

## Melamed lifts off to the stars

Contrary to what some might believe, *The Tenth Planet*, the new novel written by CME Special Counsel Leo Melamed, is not about life at the exchange.

This science fiction is about alien life in a distant galaxy that is related to human beings on Earth — or "Terra," as it is called in the book.

Melamed, who started writing this book about 10 years ago, could have printed the book himself, but he decided instead to send it off to legitimate publishers. It was a Chicago publisher, Bonus Books, which sent an acceptance letter that Melamed says "even made me blush." *The Tenth Planet* is the first fiction published by Bonus Books, which printed 5,000 copies of the book on its first run.

The story, which gets a little bogged down in the beginning due to numerous footnotes, starts as the Galotian world recovers a space capsule from the planet Terra and begins scientific experiments, including launching a special laboratory spaceship, to locate the planet. What is star-

ting to some Galotians is how closely the Terra population resembles the Galotians — except the aliens have a "flexible growth" (hair) on their bodies.

The action picks up as Galotia tries to determine the cause of several disappearances of major scientific laboratories, including the ship, all of which were trying to pinpoint where Terra is located in the solar system.

At the coming out party for his book, Melamed said

he kept waiting for someone to write the story. When no one else did, he became a novelist. The story probes the age-old question of the "missing link" in the evolution of human beings and is one man's theory that aliens might have helped the process. This also might address documented findings of "ancient astronauts" who landed on Earth.

What is causing the disappearances and why? You'll have to read the book. Or who knows? There might be a movie. If history repeats itself, stars in the sky may not be enough for Melamed.

Ginger Szala

Trader-turned-author **Leo Melamed** signs his new book for Chicago Bears' **Richard Dent**.

