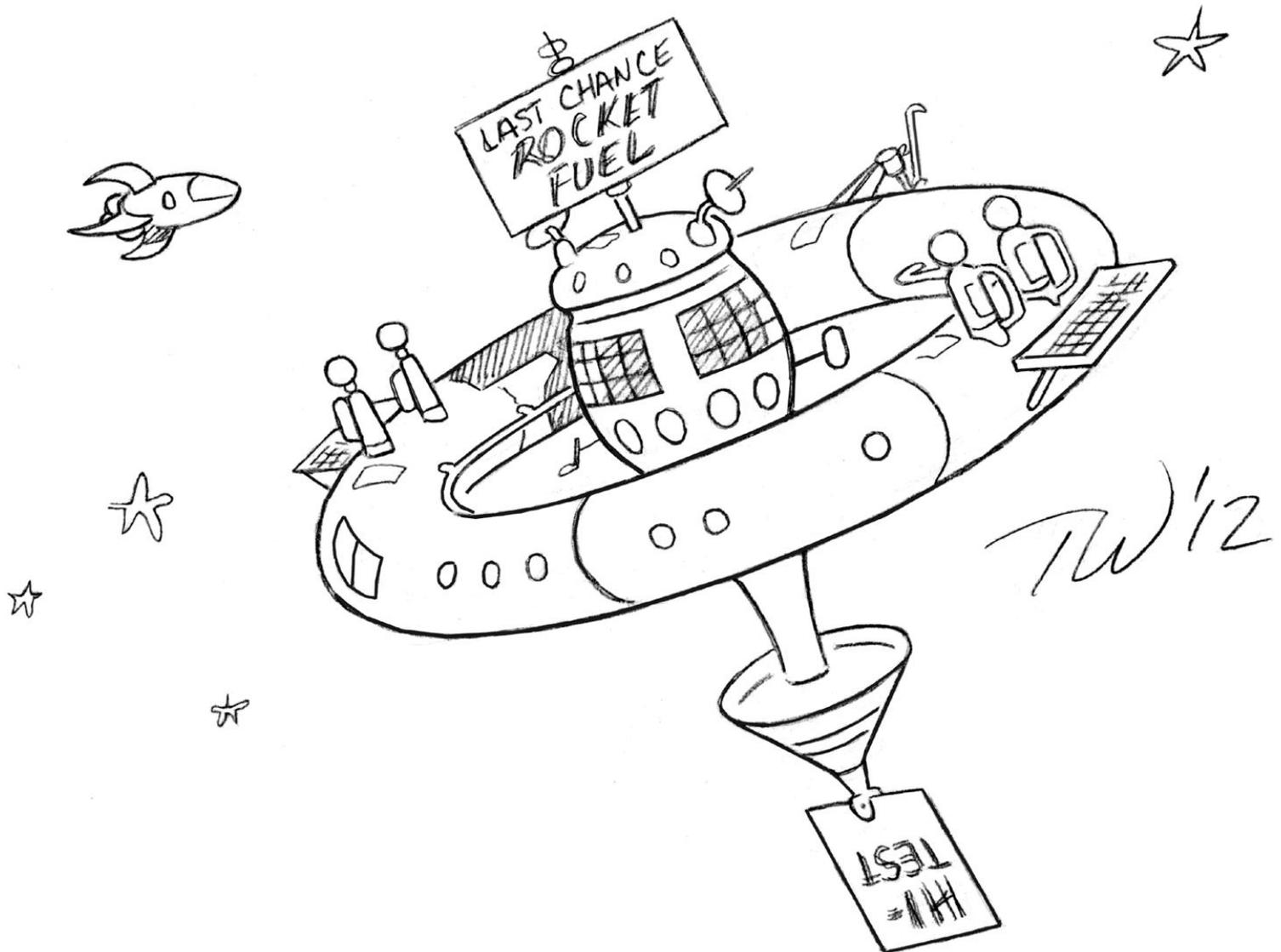


THE FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST

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

#11

August 2013



COVER CONSIDERATIONS

Yep, your 'last chance' to nominate for the 2013 Faned Awards. Remember, only Canadians can nominate. Only Canadians can be nominated.

2013 FANED AWARDS LOOMING!

I've been compiling potential candidates in fits and starts over the last few weeks. It occurred to me that many of you may know of potential candidates I know nothing about. So, I'm publishing the lists I've created up to this point and asking you to suggest any eligible individual or zine not yet included.

This is a 'HELP ME put a nomination list together' request.

In a week or so – even if I don't hear from anyone – I'll republish the list (hopefully revised and expanded) and ask people to nominate their five favourite nominees in each category by order of preference: First, second, third, etc.

Then, in another week or so, I'll publish the reduced list of the more popular candidates and ask people to vote for three candidates in each category by order of preference. First choice counts as (3) 'votes', second as (2) 'votes', and third as (1) vote.

Whoever gets the most votes wins!

I'm assuming that people will nominate AND vote, so I'm including myself as a potential candidate where appropriate.

On the other hand, if nobody votes, I will withdraw my name and simply chose the winners by fiat.

I would like to get some democratic momentum going. First year was by fiat. Last year was the result of numerous suggestions. This year's results I hope to be the product of an actual vote.

Remember! The 2013 Faned awards are for individual fanac and zines produced in 2012. Any activity in 2013 will not be eligible till 2014. I'm looking for nominees based on their 2012 fanac.

BEST FAN ARTIST

(Note: **Scott Patri** not eligible since he won last year.)

Further note: Sadly I can only think of three. There must be more! Please send me more candidates!)

Taral Wayne – (Assorted zines by the Graeme.)

Bernard Reischel – (WARP)

R. Graeme Cameron – (BELOVED BINEMA) I include myself just to pad the list. I am the worst artist conceivable. Bad beyond belief...

Additional note: If this cannot be expanded, I am considering opening the list to include Canadian Fan Artists present AND past. This would turn the artist category into a kind of artist hall of fame. I can think of at least 34 potential candidates.

So what do you think? Stick with current? Or include past artists? Let me know what you think.

Final note: Methinks there are other WARP cover artists, but for some reason I am unable to access the posted issues. If someone – Cathy? – could let me know who the artists are...

BEST FAN WRITER

(Note: **Taral Wayne** not eligible since he won last year.)

Grant Duff – (Editorials, OSF STATEMENT)

Michael John Bertrand – (Essays & reviews in BCSFAzine)

Felicity Walker – (Editorials, meeting notes, comments on locs, BCSFAzine)

Julian Castle – (Calendar info notes BCSFAzine)

Keith Lim – (Calendar info notes BCSFAzine)

Garth Spencer – (Essays & articles ONE SWELL FOOP)

R. Graeme Cameron – (Assorted essays & articles in his various zines)

Wendy Stevens – (Reviews OSF STATEMENT)

Charles Mohapel – (Reviews OSF STATEMENT)

Ken Tapping – (Astronomy articles OSF STATEMENT)

Dwight Williams – (Con Report OSF STATEMENT)

Alex Binkley – (Essay OSF STATEMENT)

Lyn Saunders – (Movie reviews OSF STATEMENT)

Neil Williams – (Editorials & essays “Flogging a Dead Trekkie” SWILL)

Lester Rainsford – (Column “Pissing on an Old Pile of Amazings” SWILL)

François Ménard (Fiction, WARP)

Barbara Silverman – (Fiction, WARP)

Josée Bellemare – (Review, WARP)

Sylvain St-Pierre – (Review, WARP)

Keith Braithwaite – (Club news, IMPULSE)

Cathy Palmer-Lister – (Editorials, comments on locs, WARP)

Further note, I’m having trouble accessing the posted issues of WARP. I’m sure there are other writers who need to be listed. Please let me know who they are.

BEST LOC WRITER

(Note: **Michael John Bertrand** not eligible since he won last year.)

Further note: Another sad list. Only two candidates. There must be more! Nominations needed.

Lloyd Penney – (Every zine imaginable)

R. Graeme Cameron – (SWILL)

BEST FANZINE

(Note: **SWILL** not eligible since won last year)

The Fanactical Fanactivist -- #8 Jan, #9 Aug, #10 Dec, CFFA zine, faned R. Graeme Cameron.

Space Cadet -- #17 Jan, #18 Mar, #19 May, #20 Dec, Perzine, faned R. Graeme Cameron.

Auroran Lights -- # 6 Mar, #7, CSFFA zine, faned R. Graeme Cameron.

The Frenetic Fanac Review -- #1 Apr, #2 Aug, Zine Review zine, faned R. Graeme Cameron.

Beloved Binema -- #1 Jul, Film Review zine, faned R. Graeme Cameron.

BCSFazine -- #464 Jan to #475 Dec, Clubzine, faned Felicity Walker.

Broken Toys -- #10 Jan, #11 Dec, Perzine, faned Taral Wayne.

Detritus-- #1 Nov, Perzine, faned Rodney Leighton assisted by Chuck Connor.

One Swell Foop -- #7 Apr, #8 Jul, Perzine, faned Garth Spencer.

Ottawa SF Statement -- #393 Jan to #404 Dec, Clubzine, faned Grant Duff.

Warp -- #81 Winter 2011/2012 plus a couple more (need to research), faned Cathy Palmer-Lister.

HALL OF FAME

Two of the ‘founding fathers’ of Canadian SF zinedom (The Unknown Faned of ‘The Canadian Science Fiction Fan’ and Nils Helmer Frome of ‘Supramundane Stories’ were declared previously by fiat. I have one more ‘founding father’ to honour, albeit by fiat as well.

Beginning in 2014, the category will be open to nominating and voting the faned of your choice. Many spring to mind, Mike Glicksohn for instance, or Victoria Vayne. Or Taral Wayne. A host of possibilities.

WINNERS 2011

Best Fan Artist: **Taral Wayne**

Best Fan Writer: **Garth Spencer**

Best Loc Writer: **Lloyd Penney**

Best Fanzine: WARP – **Cathy Palmer-Lister**

Hall of Fame: **The Unknown Faned**

WINNERS 2012

Best Fan Artist: **Scott Patri**

Best Fan Writer: **Taral Wayne**

Best Loc Writer: **Michael John Bertrand**

Best Fanzine: SWILL – **Neil Williams**

Hall of Fame: **Nils Helmer Frome**

LETTERS OF COMMENT

The Graeme's comments are in dark Blue.

**From: Taral Wayne, December 6, 2012
Fan Artist & Faned of 'New Toy'.
Toronto, Ontario**

I am a wiener for the second year in a row. I am graduated.

But, seriously, you should rethink the coffee mug option. While they do cost a few bucks each in small batches, that may be a lot more reasonable than an actual statuette will ever be, and just as attractive. It will even be useful. To make matters simpler, just run off a batch of 20 identical cups without names or categories, that will last you four or five years. Heck, apply to Torcon or Anticipation (or even some Yankee worldcon) for funds to produce the cups – I think you'll be graduated with the response.

Hmm... I did walk into a mall shop where they engrave things. Some rather splendid pewter mugs, at \$48 a mug, plus \$1 per letter for any inscription.

Out of my league I'm afraid. I also looked into some metal pins a while ago, I think about \$7 each, but minimum order of 500...

Apply for funding. Could try I suppose, but not till I have a definite 'award' in mind with a precise cost per piece. Then I'll know what to ask for.

Let me tell you a story about funding I only learned a month ago, at SFContario. One night at, I think, the Penney's birthday party, I fell into conversation with Raymond Alexander. Raymond is one of the old Bakka Boys, from way back, and was professionally an accountant. During the conversation I brought up an old grievance – that I had sought funding for the Energumen CD-Rom. Since he seemed to be the secret power behind the throne for the Toronto worldcon, I had asked Larry Hancock about the possibility. Larry said it really didn't seem to be the thing that Torcon should be using its non-profit earnings to support. When I asked Larry what did he think Torcon should support, I got no very clear idea, but a vague impression formed in my mind that he meant academic institutions, conferences, and other respectable, boring shit like that non-fanzine fans would be interested in. So, I gave it no more thought.

When I explained all this to Raymond, his jaw dropped. He said he was a member of the committee for allocating Torcon money and that my CD-Rom was exactly the sort of thing they would have leapt at to fund. Then it was *my turn* to drop a jaw. Apparently, Larry *might* have been the *only one* that would have voted against the Energumen disk in favour of more "respectable, boring shit." I sold myself short, in other words.

Which I also tend to do, I admit.

Don't you do it. There's money out there, so go get some. Otherwise all it will do is subsidize Peter Halasz's new copper-plate award.

And I could use a set of Faned coffee mugs.

Well, you may wind up with a set of 'something.' I gather it should be useful as well as decorative. Hmm, how about a really cheap set of candle holders?

Regarding “non-existent Canadian fanzine fandom,” you write, “*Pish and tosh I say. Canadian zinedom is about as strong as it has ever been, at least compared to most years. To be generous, the average year probably saw three or four zines being published, with maybe a dozen active zinesters occasionally scribbling away, drawing, or publishing. We’ve always been a tiny collective on the verge of extinction. I see no reason to despair at our current lacktivity. We’re actually doing pretty well all things considered.*”

This is not strictly, or even loosely, accurate. To make this an accurate statement you would have to change “about as strong as it has ever been” to “about as strong as it has been for over 20 years.”

I hate to seem like one of those old-timers who insist that everything was better in the old days (even if it was), but this is clearly a case where its true. In the 1970s and ‘80s there were three or four zines *a month* being published ... often as many in three different major Canadian cities. Admittedly, some fans published a number of different titles, so the number of zines that arrived in your mailbox (remember real mail?) was larger than the number of fans who published them. But 30 and 40 years ago, fanzine fandom was alive and well in Canada, and an easy match for fanzine fandom in the US, Britain or Australia. It’s only since the 1990s that fanzine fandom here fell into decline, making us compare poorly to Sweden or the Czech Republic.

But... but... there ARE three or four zines a month being published... well, three anyway: BCSFAzine, Impulse, and the Ottawa SF Statement.

Throw in my sporadic production, your (currently) near monthly publication of Broken Toys, and the occasional One Swell Foop by Garth and Swill by Neil Williams, the average IS four zines a month.

However, I know you are not thinking of clubzines, but rather perzines, and here the monthly output averages one, maybe two, which is indeed lower than it used to be.

Even more ominously, none of the perzines are genzines. In the past you could count on a huge number of fen willing to contribute to your zine.

Not any more. Perzines really ARE perzines nowadays.

But I think you miss the point of THIS zine. It is intended to PROMOTE Canadian zinedom after all. I’m not interested in the truth, or at least, I don’t want to trumpet it. “Look! We’re dying! We’re a bunch of obsolete dinosaurs! We’re about to go extinct!”

Screw that. Zinedom is fun. Or can be. If you’re a bookish, introspective introvert, this could be the ideal hobby for you. Why not try it? That’s my message. I enjoy it. Why not you? Etc.

“Taral sometimes gives the impression he thinks Canadian zinedom is dead and buried, yet he constantly betrays his alleged ‘jaded’ outlook with an incredible outpouring [of fanac].” Ah, yes ... but, you see ... like Conrad Black, fanwise, I am a citizen of the world. As the GoH at the Montreal Worldcon, I even have my “peerage.” Fortunately, unlike Conrad Black I have never been fitted for an orange jumpsuit. Still time for that, I suppose...

Could be a good retirement plan though...

**From: Eric Mayer, December 7th, 2012
Faned of ‘Revenant’.**

Graeme,

Thanks for the news about the Canadian awards. Gave me a good laugh. Uh, the Elron portion of the awards that is to say.

Your selection process sounds fair enough but unless you find other judges you’ll be forever disqualified. I like the idea that no one can win two years in a row. Maybe one of the temporarily disqualified winners could take on the judging from time to time.

Putting myself forward this year, if people are willing to nominate and vote. See what happens...

Hey, Taral could rotate between winning one category every year!

He is already. But who knows...

I guess I’ve run out of excuses for editing a fanzine. Faneds are a dying breed, let’s face it.

Fanzines grabbed my imagination when I was younger, just like Golden Age sf and I still prefer those to the art forms that replaced them.

Could be I'm just an old folk's home operator but haven't clued in yet. Hmmm, practically a Twilight Zone episode now that I think about it.

As for those physical awards...Why not go for something really fancy, say a full-color hologram mounted on a piece of Martian rock when such is possible? Or a private asteroid with the winner's likeness lasered onto it? It'd be futuristic. Fans like to look forward to the future. Or if they're impatient they can imagine they are living in a parallel universe where the awards already exist.

Best, Eric Mayer

**From: Lloyd Penney, December 18, 2012
Famed Aurora & Faned-winning Loc Hack.
1706-24 Eva Rd. Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2**

Dear Graeme:

Bits of time here and there gather together to form a few minutes, and that's good enough to at least get started on a loc on The Fanactical Fanactivist 10. There must be something I can say, usually is...

If anyone was tickled to get awards for being the best and the worst at the same time, it was Neil Jamieson-Williams, who I talked to at SFCOntario 4. Tickled, and puzzled, but decided to take the awards in the best possible spirit.

If you ever get the Faned figurines done, great. If you don't, not to worry. The first incarnation of the FAAn Awards had hand-made trophies, but the current incarnation does not. At least for one year, they didn't even have certificates.

Ah, I find that comforting somehow.

There's many parts of the world where fans produce fanzines, and thanks to Cheryl Morgan, I found one in Slovenia. Bojan Ekselenski is a fan who lives Ljubljana, Slovenia, and he produces a fanzine called Jasubeg en Jered. It's usually in Slovenian, but this particular Special Issue was in English, especially for this year's Eurocon. I've located his special

English-language issue, and found him on Facebook, too.

I would heartily nominate Gina Ellis and Mike Glicksohn for the Hall of Fame next time around. Perhaps a list of all Canadian fans that have had any level of involvement in fanzines would help us with future nominations.

Such a list is one of the things I plan to do.

The local...I don't draw cartoons, really, but there were a few I did, and I packaged them up and gave a copy to John Purcell. Perhaps I can send you the same package?

Yes please! Without any doubt you've got to be more talented than I am! Guaranteed!

Done for the moment. I have a lot of fanzines to get to and respond to in some fashion...It may consist of thanks, got it, general comment, wait for next issue. I'd prefer something with a few more column-inches in it. Yvonne and I wish you and Alyx the best Christmas ever, and may 2013 be the break-out year we all wish for.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

TO SUM UP

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