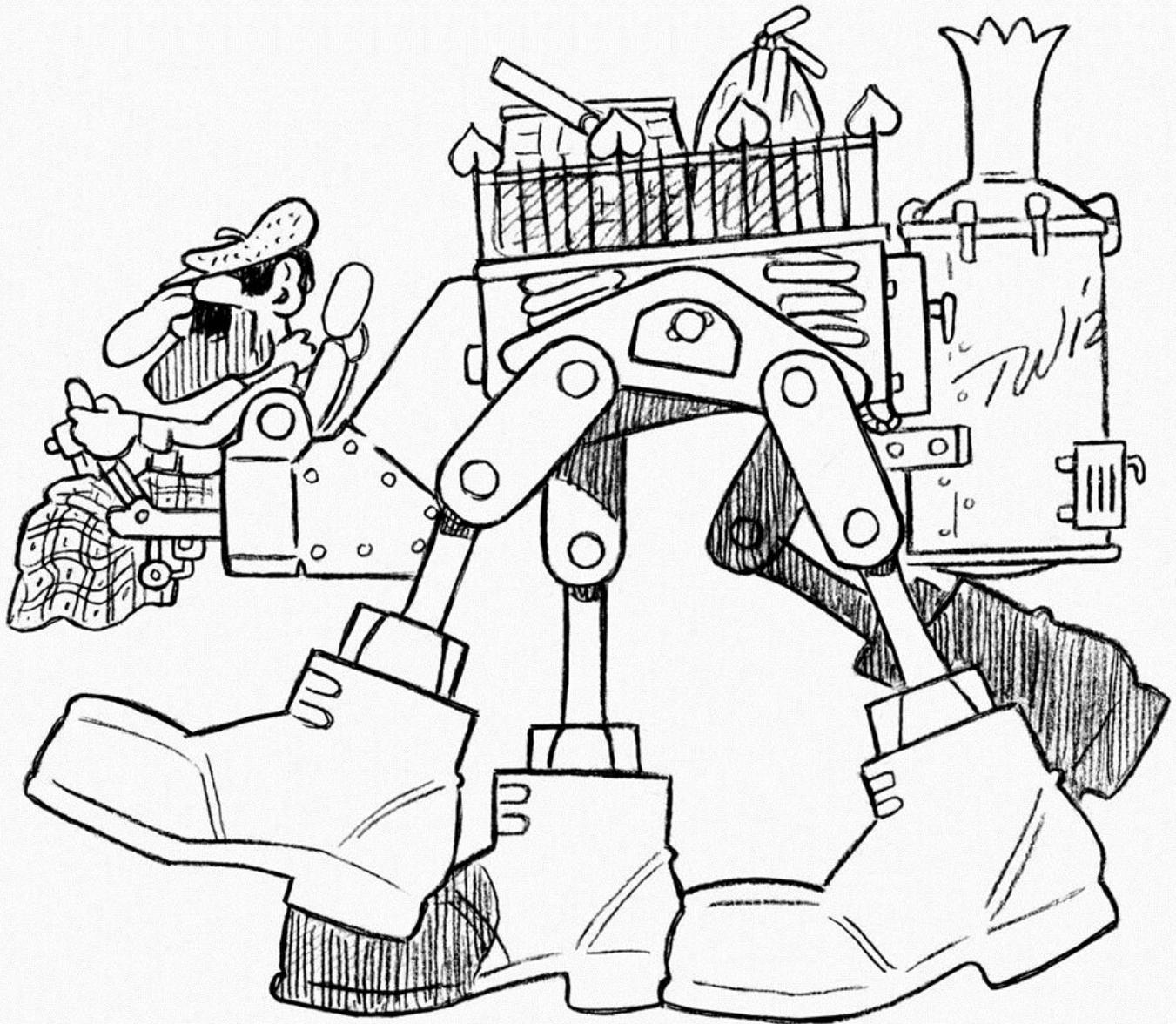


THE FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST

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

#9

August 2012



COVER CONSIDERATIONS

The wonderful Taral cover reflects my creaky crusade to promote CDN SF zinedom. Tottering along, slowly building up steam after a lengthy rest.

The last issue of this zine came out in January. Then I had my hernia operation and was a long time recovering. Plus I took a month off to concentrate on mundane matters. Only now am I plunging into fanac again.

TO SUM UP LAST YEAR

The first annual Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards were presented last October at VCON 36, the official venue for the CFF Awards.

The Awards were:

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!)

With the exception of the last mentioned, all of the winners have received their award certificate designed by Taral Wayne.

The master copy of the award figurine 'The Faned' was sculpted by Monster Attack Team Canada member Lawrence Prime to a design by fellow MATC member Eric Chu. The 'Faned' stands seven inches tall.

I am still going insane trying to figure out how to:

A) Replicate the 'Faned' numerous times without damaging or destroying the master sculpture, and

B) Replicate the 'Faned' inexpensively.

Many suggestions have come my way and so far they appear to be too complicated, too risky, or too expensive.

Or bizarre. A local 'adult' shop apparently manufactures its own stock of dildos from molds. It was suggested that, in light of the size and shape of the 'Faned,' and the specific expertise of the people in question, they might be my best bet to get the 'Faned' reproduced.

Ahh, hum... I'm not sure I possess the moral courage to enter the shop and make inquiries. At 61 years of age I still remain entirely capable of blushing in embarrassment. Must think on this.

Thanks to Taral I was in contact with an American Artist who was willing to scan the Faned, print multiple copies using a 3d printer, tumble them in a motorized tumbler to smooth the plastic or, just possibly, scan the original, make a plastic copy, use that to make a mold, then make multiple copies out of pewter.

Trouble is, having worked for Canada Customs many years ago, I grew concerned what charges I would be hit with shipping them across the border. What if they define them as 'art'? Or as 'commercial trophies'? Could be expensive. Especially if made out of pewter.

Plus, I had trouble visualising how you could 'tumble' a Faned without breaking it. And I began to wonder how much this would cost me. Plus the thought of shipping the 'master' Faned out of the county scared me.

Murray Moore sent info on two separate contacts, one in Australia I believe. I accidentally deleted a bunch of mail including his suggestions. Will need to get back in touch to find out whom he was talking about. One thing's for sure, I very much doubt I could afford shipping a bunch of Faneds across the Pacific.

I think I'm pretty well wedded to the idea of having the Faneds produced locally. I'm looking for a

cheap, easy, uncomplicated method that will allow me to order enough Faneds to have on hand to award winners for years to come. It would be an incentive to declare winners every year simply in order to get rid of the damn things. Hmm....

Taral suggested I choose a different award such as a mug or engraved pen, the sort of thing presumably easier to obtain and less expensive. I looked into enameled pins and was staggered by both the minimum number required and the expense involved. Arrgh!

But I have my heart set on letting the winners place their 'Faned' atop a shelf or mantelpiece or perhaps on their desk, there to exude honour and achievement through ever thickening layers of dust. I haven't given up yet.

I remain open to any practical suggestions as to how and where I can get the 'Faned' duplicated. Ideas?

THIS YEAR'S CONUNDRUM

The second annual Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards will be presented this coming September (end of the month) at VCON 37, the official venue for the CFF Awards.

Five awards will be announced, in the same categories as last year. The question is, who will the winners be?

I had planned to compile lists of possible candidates and canvas fen to see whom they'd prefer. Trouble is, yes I am increasing my fanac, but much of my time will be devoted to VCON fanac. I'm responsible for putting together the writers workshops, AND the program book, AND the Elron Awards, AND the Faned Awards, AND a slide presentation on THE ART OF FRANK R. PAUL (the greatest SF artist of the 1930s), AND (possibly and tentatively) moderator of a panel devoted to THE JOY OF PUBLISHING SF FANZINES TODAY, PLUS maybe participating in one or two other panels, subjects not yet chosen. I will be a busy boy for the next two months.

Not to mention I've been thinking of visiting my brother in Ottawa for a week shortly before the convention.

So I'm going to give myself a break and take the easy way out by asking Canadian Fen to let me know whom you'd like to see win. So please contact me by email at:

< rgraeme@shaw.ca >

And give me a list your preferences.

Of course the categories are:

- BEST FAN ARTIST
- BEST FAN WRITER
- BEST LOC HACK
- BEST FANZINE
- LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Take note these awards go to best effort in these categories during the Calendar year 2011.

Also take note none of the winners of last year's awards are eligible for the same categories in this year's awards, but can be nominated for any other category (if they have been active in that other category).

Lastly, let me remind you the CFF Awards are still pretty much the manifestation of one man's whim though it is hoped the awards, like Cdn zinefandom itself, will eventually grow into something bigger and better. Nevertheless, the awards are given in a spirit of true appreciation for the achievements of the winners.

LETTERS OF COMMENT

The Graeme's comments are in dark Blue.

**From: Eric Mayer, January 1st, 2012
Famed Faned of 'Goggy' & Revenant.**

Hey. No fair! I sent my zine to Bill Burns last night but he didn't post it to eFanzines yet! :)

I believe mine appeared first, so technically my zine is the year's first...

I like your idea of making awards out of Playdough. In fact, you could just send the winners a

can of playdough and let them make their own awards. Then there is plaster of Paris . We used to pour it into plastic molds for Cub Scout projects. We'd paint the bears and wolves and whatnot and sell them to raise money. The best part of these beautiful productions was they were so easily breakable. Or else, thinking of grade school projects, you could paint stones. Real Canadian stones. Heck, they made great paper weights for dad to use at his desk, or so we were told. So why not awards? Maybe D West would have accepted a painted stone. He could have thrown it at some poor artistic and intellectual inferior.

I bought a small block of Soapstone once, with the intention of carving it into a beautiful piece of sculpture. What I wound up with was a stone block with rounded corners and a few gouges. Hmm, give every winner a block and tell them to carve their own? Ah heck, make it easier. Send each winner a block of soap...

Based on my year of publishing E-Ditto, I think you are right that almost all faanish fans are not interested in fanzines but that zinedom is well worth doing. I got the impression that there was very little interest amongst faanish fans in E-Ditto. However, I loved publishing it, and a tiny minority of faanish fans made it clear they enjoyed it also. Which is why I surprised myself and decided on a new zine for the new year.

And a good one REVENANT is too! The true joy of zinedom lies in publishing zines. In a sense, the number of readers doesn't matter (it's not like you have to justify what you charge for advertising by quoting circulation numbers), since zinedom is a form of penpalship aimed at a small number of responsive readers. Really one does it because one enjoys doing it. That's the bottom line.

So I guess those of us who love fanzines will just keep slogging on until the end. The last faned in the world published his ish and waited for a knock on the door....

And there came a knock... Twas Claude Degler demanding to stay the night...

Great cover by Taral by the way. I'm sure he could make a terrific Playdough award for himself.

He has in fact produced some notable sculpted figures in the past I believe.

Best, Eric

**From: Taral Wayne, January 1st, 2012
Rotsler Award-winning Fan Artist
Faned of BROKEN TOYS
Toronto, Ontario**

First loc of the year. Feel free to feel honoured.

Always honoured to receive a loc from you.

Yes, there are flexible molds. They're only good for ten or twenty castings from what I understand. You'd have to make a new one every year or two, depending on how many awards there are. At present, every other year would be fine. Maybe even a new mold every three years. By then, it may well be obvious that you don't need to make any more at all... but I may be a pessimist.

In theory I will need five Faneds a year, plus I owe Eric Chu (the designer) and Lawrence Prime (the sculptor) a Faned figure each.

Jump onto the Titanic? Hardly. Canadian fanzine is not some vast artifact of human endeavor that is slowly sinking into obscurity. It is more as though you were asking Canadian fans to jump into a tiny, inflatable children's wading pool, one that the kids have already left and yet seems crowded with only the rubber ducky in it. And it has a leak.

Only if you compare CDN zinedom to fandom as a whole, or to its past glory days. We're publishing about as many clubzines as we ever did, and it would take but the addition of 4 or 5 perzine Faneds to equal the frenzied activity of days of yore. Besides, overall there seem to be about as many SF fanzines published worldwide as there ever were. Zinedom is far from dead. Even Cdn zinedom is still alive and kicking.

Besides, I'm not out to restore the past, but to encourage newcomers into a relaxing and pleasant hobby which, as stated earlier, is more of a penpal thing (like the Lovecraft circle) than the insanely ephemeral hustle & bustle of the internet.

Playdough would likely bake and crumble, so plasticene is probably the way to go. Unless you were figuring on smothering your girlfriend – in that case playdough would be fine, and easier to clean up later.

And how often has playdough figured in crime scenes? Me thinks the odour would give the villain away...

I still think a custom t-shirt would be more practical in any case, and continue to call forth from the genius of Canadian fanart on a yearly basis. If I must say so myself. But rather than an illustration of a burned out electric fuse, you might have used the cover on FF 8 – dinosaurs seem quite appropriate to represent fanzine fandom these days.

Oldstyle fanzine fandom, yes, but not the NEW style I'm advocating....

By the by, Murray overlooks a minor detail about that dinosaur art. It wasn't meant as a t-shirt, it was a *rough sketch* meant to *become* artwork for a t-shirt. I would have taken more time with the final art, of course.. even going so far as to inking it rather than just cranking up the contrast of the scanned file. Then too, I never really liked it. It was my visualization of a joke make by SFContario's GoH that *some* people thought amusing enough that they persuaded me to put it on paper. By itself, the original remark didn't conjure up any pictures in my head. Turned into a dirty joke, however, it did. Being encouraged to work on stuff like this that it turned out nobody wanted was a source of a considerable amount of frustration I had with the con last year.

Well, I certainly appreciate it. Tongue-in-cheek reference to zinedom, but really a marvellous universal symbol for futile activity of any kind. Quite the potential Icon in fact.

D. is D. A big part of that is his sense of intellectual superiority over most other people, especially those who aren't English. If he didn't feel that way, he would just be another Malcolm Edwards or Mike Meara. Bland. Affable. A take-him-anywhere sort of person. We must appreciate fans the way Gawd made them, however, particularly when he makes them opinionated enough to cause controversy.

He's certainly an interesting fan at any rate. I like his art, but then I like most any kind of illustrative art, if only because I'm not capable of

doing it. One thing's for sure, he can rest easy knowing he's a much better artist than I am. One of Ghu's fixed universal laws. EVERYBODY is a better artist than I am. In a way, it's kinda fun being at the bottom.

B.O.B! B.O.B! B.O.B! Hasn't anyone told you that it's actually B.O.F? Rich brown was calling himself a Boring Old Fart way back in the late 1970s, I think. Being one myself, I'm not changing to B.O.B. anytime soon.

Yeah, but B.O.B. is so much easier to say than B.O.F. and conveys a sense of greater resentment on the part of the person saying it. A B.O.F. can be ignored, is an excuse for a nap. A B.O.B. makes one grit one's teeth in frustration. A B.O.B. is far more dangerous, far more likely to provoke anger.

**From: Murray Moore, January 1st, 2012
Former Faned of 'Aztec Blue'
Mississauga, Ontario**

Hello! Graeme.

To the first fanzine sent to me in 2012, my first LoC of 2012.

Is the skull being climbed by a robot explorer, in Taral's drawing, on Mars? I understand a movie based on the Edgar Rice Burroughs John Carter of Mars series is being released this year. First in the series, A Princess of Mars, saw print first in 1912.

I saw the movie and quite enjoyed it. I thought it captured the playful mood of the Barsoom novels, but it probably baffled the majority of movie goers who, never having read him, probably saw the film as an idiotic compendium of clichés, not realizing twas Burroughs who first invented the concepts. Never a great writer, but fresh and wildly innovative for his day. The man turned daydreaming into a vocation.

Your niece makes silicone molds: Mary Ellen's youngest brother is an electrician: relatives are useful!

When I said I wanted a BOB button I was being contrary. Also, I don't wear buttons: the passage of time naturally causes holes in the fabric of my clothing.

From: Lloyd Penney, January 26th, 2012
Famed Aurora & Faned-winning Loc Hack.
1706-24 Eva Rd. Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2

Dear Graeme,

Next up in the stack of zines to respond to is The Fanactical Fanactivist 8. Hope your Friday is relaxing and your weekend is fun. As for myself, I am getting a head start.

As you say, getting the FanEd Awards produced is one step closer to being real. I had to wonder if there is some way to cheaply reproduce such figures. There is a chapter of the International Plastic Modeller's Society in Vancouver, I'm sure; they may be able to help with molds and related techniques.

As far as I know they just do bought store/garage kits with a little bit of tweaking. Never seen anything at their displays (other than the Monster Attack Team Canada people) to indicate anybody creating kits from scratch via molds. Still, next time I go to their annual show I'll ask around. Can't hurt.

Awards are never cheap to produce. I think it is still Peter Weston who produces the silver rockets for the Hugo Awards; wonder how much it costs to make those, let alone the bases? Could a quick discussion with a friendly trophy shop operator help out?

Hmm, there is a trophy shop nearby. Don't know how friendly the operator is though...

To perhaps belie what I called a negative attitude towards fanzine fandom and its future, I am thinking of launching my own fanzine. I have a title or two in mind, I'd like to perhaps put in three or four articles per issue, with some good artwork, and store it on eFanzines.com... I just need the time and impetus.

I recommend keeping it short, so it's a quick and easy read, and easier to publish more often.

I hope you DO publish a perzine. For one thing, it will increase your eligibility to win a Faned Award (grin), and for that matter, another Aurora.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

From: Felicity Walker, March 19th, 2012
Faned of BCSFAzine
Richmond. B.C.

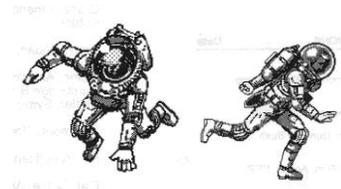
Hi Graeme,

I searched through my /BCSFAzines/ and found where I'd pointed out a better design for the statue: the fillos of astronauts at the bottoms of pages 2 and 3 of your zine 'THE FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST #1!'

I'll reattach it in case you don't have it handy, though you probably do have it handy.

Felicity

Ah, you mean these illustrations:



Would cost a fortune to have one of these old clip art drawings converted to a master sculpture, and the difficulty of freeing such complex figures from a mold would be immense. Sure would look good though, I must admit.

TO SUM UP

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

COLOPHON

The Fanactical Fanactivist #9, August 2012, Volume 2, Number 2, Whole Number 9, is the Fannish E-Zine of The Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards Society, a non-registered, non-existent society, administered by R. Graeme Cameron, with the general mandate of promoting Canadian Science Fiction & Fantasy Fanzine Fandom and the specific focus of sponsoring the Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards.

Cover Art: Taral Wayne