

(OR: THE AGING OLD FHART NOSTALGIC TIME WASTER GAZETTE)



MARCHING TO AN  
INDIFFERENT DRUMMER.

## THE COVER

Is by Steve Stiles. I figure it is appropriate for this issue in that my frustrated outburst last issue has not produced much in the way of debate or reaction.

In a way, I'm relieved. I half expected to be lynched. Not necessarily for what I said, but for bothering to say it.

After all, people whose mind is made up, or they are set in their ways, are hardly likely to change their views simply because I expressed my opinion. So maybe all I did was annoy them.

Still think my argument is valid though.

## THE TRUE MEANIES OF CHRISTMAS

*By Taral Wayne*

Yaron Brook, president and executive director of the Ayn Rand Institute, has recently spoken on Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. He says, "I think Scrooge is clearly misunderstood and used to vilify business." David N. Mayer, a law professor in Ohio, has made a similar argument in an essay, saying, the "unredeemed Scrooge is really a hero. He's the most real character in the story – the one character in the book who acts responsible and who treats his fellow men justly." As well, one Jim Lacey, an analyst at the Institute for Defense Analyses, claims that by giving away some of his fortune after his redemption, Scrooge has actually "drastically reduced his ability to do even more good in the world." I presume that by "more good" he means make himself still more wealthy and acquire a still larger share of society's bounty.

At what point, may we ask, does Scrooge's "enlightened self-interest" actually result in a benefit to anyone else? The answer would appear to be that as he captures more and more of the means of production, he will become the source of more and more miserably low paychecks. This is a highly debatable point, and cleverly disguises the arithmetic behind such laissez faire schemes. The hidden math is that 1 millionaire + N underpaid employees is better than 0 millionaires and N more highly paid employees.

But we lose sight of the main point: did any of these brave defenders of Ebenezer Scrooge – or indeed anyone at the Ayn Rand Institute – actually read A Christmas Carol? Or have we been treated to a chorus line of knees jerking automatically in response to a perceived insult to their precious idea of "free enterprise" ... as projected on a brutal, industrial era?

Ebenezer Scrooge wasn't merely a businessman who saved frugally, invested shrewdly and sold for a profit. He terrified his sole, remaining employee – there had been more than one, once upon a time, but that was before the downsizing – kept poor Cratchit on starvation wages and refused him all but one statutory holiday a year. And even at that, generous old Scrooge even had the nerve to suggest that Cratchit only take half the day off at Christmas.

It wasn't enough for Scrooge to merely exploit his apparently sole employee, he starved and deprived himself. Asked by a restaurant waiter if he wanted bread with his scanty meal, the miser asks if it would cost more. Told it would cost a penny, Scrooge – a very wealthy man about town – cries, "No bread!"

He and his former partner, Marley, ran the old business into the ground, then bought out the other partners, cheaply. At best, this is what would be called a hostile takeover today – at worst, it was illegal stock manipulation.

Later in the story, we learn that, as a young man, Scrooge forsook the only love interest in his life. She complains that the pursuit of wealth has consumed him, and he must make a choice between her and Mammon. He chose Mammon.

It was not enough to be selfish and greedy, Scrooge could not stand others around him who had the Christmas spirit. He didn't like good cheer and despised small children. "Then they should die and reduce the surplus population," was what I think he said. What a meanie.

And this is the ideal of human behavior held up to us by the Ayn Rand Institute for our edification?

Bah! Humbug! I hoped they all got a copy of Atlas Shrugged in their stockings and were forced to read it.

## REACTION TO “NASTY RUMOURS, OR, HOW NEGATIVE CAN WE GET?”

### On “Nasty Rumours”

By Taral Wayne

To begin with, when I try to argue with someone wearing two different hats, I have trouble knowing who I’m arguing with. Is it Graeme the scold, putting Old School fans in their place for not opening their homes and hearts to 15-year-old zombie enthusiasts? Or is it Graeme the sage, who is philosophical about the graying and gradual extinction of the fandom he knew and loved?

No matter. I intend to talk entirely about myself and my point of view, anyway.

From my perspective, fandom was a fairly welcoming place in the past ... up to a point. All you had to do to be welcome was show an interest in science fiction – which was just about entirely the printed word in those days – and to mind your manners. Demanding a place of honour the moment you set foot in a club, or insisting that everyone adopt your revolutionary new spelling reform, would get you labeled as a geek, of course. Even geeks got over it sometimes, though, so if eventually the rough edges of your personality wore smooth, you would finally fit in. Up to a point. There were still personal cliques that, for one reason or another, you would never be at home in – and if you were sensible, you realized this and had *no desire* to force your way in. It was easy to imagine that closed circles were elites, and that you were barred because you weren’t one of the Beautiful People, but, in fact, it was more likely because you didn’t play poker or couldn’t talk publishing shop. Easy to mislead yourself about this, mind you. I tended to.

However, fandom today isn’t what it was in 1975. Throwing the door open to all-comers won’t necessarily bring in people who want to talk Cordwainer Smith or Theodore Sturgeon with you. It’s more apt to bring in people who want to talk about *Game of Thrones* or *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. When that happens, what do you do? Smile, try to make some inane comments in reply, and watch helplessly as your home fills up with more and

more strangers, who haven’t the slightest interest in your reading or your hobby?

That’s the predicament I see Old School fandom in. It isn’t that older fans are unfriendly, or that we believe there’s something inferior about people with an interest in Japanese animation or the SCA. Hardly that. But it isn’t *our* interest. Attracting such people isn’t why we hold open house. If it was, where *do* we draw the line? Martial arts? Viniculture? Go-Kart racing? Fandom can’t be for *everyone* ... or it isn’t *anything!*

It would be just a format for doing whatever you like. Now, *oddly enough*, that is exactly what I’ve been arguing lately: that as fandom disseminates into the mainstream, it has ceased to be about anything in particular, and is increasingly just *a way of doing things*.

For years, this development has been hidden by the fact that most fans actually *do* have more interests than just reading science fiction. Most will *watch* it, either on TV or the Big Screen. Some also enjoy costuming, gaming, arts & crafts, comics and what-have-you. Collecting other kinds of genre-fiction is also common. So, despite the influx of people into fandom over the last two or three decades, many of whom have had little interest in books that aren’t about *Dr. Who* or the starship *Enterprise*, it has been easy for Old School fans to accommodate them. Up to a point.

At some point, however, the newbies began to outnumber the establishment. More to the point, as they demanded more and more attention paid to their particular interests, there has been greater and greater reluctance to cater to a minority interest – which is what Old School fandom is becoming. The very nature of fandom, its purpose and identity, has become the stakes between two conflicting views. Was it a fandom about science fiction, primarily the written word ... or fans of the written word just a modest splinter group among many groups that make up popular “geek” culture?

In other words, is the hit TV show, *Big Bang Theory*, the model for modern fandom?

None of this really has much to do with me, however. You see, my dirty little secret is that I’m *not* a science fiction fan. Not in the classic sense of

reading it every day, caring deeply about what happens in the SF sub-culture or feeling any urge to proselytize it to the uninitiated. SF is everywhere. Everyone who is under the age of 35 and speaks English (or French, in Quebec) is saturated with science fiction images and ideas, whether they read SF or not. SF is able to look out after itself without my zealotry.

What I've had to face up to is that I'm a hobbyist. I like to draw, write and self-publish. It happens that my background is science fiction fandom of the Old School, so that is my natural idiom. I frankly don't know what I'd do without it. Still, I wouldn't care if the last Arthur C. Clarke novel was burned in a bonfire, if *Analog* went bankrupt or if the Scientologists bought a life-time achievement Hugo for L. Ron Hubbard. Okay ... I'd care about *that* ... but only because it would be in such deplorable taste, not because it would hurt science fiction. As far as making it more acceptable to the general public, it might even *help*.

Anyone who is interested in my hobby – fanzine publishing – is perfectly welcome to take the same pleasure in it that I do. It's just unfortunate that few do. Gawd knows, I've tried to use new information technologies to reach new readers ... but I've only had limited success. The fact is that few people find printed material very exciting – most printed matter that the average person is exposed to is crumpled up in a ball as soon as it is extracted from the mail box, and immediately thrown in the recycle bin. What's exciting about *that*? Especially when, for only \$319.95, you can have a pair of interactive sunglasses that connect to the internet, let you leave voice mail, plan a vacation in Disney World, download the present location of everyone you know and score a fix – all while live-streaming your wait in line for a latté at Starbucks. Maybe the only reason *I* don't have the iCrap to do all that is that I can't afford it.

I do what I can. I publish digitally, and email to my readers. I keep up a lively presence on a couple of artists' sites and on *FaceBooger*. Probably a third of my readers are people I've reached out to who are *not* members of conventional fandom. My blog was a failure, never gaining more than 11 regular readers, as far as I could tell. But I'm not alone – Brad Foster seems to have abandoned his as well. I'm not altogether unhappy with the situation

as it is. The other side of the coin is obvious, however. Millions of readers *could* download my fanzines, write to me, talk about me all over the internet, or – more creatively – become involved in my hobby by publishing their own fanzines. Clearly, however, millions of people *don't*. I've tried to deliver the message ... we've tried ... fanzine fandom has tried ... but it's just not being received. This is why I think no amount of welcoming newcomers will work. They're. Just. Not. Interested.

It's worth saying again. They're just not interested.

What more can we do? Put on a steampunk outfit, learn Klingon and chatter about *Elfquest* incessantly ... and *deny who we are*? Must we become someone else to belong in our own house?

Oh, but I forget ... it isn't our house anymore. We let everyone in, and now it's as much theirs as ours – maybe more so. And I nearly forgot ... at best, I'm only a casual science fiction fan, so it's no concern of mine. I just publish fanzines about myself and, at present, I think that's the best possible thing I can be doing.

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

I think the whole debate can be easily rendered irrelevant, pointless, and above all, *unnecessary*, by defining the key terms very simply:

FANDOM = SF&F FANDOM

TRUFANDOM = TRADITIONAL FANDOM

That's it. That's all it takes.

But the tendency of trufen to use 'fandom' and 'trufandom' interchangeably as if the two terms were one and the same, implying that SF&F fans are non-fans (when what is really being said is that they are not members of a subset of fandom called trufandom) is taken to mean that all the other subsets of fandom are viewed as illegitimate, fake, and contemptible by what must 'obviously' be a bunch of elitist snobs.

If trufen would just the hell stop using the word 'fandom' when they mean 'trufandom'...

And stop calling fans non-fans...

There'd be no bloody problem whatsoever.

Unfortunately the problem is compounded further by traditional fans referring to themselves as 'trufen.'

This strikes contemporary SF fans as unbelievably elitist to the point of being a slap in the face along the lines of:

"Hi! I'm a trufan!" [And you're not, you fake piece of shit.]

I suspect many trufen are so cocooned in their situational awareness regarding tradition they believe their use of terminology is interpreted exactly the same way by fen completely unaware of what those terms mean to trufen. Fact is you have to **BE** a trufan before you can understand fanspeak in all its glory. Out of historical context, our way of referencing other types of fen comes across very nasty indeed. Hence the hostile reaction when approached.

For one thing, we should stop calling ourselves 'trufen.' Neil Williams uses a term I much prefer, 'tradfen,' which is infinitely more accurate and precise, not to mention much clearer to outsiders once it's explained trad = traditional. That makes instant sense. Whereas trying to explain 'tru' just digs the hole deeper.

So I amend my solution to the problem to now read:

FANDOM = SF&F FANDOM

TRADFANDOM = TRADITIONAL FANDOM

So, where you say, "*Fandom isn't what it used to be...*" you are absolutely right. SF&F fandom has evolved a lot.

No skin off tradfandom's nose, because tradfandom has remained pretty much the same, if fewer in numbers than it used to be, and has been little affected by the growth of fandom. Tradfandom

is what it is. Fandom is a different turf. Nothing to do with tradfandom.

Consequently, you don't have to embrace fandom if all you want to be is a tradfan. If you're throwing a tradfen party or organizing a tradfen club you don't have to invite fen. That would be silly. Just invite tradfen. Just make it clear in your invites and promos that you want only traditional fans or fen curious and interested in traditional fandom to show up. Then you are not being 'elitist', but simply focused.

In my opinion your essay is a classic example of "fandom" and "trufandom" being used interchangeably. This tends to render the debate endlessly circular and monstrously confusing in the minds of SF fans.

Substitute my terminology (and understanding thereof) and the debate goes away. All your points remain valid, but you are revealed to be talking about two different things as opposed to one thing being threatened and subverted by another.

Two different fandoms. No need to confuse the two.

Oh, sure, tradfandom was the original organized fandom, but now it's just one of many, albeit perfectly justifiable and wonderful in its own right.

I draw an analogy with another hobby, model railroading. Not all enthusiasts are alike. Some prefer HO scale. Some prefer N scale. Some build their set to reflect the glory days of the 1930s, others the 1950s, or even the 1860s. Some are strictly European in focus, others recreate Via Rail. Some don't even bother building a working train set but are content to collect various types of locomotives and display them in glass cases. Or cabooses only. Maybe others just read the magazines or watch documentary videos. Others may branch off to collect actual railroad memorabilia, operate miniature locos big enough to haul real people, or even restore genuine locomotives to running condition. Some may devote themselves to researching the history of railway systems and nothing but.

Point being, there's a huge number of subsets within railroad fandom.

And how would people in all those myriad subsets feel if the group devoted to collecting Lionel trains (once the vast majority of all railfen) insist they are the only 'trurailfen' and all other railfen are 'non-railfans' obsessed with the inferior products produced after the golden years of Lionel Trains? Come across as a little odd don't you think?

If you were an HO scale fan you'd wind up avoiding the Lionel enthusiasts like the plague.

But if Lionel enthusiasts would just admit and accept they are but one subset of multi-faceted railfandom, the problem goes away. Everybody gets to do their own thing. No competition. No conflict.

So, getting back to SF fandom in the same light, that you are no longer much of a SF fan in your tradfanac is no problem at all. You belong to a particular subset of SF fandom that doesn't restrict itself to SF because over time it has developed a tradition of personal essays and interests beyond SF, but nevertheless doesn't necessarily exclude SF. It's up to the individual tradfan what he wants to write about. That's being true to tradfandom.

The use of terminology I advocate takes away the negativity and allows SF fen of all types to pursue their individual enthusiasm passionately and positively to the betterment of all.

Damn good thing I think.

## [ Further ] On "Nasty Rumours"

*By Neil Williams*

I have to say that I enjoy Space Cadet, but I think that this is the first time I have sent a LoC. I am not a big LoC writer (I leave that to people like Lloyd) as I just usually don't have the time to LoC and pub SWILL (plus my regular employment). My usual style is to respond to someone else's fanzine by writing about it in a SWILL column or treating it as if it was a LoC. Whether this is a proper fannish manner of response (shrug) -- I'm the editor of SWILL and I don't really fucking care. Nevertheless, even though I have already responded to Space Cadet #23 in the Editorial of SWILL #20

and via personal email; I'm also going to send a LoC.

Loved the Taral piece "So You Want to be Canaj'an, eh?" that attempts to explain us to our southern neighbours, i.e. the US of A. Loved the bit at the end on language -- the old we say "a-boot" for about to American ears with the comeback that they say "a-boat" for about to Canadian ears. Question; what does an American hear when a Canadian says the word dollar? What a Canadian hears when an American says the word dollar is "daah-lar" (of course, being in Ontario, the Americans we meet the most are those affect the Northern Cities Vowel Shift).

But onto the meat-and-potatoes... "Nasty Rumours, Or, How Negative Can We Get?" was a brilliant piece -- and you said that you didn't have it in you to be a SWILL columnist (actually, you probably don't over the long haul and as you say yourself, this is just a vent of frustrated pressure to keep the engine from overheating). Now, I have had some different early experiences with traditional fandom than you had, largely negative experiences, so, when it really gets down to the crux -- should traditional fandom actually fade into extinction over the next score of years, I will shed no tears. I strongly support the Canadian Fanzine Archive, Bill Burns efanazines, and similar projects. I support fanzines as a hobby/art form -- you may recall (or not) that during my time in Vancouver, while I edited SF fanzines, I was also a contributor to several of the Vancouver punk fanzines -- and think that there is still a place for the fanzine today.

What I like about the fanzine is that it is fixed in time -- an issue is published at a specific point of time during a specific year -- as a complete document. Conversations can be carried on between issues and refer back in time to past issues and that there is a filter; the editor doesn't have to print everything they receive (even I don't print everything that I receive, only almost everything). In addition, themes can emerge in the compiling of an issue, either they are emergent or they are created by the editor. As such, it is a different art form from the atemporal, continuous blog and it is an art form that I enjoy. As someone who remembers the cost involved in pubbing a zine 30 years ago compared to the cost (zero) in doing so electronically today; I don't know why there are not

more fanzines. One part of the reason for the decline, other than the rise of the internet and social media, is the emphasis on branding and corporatisation (some of the old sports fanzines have disappeared as the corporation that owns the team want to control what sort of fan activity their brand is associated with, this has also happened with game brands as well). There are a few punk ezines still around but the biggest segment of fanzine publication remains within SF fanzines. And what is the major problem for SF fanzines? You hit it firmly and squarely on the head -- traditional fandom.

To be absolutely frank, a SF fanzine does not have to have any connexion to or with traditional fandom. It can do its own thing and be perfectly oblivious to traditional fandom and the concerns of traditional fandom. And, a SF fanzine can CHOOSE to interact with traditional fandom and have some sort of connexion with traditional fandom -- but, THIS IS A CHOICE (it is NOT a requirement) that the editor of a fanzine makes themselves. The whole notion that SF fanzines MUST and SHALL be interwoven with traditional fandom is a fallacy and one of the major reasons why few people are getting involved in fanzines. Yes, I agree that pubbing and contributing to fanzines are part-and-parcel of being a card carrying member of traditional fandom; but, and this is a big BUT, it doesn't mean that to contribute to and/or to pub a fanzine that you have to be a part of traditional fandom.

Traditional fandom does have its strengths, continuity to the past, and preservation of fan history, I will admit that. And I agree that I have less interest in fan history than what would be acceptable for a Traditional fan; however, I am someone who is very interested in history, accepts the importance of history, has a minor in history -- I just don't find fan history terribly important overall. Oh yes, it should be recorded and all that. And yes, I am making use of it in my study. But really, at the end of the day, is it really a major historical event what nasty thing that this BNF said to that BNF at X regional con in 1974 -- did it have any lasting impact that changed the course of fannish history in the region or did it, simply, ignite a fanzine flame war in the region for a couple of years (something that would have burnt itself out over a period of weeks or months on the internet)? I teach

undergrads who view actual major global historical events of 20 to 30 years ago as if I am talking about medieval times; they are not going to find any interest in some fan feud that happened in the 1950s that has no significant impact upon contemporary fandom. All this, "they should know their (fan) history" rubbish, is just that, rubbish. If they are interested in fan history, great -- someone will carry the torch into the next generation. But do NOT make it a REQUIREMENT. Do NOT state that you MUST be a traditional fan and that you MUST be involved in all the approved traditional fan activities in order to be -- and here is the central problem created by traditional fandom -- PERMITTED to pub a SF fanzine. Because that is what the self-appointed "trufen" do.

And that is not how you attract new blood, period. And what did my friends in fandom, of my age-set, from thirty-odd years back do when we encountered this traditional fandom attitude in Toronto? We said, fuck you, is what we said. We went and did our own thing, knowing full well that our zines and other fan activity would not be viewed as real fanzines, not be seen as real fan activity, by traditional fandom. Some of my age-set back then pubbed media SF oriented zines, some had a lot of media SF fanfic in them and others did not, some did their own perzines, a few contributed to fanzines from outside of Ontario (finding that not all traditional fandom was as unwelcoming as the Toronto bunch), and I would publish SWILL.

All of these activities were denounced as unfannish by the movers and shakers within traditional fandom of that time. And guess what, very few of us ever became members of traditional fandom or cared that we didn't. Actually, the only people who did enter into traditional fandom were those who got involved in traditional fandom that existed outside of Ontario. Only after they had been accepted as being real fans by the traditional fen of say, Chicago or L.A., would the Toronto "trufen" now grudgingly agreed that they indeed were real fans.

Anyway, a really wonderful and deserving tolchock of traditional fandom and I am very happy to have, in this LoC, provided traditional fandom with a secondary working-over (after all, according to BCSFAzine, SWILL is a bully).

Finally, all of your points about the awards and inclusiveness regarding all of fandom are dead on correct. Well done.

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

In a way, I was lucky. I initially got into organized fandom without any contact with trufandom whatsoever.

You attempted to enter OSFic, or the New Toronto derelicts, or however the Toronto club referred to itself. I have the impression from Taral's writings that the TO club was a hotbed of fanzine fanac, that that was the main *raison d'être* of the club at the time. Possibly a false impression.

Whereas the BC SF Association was a party animal. I transformed overnight from a sober loner into a gregarious drunk (to exaggerate a trifle). The monthly parties in people's homes were definitely the highlight of club member's fanac. Everybody participated.

Next came VCON preparations and planning, in which *almost* everybody participated. Then the monthly production of BCSFAzine where a *few* participated.

*Last* of all came personal fanzine publication. Garth was decapitating thousands of acres of forest with his voluminous productions, but I didn't even know they existed, at first. Fran Skene published the occasional perzine. There were tradezines, but I only read the brief reviews thereof in BCSFAzine.

Somehow, somebody or some zine inspired me to produce issue #1 of my ENTROPY BLUES (currently my FAPAzine) in 1986. I had no idea where to send it. I published 40 copies and gave maybe 14 of them to non-fan friends and relatives. I think I handed out 4 or 5 to the few BCSFAns I thought would be interested. Even so, all the giveaways accounted for less than half of my production. The 20+ copies remaining I eventually threw out.

Then Steve Forty talked me into contributing monthly articles to BCSFAzine. I had fun with that. Then he talked me into become editor. I had a *lot* of

fun with that for 76 issues under my Ghod-Editor persona, in the course of which I established a bit of a reputation in trufanish circles world-wide. Maybe not a *good* reputation, but definitely a reputation.

So when I left BCSFAzine and started up SPACE CADET, there were plenty of readers waiting for me (some with welcoming embrace, others with daggers profoundly sharpened).

To this day I remain insanely proud of the fact that my very first issue of SC contained half a dozen locs. A neat trick that.

Anyway, point is, years of experience piggybacking atop the reputation of BCSFA and BCSFAzine enabled me to ease into world-wide trufandom as someone already (however marginally) accepted. I had it easy.

You, on the other hand, plunged straight into the lion's den without much of an apprenticeship. A bit overwhelming for all concerned. Your Clockwork Orange approach to fandom rendered you suspect in the eyes of the traditionalists. You didn't just rock the boat climbing in, you torpedoed it. Full marks for guts I must say, but definitely not politic.

Even now there are no doubt plenty of trufen who can't stand my zines, my ideas, or me. If I were a newcomer, I'd probably find this disheartening and bugger off into some other fandom. Three Stooges fandom mayhaps, where I'd probably fit right in.

But some people like my stuff. And I like my stuff. And since I write primarily for the sake of my own amusement, there's no lack of motivation. Great way to avoid boredom.

As for the great unknown outside my den? I just assume there are fen who *want* to read my stuff. That's the number one trick to maintaining active fanzine fanac. Assume it is appreciated.

Second trick? Keep hurling it in all directions. Like dandelion fluff. Much may fall on infertile ground, may even be ground underfoot, but some will find rich soil and sprout interest, maybe even bud locs. You never know.

That is how you keep going, appreciated or not.

I agree with the point you make that you don't have to be part of traditional fandom to publish a SF zine, let alone get their 'permission/approval.'

*Anybody* can publish a SF zine. It is self-evident the very act of publishing such a zine proclaims its fan a member of fandom, even if uninvolved with members of tradfandom.

I go even further. In my opinion publishing a SF zine also places it squarely within the sub-facet of tradfandom because zine publication has always been a cornerstone of Tradfandom. Consequently publishing any SF zine constitutes tradfanac.

I also believe your SWILL is more tradfanac than most zines. Since tradfandom is all about tradfandom, a zine questioning and examining tradfandom is about as tradfannish as you can get, very much part of the tradition.

In other words, not only is it possible to publish a SF zine without the approval of the 'old boy club' of tradfen, it is possible to publish a *trad-focused zine* without their support. This you have done.

As for myself, I have just about settled into my role as a general interest SF fan who happens to appreciate traditional lore among many other things. The 'fate' of 'trufandom' no longer concerns me. I'll just have fun with it till I die. Heck of a hobby.

## A POCKET FULL OF HISTORIES: COIN NOTES

*By Taral Wayne*

(Editor's note: though I've decided to make SPACE CADET much more of a perzine, I continue to include Taral's articles on ancient coins cause I likes ancient coins.)

*The coins illustrated in these short written pieces are all from my collection. I've scanned each one, and drawn on my own knowledge to describe the coin, the Kings, the Queens, the Emperors, and the times. Certain statements are my opinions only, even guesswork, but that's alright. After more than 2,000 years in some cases, there's nobody around to sue!*



One thing I posted on-line last year was an outline called "The Constantine Donative". It describes a story idea about a coin that proved that the first "Christian" emperor willed his empire to the Church -- a lie put about by the clergy centuries later during the Dark Ages. While no such coin exists, ordinary bronze coins by Constantine are as common as lice on a hair-shirted medieval Christian penitent.

The coins shown are those from my collection. Once I understood their place in the order of things, I stopped buying Constantine bronzes and saved my money for better acquisitions. But they remain a very good starting point for a novice collector. Most of these cost as little as five or ten dollars. Only the largish coin at far left cost me anything substantial -- \$60 -- but it was a rare type, minted in London, and in very good shape.

The coins are grouped according to the type of reverse image. At the far right is a posthumous issue, showing Constantine veiled after death. On the reverse is a representation of his soul flying from a chariot toward heaven. None of these are overtly Christian images. In fact, Constantine was surprisingly ambiguous about his conversion, taking care to describe it in terms that were acceptable to

worshippers of Mithras and Sol Invictus, popular gods among his soldiers.

It is known that Constantine did not receive baptism until he was on his death bed. Apologists point out that this was common among Christians of the time, who were afraid of earlier baptism. They believed that if they reverted to their sinful ways after baptism there was no second chance. Modern believers have it much easier. They can screw up as often as they want and still be forgiven their sins after confession or prayer.

On the balance, though, it seems Constantine did become a genuine Christian during his rule. He loved convening ecumenical meetings in which he listened raptly to the bishops arguing their positions. This many angels dance on the head of a pin. No, that many dance on the head of a pin. Etc. Then he would tell the bishops what they should think, and expect everyone to agree.

As it happens, Constantine favoured a flavour of Christianity that was later to be denounced as a heresy. And the Bishops stubbornly continued to think what they wanted to think, and murder each other over the issues.

We call the largish coin at the far left an AE 2. The others are likely all AE 3's, except the smallest one which may be an AE 3/4. We don't know what the late Romans called them.

After a couple of monetary reforms in the late 3rd. century, and Constantines's own reform of the early 4th. the old asses, sestertii, denarii and antoninianii were gone. In their place were a range of bronze coins, beginning with one we call a follis, and might be thought of as an AE 1. The others seem to fall within certain ranges of size called 2's, 3's, and 4's that we believe represent lesser values.

What their actual value is, we don't know any more than we know their actual names. Even the name "follis" (bag) comes from the habit of late Latin documents to refer to so many bags of bronze coins for this expense, or so many for that. 4th. century coins also included a range of silver argentii, siliqua, and tremises (I think). These are not common and tend to be expensive.

The small number of the more common siliqua I have are for the most part in bad shape. I simply can't afford better. There were also new gold coins. The old aureus had been replaced by the smaller, lighter solidus (a nickname that meant, "the real thing").

At first struck 60 solidii to the Roman pound, it was in a still later age struck 72 to the pound. Then in 498, a little more than 20 years after the fall of the Western empire, an Eastern emperor reformed the coinage all over again. So different were the new denominations that we conventionally mark the beginning of the Byzantine empire with it.

## **LETTERS OF COMMENT:**

### **OOK, OOK, SLOBBER DROOL!**

**From: GARTH SPENCER, Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**Laconic 'Casper' (Aurora), 'Faned', & 'Elron'**  
**Award Winning Fanzine Editor**

[ On 'Nasty Rumours' ] Is this an issue?

**Perhaps, when promoting fanzines and trufandom, you've never run into anyone who didn't want to listen to you.**

**I have. So the short answer to your question is yes. I speak from experience.**

**From: JEAN-PIERRE NORMAND,**  
**November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**Aurora winning artist and illustrator**

Dear Graeme,

Thank you for this issue. It's always with great pleasure that I print and read Space Cadet.

**Wow! You print it out to read it? Wonderful.**

**The whole point of SPACE CADET is that it is created and laid out as if it were a paper hard copy zine. Financial circumstances alone prevent me from distributing it as such. Online distribution is my only option. Glad you enjoy it as it was meant to be. Makes me happy.**

**From: NICO IORMETTI, Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**Renowned BCSFA & VCON veteran**

Thanks Graeme!

For the wonderful zine, and sorry I couldn't make it to Vcon and catch up with everything and everyone... Perhaps I'll get out to a BCSFA do at some point.

If you don't mind, keep sending Space Cadet, and if you have it, a BCSFA schedule. Maybe I can buy a subscription to BCSFAzine? Is it still being published?

Talk to you soon, Nico

**Yes, Felicity Walker faithfully publishes it every month. Currently it is available free online, or you can buy a paper copy at White Dwarf Books.**

**I sent you info re BCSFA & BCSFAzine.**

**For those reading this, go to my website at:**

< <http://cdnsfzinearchive.org> >

**and look under clubs, British Columbia clubs, BCSFA, BCSFAzines you can read.**

**From: TEDDY HARVIA, Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**Hugo award winning fan artist.**

The Graeme:

I wasted a little time scanning your latest issue for cartoon ideas. I'll send you the results when one hits me.

Beast wishes, Teddy

**Thank you! I can hardly wait.**

**From: STEVE FAHNESTALK,**  
**November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**Amazing Stories Magazine Columnist**  
**And BCSFA & VCON veteran.**

Graeme,

Not trying to stir up trouble or anything, but...

Are there Canadian icons that aren't famous?

Isn't the state of being iconic dependent on fame to some degree?

Just wondering, Steve

**From: THE GRAEME, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**Amazing Stories Magazine Columnist**  
**& Yee Editor**

Hi Steve!

Trouble is, some Canadian icons are nowhere near as famous as they should be.

Me, for instance....

Cheers! Graeme

**From: STEVE FAHNESTALK,**  
**November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**One of the founders of Moscon.**

Well, I didn't even know you were an icon.

I'll have to get your autograph next time I see you.

**From: ED BEAUREGARD,**  
**November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**One of the founders of BCSFA**

Hi Graeme,

I note, with no surprise, Taral's dismissive comment about Fox News. This type of comment often comes from those who never watch the network. Since I do watch it, one day I tried flipping back and forth between Fox News and CNN to compare what was being carried and how it was handled.

First, on Fox, we had a detailed story about the financial effects on the U.S. budget of underfunded liabilities in Social Security. Changing to CNN, they had a long segment on a couple who almost

failed to cash their million dollar lottery ticket. Back to Fox, and they were interviewing the father of one of the men killed in the Benghazi attack. Note that, unlike Cindy Sheehan who received massive media attention after her son was killed in Iraq, not one media outlet other than Fox has ever talked to any of the relatives of those killed in Benghazi. Back to CNN, and they have a very extensive report on the best roller coaster rides in America.

Since that was a while ago, I thought I'd check again this morning. For once, both were covering the same issue - Obamacare. The Fox report described how the state exchanges worked, and how the President's recent order changes the size of risk pools, thereby affecting the calculation of premiums. They were interviewing people familiar with state insurance laws, who were explaining how those were the actual mechanism for delivering health care, not the federal laws. On CNN, a reporter was waving around a briefing notebook from the Republican party with talking points on Obamacare, as if this was some major transgression of political practice. All political parties in every democratic country prepare talking points on issues. They then switched to slugging the Oregon State health care website, which apparently hasn't signed up one person.

You can judge for yourself which network is providing the more relevant and detailed information for voters.

Ed

**I'm a bit bemused by this, as I have a very low opinion of CNN. Consequently it doesn't bother me in the least that you consider Fox better than CNN as I consider them both hopelessly biased to the right of what I consider normal and necessary.**

**Anyway, I sent the following email in reply:**

**From: THE GRAEME, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013  
'Aurora,' 'Faned,' & 'Elron' awards winner**

Hi Ed!

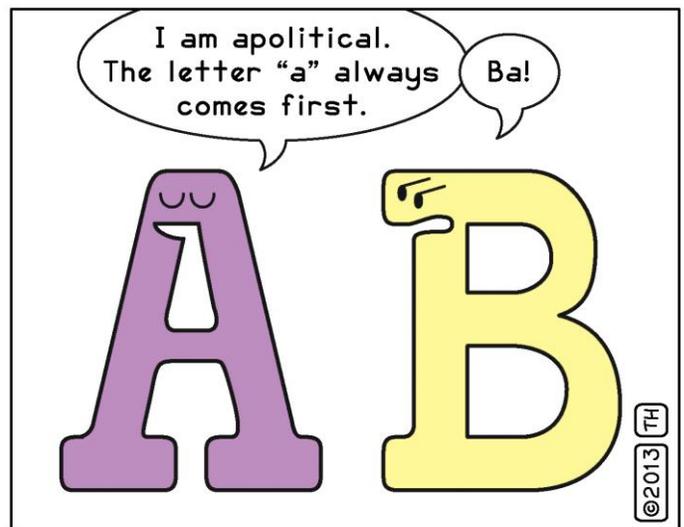
I no longer watch the news, apart from the CBC on occasion. Too depressing.

One observation I've made of late. Bearing in mind some commentators (I've read online) are beginning to describe Obama as a typical old-fashioned Republican-style President, it does strike me he has fallen in love with the power of the Presidency and is more concerned with war and the possibility of war than economics or even Medicare reform.

I have the feeling he is concentrating on the "important stuff" and all matters domestic he has delegated to others. Makes me wonder what he knows that the public doesn't. I have the vague intuition he is trying to position the US to effectively deal with China somehow or another.

At any rate I suspect his agenda is different from the public perception, an agenda dictated by what the CIA and military intelligence are telling him. Sort of like Kennedy in his early days in office. Hopefully won't result in a modern "Bay of Pigs" type fiasco.

Thus far however, inscrutable sphinx though he is, I still prefer him to what I regard as the lunatics in the Tea Party.



**From: ED BEAUREGARD,  
November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013  
One of the Founders of BCSFA**

Hi Graeme,

The articles and sources I read are very focused on foreign affairs, and the opinion there is that Obama is AWOL from this arena too. The truth

may be that he only interested in politics, golfing and vacations. He certainly is the quintessential Chicago pol, enthusiastic about greasing palms and crushing opponents using whatever means (fair or foul - e.g. IRS) come to hand. The fact that whenever a problem comes up, he goes into campaign mode (town-hall meetings, public speeches, etc.) supports that view.

**Actually you are describing the methods and techniques of the quintessential politician, never mind from what city. In that 'arena' he is quite effective and professional.**

**Obama may be absent from regular foreign affairs, but I still think he's become obsessed and fixated on the grand scheme of things re superpower politics and military necessity. Only my ignorant opinion of course.**

We are clearly going to disagree about the Tea Party. Everything I've seen reminds me of the old Reform Party that I was involved in for many years - people who want to see government remain a servant, not a master and live within a financial structure that doesn't impoverish the country. The left wing media have gone on a crusade to demonize that group that is without parallel since the Illustrieter Beobachter and Julius Streicher.

**The classic Liberal kneejerk response would be to say something like:**

**'Well Ed, since I know you are slightly to the right of Attila the Hun it doesn't surprise me you consider both the Tea Party and Reform party bastions of normalcy and practical common sense.'**

**But that would be unfairly snide. I know without question you are entirely sincere, extremely intelligent, incredibly well read, and utterly devoted to the philosophy of what I believe is referred to as 'enlightened self-interest.'**

**This is great for the Heinleins of the world, but not everybody resembles Heinlein in their ability to look after their own interests. I firmly believe the primary purpose of government is to safeguard, promote and protect clueless fools like myself.**

**Consequently I ask myself, the government should be the servant of whom? The rich? And only the rich? No. I don't think so. No, I want the government to be the master, at least in terms of regulating the Capitalists whose greed and willingness to sacrifice ordinary people is unbounded. Gotta agree with the Pope on this.**

**As for media bias, well of course the media is biased one way or another, always is. But having read a few pages of the Illustrieter Beobachter (in English translation) some years back, I have to say you're indulging in hyperbole for the sake of impact (which renders you eligible to become either a politician or a journalist by the way).**

Some of the media interviews with so-called Tea Party members were later shown to be anarchists who had attached themselves to the events to discredit the Tea Party. Some left wing activist groups published manuals on how to do this.

**Is this true? Or a Tea Party urban myth? If true it doesn't surprise me. Anarchists have always been manipulative and usually incredibly dangerous. Don't like them at all.**

I don't doubt there would be a few genuine members that were extreme - I remember at Reform Party conventions the media types roaming the halls, interviewing people. If they turned out to be knowledgeable or well-spoken, the material was discarded. They would talk to dozens and dozens and dozens of people to find one sound bite that could be used against the party.

**Can't speak to the Reform party, Harper is such a control freak that the only thing that comes through loud and clear are his policies, which I do not approve of. (One matter that still bugs me was his pledge to properly equip the armed forces, which he reneged on.)**

**As for the Republicans and the Tea party, I regard them as traitors to America.**

**A view subtly distinct from yours I suspect.**

At the 1996 convention an aboriginal woman spoke about the mistreatment of women under the reserve system, and got a standing ovation from the membership. Was that carried on the news?

Certainly not, because it didn't fit the narrative the media was creating.

**I don't think this had anything to do with bias against the reform party. It is not politically correct to report on mistreatment of First Nations people by First Nations people. The press won't touch it. This is not a good thing, it hinders progress and reform, but that's just the way it is. For now. Time may bring change for the better, I'm hoping.**

**To sum up, let us agree to disagree since neither one of us is going to convince the other to abandon what we believe. We should stick to topics of common enthusiasm...**

**So, how about them GHQ miniatures, eh? Bought myself the Karl Mortar set for Christmas. Huzzah!**



**From: DAVE HAREN, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013  
Renowned Letterhack**

Hi Graeme,

I note a certain element of talking past each other in SC 23. It isn't surprising since what seems near and dear and obvious to one character doesn't travel into another culture well.

**Fanspeak is mostly the art of the monologue.**

Doesn't make it wrong, just makes it a different perspective.

I also have a nasty habit of joking which aren't always seen as jokes.

**As long as you aren't into pranks and practical jokes. I hate pranks.**

The article on Canadian was a great read, I have my liberty cap, works great for the ears but mine is for the red-handed sans culottes who fed their media stars to the guillotine as a pastime to still their hunger for real food.

I lost a bit of dexterity to medical problems which makes the miniature painting and modeling a lot harder now.

**Sorry to hear that. I settle for what I can do and fret not over what I cannot do.**

Thanks for the heads up on Terry, the other Earl Kemp. I agree with your basic rant about fans. What always surprised me was how welcoming the truly active (pros especially) in the SF field are. There is an element of territoriality and a bit of fear that something might change within organized fandom.

**Fandom changes and evolves continuously, not something tradfans tolerate easily. Fortunately the two fandoms are different and not at all dependent on each other.**

You'd think that would not happen and that Timothy Leary's advice (find the others) would make it a lot more welcoming to the prodigals who show up at the oasis.

**In general I think there's an unwritten rule that newcomers have to measure up immediately to decades of tradition or be considered beyond the pale. Doesn't always come into play, but often enough to discourage some newcomers and prevent other fen from even attempting to be a newcomer because they have heard the rumours about "the least welcoming fandom."**

My latest acquisition makes me able to play Ogre on a scale hexmap using the 1/285th miniatures I've been collecting off and on for years. I'll try to get you a picture or two of this.



The blue mat is scratchbuilt stuff: the original Ogre vulcan unit and its drones; a Yavac for Keith Laumer fans; and two hovertanks and a combat car with dual tribarrels for David Drake fandom.



The yellow mat attachment is the Ogre minis.

We're still worried about the family on Leyte, they're on the other end of the island from the city that took the worst but still no communications yet.

**Hope you've been in contact since.**

For someone who disclaims interest you seem to know a lot of what's going on.

**Unfortunately. News addiction is a hard habit to break.**

I like the Swiss proposal for UBI (Universal Basic Income), it sure would help a lot of people.

Most of the objections against it are pure BS fantasies, built on a false model of humans.

**I think it's a good idea. It would certainly stimulate the economy, increase consumer spending, AND provide a cushion for the non-Heinleins of the world.**

I told Katz your reach exceeds your grasp, you have a lot more influence than you give yourself credit for. Trust me, contagious is enthusiasm, humans are not immune no matter how they pretend to be.

**You sure you don't mean "more effluent than you give yourself credit for?"**

**Influence in terms of inspiring or converting to my perspective? Doubtful. I'll settle for raising a few chuckles out of my fellow fen. Hopefully not too many hackles.**

**But I am enthusiastic, yes. Annoyingly so say some. Just a giddy gadfly.**

Oh before I forget, that's the wrong Burroughs, the one in Turing Burroughs is the guy who wrote Nova Express and Junkie, the Turing is Alan who won WW2s UBoat war by cracking the Enigma code of the German submarine fleet.

**Ah, my mistake. Also, my apologies for 'correcting' Turing Burroughs to 'Touring Burroughs.' Thought it was some kind of retrospective on Edgar. Of the two, I'd rather have Edgar for an Uncle. The other, though talented, was a bit too creepy for my taste in relatives.**

I have all of Edgar Rice Burroughs books, and am still in the process of wearing out the DVD of John Carter Warlord of Barsoom. I have the defunct SPIs copy of John Carter too, a great board game from the golden age of cardboard pushing. Reading the OZ books got me started down the road to fandom, ERB finished the job, Frank Herbert showed me there were more sf around than the pulp magazines. I have also written some of the stuff, I may try to inflict it on the world someday...GRIN

**I, too, like the John Carter movie quite a bit. Thought it captured the spirit of the novels well.**

**I haven't written fiction for at least twenty years. This leaves you free to fill my ecological niche in SF literature, especially since I became extinct before I even hatched.**

Meanwhile we live in a world who take a torch into outer space and think it is a good idea.

**Ah yes, the Olympic Torch up to the space station. Hope they remembered NOT to light it.**

Warm Regards, Kaor too, Dave Haren

**From: CATHY PALMER-LISTER,  
November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Faned award-winning editor of WARP.**

Really enjoyed this issue, esp your rant and Wayne's Canadiana article.

I'd like to find time to write a LoC, but lately I've been rather brain-dead.

Cathy

**I've been brain-dead for years. Not much of a handicap in my case. Never used it in the first place.**

**From: NEIL WILLIAMS,  
November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Faned & Elron award-winning editor of SWILL**

Hi Graeme,

As I recall, waaay back in the '80s, Vancouver "trufen" were nowhere near as unwelcoming as their counterparts in Toronto. My Vancouver fanac may have, just barely may have, resided on the borderlands of traditional fandom back in those days. My experiences in Ontario have always been that this is a "club" that has never wanted me as a member and since I reached my twenties, a club that I didn't want to be a part of.

Other than the idiocy of still wanting to run things as if they were the majority when they are

now a very small minority, traditional fandom is only on my radar as part of my research (a small part at that) and when I am writing SWILL. I would like to see fanzines survive as an art form; traditional fandom <shrug>. However, non-obnoxious tradfans who embrace (to some extent) the larger fandom are (when semi well-behaved) are the closest things that SF fandom has to elder statesmen.

Do have fun with your hobby, man. Do; you're one of the elder statesmen, in my opinion. I hope my sniping doesn't get you down; some of it is real and some of it is just for show -- I edit SWILL, after all and I am proud of it.

All the best, Neil

**No, I'm not bothered by your 'sniping'.**

**After all, no need for the appy polly loggy, I ain't no bezoomny baboochka, I'm a bolshy bolnor Bog of a bratchny, a starry sladky no chepooka chelloveck, all eager to smeck and guff, to skvat some dorogoy radosty. Choodessny crarking gloopy eegra is it not? Besides, SWILL is zammechatly interessovating as all the horrorshow Droogs govoreet, so to speak.**

**Be that as it may, Swill is never boring. Once I get past the over-the-top in-your-face Droogishness I find it quite invigorating actually. Definitely a genuine fanzine, yet very much a zine of its own.**

**It is a strack and oddy knocky vesch to be a Droog.**

**Elder Statesman? Maybe one of the lower rank diplomats always under suspicion of plotting a coup... I've been around. I've earned a few points. But I'm not a SMOF, or even a BNF. Just a solitary fan who gets a kick out of pubbing his ish.**

**From now on I'm going to stick with passive promotion. I will make as much of the Cdn zine heritage available as I can find time to scan and post. Otherwise I'll just do my own thing as whim and mood inspire me. My plan to keep my personal fanac as radostyful as possible.**

**Meanwhile, I see from facebook that you threw a room party to promote SWILL at the recent SFContario. Not only that, you pressed several copies of SWILL into the hands of David Kyle, one of the few remaining genuine Elder Statesmen of fandom, a legendary fan in his own right, beloved by some and resented by others, but renowned regardless of opinion. Once again, full marks for guts on your part.**

**From: JASON BURNETT, Nov 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
First time Loc writer to SC.**

Hi Graeme,

I just finished reading Space Cadet #23 and really enjoyed it.

It's practically impossible to predict what in a zine will be the first comment hook you come across.

**Look for the first mention of your own name. that's what most readers do, or at least the ones addicted to egoboo.**

In this case, it was in Taral's article about Canada, specifically the part where he talked about Canadians eating French toast with ketchup. I immediately went to Google, to make sure this wasn't a practical joke. Not only did I find information about Canadians eating their French toast with ketchup (including a Facebook group for fans of it), but I also found a recipe for French toast from India, intended to be eaten with ketchup, that called for including chopped onions and sliced chili peppers in the eggs. I'm going to give it a shot one of these days.

**Oddly enough, as far as I know, I've never eaten French toast with or without ketchup. But then, I don't play hockey either. I do freeze when it's cold outside. That's gotta count for something.**

**I forget. Did Taral mention Canadians prefer to douse their French fries with vinegar rather than ketchup? I love vinegar on French fries.**

In reference to Taral's guide to Canada, I also looked for more info about Canada Tire Money, where I read about several cases of Europeans being

arrested with MILLIONS of dollars in counterfeit Canada Tire Money.

**I have a stack of Canada Tire money in a drawer. Probably at least five dollars worth. They make great book marks by the way.**

As for your main article, about trufandom or fanzine fandom or core fandom or whatever you want to call it, this is one area where I think my relative youth (I just turned 40 last month) gives me an advantage - I've never known a time when fandom wasn't fragmented.

**Wow! Now there's a startling concept for tradfen, that it is an advantage to grow up in this era of multi-faceted fandom. I agree. Ignore the boundaries, cherry-pick what you like, and don't bother with the stuff that doesn't interest you. That's my advice.**

At my first con (Coastcon 37, 1991, Biloxi, Mississippi), I spent about 3/4 of my time in the gaming room. I knew there were other things going on in other part of the con - a movie room, an anime room, various other sorts of programming that I didn't even really know what they were at the time - but I was happy to hang out with "my people" and lot other people hang out with their people. I thought of the part of the con where my friends and I were as the "central" part of the con, but it never really occurred to me that the people in the other parts of the con were "not real fans." But I think that's where a lot of fans run into problems. There's a line - not even a fine line - between "that's not my fandom" and "that's not fandom."

**Sadly true. But I think adopting my ploy of viewing every fandom as part of a single multi-faceted fandom does away with this problem nicely.**

Take care, Jason Burnett

P.S. In case you haven't read it already, I'd like to recommend Christopher Hensley's "The One True Fandom" in Drink Tank #356. He says a lot of the same things about the nature of fandom that you had to say in Space Cadet #23.

**Looked it up. I'll be darned. Perhaps it is a sign there's a growing momentum towards**

**universality in fandom, a growing murmur in the ranks that the status quo is self-defeating and bad public relations.**

**Then again, maybe not.**

**Still, I did like Christopher's suggestion that traditional fandom should be the caretakers of fandom, not its gatekeepers.**

## **COLOPHON**

THE SPACE CADET GAZETTE #24 –  
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Published whenever I feel like it  
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The Space Cadet Gazette is free via download from Bill Burn's Excellent < <http://efanzines.com> > web site.

Check out your Canadian fanzine heritage & my Canfancylopedia at < <http://cdnsfzinearchive.org> >

And check out my 'Fannish Friday' weekly columns at < <http://amazingstoriesmag.com/> >

Cover by Steve Stiles.

Art by Teddy Harvia: Page 12, 14

Clip art: Page 18

Next issue I'll write an article or two on my battle gaming hobby. Unless I think of something else. Or I decide to take a nap instead.

Having spent eight hours straight finishing up this zine, proof reading, etc., I feel very much like the printers in the medieval art to the right being tapped on their shoulder with the reminder that life is short and death inevitable. Little did the artist know that "Death shall not release you!" Once a Faned, always a Faned.

