



Darth Vader™ LUCASFILM LTD.

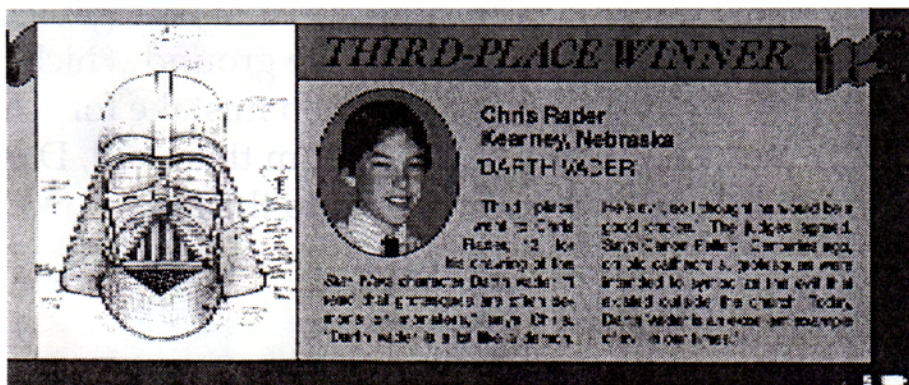
WHAT DOES DARTH VADER HAVE TO DO WITH THE CATHEDRAL?



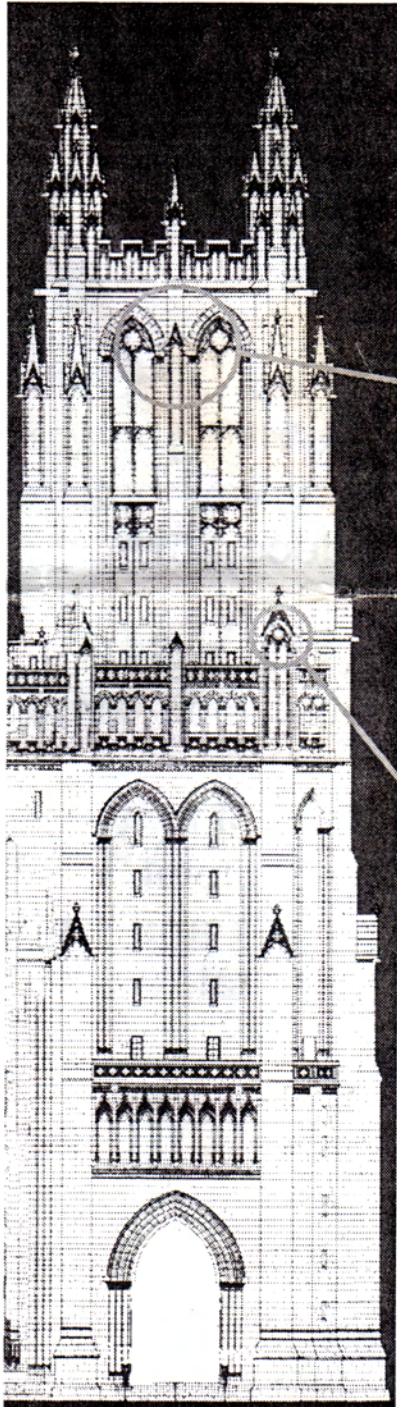
Long ago, in a Cathedral not at all far away...

Washington National Cathedral approached completion. The west towers rose towards the sky, striking towards heaven. During the building a startling idea was hatched: hold a competition for children to design decorative sculpture for the Cathedral.

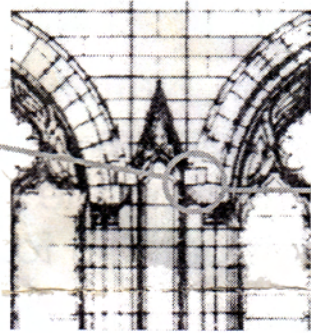
Word of the competition was spread nationwide through National Geographic World Magazine. The third-place winner was Christopher Rader, with his drawing of that fearful villain, Darth Vader. The fierce head was sculpted by Jay Hall Carpenter, carved by Patrick J. Plunkett and placed high upon the northwest tower of the Cathedral...



BUT WHERE IS HE?



To find Darth Vader, you have to leave the building through the ramp entrance. This is located at the northwest corner of the nave, through the double wooden doors of Lincoln Bay. Go down the ramp, and step into the parking lot. Then, turn around and look back up at the tower closest to you. He is almost impossible to see without the assistance of binoculars.



Darth
Vader

Waaaaaaay up, almost at the top of the tower is a *gablet*, or small peaked roof, located between the two huge louvered arches. At the bottom of each slope of this gablet is a carved grotesque. Darth Vader is on the north, or right-hand, side. There is a carved skull situated on a gablet much closer to the ground which many people often mistake for Darth Vader. From this skull, Darth Vader is up and to the left.