

# SWILD



# Table of Contents

Editorial:	Barbarians at the Gate...
Thrashing Trufen:	Quotations from Chairman Taral
Pissing on a Pile of Old Amazings:	a modest column by Lester Rainsford
Flogging a Dead Trekkie:	The American Weigh (reprint)
Scribbling on the Bog Wall:	Letters of Comment
Endnote:	And the winner is...

SWILL is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter) along with an annual every February - in other words, five times per year.

SWILL

Issue #16 Winter 2012

Copyright © 1981 - 2012 VileFen Press

a division of Klatha Entertainment an Uldune Media company

[swill.uldunemedia.ca](http://swill.uldunemedia.ca)

Back cover by Taral

# Editorial: Barbarians at the Gate...

Neil Jamieson-Williams

It is the day after Yule and three days before Christmas and I am still ticked off, pissed off, and frustrated by the latest round of American insanity. Frustrated, as there is nothing that I, as a Canadian, can do about this madness next door. It is not my business, I will be told. Shut up, you pinko from Soviet Canukistan! And, I should just avert my eyes and pretend that there is nothing unwholesome going on.

Well, fuck that!

I will not debate the American constitution and differences of interpretation as to the Second Amendment; it has been done before and these arguments have no impact on the troglodytic multitude that believe that the American founding fathers desired every citizen to be armed to the teeth. Logic, statistics, facts, none of these have any effect on the crypto-fascist NRA-loving morons who have made America what it is.

So, this will be an editorial running on emotion as this is the only information that these swine may be capable of processing.

So here we go. Americans are idiots. You daft Yanks think that one is only free if one is armed. The more weapons you have, the safer you are, the more free you are. That it is perfectly normal to own assault weapons, automatic weapons, and light anti-tank weapons for home defence. That is completely ordinary to allow private armies to operate within your borders and not only good for freedom, but a tax savings too.

This Yank attitude and perception does not result in freedom, safety, or order; it creates chaos. Chaos is not a friend to liberty or safety, it is their enemy. It creates a Hobbsian war of all against all and is detrimental to civil society and human rights. Of course, that is the American way; individual rights are primary over collective rights. And the only way to insure that you can exercise your individual rights to the fullest is to be as fully armed as possible. It is a stupid form of democracy, an unbalanced form of democracy, a destabilised form of democracy.

Although I have never seen footage of this on television or YouTube, home invasions in the USA must be military operations

carried out by criminals (giving a new meaning to organised crime) using armoured personnel carriers and bazookas and automatic weapons if the average citizen requires anti-tank weapons and machine guns to defend their homes.

And though I have seen this in real life (I used to hunt back in the eighties), I have never approved of it; using automatic weapons for hunting. I do not view the act of machine-gunning down a deer to be the 'sport' the NRA claims that it is. But then, I am just some commie Canadian bow-hunter. What would I know about the thrill of being a real man as you waste a buck with your Bushmaster AR-15?

As some sort of pinko, how could I possibly understand that the existence of private armies is a cornerstone of capitalism at its best, a step in reducing government, lowers the tax burden on the average citizen, and increases freedom? In my benighted soviet-style perception I only see private armies as a potential threat to democracy; private armies, aka mercenaries, do what the money tells them to do.

As a non-resident foreign alien, one can only shake their head at American folly.

Unfortunately, America is a mess that we, here in Canada, will eventually probably have to pick up. Superpowers do not last forever; the USA is a superpower now in decline. While it is possible that the USA may transition to middle power status gracefully, like the French and the British. It is more possible that the move to middle power status will be more like that of the fall of the Soviet Union, ungraceful and messy, but not catastrophic. And it is equally probable that the USA will fall apart like the Ottoman Empire and Yugoslavia -- leaving behind a collection of warring independent states all heavily armed and with nuclear weapons. If we are not dragged down with them (a definite probability) we will be left with this mess on our border; as the next biggest kid on the regional block, the duty to sort this will fall on us, and it will be a dangerous and difficult task.

# Thrashing Trufen: Quotations from Chairman Taral

Neil Jamieson-Williams

I would like to cover a couple of statements made over the past year by Taral regarding SWILL and myself.

Askance 27

Whither Fanzines?

(Lloyd and Taral are discussing crudzines and at one point Taral writes) '...The absolute worst sin against the reader, however, can be laid on the doorstep of one fan editor who has been told many times that his preferred font makes the eyes water, but he insists the font is sophisticated meta-fannishness and will go on using "Pudmonkey" even if it drives us blind. ...or we just stop reading his zine. Do you suppose that's actually his goal?'

Broken Toys #10

Three's the Charm

(an con report for SFContario 3 within which Taral discusses the panel that we were both on) 'The panel was on fanzines and fanzine writing, and the other participants were Chris Garcia (the moderator), Neil Jamieson-Williams and myself... But he (Neil) also publishes a fanzine using a type font that literally cannot be read, and consciously rejects any illustration or layout tricks that would make the experience of reading Swill more pleasurable - a "punk" attitude if ever there was one.'

Well, as I said last issue, SWILL is a crudzine. It always was and always will be. This is not going to change. The lack of any illustrations, other than the front cover, is an editorial choice. The flexibility on this issue would be if someone out there were to produce a comic strip (B&W) that fit the spirit of SWILL; I would run it. However, I have no intention of running illustrations just to cover up empty space. Same goes for layout tricks. Those who have seen the old BCSFazines that I edited will know that I am quite capable of doing a good layout -- and that fitted BCSFazine -- but, it does not fit SWILL. Thus, no fancy layout. Is this an example of 'meta-fannishness' as stated by Taral in Askance 27 or is it an example of 'a "punk"

attitude'? I would argue in favour of the latter. (Though I am slightly confused as to my status in Taral's perception as to fannishness -- with Taral I am sometimes a fan and sometimes not...) Regardless, the attitude is an early 1980s punk attitude; the layout, style of illustration (when present), and content reflect that attitude.

On the subject of the Pudmonkey font (yet again)... While both Lloyd and Taral can be forgiven for their comments in Askance 27 -- the material was based upon correspondence that I am fairly certain occurred prior to the change to the VT Corona font -- the same cannot be said for Taral's comments in Broken Toys #10. In issue #12 (February 2012), it was announced that SWILL would be moving to the VT Corona font for content and that Pudmonkey would remain for article titles and the ToC. Also in that same issue, the final article was in VT Corona. There is no way that the new font can be described as one 'that literally cannot be read'. Therefore, it would appear that Chairman Taral is still complaining about the Pudmonkey font. Now, it is true that I have continued to use the Pudmonkey font in my responses in the LoC section of the zine -- I have done so in 14 point which (for someone who needs reading glasses himself) is quite readable. It is also true that I used Pudmonkey in last issue's Editorial; this was an aesthetic choice as part of the emphasis of the editorial was on SWILL winning the Elron Award for Worst Fanzine for using the Pudmonkey font.

Askance 27

Whither Fanzines?

(Taral and Lloyd are discussing my motivations for pubbing the revived SWILL; Taral writes) '...I could say that you-know-who is now pissing us off professionally... but I met him at SFContario and found him a reasonable and friendly guy. Now if only he could get over the annoying habit of assuming his degree in sociology gives him a superior perspective for observing fandom, he might have something constructive to say about it.'

Broken Toys #10

Three's the Charm

(Taral describes me for those who have no idea as to who I am -- which would be the majority) 'Neil I described as the "Punk Academic of Fandom," which does need explanation. Neil is a sociologist who feels a duty to describe fandom to itself in a way that would make his fellow academics happy, using words like "matriliteral," "polyfrenetic," and "diverse etherealcentrism,"

which mean little more than we already know about ourselves but sound vastly more educated.'

Now, I have responded to Taral and Lloyd's comments made in Askance 27 that have appeared in Askance 28 (though I also put my foot into it -- more on that in the LoC article). Okay; I hold advanced degrees in both sociology and in anthropology. It is true that I do not have my PhD, and I don't know if I will ever be able to do so until I retire (the academic institution that I am employed by has some rather unacademic attitudes -- I have to apply for and receive permission from senior management to even apply to do research PhD part-time and to date my requests have been denied). Regardless, I made a decision after completing my Masters degrees to start a career in one of the provincially funded community colleges in Ontario as well as to start a family. At that time, my academic institution had not instituted the draconian policies that exist presently, and I thought that I would have no issue doing a research PhD part-time when I was ready to do so. Note: although most of my teaching is done at a different academic institution that the academic institution I am employed by is partnered with, these policies are those of my employer, not the institution that I do most of my work for. Long story short; I have advanced degrees in two related disciplines and I identify myself as an anthropologist who is also a qualitative sociologist.

As for my perspective being 'superior'; it isn't. Is it more academic and professional and clinical; it is. And FYI, if you think that what appears in SWILL is too academic, wait till you read the final product. Now, I have admitted within this zine (more than once) that I have been out of fandom for a long time - - like 23 and one half years. I have also stated that while gafiated I continued to be a reader and viewer of SF. I have also said that from the perspective of some members of Traditional fandom, I never was and am not now a fan and from other members of Traditional fandom I was a fan but am one no longer -- Taral seems to cross back and forth between these two viewpoints regarding myself. Within a regional context, it would appear that the Vancouver Traditional fandom perspective that I am a fan who was one of them, who gafiated, and has recently returned as a minimally active fan or as a marginal fan. Stepping back into a subculture that you were once a strong member of after almost a quarter of a century can be disorienting as to identity; especially when there is a lack of consensus.

Now, part of the reason for reviving SWILL was to have the zine serve partially as a dialogue between the researcher and the researched. So, I don't go off creating ideal types based entirely on my own observations that are not grounded within the subculture being studied. And, at the end of the day, I have to be able to communicate those observations with academe as well as the educated layperson, if my research is to be truly successful. It also has to be inclusive to the entire subculture as it presently exists -- not how it was in 1970, or 1980, etc. So, yes; I have to use academic terminology (not Taral's made up terms) as I attempt to construct categories that will lead to ideal types. The lack of consensus as to who is and is not a fan is one of the problems I have to solve in this research and it is one that (in a way has always existed within the subculture) is even more difficult at present as I have stepped back into fandom during a period of transition brought about by technological change and a definite generation gap. Had I begun this study even ten years ago, this would have been quite different; present, but nowhere near as pronounced as it is today. While this does make for a more interesting research environment, it also presents an increased level of difficulty.

The participation in this dialogue can assist in the final study being one that actually does reflect SF fandom as it is in the second decade of the 21st century. Simply pooh-pooing the entire notion of an academic study of SF fandom or demanding that the study only focus upon your niche within SF fandom is just not productive, period. It doesn't stop the research from happening and only will result in your particular niche not being represented. It is even less productive to insist that the researcher use a particular niche's definition of fandom (more so when there exists no definitional consensus within that niche) for all of fandom; especially when that niche represents only a small segment of the entire SF fan subculture.

As I said above, I have revived SWILL partially for the reason of dialogue with the SF fan subculture. I have also done so because I like pubbing fanzines -- my type of fanzine. If the sole reason for SWILL was just to engage in this dialogue, I wouldn't be writing several thousand words five times a year that were superfluous to that dialogue.

# Pissing on a Pile of Old Amazings!

...a modest column by Lester Kinsford

Here's a con report. Swilol does not do con reports. Swill is irreverent and doesn't follow rules. Therefore here's a con report. It's a Swill thing to do+ and this kind of intellectual bravery that garnered Swill a brace of awards, folks!

Right, we're talking SFContario 2012. Far as Lester knows it's the third of its kind, but the old Underwood doesn't have a googles so that's that.

Years and years ago, Lester was permanently traumatized scarred amused and outraged at nearly being run down by a couple of phaser-wielding fans in stark red uniforms charging around the halls of Maplecon. Which was Ottawa around 1981 if memory serves. The fact that this incident is vividly remembered still is a fine indication of how traumaticamusing it was. The fact that the fans barely fit into their red uniforms added the extra spice of real danger, as in cows are pretty placid and usually fear humans, but if one charges you you'd better get out of the way damn quick.

Well, Lester has to apologise to those fans at Mapelcon. They brought energy to the con. SFContario would surely have been a bit livelier had there been some star trek geeks charging through the halls waving wavingphasers.

Now, there was no issue with the panels, which Lester likes to attend. Even if there were a few of the local blowhards on certain panels whose ideas lester has heard before, in quite loud detail, before. Same ideas. You get the point. Mostly, the panels were lively, and there was an odd, but good, disconnect in that panel members were quite of mostly young. However, the hallways of the con tended to be either empty, or contain one or two wheezing, old, fat, folk. I.e. fans.

(so, if you are a young fan, and have weight issues, take care of them, or you will be an old fan with weight issues, and that doesn't look like any sort of fun to Lester.)

The trouble is, if you can barely make it up a few stairs and across a bridge to the next panel or event, how much energy do you have to actually , you know, do stuff at the con? The answer, is, not so much. Lester would have liked to stay around after 9pm, but there seemed to be zero reason to do so unless the hotel's sad-sack bar appealed. And if it did appeal, there were other places much more lively in the neighbourhood. So it was home, on the GO train or by car, which is kind of disappointing.

"No no no you weightist chauvinist, those people may be full-bodies, but they're still sharp as tacks!" the peanut gallery responds. Well, maybe, yes, they still are very good at what they do. However, the energy to think new thoughts and modify your point of view gets harder and harder as the energy flags. The inhabitants of an old-age home might be ~~ab~~have sharp memory and be shrewed, but changing their mind isn't going to happen. You will hear the same stories, and maybe even word=~~for~~-word, every time. So all respect to the fans and professionals in SF who still do their thing, but geez, has their 'thing' changed much since 1979?

It would be an interesting survey to see if the fans who come to conventions are the healthiest fans out there, with the lests healthy just staying in their basements. On the other hand, perhaps sf attracts the halt and lame, so that the population of sf fans and readers is less healthy and more obese than the general population. If only The Swill was a sociologist instead of an anthropologist, we may get answers to these question. Because that's what sociologists do. And not anthropologists, to Lester's best knowledge.

While it is unclear what the costume fans and the media fans really bring to the ~~intelleeua~~ intellectual content of a con, there is no doubt that they do bring some life, even if the steampunk goggles and top hats are getting kind of old. (Heaven preserve us if twilight or Justin Beaver becomes the next costume

trend.) Heck even some fans moving at a pace faster than a sleepy turtle would have made the con space feel a little less like the old age home after a big thursday meal, i.e. no bingo tonight so it's straight to bed and don't make any noise you whippernsapper punks.

And now, if you are thoroughly pissed ~~ant~~ at this pissing column, come to the ~~kaffeksasch kaffeklasetch~~ Swill panel and let us know.

We brough, and left, a big bag of day-old donuts on the table for YOU, our enthusiastic followers. Where were you?? (Okay we'll bring 'Posutm' next time too.)

(Okay, piling the old Analogs and S&SF's upside down didn't fool anyone either. Despite the cheesy '70s ads on the back, revealed to all to see, they were no Amazings. Lester apologises fully and completely. It's getting harder and harder to get a pile of old Amazings to piss on. 'Death of fandom! Details at eleven.")

# Flogging a Dead Trekkie:

## The American Weighs in, a Gram of Brains is Worth a Pound of Shit

(1981 reprint)

P. I. Leninski

A lot of Americans believe a lot of silly things; but, as Abraham Lincoln pointed out, you can fool some of the people all of the time. And, as H. L. Menken once said, no-one went bankrupt underestimating the intelligence of the American public.

So it should not be too surprising to see that Libertarianism is quite popular down in the States. This typically American (read: brainless) philosophy is puffed up to ridiculous proportions in L. N. Smith's book The Probability Broach.

There are no doubt people who haven't read this book. There are also people who have never fallen into a sewer; both classes can consider themselves lucky.

Is this book sf? No. It is propaganda. Beside this book, Mein Kampf seems reasonable, lucid, and logical. The writing style is dismal, the characters cardboard, and the plot preposterous.

For those of you not swimming about in sewers, let me outline what this book is about.

In 1987, the U.S. is in sad shape. It is in dismal shape. We are then shown a Libertarian world where everything is WONDERFUL.

Moral. Libertarianism is WONDERFUL.

Ha ha. Hee hee. Ho ho.

For instance, in the Libertarian world (henceforth to be called OZ) science is WONDERFUL. The only trouble is that Ms. Smith knows as much about science as a Californian knows about igloos. The science in this story is not Omni-level; it is Scientology level (Sorry, Mr. Hubbard). (Well, not really sorry). Why science in a Libertarian world would progress faster is difficult to see. Note that Einstein came up with relativity, the photo-electric effect, and  $E=Mc^2$  while working in a patent office. A Swiss Government patent office.

Would Maxwell have thought of the electromagnetic equations earlier if he wasn't being taxed?

In fact, the science in this story is all gadgetry. For instance, 'electrically heated streets' are mentioned. A simple, back-of-the-envelope calculation shows that to melt the snow off the streets in a medium-sized city would require a steady power drain on the order of a gigawatt.

Perhaps they have never heard of snow shovels. Of course, these are Libertarians.

Other curiosities abound, such as fusion powered dirigibles travelling at 500km/hr. Perhaps Ms. Smith has never considered the etymology of 'dirigible'. It means 'not rigid'. A kilometre-long dirigible travelling at half a megametre and hour would quickly become like a patchwork quilt: one patch here, another one there, and several more patches elsewhere.

This should not be surprising. Americans are conscious, subconsciously, of their abysmal lack of culture and sophistication, and so they tend to retreat into gadgetry. ('We're not barbarians - we invented whitewall tires!!!) Sure. And Attila's men decorated their horses, you know.

That's the trouble with this book: it makes no convincing case that OZ will be WONDERFUL.

It simply says so. I'm sorry, but this is nonsense. I could write a book where penguins have taken over the world. I, too, could claim that it was going to be WONDERFUL.

Oh, well, The Probability Broach was written for believers anyway. For nonbelievers, have you ever considered a penguin for a boss? Unless we accept it on blind faith, we clearly see that OZ would not work.

There is another neat thing: the perverted emphasis on guns. It seems that guns solve every problem. Just think how wonderful it is to have your own gun. Is someone blocking the elevator door? Bang! Is someone sitting in the washroom too long? THROW A NUCLEAR HAND GRENADE OVER THE PARTITION!! BOOOM!!!

Or art criticism: "Dali sucks." Bang! Pow!

Yes, Americans love guns. It is, of course, their constitutional right to bear arms. A pity, though, that they have no right to carry brains; and most of them don't.

People like President Reagan are against gun control. This is why others shoot them. With guns.

Americans, in fact, seem to think that firepower solves everything. Just look at El Salvador. These idiot Yanks think that, by propping up a murderous, repressive, anti-freedom, right-wing junta (pronounced 'yunta'), they are making the world 'safe for democracy'. Safe for American multi-nationals, in any case.

Isn't American democracy wonderful? Don't we all wish to preserve the American Way of Life: Jack Ruby, Charles Manson, Richard Nixon, Son of Sam, 1,096 murders in Detroit, lynchings, murders, intolerance, Monkey Trials, motherhood, and apple pie.

Look, you stuoid Americans. Why don't you take your offensive, moronic gospel shows, which actually clutter up Canadian airwaves, and stick them where a Chihuahua can't see? Why don't you take your buses with the golden eagle on the front, and turn them into roosts for pigeons? And old-time preachers? Takey your flag, your Pledge of Allegiance (no, not Lemon Pledge), and your whole damn 'grey-hat nay-ha-shun', and rotate it through n-space, so your asses wind up where your ears are (but who will notice?).

Observe that even Kalahari bushmen have progressed beyond the stage America is at today.

Smarten up, America, or you'll be sorry: do you see any Neanderthals about today???

# Scribbling on the Bog Wall:

## Letters of Comment

Neil Jamieson-Williams

As I write this, there is only a single LoC and a semi-LoC this time around. My comments are, of course, in glorious pudmonkey.

1706-24 Eva Rd.  
Etobicoke, ON  
M9C 2B2

December 8, 2012

Dear Neil:

Thanks for Swill 15. This might be pretty quick, the daytime job is keeping me busy, and weekend spare time is rare, but here goes with a loc, see what we can agree upon.

Two fan awards? Excellent! Worst Fanzine and Best Fanzine? I'd say you're doing everything you might want to do with Swill...offend lots of people, and inform lots of people, and that means you've got lots of readers. You must still be scratching your head over this, but take the egoboo, and run.

Thanks, Lloyd. SWILL obviously offends some and informs others -- though I doubt that I have a lot of readers. Perhaps, I do, and only a select few send in LoCs. Anyway, it is hyper-cool to win awards for the best and the worst in the same year...

I have been a fan of SF fandom, but as time goes on...well, not so much. When I write my letters, I send them off to the fan editor, and then I archive them on a LiveJournal account. A few people access that account from time to time, and they make some comments on what I have to say, and there's a new level of communications, to me, anyway. A couple of years ago, one self-appointed judge (with no real authority) said that what I was

doing was publishing before the faned I sent the letter to could do so, and it was horrible and unfannish, and how could I do such a bad thing, and I would never again receive any fanzines from him. (The fact he hadn't produced any fanzines in years was not lost on me.) I related this story recently, and two more self-appointed judges attacked me, saying I was publishing before the faned could do so, how could I do something so unfannish, etc. I thought that I was archiving and not publishing, for it was not yet part of a formal publication, and I was attacked for that, and then I said that we would have agree to disagree, and I was attacked further. Most faneds know I do this, and don't mind. All rights revert to the author, after all. But nothing would have happened, and no one would have noticed, if I just hadn't said anything about my LJ archive at all. Fandom is relatively anarchical, but those self-appointed judges will rise to try to impose their own order on things, to impose what they think is the way Things Should Be Done. I left a couple of Facebook groups, and I am carrying on as usual. Over my 35 years of fandom, I sometimes move from one interest to another, and sometimes, they overlap... conrunning, costuming, fanzines, others. Fanzines are still fun, but those judges make it less so. They wonder why there aren't more people involved in fanzines, and they only need to look in a mirror to see what the biggest problem is.

●Okay, I had noticed that several months ago when I Googled SWILL and scrolled through the links. Personally, I don't see archiving your LoCs on LiveJournal as being a problem, period. As we both know, that would be a different situation if you were being paid for this writing. However, you are not; therefore there is no issue, in my opinion. As for being unfannish; I am afraid that I am probably the last person to go to for determining what is and what is not fannish. I can discuss this using courtesy as the basis; if there is an issue that was being strongly debated in issue 86 of fanzine X and you write a letter of comment on this issue for issue 87, it is probably good form not to publish it elsewhere until issue 87 comes out. As for defining publish, I don't see archiving the LoC on LiveJournal as publishing -- with a general search this LoC that I am responding to shows up around page 17, in other words, you have

to make a specific search e.g. SWILL Lloyd Penney for it to come upon the first search page. I really don't see the conflict here.

As for self-appointed judges, they exist in every subculture I have studied and/or been a member of. The anarchic nature of fandom allows for these self-appointed judges to exert power in the form of being the determiners of who is a fan and the Way Things Should Be Done. They are a pain in the ass. As I have mentioned previously, this sort of behaviour is why I fully gafiated in 1986; I didn't have time for this sort of shit and it didn't make being involved in the SF fan community worth it. It think that the Traditional fans are the most guilty of this behaviour, the desire to roll the clock back to 1988 or 1978, that anyone who is not of their cohort is not a fan; this has a detrimental impact on younger people getting involved in fanzines.

There are fans everywhere. Science fiction, in the form of the industry it has become, has become multi-faceted, and anyone can enjoy the smallest facet. Yet, in our own insecurity, we push others away, say those we see beneath us aren't fannish enough, and we insult and ignore them. Very fannish, unfortunately, and not just in SF fandom, but just about any interest out there that allows a subculture of its fans to gather. This is more of a psychological problem humanity has, and not just fans.

I am a traditional and active fan, I haven't always been involved in fanzines, I enjoy costuming and I've retired from conrunning. In the long run, you've got to find the fun you want. I think it's a good idea to know the history of fandom, to see where it arose from, but we've got to have the chance to make our own history. Generally, I try to be constructive. There are too many around me who try to be destructive, and they are one of the reasons why traditional fandom's numbers are indeed dwindling. In the long run, who'd want to hang out with that sour bunch?

Essentially ditto. It is also how I see things. Though I also will tweak the nose and give a kick to the yarbles to that same sour bunch.

The "big-tent" idea of conventions serving fannish interests may have been the most successful of all the convention formats. As these monster shows were starting to gain in size, fannish conventions were splitting interests off themselves as those interests demanded more time, space and money at conventions, and when those conventions either wouldn't or couldn't cater to those interests, new specialty conventions would form, catering mostly or exclusively to that interest. Fannish cons split to cater to single interests, and monster cons built up to serve a majority of the fandom.

I agree. Though, here in southern Ontario, it would seem that the competition between the commercial trade show conventions is beginning to cause damage to the big-tent fan-run conventions.

The local...I am sure I am a fakefan to some. Your mileage may vary, as they say. We all take out of science fiction fandom and all related activities what we enjoy, and leave the rest for others.

I found out Polaris' problem was not with money, but with labour. They simply could not run a convention that size with dwindling numbers of people will to serve on the committee, or to serve as gophers and other staff. We've retired from running cons, others have given up, some got married to each other, others step away from the increasing attentions of life and trying to make a living.

That's interesting. It differs from what was said in the TCON email just prior to the con and what gophers/staff were saying at the convention. However, it is a reason that also makes sense; loss of volunteer staff can kill an organisation.

Gone on for almost two pages, I have...not bad. It's been a very busy day, and this is the first bit of relaxation I've had. Take care, have yourself a great Christmas, and see you next year.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Happy Holidays to you both and all the best for 2013...

Askance 28

John Purcell

*(John is commenting on my LoC on Askance 27. As John is in the final stages of his PhD and has placed Askance on hiatus until the summer, I am going to comment back here in SWILL now.)*

Wow! Now this is a meaty loc with a lot of matter to chew on and digest... Also, since you mention that you have degrees in anthropology and sociology, those provide you with a background into understanding cultural creation and assimilation, but I would not have said they give you "a superior perspective to observe fandom through." That word "superior" carries a ton of connotative meaning, such as you consider yourself to be "superior" or "better than" most fans. That kind of an attitude is going to piss people off, definitely. However, judging from the context in which you said that, I suspect you mean that your degrees in those subjects gives you technical information that provides you with a more professional and objective appraisal of the fannish subculture. Since many fans carry graduate degrees and don't wave them about like banners at the head of a phalanx of foot soldiers, consider this a lengthy word of warning on my part...

Hi John,

I agree. I was sloppy, there. I was reacting to Taral and used his choice of words, i.e. "superior". I will back off on mentioning my degrees after this issue of SWILL. There now appears to be little probability of ever convincing Taral that academic research on fandom is something that should allowed to happen. Too bad, he would make a good source.

Good luck on the last push... Will also write a LoC for Askance 29.

Neil

# Endnote: And the Winner is...

Neil Jamieson-Williams

So here are the final results of the poll for which Canadian SF convention shall be razrezed on the back cover of SWILL 17.

- Ad Astra 2012 53
- CanCon 2012 1
- Con\*Cept 2012 0
- Hal-Con 2012 1
- Keycon 29 0
- Polaris 26 27
- Sci-Fi on the Rock 6 0
- SFContario 3 6
- VCON 37 14
- When Words Collide 2012 2

And so, stay tuned for SWILL 17, the 2012 Annual and what we do to Ad Astra...

Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards

# The Faned

Presented at VCon 37, Sept 2012

Best Fanzine of 2011

Rudmonkey Guy

