

Messenger Mountain

Messenger Mountain #2: Saturday, July 3, 1982. The second daily zine of WesterCon-35.

The straight poop: The following account is provided to head off rumors that have circulated throughout the con. These are the facts behind the rumors.

During WesterCon-33, two years ago, Dr. Jerry Pournelle bought six memberships in his own name. These were listed in our Progress Report One as #137, Jerry E. Pournelle; and #s 138-142, "Guest of Jerry Pournelle". That Progress Report, and the following one, listed an easy way to convert "guest of" memberships--simply write us about the change in name before June 15, 1982. The following two PR's, #s 3 and 4, repeated this information and stated specifically that unconverted "guest of" memberships *must* be picked up by the person who bought them.

In addition to this notice, Pournelle was sent one personal letter and one personal note on a computer net, advising him to convert his five "guest of" memberships. No action was taken.

Friday morning, one of Pournelle's sons tried to pick up his membership. He was told that being unconverted to personal names, they could be picked up only by Jerry E. Pournelle. Dr. Pournelle was wakened by his son and sent down to get them personally. Upon reaching Registration, he objected to our policy, complaining of inconvenience caused by a hangover. In the ensuing fracas, Pournelle dealt a physical blow to WesterCon-35 Senior Staff member Greg Hildebrand.

Members of the Committee talked Greg out of filing assault and battery charges. Dr. Pournelle's membership was not revoked.

Addition to scheduled Program items: At 7:00 p.m. today (Saturday), Suzy McKee Charnas will read from a work in progress, in the Maricopa Room.

Everything you know is wrong: At least, everything about the WesterCon-35 Huckster Room. One of the nice touches in the Program Book (we thought) was a keyed map of the Huckster Room, showing the occupant and type of merchandise of every table--something not many cons provide. Just about the time the book went to press, however, the hotel knocked out the West wall, making the room considerably larger. The extra space was used for exhibits interspersed among the regular tables, which were completely rearranged. And all that's left of that keyed map in the Program Book is a two-page monument to human fallibility. Well, at least we know that not all last-minute changes are for the worse.

The Jaycees: Hotel employees and fans alike will be glad to learn that they finally elected somebody, on the 42nd ballot. We don't know who it is and we don't care, but they're going home at last. (Their difficulties have been traced to an arcane voting procedure--when no candidate receives a majority, they hold the election over with the same candidates and the same voters, hoping the results will be different.)

Messenger Mountain is published daily by the WesterCon-35 Publications Department, Don Markstein, editor. Material for inclusion in #3 should be dropped off in the Fanzine Room (hotel's Pima Room) no later than 8:00 p.m. Saturday.

Films: Saturday's films start at 8:00 a.m. with *Universe* (Ballroom). 8:30, *The Blob* (Ballroom). 10:00, *Robin and Marian* (Ballroom). 12:00, NASA goodies (Ballroom). 1:00 p.m., *Watership Down* (Ballroom). 3:00, *Frau im Mond* (*Woman in the Moon*) (Apache Room). 5:00, *Rocketship* (Flash Gordon) (Apache Room). 6:15, *Planet Outlaws* (Buck Rogers) (Apache Room). 7:30, *Doc Savage, Man of Bronze* (Apache Room). 9:10, *Bambi Meets Godzilla* (Apache Room). 9:15, *The Wickerman* (Apache Room). 11:00, *Scanners* (Ballroom). Sunday Wee Hours: *A Boy and His Dog* (Ballroom). 3:00, *Mercury, Exploration of a Planet* (Ballroom). 3:30, *First Men in the Moon* (Ballroom). 5:30, *A Question of Life* (Ballroom). At 6:00 a.m. Sunday, the films will shut down for two hours to allow the hotel staff to clean up.

Computer games: The Schedule of Events shows that the Computer Game Room (hotel's Mohave Room) is open 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. today. Correction: It will close at 6:00 p.m. The room's staff would like to thank The Computer Store, 12416 N. 28th Drive, Suite 20, Phoenix, for the use of the "Saturn Navigator" and "Battlesight" programs. Demonstrations of Word Processing will take place in the room at 10:00 a.m., noon, 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. today (Saturday).

The "Both" Bid: If there is a city named "Both" anywhere in the WesterCon's defined area, it has thus far failed to submit concrete information on its bid. As for the proposal that the WesterCon be held in both Phoenix and Portland, it is noted that those promoting this idea will neither manage the split convention nor chair the business meeting where it will be debated (undoubtedly at great length). The Discordian in us delights in the idea, but shies away from doing anything practical to bring it about. (This has been an unabashed editorial by Your Editor, and does not necessarily represent the views of other WesterCon-35 Committee members.)

Open parties: The Phoenix Bid will be partying every night of the con in Room 519, and Portland is right down the hall in 527. AquaCon sends us the following release: "Come one, come all, come to the AquaCon II party. Sat. Room 511-513, after the Masquerade. Come and find out why we call it AquaCon." We don't know why they call it AquaCon, but if anybody drowns, don't say we sent you. And Gary Keith Feldlaum pens, "Celebrate the July 4th weekend with the people from the city that ran the Constitutional Convention--Philadelphia in 1986 bid party--Room 902, 11 p.m. Saturday." And of course, there's the ever-popular Con Suite, Room 510.

CFO correction: Fred Patten informs us that the CFO open meeting, originally to be held in his room, has been moved to the Havasupai Room, on the hotel's Lower Level. The time remains the same--10:00 p.m. Sunday.

Apa-59: The current record for the world's most frequent apa is held by *Hoapaur* (pronounced "the hourly apa"), which came out every hour, regularly, for eight disties at the New Orleans DebauchCon in 1974. Apa-59 means to take that record away. Thus far, two contributions have been received, and Fanzine Room Honcho Beady Arthurs hopes to put it out at least once during the con. (Why is it that we don't expect that record to be broken this time?)

Three-hand Sneeho: You may have noticed people playing this game here and there at the con last night. Depending on your attitude toward this sort of nonsense, players are called either "Sneehons" or "Sneeholes". In either case, long after the violent incidents involving famous pros have been forgotten; long after the Both Bid has become an interesting but minor historical aberration; we think WesterCon-35 will be remembered as the birthplace of Sneeho. What is Sneeho? Well, it's sort of like an immensely complicated scavenger hunt, but only sort of. Among the things Sneehons have been sent out to do are delivering a Sneegram to our Pro GoH, get hold of the various types of identification the con has issued people (those going after a huckster button came back with a huckster), and cause speakers at the con to make funny gestures on stage. Sneeho mercenaries are available to do these tasks for half the points; and other Sneehons are assigned to prevent tasks from accomplishment. The only "incident" we've heard of is a piece of tape on an Art Show mat--please watch that! For fun-lovers, the Sneehive is in Room 712.