



A pyramid of K-9s (left), Doctor Who's trusty companion, greeted convention-goers Friday at the Dane County Coliseum. Also featured at the "Doctor Who" Festival was Katy Manning (center), who portrayed Jo Grant — one of the Doctor's earthling companions — for three years. Meanwhile, Sara MacIntyre (right) looks a little overwhelmed as she was wheeled around in a stroller duplication of the TARDIS, the Doctor's Time and Relative Distance in Space machine, which resembles a bright blue British police call box.

CAPITAL TIMES PHOTOS BY MEG THENO

# Ahhhh, what a time had at 'Doctor Who' Festival



Not only is the British television series "Doctor Who" popular here in the U.S., but the books are also catching on. Tables were filled with a variety of Doctor Who reading.

By DAVID CALLENDER  
Capital Times Correspondent

If anybody had asked, "Is there a Doctor in the house?" the reply from the crowd at the Dane County Coliseum Friday would have been an enthusiastic "Yes!" There was little doubt that "Who's on first" among the 1,300 fans who attended the state's first "Doctor Who" Festival. The festival was co-sponsored by the national fan club and WHA-TV, which broadcasts the science fiction serial. Part of the gate receipts will go to the public TV station.

Many in the crowd wore the time-traveling fourth Doctor's trademark — a 20-foot-long multi-colored wool scarf.

Dressed in a bright red bathrobe, with his long scarf trailing behind him, two-year-old Andras Transo of Middleton peeked out from beneath a floppy fedora. He was an instant hit as the crowd judged the costumes of Doctor Who impersonators.

"He uses my closet as his TARDIS (Whovian for Time and Relative Distance in Space — the Doctor's time machine)," said his mother, Robin. "He's been a fan since just before he reached two. He just loves his hat and scarf."

Fans were equally appreciative of Jim Nirschl's costume — if the four-foot high, 170-pound, battleship grey Dalek could be called that.

The life-size duplicate of a robot bristling with antennae, flashing lights and ray guns, whose orders are to "exterminate," took the Appleton body-shop manager eight months to complete.

"My brother bet me I couldn't do it," Nirschl said. The festival celebrated the longest running science fiction series on TV, which recounts the adventures of a Time Lord from the planet Gallifrey. Since the Doctor is spiritually, but not physically, immortal, six different actors have portrayed him during the serial's 20-year run.

"It's a program the whole family can watch and enjoy," explained one mother. "The show has moral values in it, like showing how the Doctor treats life."

The enthusiasm had Katy Manning, who played one of the Doctor's earthling companions, "just buzzing." It was the first such event for the British-born actress who played Jo Grant for three seasons.

"It's a wonderful fantasy. There isn't anything like it," Manning said. Although she was "almost sick" at times when filming, braving fog and cold while dressed in a mini-skirt, she was "extraordinarily happy" to participate.

It was a fond reunion for Manning and Terrance Dicks, who wrote and edited "Doctor Who" scripts. Dicks also has written about 50 novelizations based on TV episodes.

Dicks said writing for the show was sometimes "very repetitive. It contains certain common elements, but the actors have to make it seem fresh every time."

For example, Dicks said, the Doctor's companion often had to exclaim, "Look out! There's a big one!" as an alien approached. "If there was a dirty meaning, (the writers) would find it. And we (the editors) would have to cut it out."

The series "has been a big chunk of my life," he said. "Once you've been connected with the Doctor, all the magic stays with you for the rest of your life."



Terrance Dicks (left), one of the script writers for "Doctor Who" and an author of many of the Doctor Who books, participated in Friday's Who extravaganza, along with actress Katy Manning.



David Obey

## Will Obey challenge Kasten? Politicians' views differ

By ARTHUR L. SRB  
The Associated Press

The greeting of "Hello, congressman," turns a lot of heads in the Legislature these days, especially among lawmakers from the 7th Congressional District.

Speculation that Rep. David Obey might challenge U.S. Sen. Robert Kasten next year has prompted many legislators to assess their chances of succeeding Obey, a veteran Democrat in his 16th year in

Congress.

Many remain unconvinced that Obey would give up his "safe" House seat for a chancy Senate bid.

Obey, 47, has had a virtual lock on the sprawling 7th District, which includes most of northwestern Wisconsin.

But some Democrats believe Obey is ready to make the race for the Senate if Gov. Anthony Earl decides to seek re-election and Obey becomes convinced he has the best shot at ousting Kasten.

"I think Dave Obey would be absolutely the best candidate for the party to run against Bob Kasten," said Sen. David Helbach, 36, of Stevens Point, one of the Democrats prominently mentioned for Congress should Obey go for the Senate.

"I think Dave is in the best position to win," Helbach said. "Statewide, he is the best-liked member of Congress that we have" and would have a better chance than Earl to oust Kasten, Helbach added.

Other Democrats mentioned for

the Obey seat include Reps. Robert Jauch of Poplar, Marlin Schneider of Wausau, although Robinson said he would prefer to be mayor of Wausau.

On the Republican side, Sens. Walter Chilsen of Wausau, who lost to Obey in the 1969 special congressional election, and Daniel Theno of Ashland, are frequently mentioned for Congress.

"I would have to consider it," Theno, 37, a veteran of 13 years in the Senate, said.

Chilsen, 61, a member of the Senate since 1966, said he doubts Obey will challenge Kasten.

The Wausau senator said he believes Democratic Party State Chairman Matthew Flynn is correct in declaring Obey is serving as a "stalking horse" for Earl's eventual entry into the Senate race.

"He's talking about getting into the Senate race so Tony won't have to announce his plans until August," Chilsen said.