

# DENOTATIONS

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And so what is this, you may be asking yourself, or me, or whom-ever is available to ask.

Well, let me assure you of one thing: It is not, or anything like, the Voice of the Lobster. (Though, damn it, I have to admit that at a certain point I did toy with the idea of calling it The Voice of the Rocky Mountain Oyster, and Graham England suggested calling it The Voice of the Coyote). But this little publication is not in any sense the "voice" of anything or anyone except just me.

Oh, I will be talking, at least some, about WorldCon affairs and concom problems and proceedings, but it's all going to be on a very informal and highly personal level. On most matters I won't be speaking for the committee.

Right here seems an appropriate place to inject a news item that you might not have heard about: I had been sole chairman of the Denver in '81 Bidding Committee, okay? Maybe you already knew that, so that isn't the news. But my first official act when we learned that we'd won the bid was to demote myself. Or maybe that's not the way to put it. What I did, actually, was to promote Suzanne Carnival from Coordinator to Co-chair. There were no objections.

The rise of Suzanne Carnival in the Denver committee is a fascinating story that I may decide to tell about in detail sometime, but not just now. It'll have to be enough to mention that when she started on the committee some three years ago, she was actually a bit shy and retiring, not at all sure of her own capabilities. But she was willing to work and soon got stuck with the job of recording secretary. And she was willing to do even more work, and so little by little she moved into the job of hotel liaison, and then, because she was willing and able to spend a lot of time on the telephone, letting all the committee members know what everyone else was doing, we gave her the title of Coordinator. It was inevitable that as her self-confidence increased

to the point where she began making policy decisions, she should eventually become at least Co-chairperson. And I never did really enjoy being alone at the top, anyway. It's nice to have someone to share the blame with.

A couple of other news notes, while I'm thinking about them, and then I have something rather embarrassing (to me) to mention; and then maybe I can get back to talking about what this publication is and is not and what I'm hoping to do with it.

Some of the news is just a review of things that have already been announced but which you might not have gotten word of yet.

First of all the DENVENTION II membership rates, as of now and until the first of next year, are as follows:

If you voted for the 1981 site selection (no matter who you voted for), you are automatically a supporting member of DENVENTION II. If all you want is a supporting membership and if you didn't vote but were a pre-supporter of the Denver bid (that's if you paid us a dollar sometime), the cost is \$6.50. If you were neither a pre-supporter nor a voter, a supporting membership in DENVENTION II is \$7.50. Remember that supporting memberships entitle you to all our progress reports and you'll be able to vote for the Hugos and for the 1983 site selection, and supporting memberships can be converted to full attending memberships at any time, at whatever the rate is at that time. Now, here are the rates for attending memberships until Jan. 1, 1980:

If you voted and were a Denver pre-supporter .....	\$ 4.00
If you voted but weren't a Denver in '81 pre-supporter	5.00
If you were a pre-supporter but did not vote .....	14.00
If you were neither a voter nor a pre-supporter ..	15.00

One thing to think about: Don't feel bad if you find yourself at the \$15 membership rate; you're actually paying less than if you had voted and were a pre-supporter. Look at it this way -- to be a supporting member of Seacon cost \$7.50, which entitled you to vote, but the ballot cost another \$5, which gave you an automatic supporting membership in DENVENTION II, but conversion to attending status is yet another \$5. And that adds up to \$17.50, right?

Well, don't look at us so accusingly; these are not the rates we would have set if we'd had the choice (ours might have been a bit higher, but never mind that).

The rates as they are result from a WorldCon constitutional amendment that was ratified at the Seacon business meeting. So ...

The other news-in-review item is our Guests of Honor. We have two Pro GoHs, in continuation of a PENULTICON tradition. They are C.L. Moore, who has never been Guest of Honor at a WorldCon (long, long overdue, we felt) and Clifford D. Simak, who we realize as well as anyone else was GoH not too terribly long ago (at NOREASCON 1971, it was), but we certainly do not apologize for our choice of Simak. Just judging by the amount of top-quality fiction he has produced since '71, we believe he deserves the honor. Our Fan GoH is Rusty Hevelin, another notable that we think has been overlooked too long. Of course, the fact that his long sojourn in SF fandom dates back to shortly before DENVENTION I in 1941 (his first con!) was not an entirely irrelevant factor in our selection of him. Toastmaster for DENVENTION II will be Denver's own (and Colorado's only) Nebula winner, Edward Bryant, who has emceed Denver area cons for the past 10 years and who deserves the largest possible audience.

Speaking of Rusty and the fact of his attendance at DENVENTION I brings me to the new news item that I had in mind.

Rusty of course gets a free membership in DENVENTION II just because he a GoH, but he would get a free membership anyway, just because he happened to attend DENVENTION I. The committee wants to honor the surviving members of DENVENTION I, and we hope to arrange some special programming around them in 1981, and we decided that one thing we could do immediately was to make it known that everyone who attended WorldCon 3 would have a free membership in World-Con 39. That's not going to be an awful lot of free memberships; it isn't going to hurt us very much financially. There were only about a hundred people at DENVENTION I, you know, and over a period of 40 years the evaporation rate is very high. One thing though: We are going to need some help in identifying and locating those survivors. We've been able so far to name little more than a dozen-- such people as Heinlein, Bradbury, Wollheim, Olon Wiggins, Rusty, Lew Martin ... I could come up with another six or eight that we know are still around (and that we know where to find). But we would deeply appreciate it if as many people as possible would send us a list of all the people that you know for sure attended DENVENTION I -- and current addresses, too. That's just as important as knowing who attended.

I said I was going to tell you something embarrassing. I'm almost too embarrassed to talk about it. I mean it's really dumb. If you happened to be at SEACON and didn't happen to notice me there, there is a reason. It's that I did not manage to get to SEACON. I intended to. Everything was all arranged--membership, hotel reservations, plane tickets. Just one little detail I slipped up on.

The plan was for the whole family--my wife Carolyn and I and two of our three offspring--to fly to England together. Carolyn and I have been separated for nearly a year and a half, but we're not divorced and really are still very close friends. For various reasons, though, we were unable to get on the same flight to Chicago. For various other reasons, I was not carrying my passport; Carolyn had it. For various other reasons, most of which I have not yet been able to figure out, I didn't find Carolyn at O'Hare. I got there a couple of hours ahead of the rest of the family and so I sat down to wait, but I was waiting in the wrong place, and after a while I managed to forget that my watch was still on Denver time. By the time I started to panic, the plane had been gone a half an hour, with Carolyn and Doug and Claudia on it -- with my passport. All I could do was turn around and come back to Denver.

That was the bad news for me. The good news, I guess, was that as soon as I got back home, I came down with a horrible ailment called viral meningitis. It kept me thoroughly miserable for more than a week, but I would undoubtedly have had the same thing in England, and I would not have wanted to inflict my misery upon my friends there.

And I said I would say a little more about my hopes and plans for this publication.

Well, I hope it's going to be issued monthly, for one thing, though this first issue is later than I wanted it to be. And from this modest beginning I fully expect it to grow gradually both in number of pages and in circulation. To start with at least this will go to all members of DENVENTION II as well as to all the names on my DON-o-SAUR mailing list. There'll be considerable overlapping of names but I hope not of copies.

One thing to emphasize is that this is not the DENVENTION II progress reports. Nor is it the same kind of of personal zine that DON-o-SAUR used to be. It's somewhere in between. A hybrid.

--D.C.T.