between 1973 and 1975 in which electrodes were placed on the brains of freshly killed rats. The rodents' brain activity was then recorded. This activity was stimulated when a psychic projected thoughts at the dead animals.

The experiments, carried out at the Research Institute of Psycho-Neurology at Kharkov University, had each rat placed in a screened-off chamber where there would be no outside interference.

Fifteen minutes after the rats' brain activity ceased, a psychic entered the chamber and directed his thoughts and emotions at the dead rat. According to the Soviet report, an electroencephalograph—an apparatus for detecting and recording the electrical activity of the brain—recorded new electrical activity in the brain of the rat.

Said Dr. Ernest Harrell, a psychologist of North Texas State University, "The Russians do a lot of telepathic research and it's extremely likely that they are attempting to make cosmonaut contact. The implications are obviously huge."

Real World Inspirations

Project Scanate

Exploratory Research in Remote Viewing (Stanford Research Institute, 1973)

As a result of the experimentation carried out on what might be termed micro-abilities, Swann expressed the opinion that the insights obtained had strengthened a macro-ability which had been researched prior to his joining the SRI program; namely, the ability to view remote locations. In order to test the above assertion, SRI researchers set up a series of experimental protocols on a gradient scale of increasing difficulty.

The first step toward the proof that such an ability might exist in principle was completed in our laboratory in a series of experiments with another subject in which target pictures were successfully received where the subject was separated from the target material either by an electrically isolated shielded room or by the isolation provided by East-coast/West-coast distances.

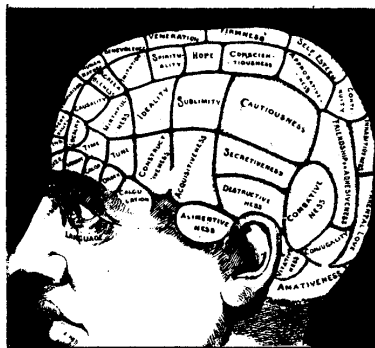
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The original is from *Beyond Reality*, April 1980, p. 50. I changed the years to make it fit the timeline of this adventure. The filler about *Close Encounters* is from *UFO Report*, August 1977, p. 18. I added "next year" to when the movie is coming out, and removed the phrase "in Chicago" after "Center for UFO Studies", as that would probably lead the investigators completely off track. There's no reason to do to them what they're likely to do to themselves. Note that I did *not* change Spielberg's reported age. Either the article or Wikipedia are incorrect on that point. Spielberg's head shot is also from that article.

