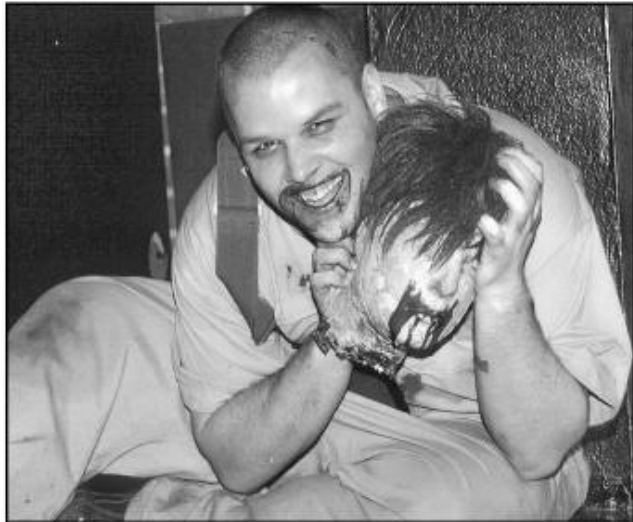


## Didn't lose his head — yet



John Pagano, an employee at the Museum of Science and Industry, 5700 S. Lake Shore Drive, greets visitors to the museum who embarked on a scary version of the museum's tour last Friday.

Owen M. Lawson III

# HYDE PARK HERALD

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# Akiba teacher wins coveted award

By DASCHELL M. PHILLIPS  
Staff Writer

Hyde Parker and Akiba-Schechter Jewish Day School teacher Scott Salk won the Associated Talmud Torahs (ATT) Educator of the Year Award.

At a banquet on Dec. 4, ATT, which is the central agency of all of the Jewish Day Schools in Chicago, will award Salk \$15,000 for his work as an educator. Several parents who felt that Salk fit the competition's criteria as dedicated, innovative and committed to lifelong learning nominated Salk.

Salk, who teaches 1st and 2nd grade general studies and 5th grade history at Akiba-Schechter, 5235 S. Cornell Ave., has been an educator for about 20 years including six years at Akiba-Schechter.

He said it was a humbling experience to be chosen out of the 500 teachers in the ATT school system that were eligible for the award.

"Teachers usually receive recognition directly from a grateful parent or by seeing their students

progressing," Salk said.

Salk said he was also glad to see that ATT saw the value in his "somewhat unorthodox teaching style."

"One of my students said she didn't understand why the class was learning so much since I didn't do a lot of teaching," Salk said. "What I think she meant by this is that I'm not doing a lot of direct lessons. The lessons are imbedded in activities — they don't realize they are learning while doing."

Salk said he believes that the parents nominated him for the award because they appreciate the way that his progressive education philosophy meets the children where they are and provides unique challenges that allow the children to express themselves while engaging in meaningful and interesting learning activities.

"I think parents appreciate that their children love school and that they are learning a lot," said Salk, who said he looks at parents as partners in the learning process.

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## REGENTS

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Unger said.

Resident Al Tillery, who described Regents Park as "a friendly building" and "our neighborhood" said the move proved Antheus was not in touch with the neighborhood.

"These owners don't really understand Hyde Park, despite how many buildings they own here," Tillery said.

Unger said the change in staff was typical of a change in ownership and did not reflect on the quality of service the former employees provided.

"The team [at Regents Park] was superb — they were great at what they did," Unger said.

Tillery said the dismissals were an affront to the residents' "sense of justice," particularly during difficult economic times. Williams said the staff that maintained the building would be particularly hard to replace.

"This is an old building — you don't get just anybody to run this," Williams said.

cutting measure or union-related.

"There are other properties that we own which have union employees with whom we have very positive relationships. There are properties we have purchased where we have hired all the people who have worked there and five years later those folks are still there," Unger said. "This is not a union-versus-nonunion issue. This is not a lower the payroll-versus-increase the payroll issue. This is a complicated decision that relates to how we feel we can best manage this building over the long run and provide the highest level of service in the most efficient manner possible."