

THE FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST

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

#7

December 2011



**'Faned' Master Copy
Completed by Lawrence Prime!**

THE FANED COMPLETED!

Lawrence Prime dropped by with his finished sculpt of 'The Faned' master. It stands 6 & 3/4 inches high and is made out of 'Sculpy' (?) baked three times and wet polished. Not quite visible in the photograph is a circle with a ring incised on the chest representing any ringed planet to help give the figure a 'spacey' feel. I think the figure is quite delightful. Well done Lawrence!

It really is quite faithful to Eric Chu's original design. I am very pleased with these two members of Monster Attack Team Canada for answering my challenge and coming up with outstanding work in such short order. Most remarkable.

I need six copies: four for this year's winners and one each for Eric and Lawrence as a thank you. I will then need four copies a year (or five if a lifetime achievement winner is still alive) for who knows how many years into the future. How to accomplish this?

I want a relatively inexpensive but very reliable means of making the actual trophies. Do not as yet have any clue how this can be done. I remain open to any suggestions and insights. And of course, the sooner the better. This year's winners already have their nifty certificates (designed by Taral) but I imagine they're champing at the bit to get their hands on the actual display trophy.

Let me know if you have any concrete suggestions. I fear a lack of trophies for years without your help.

LETTERS OF COMMENT

The Graeme's comments are in dark Blue.

**From: Garth Spencer, Nov 13, 2011
Aurora/Faned-winner, & Faned of 'One Swell Foop'.**

Dear Graeme,

Jolly good. I have a bit of a déjà vu impression, as if this issue largely repeats matter from previous issues, but I may be thinking of another fanzine title. :)

Perhaps because I printed the entire Nova Awards Rules in #5, & my 'Fanedized' version of half of them in #6? In which case, more déjà vu this issue as I print the rest of the proposed CFFA constitution rules.

One thing that occurred to me, while I was mentioning the award and FanFan on the OldFen Facebook group, is that the next step is to *cultivate* a community of fanzine fans. Sure, I thought of the indie zine community celebrated

in /Broken Pencil/, but in all honesty they're a different community with a different trip.

I agree, the indie crowd is mostly a totally different scene with little chance of crossover. You'd first have to convince them SF is worthwhile, for starters, and then convince them to pub their ish about it. Far easier to 'cultivate' zinedom among already existing fans.

(I will not mention the relative failure of the Auroras to inform and engage contemporary Canadian fans. I will not, I will not.)

Oh, I don't know. We have a web site. We have a sporadically published promotional zine (Auroran Lights). We issue announcements. Members of the board personally push info about the Auroras, as did Clint at the recent VCON. Convention with the announcement of the current awards always our best promotional tool. We even issue press releases. What more can we do? We're always searching for new venues of promotion.

In any case, the primary interest in the Auroras lies in the professional awards, even among fans. Placing Filk in a brand new separate category is an attempt to increase interest among fans in the fannish award categories. Trouble is, fannish apathy may be the missing unified field force that binds the four forces of the universe together. Fannish apathy is powerful stuff. It boils down to people not being interested in what they're not interested in, and maintaining a purely passive role in what they are interested in.

You have to speak to people in their language, where they are. The way fanzines have dropped out of sight in face-to-face, club and convention circles, and reappeared online, is a process that has several cogent reasons behind it. Best to ask people what they blog about, where and how, rather than asking people to relate to fannish fandom of forty years past, or to producing zines on paper, which have become relatively laborious and expensive to distribute.

In no way am I asking people to relate to "fannish fandom of forty years past". That's the way of the BOBS, and I say "Death to BOBism!" And I definitely do not advocate distributing zines by snail-mail, this being too much trouble and expensive as you point out.

What I do advocate is people writing about "what they blog about" in the form of discrete entity e-zines that can either be read online or downloaded into hardcopy format as a distinct issue. The focus of our effort, as I conceive it, should be simply to convince fans that converting their contemporary writing into a potentially less ephemeral format is a good and fun thing to try.

In other words, it's not about converting fans to a moribund, nearly extinct form of fandom, but rather getting them to try something new (to them) and enjoy it.

I'm not sure how to tackle the misconceptions that oldfarts like us, or fans outside of fanzine fandom, have generated about each other. Again, I suppose the key is to listen to people rather than to talk first.

I don't think we should tackle the misconceptions at all. I think we should ignore them. Listen to people, yes, share their enthusiasm for whichever aspect of SF&F appeals to them, and then segue into what a cool method of spreading their enthusiasm zinedom offers. Be positive about zinedom. Never, under any circumstances, be apologetic. It's a very cool hobby. That's all they need to know.

Yours, Garth

**From: LLOYD PENNEY, November 23rd, 2011
Aurora & Faned Awards-winning Loc Hack
1706-24 Eva Road, Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2**

Dear Graeme:

I have here with me issue 6 of The Fanactical Fanactivist, and Taral has some vaguely rude artwork on the front cover, cleverly concerning dinosaurs, but I am sure has a little more in it, especially in the whistling dino. I will let it go, though, for sometimes a cigar is just a cigar.

Ah, but dinosaurs never picked up the smoking habit.

I look forward to the Faned figurines. Lawrence Prime may have to make a good number of these little figures, given that you'd want to give them out for at least a couple of years. The number of zines you produce made me wonder once again why there was no Aurora for Fan Publications this year. We must make sure there is one given out in Edmonton next year.

Making a mould and manufacturing multiple copies is not something Lawrence wishes to do. His involvement is strictly a matter of producing the master from which a mold can be made. He assures me the master is reasonably sturdy and will stand up to the stresses involved. Nevertheless I shall take very good care of it.

The completion of the Faned trophies will act as a consolation in not winning an Aurora Award this year. If you have yet to see the list of winners, let me know, and I will relay it to you. Working with Clint Budd meant there was an excellent display of Aurora Awards (I hope Clint

took pictures, because I didn't have time to do it), and I got to meet Cliff Samuels, Kent Pollard and Jane Garthson for the first time. All of this, combined with a well-run convention (congrats to Alex von Thorn and committee), made for a great CanVention.

I'm glad you had a good time. In my capacity as archivist for the CSFFA (Aurora Awards people) I thank you for all the effort you put into the display. With any luck somebody took pictures, if not Clint, then perhaps one or more other people.

My loc... from what you say elsewhere, it looks like I will be ineligible for a CFFA Award for a single year. That's fine, but I will hope for a nomination in another category. I do see value in awards, and I hope these can keep that value. Thank you for the research into the Novas and their past winners.

To be eligible for a CFF Award next year you need to have accomplished one of the following this year: published a fanzine, contributed art, or written an article (as opposed to a loc). Have you done any of that? If not, you still have the rest of this month to qualify.

As for lifetime achievement, I admit I've reserved at least the next couple of years for certain deceased Faneds as part of my promotional efforts re the history of Canadian fanzine fandom. In fact, the rules still being in a state of flux, I'm thinking of restricting the lifetime award to those who are no longer alive yet deserve to be recognized. There is no lack of candidates. Again, all part of the promotional aspect of the CFFA, the other awards however being current year by year. An idea I'm toying with.

As for the Novas, no research was involved. I simply copied the material from their website. Very useful stuff, the breakthrough I required to come up with a decent and appropriate set of rules.

I also met Neil Jamieson-Williams for the first time in decades... I might have met him at a local convention in the late 80s/early 90s, dressed as a Clockwork Orange droog. His investigations that make up Swill @ 30 also serve as nostalgic reminders, and I was connected to those days even as just a newcomer.

I've run out of zine! And, I've run out of comments to make, and it's late, too. I have a job interview tomorrow, so I am mostly ready for it, and very hopeful. This job hunting is pretty tiresome. Thank you, I look forward to more, and I have an issue of Space Cadet I hope to respond to soon.

I hope your interview was successful!

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

From: Taral Wayne, November 24th, 2011
Rotsler Award-winning Fan Artist.
Toronto, Ontario



I do know someone who makes his own moulds and reproduces his sculptures himself. He did the work on the Beatrix figure I own (pictured on the left). There are around 5 or 10 others that he gave to friends and family, each one hand-painted. No doubt, Dave could tell you how it was done... but it's a very time-consuming process and takes skill. I wonder if you may not have bitten off a little more than you can chew with the physical award.

Indeed I hope to hand paint the Faneds if the material is appropriate. Thinking each category would have its own unique colour, say copper for one, brass for the next, and so on. Or perhaps a combination of colours, but again the combination being different for each category. I've also considered using clear plastic with coloured glitter imbedded inside. If it's possible to do this of course. I don't know that it is.

I frankly don't know what material to use. Lawrence suggested a poly-something-or-other that is non-toxic and doesn't generate heat when curing. Sounds ideal. I must ask him for more info (like the actual name which has slipped my memory).

He also suggested I contact local plastic manufacturers to see what is available and what is involved in using it. A practical suggestion.

But as for making the mould... You sent me a series of pictures depicting the creation of your Beatrix figure (pictured above). You're right. It's hideously complicated and demands a great deal of skill. Certainly more skill than I possess. Unless there's a simple solution somewhere the trophies may never get made. That would be a great disappointment.

If it turns out you can't get the awards made, you might turn to a more modest substitute. Why not find a printer who will print the award and the names of the winners on a keepsake – a fancy nib pen, perhaps, since one doubles as an air tank on the spaceman sculpture. Or a decently large USB drive? Anticipation actually did both! They gave the Hugo nominees that year a nice pen that pops apart to become a drive. Appropriate text is silk screened on the brushed metal upper part of the pen. Other possibilities? How about a glass beer stein? Or a one-off t-shirt?

I did look at the online site of a local company which manufactures pins, some very simple, others quite elaborate. Prices varied accordingly, but the minimum run of the cheapest type was rather expensive all the same. More than I want to pay.

Besides, pins or pens, while potentially quite nice, would not have the same impact as an actual trophy, especially one unique to the awards which cannot be purchased anywhere. I think the Faned is very charming. It is a very simple design, but an appealing one. It deserves success!

Yours, Taral

CFF AWARDS RULES

(These are the remainder of the proposed CFFA rules extrapolated from the Nova Awards rules)

All winners are ineligible for consideration in the same category the following year, but are once again eligible the year after that.

(Example: a winner in the year 2011 for activity in the year 2010 will not be eligible in 2012 for 2011 activity in the same category, but will recover eligibility in 2013 for 2012 activity in that category).

The purpose of this rule is to prevent any single individual or fanzine from dominating the winners list for multiple years at the expense of other finalist nominees. However, winners are eligible the following year in all categories other than their winning category in the preceding year, providing they meet the criteria for those categories.

Voting shall be open to any fanzine fan provided he or she has read at least four different fanzines published in Canada the preceding year (separate issues of an individual fanzine shall not be considered as different fanzines for the purposes of this total). Voters are not required to be Canadian.

Ballot forms shall be circulated to facilitate voting by post or e-mail no later than March 31st of the current year. The deadline for postal and electronic votes shall be August 31st of the current year. (It is assumed VCON will take place circa end of September or early October of the current year.)

Each ballot will be accompanied by as complete a list as possible of all potential nominees as gathered by the administrator concerning the preceding year (period of

eligibility). This is intended as an *aide memoire* and is in no sense definitive.

Only one ballot form shall be accepted from each fan, and votes for themselves or their own fanzines will be disallowed (should a duplicate form be received, it should be clearly marked "Invalid" and exempt from the count).

Valid ballots should include the voter's name, address, and the titles of four different fanzines published in Canada the preceding year which the voter has read (separate issues of an individual fanzine shall not be considered as different fanzines for the purposes of this total).

Ballots sent by post should be signed. Those sent electronically should emanate from the voter's known e-mail address.

Production of ballot forms, organisation of the count, general promotion of the Faneds (including publication of the 'Fanactical Fanactivist' or other house organ), and maintenance of the CFFA archive shall be the responsibility of the Administrator (pending creation of an actual CFFA Committee in which case duties can be assigned to appropriate positions within the committee).

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.

First-, second- and third-place votes shall be available in each category. First-place votes shall be allocated three points, second-place votes two points and third-place votes one point.

In the event of a tie on points, the Faned in that category shall be awarded to the nominee with most first-place votes. In the event of a tie in first-place votes, the award shall be made to the nominee with most second-place votes. Only in the case of identical voting patterns shall a formal tie be announced.

The identity and choices of individual voters, as well as any discussions during the count, shall remain confidential. A complete breakdown of nominees and points received shall be released within one month of the announcement of the winners.

The CFF Awards ballot form shall comprise a short introduction to the aims of the award and appropriate footnotes on definitions and eligibility, plus space for the voter to identify themselves and indicate their receipt of at least four different fanzines published in Canada the preceding year (separate issues of an individual fanzine shall not be considered as different fanzines for the purposes of this total).

Further, the ballot form shall list the five categories, "Best Fan Artist", "Best Fan Writer", "Best Fan Letter Hack", "Best Fanzine", and "Lifetime Achievement". In each case, space will be allotted for first-, second- and third-place votes.

Once the winners in all three categories have been decided, the ballot forms and any related notes shall be placed into an envelope and sealed, to be retained by the Administrator for one calendar month in the event the results are challenged. If no such query is raised during this period, the envelope and its contents shall be destroyed. Should the results be called into question, the envelope – still sealed – shall be handed over to (yet to be determined) for further investigation.

The rules shall be posted online and hardcopies made available at the discretion of the Administrator.

It is understood that the current administrator, the founder of the CFFA, is R. Graeme Cameron, and that the first annual CFF Awards (in 2011 for 2010 fanac) were declared by his fiat.

It is understood that the second annual CFF Awards (in 2012 for 2011 fanac) will be determined through a process of consultation with prominent Canadian Fanzine fans OR by the voting described above if such can be readied and organized in time.

It is understood that the intention of the current administrator is to have the voting system in place no later than the third annual CFF Awards (in 2013 for 2012 fanac) and, if possible, as early as the second annual CFF Awards (in 2012 for 2011 fanac).

It is further understood that it is the ultimate intention of the current administrator to establish a permanent (annually chosen) Committee to administer the CFF Awards when and if such a Committee should prove feasible in the opinion of the current administrator.

Any amendments to the above rules shall be made by the current Administrator (until such time as a CFFA Committee can be established, in which case amendments will be made by motions voted upon by the committee members).

I think the most controversial aspects of the award rules as presented this ish and last are three:

First, that a winner in a given category is not eligible for the same category the following year,

Second, that only Canadians are eligible to be nominated (with the exception of guest participating editors – the Novas having set a precedent for this), and...

Third, that non-Canadian readers can vote.

My reasoning is:

Regarding the **first**: I don't want the most popular choices dominating the awards year after year. I'd like to give others a chance. It would produce a varied winners list representing a more comprehensive survey of Canadian zinedom.

Regarding the **second**: American fan Chris Garcia (already a living legend) won a Nova for his editorial participation in the British Zine *Journey Planet* in 2010. Would have been unfair to leave him out when the zine was declared the winner. I think we should do the same should this particular situation develop in this country.

However, the whole purpose of the CFF Awards is to promote Canadian zine talent (just as the Nova's promote British talent) so leaving the awards open just to Canadians makes perfect sense (if a bit churlish as I previously noted) even though foreign contributors are often outstanding. American Fan Artist Brad Foster for instance. Conceivably one year we might not give out a Best Canadian fan-artist award if none are eligible, even though that same year's crop of zines might feature many foreign artists of Foster's calibre. Hopefully this would shame/encourage more Canadian fan artists to get involved.

Regarding the **third**: My argument is that a number of Canadian zines are read and appreciated by non-Canadians, and is faithful, interested readers they should be allowed to vote if they meet the criteria (have read at least four separate Canadian zines).

I'm mulling over whether non-Canadians should be allowed to nominate. Since they constitute a considerable percentage of the readership (maybe 50%?) it seems like a good idea.

Anyway, I'd be interested in hearing what people think of the proposed rules and what, if anything, should be added.

2011 ROTSLER AWARD

Tangential to my effort to get the CFF Awards going, there's a long-running, very successful American-based but world-wide Best Fan Artist Award in existence. The 'Rotsler Award':

The annual Rotsler Award is for long-time wonder-working with graphic art in amateur publications of the science fiction community. Established in 1998, sponsored by the Southern California Institute for Fan Interests (SCIFI), it carries a \$300 honorarium. The Award is ordinarily announced at [Loscon](#), the Los Angeles s-f convention held over the U.S. Thanksgiving Day weekend in November. The current judges are Mike Glycer, John Hertz, and Claire Brialey.

Rotsler Award winners

1998: Steve Stiles
1999: Grant Canfield
2000: Arthur Thomson
2001: Brad Foster
2002: Kurt Erichsen
2003: Ray Nelson
2004: Harry Bell
2005: Marc Schirmeister
2006: Alexis Gilliland
2007: Terry Jeeves
2008: Taral Wayne
2009: Dan Steffan
2010: Stu Shiffman
2011: (no award given)

In truth, British (?) fan artist D. West won this year but declined to accept because he considers Rotsler a bad influence on fan art. Awards sometimes fail it seems.

TO SUM UP

Hmm, one of my correspondents in the APA I joined refuses to believe the second 'F' in 'CFF Awards' stands for 'Fanac'. Sigh. More publicity needed.

Cheers! The Graeme

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COLOPHON

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Cover Photos: by Alyxandra J. Shaw of Lawrence Prime's superb sculpture 'The Faned.'