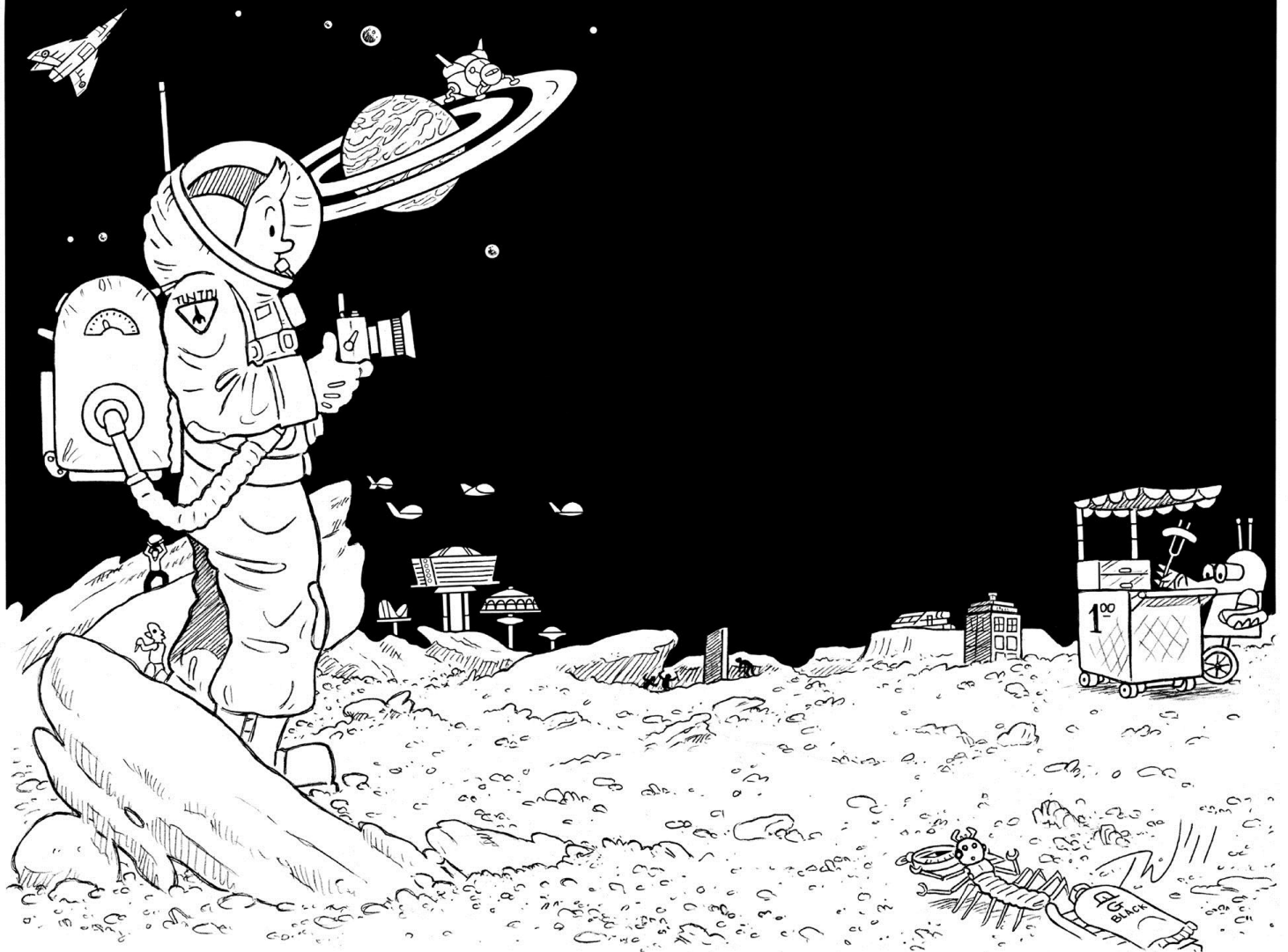


THE FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST

Number 4 — October 2011

*The Fannish E-Zine of the Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards
Society Dedicated to Promoting Canadian Fanzine Fandom*



COVER CONSIDERATIONS

Behold the CFF Award Certificate!

I asked Taral Wayne to illustrate a 1950s astronaut gazing out over an alien terrain with a Gestetner Mimeograph machine on his back (in lieu of the usual breathing apparatus) plus any bits of genre business he cared to place in the scene.

I am mightily pleased with the result. There are at least ten homages to Sci-Fi TV, Films, Comics and Literature present in the illustration. Can you spot them? Can you name them? Answers on the last page.

I love this certificate. Copies with appropriate text on acid free 25% cotton paper will be mailed to each winner.

Speaking of which:

2011 FANED AWARDS!

On October 4th, 2011 I emailed the following to Mike Glycer for publication in the online version of his renowned newszine FILE 770:

Hi Mike!

I announced the first Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards on Sunday (October, 2nd, 2011) at VCON 36 just after I gave out the Elrons.

All winners will receive both the 'The Faned' figure (currently being sculpted By Lawrence Prime) and a certificate (currently being designed by Taral Wayne) once they are complete, soonest.

The Awards are:

Best Fan Artist: Taral Wayne.

Best Fan Writer: Garth Spencer.

Best Loc Hack: Lloyd Penney.

Best Fanzine: WARP with Cathy Palmer-Lister as Editor.

and

Life-Time Achievement: 'The Unknown Faned' who published Canada's first SF fanzine in early 1936 under the title: 'The Canadian Science Fiction Fan'. (Unknown because in his 1936 review of the zine Donald Wollheim neglected to mention the editor's name!)

These first awards are entirely by fiat, being my personal decision based on what I consider to be the most obvious choices, the CFF Awards being entirely a one-man show at this point.

I'm hoping this is so outrageously abnormal compared to the usual peer-determined, incestuous, in-fought, excessively emotionally violent fan activity (of any sort) we are all used to that vast amounts of publicity will be generated by fan reaction to the awards (and this sentence).

Got to seep into widespread fannish consciousness somehow!

Next year I will be taking peer input into account. After that? Maybe an actual vote (rigged or otherwise).

Since I currently publish five fanzines (and am about to launch a sixth) I withdrew my name from my own consideration to create an illusion of impartiality. My first impulse, to award myself all five Faneds, took at least an hour to argue myself out of... for this year anyway. I make no promises.

(And if the above paragraph doesn't generate yet more publicity I'll be greatly surprised. I'm discovering that 'doing' publicity can be fun!)

The Faneds ceremony followed immediately after the Elron Awards, so most of the people attending the Elrons stayed for the Faneds. I do know that several present were there specifically to see the Faneds. Andrew C. Murdoch for one (Faned of ZX in the early 1990s), and Karl Johanson (Aurora-winning co-Faned of UNDER THE OZONE HOLE throughout the 90s) for another.

Unlike the Elrons, I had no props to speak of. For WARP I did hold up several printouts of WARP covers from the past, including #68 which features Godzilla trashing Montreal, a piece created by Jean-Pierre Normand, VCON's Artist Guest of Honour this year!

I chose WARP for the first 'Best Fanzine' CFF Award, because it has consistently been an excellent clubzine, well laid out, colourful, with varied content reflecting the most active club (MonSFFA) in Canada. This is the kind of fanac I want to promote and encourage. Besides, Cathy and her fellow MonSFFEN deserve recognition for their fenthusiasm for all things fannish (in the sense of major SF interests: books, writing, movies, models, cons, their clubzine, etc.).

I also showed several versions of Taral's certificate in progress, the first being a pencil sketch, the second with lines 'inked' in and most pencilling removed, the third 'cleaned' up and the sky made black. All will be preserved

in the archive. A final version is what you see on the cover of this ish, and a wonderful cover it is too, more than I expected.

As for the Faned figure itself, Lawrence Prime has started work earlier than I had anticipated, and while not finished in time for the first annual awards, will be complete in the near future. It's 6 inches tall and possesses very fine lines. The pen nib rocket on back is already carved and looking quite good. It awaits a bit more detail and final sculpting of the rocket wash. I haven't actually seen it in person yet (it was on display at the local IPMS fall show) but Stan G. Hyde took several pictures which I have seen and will print next issue.

Overall the actual awards, certificate and figure, are coming into being much sooner than I had dreamed so I am well pleased. My only remaining conundrum is how on earth do I reproduce the Faned in multiple replicas without destroying it? I checked around to see if any local outfit has one of those 3-d plastic casting machines but only one could I find and that reserved for complicated tool parts and sounding very expensive.

My own effort to sculpt and replicate a Faned was a disaster. On Monday Sep 12th I made a second attempt. Result? That night I dreamed I was on trial at the Hague for violating international art standards. I kid you not. At least it didn't crumble like the first one.

Then I started coating it in brush-on rubber to create a mold. After several applications it looked like one of the characters from 'Attack of the Mushroom People,' so I stripped off the 'mold' (it looked like mold all right!) and painted the figure bronze to use as an Elron. (Gave it to John Norman of 'GOR' fame.)

I did, however, hold up 'my' Faned at the CFF Awards to get a cheap laugh, if nothing else. Also held up Eric Chu's design to show people what was coming.

LETTERS OF COMMENT

The Graeme's comments are in dark Blue.

From: Dave Haren, August 07, 2011
Ubiquitous Loc Hack

Is it that time already? I haven't composed a LOC for the last issue.

I'm banging issues out as soon as 6 pages are filled.

The proposed figure looks pretty good to me but I was somewhat confused about the scale.

Lawrence Prime is sculpting Faned should be six inches in height. The first year's Faneds, hand-ruined by meself as originally proposed, were to be four inches in height. But as I am so uselessly hopeless at the task the winners received an I.O.U. for replica castings of Prime's sculpture as soon as they can be produced.

If it held a full-sized fountain pen it would dazzle the fans. A prop on the helmet would be just right for a finishing touch.

A very fannish touch indeed. However, it would be a nightmare to pry out of a mold, as far as my limited molding techiness can comprehend.

As always, Warm Regards

Dave Haren

From: Jinnie the Perky Goth, September 11, 2011
Faned of 'Quantum B*llocks'

Hi Graeme!

I just wanted to say that I really enjoyed reading your zine, something about it reminds me of me and my enthusiasm. I had absolutely no idea what went into a zine or where to put one online so I Googled, found E-Fanzines, wrote some stuff and emailed it to Bill Burns. I'm up to Issue 5 now and still having a blast.

In issue #2 you mention you wanted to write fanzines "to get connected to Fandom again." That's an excellent reason! The whole point of fanzines, really.

Your perzine is very spritely and rapidly evolving. I will review it in the first issue of a new zine I am preparing, 'THE FRENETIC FANAC REVIEW' which will be out soonest.

Talking about ages of fans, and younger vs. older, while I'm not exactly young (born after Lennon was shot but before Reagan was sworn in) I'm young compared to most of fandom and I don't think you're Boring Old Bastards at all. Also I have a work colleague of merely 24 who is seriously into model railways and is building a giant set in his loft. Fear not, fandom will never die out, just continually evolve and grow.

You are a dream come true! A young fan effortlessly (or at least enthusiastically) slipping willingly into the role of fanzine editor and publisher. Fantastic! And some said such as you could never be...

I look forward to the next issue,

Jinnie the Perky Goth

From: Neil Jamieson-Williams, August 7, 2011
Faned of Swill @ 30.
Dundas, Ontario

Hi, Graeme!

Here are some comments I am finally getting around to for The Fanatical Fanactivist # 2 and #3.

Okay, we agree to disagree on the issue of changing modes of communication and fanzines. I am less supportive of the goal to "plunge furiously into the past, clinging desperately to the papernet (& on-line copies) with reactionary tenacity unparalleled." Should the CFFAS project be a success, you may want to revisit this issue again down the road. Nevertheless, catering to a niche segment of the SF fan community is a needed start.

I don't want the Faneds to wind up like the Australian Ditmars, wherein 5 out of 6 candidates for "Best Fan Publication" this year were podcasts, and a podcast won.

To be fair to the Ditmars, they cannot be compared to the CFF Awards as they are Australia's equivalent to the Auroras, the above award actually reading "Best Fan Publication in Any Medium" and thus combining the Auroras' "Best Fan Publication" & "Best Achievement Other". In short, I feel the Aurora categories serve truly modern (read 'electronic') Cdn 'zines' already & the Faneds do not need to be expanded.

I also disagree that there were always only a few fanzines in Canada, even back in the "good old days"; though I would agree that there were only a few "public" fanzines. What I mean by the term "public" are those fanzine that would be posted out to other fanzines and participate in the whole process of reviewing other fanzines and sending out LoCs.

For practical CffA puposes I would define a public zine as one I, as CffA Administrator, am aware of. If I don't know it exists, it isn't eligible until it is brought to my attention. Technically they are eligible by their very nature of course, but if I've never heard of them they might as well be published on the Moon as far as winning a Faned goes. Hmm, first Canadian zine on the moon,,,. Now there's an added incentive for fans to get involved with the Canadian space program...

However, I also recall that there were many one-shot, short run, small local club, etc. fanzines that did not circulate in the public realm. These would be semi-public fanzines that would have a small circulation or a circulation that was intensely local and distributed person-to-person, not by post. For example, Daughter of Swill,

Mother of Scum was a semi-public fanzine as was Space Opera Blues (both zines that I was a faned for).

SPACE OPERA BLUES? Tell me more! You've perked up my fan historian ears. Don't believe you've mentioned that before.

In any event, local consumption zines that escape the notice of fandom country-wide are doomed to obscurity as far as the Faneds are concerned. Or my Canfancylopedia for that matter. You seem to imply there were and are quite a few of them. Which is great. But sad if they pass unrecorded. Even many APazines were also distributed for The Usual. Such as you describe are ephemera at best, only occasionally rescued from obscurity by mere accident it would appear, and not very often at that.

I will also make the statement that there were more semi-public fanzines than there ever were public fanzines in the past and predict that the same is, in all probability, true for the present.

I hope so. I wish people would tell me about them.

This raises a few questions, what makes a fanzine a fanzine? Is a fan publication with a circulation of fifty that is either printed or created as a digital document and distributed face-to-face or through an email list, a fanzine? And how do we, the writers and editors of public fanzines make a connection to that segment of the fanzine community? Also, it is quite probable, these semi-public fanzines are not very "fannish" and that from the POV of a public fanzine writer/editor these semi-public fanzines will appear to be not very well enculturated into the SF public fanzine sub-subculture and may seem "neo-ish" or worse. So what do we do about this?

Arrest all fans, incarcerate them in a 'retraining camp' and brainwash them into proper... ah, never mind. Probably not practical...

This reminds me of the ongoing debate over the question "What is SF?" To paraphrase some famous pro or another, "SF is what I point my finger at and call SF." Same for 'traditional fanzines'.

Traditional SF fanzines usually had a circulation between 30 to 100 copies. Many a fanzine available electronically today would be lucky to achieve the same. In that sense circulation doesn't really matter. That it exists and is available is satisfactory enough.

As for what constitutes 'fannish' for the purposes of this Award, if a zine is at least partially devoted to SF in terms of what is accepted as SF fanac nowadays, be it filking or comics, model making, club activities,

personal SF interests, films, books, etc., it will do. The main thing is to have a connection to SF.

Be aware that my main concern is to encourage the publication of 'traditional' fanzines in their physical form, i.e. paper publication or pdf facsimile of same such that it can be printed out in hard copy.

I do not, on the other hand, intend to insist that such zines be 'traditional' in purpose, i.e. resembling the perzines of the 30s or 70s wherein the principle subject was the Faned himself and his/her personal likes and dislikes, not to mention fan feuds & such.

Indeed, in my view even a zine devoted to reviewing SF podcasts would be eligible if the zine were traditional in form. It would be no different than, say, a zine devoted to reviewing SF movies. What I'm trying to preserve is the physical nature of the 'traditional zine'. The subject of the zine doesn't matter so long as it has something to do with SF.

One thing that we should not do is be BOB's in any way, shape, or form. I think that semi-public fanzines should be welcomed and introduced to the wider world of public fanzines, but in a non-judgemental manner. In other words, don't tell them that they are doing things wrong, do not call them unfannish, etc. But, do provide them with the information that there are other fanzines out there, fanzine resources (such as efanzines.com) they could use, and existing fanzine writer/editor organisations.

Yes, I agree. Elitists insist on being judgemental, but that is counter-productive if one's intent is to prevent zines from going extinct. Got to celebrate the new even if it is less than perfect. Allow room to grow and improve.

I am in full agreement that BOBism is an unhealthy attitude for SF fanzine fandom to have; unless there is actually an intense desire to be a collection of living fossils greying toward total extinction. I agree that fanzine publication is a fun thing to do and I am surprised that more people are not doing this given the technology available today. It is far easier to pub a zine now than it was thirty years ago, and far less expensive (e.g. to print and post out 100 copies of the Summer issue of Swill @ 30 would have cost an estimated \$200.00). The BOB attitude is exclusive and off-putting to younger fans and, yes, we should be living in the present and treat fanzine publication as a contemporary literary form.

I too am surprised the hobby isn't more popular. But then, people need to know it exists as an option to consider. All too often a fan's first exposure to zinedom is a blast of BoBism that puts them off the concept for the remainder of their lives. Emphasis on zinedom as a contemporary and fun phenomenon is the proper road

to take in terms of promotion, publicity and propaganda (the three 'P's of the CFFA Society).

This also means being tolerant of innovation within print media fanzines. For example, Swill @ 30 is a traditional fanzine written in the form, style, and structure of a typical perzine from 30 years ago. A print fanzine could easily have a more avante garde style and structure, no usage of traditional fanzine jargon, no LoC column, maintain a blog on the fanzine website, and still, in my opinion, be a fanzine. It wouldn't be a traditional fanzine, but it would be a fanzine.

Uhhh, a qualified 'I agree'. As long as the core zine is 'traditional', once stripped of all bells and whistles. A blog by itself, no. A 'traditional' zine, each separate issue complete unto itself, yes, even if it is also associated with a blog or whatever.

Many zines don't bother with LoC columns. Some zines, as far back as the 30s, experimented with avante garde styles. I repeat, the style of a zine doesn't have to be traditional, just the form.

I agree that those of us with an interest in fanzines should endeavour to promote this as a contemporary literary form; a literary form that potentially offers more freedom of expression than creating a blog or a website and has the same potential to reach a large audience or a very small one -- the choice is the creator's to make. Though, we must also be open to innovation and not attempt to "bite off their heads" should the younger generations be, in our opinions, too creative.

Absolutely. Actually, there's no such thing as being 'too creative.' It would be terrific if someone could invent something new that would quickly be adopted by all Faneds as necessary to a proper zine. Something as needfully ubiquitous as a LoC column, or a con report. I have no idea what that 'something' could be. Requires an imagination far greater than mine. But somebody out there has the potential. I'm sure of it. Above all, death to BoBism! Huzzah for zinedom!

**From: Lloyd Penney, October 5, 2011
Famed Aurora & Faned-winning Loc Hack.
1706-24 Eva Rd. Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2**

(This in response to news of his win.)

Graeme!

Many thanks! It pleases indeed, as does the rest of the list of winners.

Lloyd

From: Garth Spencer, October 5/2011
Famed Faned-winning Fan Writer, and Editor of ONE SWELL FOOP.

(This in response to news of his win.)

Dear Graeme,

We are amused. I await the certificate/award production.

Garth

From: Cathy Palmer-Lister, October 5/2011
Famed Faned-winning Editor of WARP.

(This in response to news of her win.)

Hi Graeme!

Pleased?! I'm absolutely shocked!! :-)

I do hope you continue with this effort, I'm sure it will help revitalize the zine scene.

Cathy

I've long felt that MonSFFA, yourself & WARP deserve Canada-wide recognition for your collective fanac, an inspiration to fans everywhere methinks.

From: Taral Wayne, October 5/2011
Famed Faned-winning Fan Artist.

(This in response to news of his win.)

The one irony is that I've never even seen an issue of WARP.

But, yes, I'm pleased that the lists will always begin as they will.

Taral.

There was no comment by the recipient of the 'Life-Time Achievement' Faned for the simple reason that he or she is probably deceased by now, or at the very least somewhere around ninety years of age. Most unlikely he/she would still be tracking fannish news at this late date. In fact, given that only one issue of THE CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION FAN was published (in 1936), said fan probably gafiated later that year, apparently never to return. Still would like to know whom it was though.

TEN 'BITS OF BUSINESS'

- 1) Upper left corner – *Avro Arrow*.
- 2) On planetary rings – *Red Dwarf space bug*.
- 3) In helmet – shock of hair = *Tin Tin*.
- 4) Beneath backpack – *Kirk vs. Gorn*.
- 5) To right of knees – *City from The Jetsons*.
- 6) Next right – *Apes & 2001 Monolith*.
- 7) Next right – *Galileo 7 Shuttle from Star Trek*.
- 8) Next right – *Tardis from Dr. Who*.
- 9) Next right – *Robot from Roger Ramjet*.
- 10) Below – *Barlennan from 'Mission of Gravity'*.

TO SUM UP

I was so utterly exhausted after VCON 36 it has taken forever to put this ish together. My plans for new issues of AURORAN LIGHTS, WCSFAzine, SPACE CADET, not to mention my new zine THE FRENETIC FANAC REVIEW, remain on hold till I get my act together.

But my brain hasn't been completely dead. Been pondering the fact a number of Cdn fans have told me the Faneds aren't necessary, the Hugos are good enough, they being worldwide in scope, including Canada. Yeah, but only one Cdn zine has ever won a Hugo, namely Energumen by Mike & Susan (Wood) Glicksohn back in 1973. Been a long wait since, and liable to be decades more barring a miracle. Besides, the Hugos are the equivalent of the Auroras, not the CFFA.

Is there a national award virtually identical to the Faneds? Turns out, the answer is YES! And by coincidence, they started up in 1973!

I refer to the UK Nova Awards. More next ish.

Cheers! The Graeme

You can contact me at < rgraeme@shaw.ca > or
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COLOPHON

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