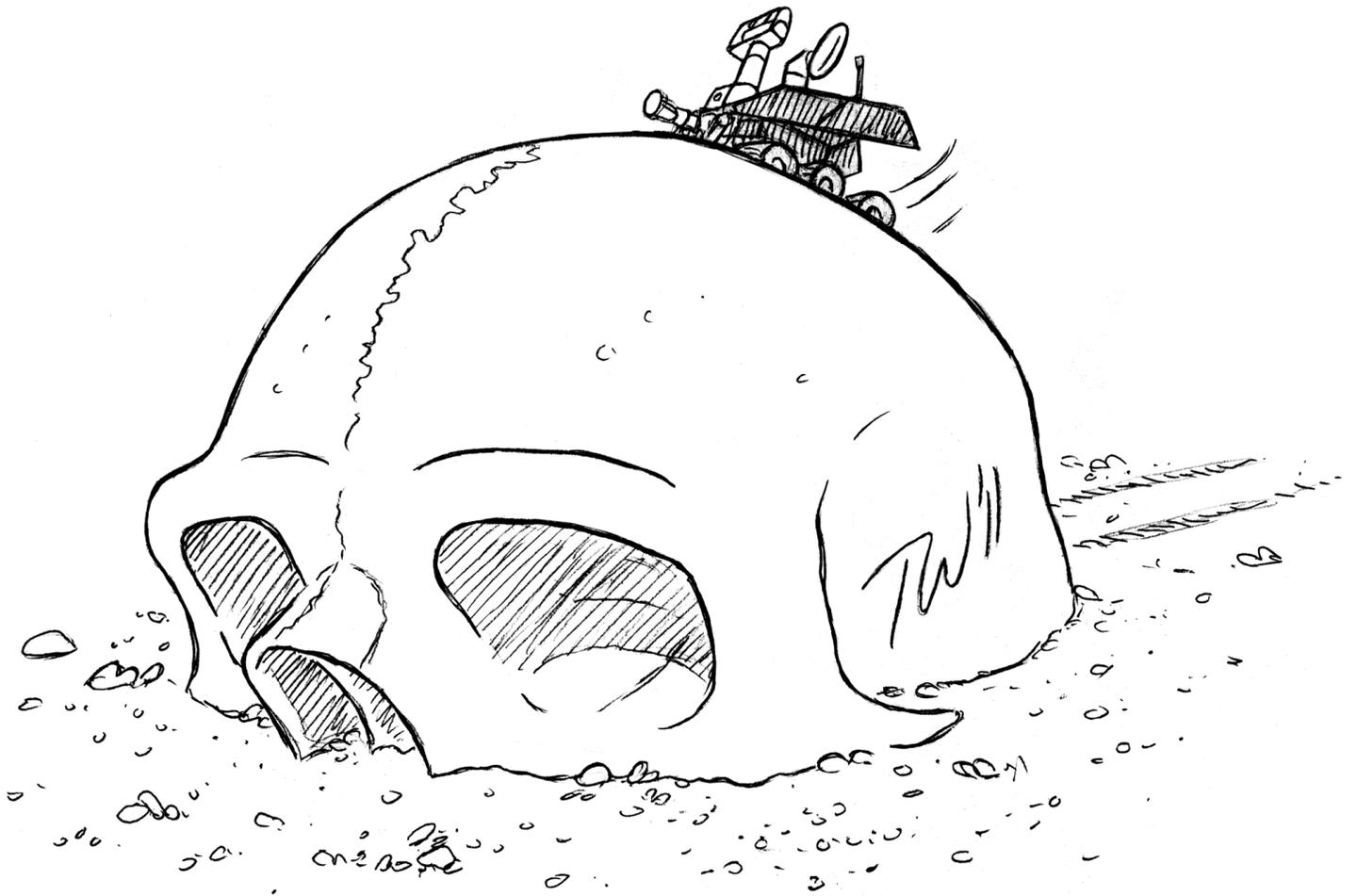


THE FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST

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

#8

January 2012



COVER CONSIDERATIONS

The cover ‘fillo’ by Taral Wayne fits in neatly with my overall theme of exploring ways to revive the dead (nearly extinct Canadian SF Fanzine Fandom that is).

THE FANED: HOW TO MOULD?

Taral Wayne spoke of his ‘Beatrix’ character model in the last issue. He was good enough to get in touch with the sculptor David DeGooyer and seek his advice as to the best method of making multiple copies of the ‘Faned’ award. David sent the following:

“The best way to duplicate it is by making a silicone mold, and pouring a resin called sil-white into the base to make copies. The company I get my materials from is called Silpac. Quite frankly he could probably make a simple one piece mold with a slit in the back to demold the copies. I explain the mold making in great detail in my scraps page. I don't think he'd have to worry about air getting trapped as long as he rotated the mold as he poured the resin in.”

Hmm, food for thought. Having checked out a series of pictures detailing David’s creation of the Beatrix figure, involving a pressure pot, baking, fashioning multiple wire sprue lines and such, I’m more or less convinced only a skilled artist like David could pull this off.

Mind you, his written advice implies a process much simpler, which is hopeful, though I can’t quite visualise a “one piece mold with a slit in the back to demold the copies.” This implies what? That the silicone is flexible and you just sort of peel it back to release the copy? And how do you cut the slit without damaging what’s inside? Wouldn’t the pouring result in material exuding from the slit? I appreciate the advice, but I’m not sure I understand it...

In any case, during a family Christmas dinner I discovered my niece Anna frequently makes silicone moulds at an art class she attends. She volunteered to craft the mould if I supply the silicone. A step closer to producing multiple Faneds from the master copy. I will look into this. The 2011 winners have reason to be hopeful!

LETTERS OF COMMENT

The Graeme’s comments are in dark Blue.

**From: Eric Mayer, December 6th, 2011
Famed Faned of GROGGY & E-DITTO.**

Graeme,

I just started Space Cadet #16 but wanted to acknowledge The Fantactical Fanactivist #7. Good looking award, or award mould. No idea how one reproduces such things.

One writer I was reading suggests Lego blocks for the mould box and Plasticene for the actual mould. Then pour in molten lead. I have my doubts. Surely Playdough would be better?

Actually, to be honest, I don't want to say much about Canadian awards, not being Canadian, and my knowledge of awards is nil, my name having never appeared in the same paragraph with any fan awards. Of course I am familiar with your work, and Taral's and Garth's and Lloyd Penney's so I guess I am familiar with a big segment of Canadian fandom. It's not that you don't have good folks, but not enough.

Not enough to justify awards? Perhaps. The whole point of the awards is to encourage others to jump in. Granted, I may be inviting people to jump into the swimming pool of the Titanic, a somewhat pointless exercise if indeed Canadian Fanzine fandom is slowly dying, but I’m a great believer in reviving corpses. After all, Doctor Frankenstein could do it well enough, so why not me?

Like you, I still enjoy ezines. An ezine feels a lot different than a blog. Okay, it is non-physical, like a blog, but unlike a blog it emulates a physical zine. Unlike a physical zine it is something I can afford to publish. Mind you, it occurs to me that if hell ever froze over and I won an award I would need to insist on nothing more substantial than an electronic certificate, in line with my totally electronic fanac.

For some reason this makes me think a more appropriate ‘Faned’ would be a giant, burned-out fuse. Odd how the mind works.

At any rate an e-zine is a complete entity to itself, and once printed out becomes an actual, honest-to-ghod fanzine. Blogs and such be

different. An e-zine is a fanzine temporarily held captive by modernity, but easily converted into its true, natural state, for them as has the money to afford ink and paper. I like to print out one copy of each of my zines on acid-free paper. Now if I can just find a pyramid to store them in.

I sure wouldn't spit in fandom's face like D West just did. Of course I've been observing one bunch of fans who have taken his insult as an excuse to fall over themselves praising his work and figuring out how to get more of it online. Oh well.

D. West, like everyone else, lives by his own opinions. Having seen some of his fannish work, I feel he is worthy of the Rotsler Award even if he believes the award isn't worthy of him. Frankly, I think they shouldn't have withdrawn the award. The situation is simple really. He's won an award which he declines to accept. Fine. He's still the declared winner whether he likes it or not. That's my take on the matter.

But then I've been handing out the Elrons for 22 years now. No one has ever refused to be awarded one (much as they'd like to). I wouldn't actually force a bronzed Elron into someone's hands if they don't want it, but I'd never withdraw the award once declared.... Which reminds me, no one is allowed to decline a 'Faned' either.

Best, Eric Mayer

From: Robert Runté, December 7th, 2011
Former Faned of 'New Canadian Fandom'

So I have to go back to editing a zine to get one of these?

Or writing articles re your own fannish history for instance. Or frequent locs. Any talent for doodles?

Might almost be worth it.

You may want to wait till you see what an actual Faned trophy winds up looking like. Then again, eligibility for the 2012 Faneds closed end of last month.

Hmmm, so far you have submitted two laconic locs. Lloyd Penney being out of the running in the

Loc Hack category for 2012, you might just conceivably win that!

Robert Runté

From: Sam McDonald, December 8th, 2011
Hi Graeme,

Read your Dec 2011 Fanactical Fanactivist #7 this morning. I think the future of small special trophies is probably 3-d printing as rendered by companies like Shapeways.

Could well be, if inexpensive enough to make it feasible.

You have a physical demo that looks very do-able. The next step would be to have it scanned somehow ;

<http://www.sculptor.org/3D/Replication/MachineReplicationServices.htm>

or just manually program it in.

The link above deals literally in the replication of full-size sculpture, museum replicas and such. Undoubtedly not cheap by any means.

I would think that having an artist with a deft paintbrush to finish off a sculpture would be nice.

I'm afraid the winners will have to put up with my 'deft paintbrush' skill. Fortunately, just as with the Elrons, they are perfectly free to improve on the paint job themselves, or even customise the 'Faned' as they see fit. Personalize it, in other words.

I have never done such nor have the skills to do so.. I just read geeky things. I think with companies like Shapeways you could have it printed in cheap materials for tests and art practice, and then in heavier, more expensive versions for the trophies themselves.

I have yet to check out 'Shapeways'. "Heavier, more expensive versions" sounds ominous. Bear in mind I'd be paying out of my own pocket to produce each year's crop of Faneds. Probably \$50 each is the maximum I'd be willing to cover, and that includes all materials and process. Hence the need for a cheap means of reproduction.

Once it was in 3d digital format, if done properly, theoretically it would be possible to vary text (or small features) for various trophies... changing dates, names, badges (on chest, helmet, base), etc. (If you didn't vary much or get specific with names you could print out several years worth if the budget allowed).

I have in mind identical Faneds (though perhaps individually unique in terms of paint job) glued or somehow attached to a simple base engraved with the pertinent details. Whether this can be done within my budget, or even done at all, I do not yet know.

(I'm a Fan of your Canadian Fancyclopedia.)

Thank you!

Sam McDonald

**From: Murray Moore, December 10th, 2011
Faned of 'Aztec Blue'
Mississauga, Ontario**

Hello! Graeme.

I want a BOB button.

'B.O.B.' in large letters, 'Boring Old Bastard' beneath in tiny letters by way of explanation, set against a line drawing of a suitably curmudgeonly visage beneath a tattered propeller beanie? Or just the word 'B.O.B.'?

You identify me in FF 3 as the editor of AZTEC BLUE. According to its Canfancyclopedia entry, issues 1 and 2 were published in 2000. I published four issues in total (I think).

The BCSFA/WCSFA archive has five (5) issues dated Sept, Dec 2000, & March, June, Sept 2001. I only mentioned the first two because the end of the twentieth century (2000) was meant to be the cut-off date for entries. However, I was not consistent in this elsewhere and may add info on the last three at some point.

My current publishing is a bi-monthly contribution to the Australia and New Zealand Amateur Press Association (ANZAPA).

I was once a member of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA) and currently belong to e-APA, which is a lot less work. Merely write & post once a month. No need to fuss with repro and mailings.

And I write the occasional LoC (you are reading an example).

I rarely write loCs as I never seem to find the time. But I do enjoy responding to LoCs within my own zines.

I envy the recipients of the Taral-designed award certificate, the image of which makes a splendid FF 4 cover.

I envy them too. Would like to win someday.

But how to remedy the lack of recognition for the fanpubbing of Canada's most prolific and enthusiastic current faned, your own self? I'm thinking Best Fan Publication nomination in next year's Aurora Awards (again). But which Best Fan Publication?: you keep adding titles: Graeme, you make my head hurt.

Just memorize:

***"SpaceCadetTheFanaacticalFanaactivistWCSFAzine
AuroranLightsCoruscatingConundrumsFrenetic
FanacReviewTheCanadianScienceFictionFan"***

Or:

***"SCTFFWZALCCFFRTCSFF"* for short. That should help.**

Hmm, you're right. It is rather headache-inducing.

**From: Murray Moore, December 11th, 2011
Faned of 'Aztec Blue'
Mississauga, Ontario**

Hello! Graeme.

Silly me: I thought I was caught up.

I will have to restrain myself, should I encounter a Faned winner, flush with the thrill of winning, from asking 'Is that your Faned or your new Japanese sex toy?'

Batteries not included. Actually, the smoothness of the design (deliberate lack of

undercutting) was calculated to ensure ease of withdrawal from the mould, not... ah, never mind.

Background to Taral's drawing of mating dinosaurs, featured by you on the cover of FF 5: it was created as art for SFCOntario 1's T-shirt, but not used.

You added two sentences of further details, each ending in IIRC. What does that mean? I ask because in my early faned days I once printed several lengthy paragraphs marked DNQ, not knowing what DNQ meant. I'd hate to make an equivalent mistake again. IIRC means?

Consider, Graeme, if you insist on honouring the dead, also honouring the living? I refer to the Lifetime Achievement award. Egoboo, I believe, is wasted on the dead. I can count on you to be subtle: perhaps a Lifetime Achievement award for a deceased honoree and a Just-in-Time Achievement award for a living recipient?

I guess that means I should drop my "Why aren't you dead yet?" Lifetime Achievement Award concept....

For 2012 and 2013 I want to honour two other 'founding fathers' of Canadian SF zinedom. Then, yes, it can be thrown open to living recipients.

"The Administrator is eligible for various categories if his or her own fanac meets the criteria, but he is absolutely NOT permitted to vote for his or her self." I'm good with that: I trust you. Others, maybe not so much. I suggest vote counting by someone without an interest in the outcome.

Hmm, a good idea, easily doable once a formal Board of Directors is in place. In the meantime it would be a toss-up between trusting me to do the count or trusting my claim that someone else did it. Given that this year will probably be in the nature of suggestions from peers rather than a formal vote, keeping copies of every suggestion in whatever form available for perusal will probably suffice. It's still a one-man show at this point.

"The identity and choices of individual voters, as well as any discussions during the count, shall remain confidential." Dunno why the identity of the voters should be a secret. A tradition of reporting the result of the FAAn Awards voting includes printing the

names of the voters. TAFF and DUFF race voters are named as part of those results.

I agree that no particular reason for keeping the identities of the voters secret readily springs to mind. Is not one of the perks of voting to be recognized as an active fan because of one's participation? An encouragement to vote in fact. Might as well strike this clause from the proposed constitution.

If I am not known as a CFFA voter, I am less likely to receive offers of free drinks at cons.

A good point. A very good point.

**From: Lloyd Penney, December 26, 2011
Famed Aurora & Faned-winning Loc Hack.
1706-24 Eva Rd. Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2**

Dear Graeme,

Christmas is done, and what a great time. Boxing Day is here, and we went out for a sale, but to a bedding store, not quite the mad rush to the electronics shops. And now that it's largely done, I've got some time near the end of the year to write a little something on The Fanactical Fanactivist 7.

I didn't set foot outside at all on Boxing Day. Safer that way.

The Faned is looking very good! I can hardly wait to see it painted, sealed and ready for distribution. We have a limited group of people in this country interested in fanzines...I wonder what percentage of the fannish whole we represent? Then, do the same figures for same groups in the US. I wonder if they'd be the same?

The replication of the Faned is beginning to look feasible, though the time frame is still in doubt...

As for "percentage of the fannish whole" much depends on how you define 'fannish'. In the 'traditional' sense or just genre fans in general? On second thought, it probably doesn't matter. Either way, the answer is probably less than 1%. American fandom, maybe as high as 2%.

In general, I'd say almost all 'fannish' fans are not interested in fanzines. This does not diminish my plot to strengthen zinedom and win new converts. As long as those involved are having fun, there's room to grow.

From my letter...no, the interview was not successful, I'm afraid. I did get myself a short-term assignment with an advertising agency in downtown Toronto, but it fizzled after five days because their client got cold feet, or got confused, or something. I hope to return to the assignment in the new year. I've also applied to a big advertising agency for a big job there I know I can do; wish me luck in this one!

Keep knocking on doors. Often it can be a matter of timing. In my experience I was usually hired not on the strength of my credentials but because I happened to walk through the door just when they desperately needed someone. Appropriate skills and experience help seal the bargain, of course. But timing is often the major factor.

If the trophies are going to be this difficult to design, I wonder if there is an organization in Canadian fandom who might be willing to float you the money to get the trophies done for the next few years. CSFFA should have a contact or two to help with it. Also, Anime North might be willing...they seem to be looking for worthwhile fannish endeavors which they might fund. It's worth asking about.

Intriguing possibilities indeed. I assume the CFF Awards will need to establish a proven track record before serious consideration can be made by potential donors, not least the worth of the very concept itself. But until there is a general positive consensus I am prepared to function as sole patron. Within budgetary limits mind. For the future though, your suggestions are worth pondering.

There are some of us, and I will include myself in this, who have been fairly negative in the fannish future of fanzines and convention management. The discussions I see are sometimes negative, based on harsh personal experience, and it can be difficult to look at it with fresh and younger eyes. I try my best to see fanzine fandom with those fresher eyes, and perhaps I am failing there, too. I think my time in Canadian conventions is done, and perhaps my own

ideas are too outdated to be of use in modern conventions. I hope that I shall keep some pertinent viewpoints worth exploring. We do need to listen more, but we also need to keep the conversation going so that we can hear something being said. When nothing is being said...it is difficult to speak to others.

It is fairly easy to be negative, especially if expectations have not been met or current trends appear less hopeful than the glorious achievements of yesteryear. But I remain optimistic.

For one thing, I know for a fact that fanzine pubbing is a rewarding hobby, that it can be thoroughly enjoyable and downright exhilarating. In short, zinedom, at its best, is well worth doing. Knowing this to be true makes it relatively easy for me to 'push' zine-pubbing as relevant and rewarding. Anything this much fun should not be allowed to perish!

We hope your Christmas was wonderful, and we hope 2012 is full of fresh starts for us all. See you in that new year.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

TO SUM UP

I think my crusade is humming along nicely!

Cheers! The Graeme

You can contact me at < rgraeme@shaw.ca > or R. G. Cameron, 13315 104th Ave, Apt 72G, Surrey, BC, Canada, V3T 1V5

COLOPHON

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Cover Art: Taral Wayne