



# THE SHEILA TACKU- COLUMN #13 (JULY 2014)

Hi and welcome to my latest blog. Sorry it's taken so long, but what with exams and job hunting and hangovers... You know how it is, right gals?

Surveys? Mm. An interesting one recently was at <http://www.purplepawn.com/2014/04/2013-global-game-industry-survey/> Most traders are optimistically cautious about the end of the recession (if not the small ones), but 'Salute' seemed to show the big boys are still doing well.

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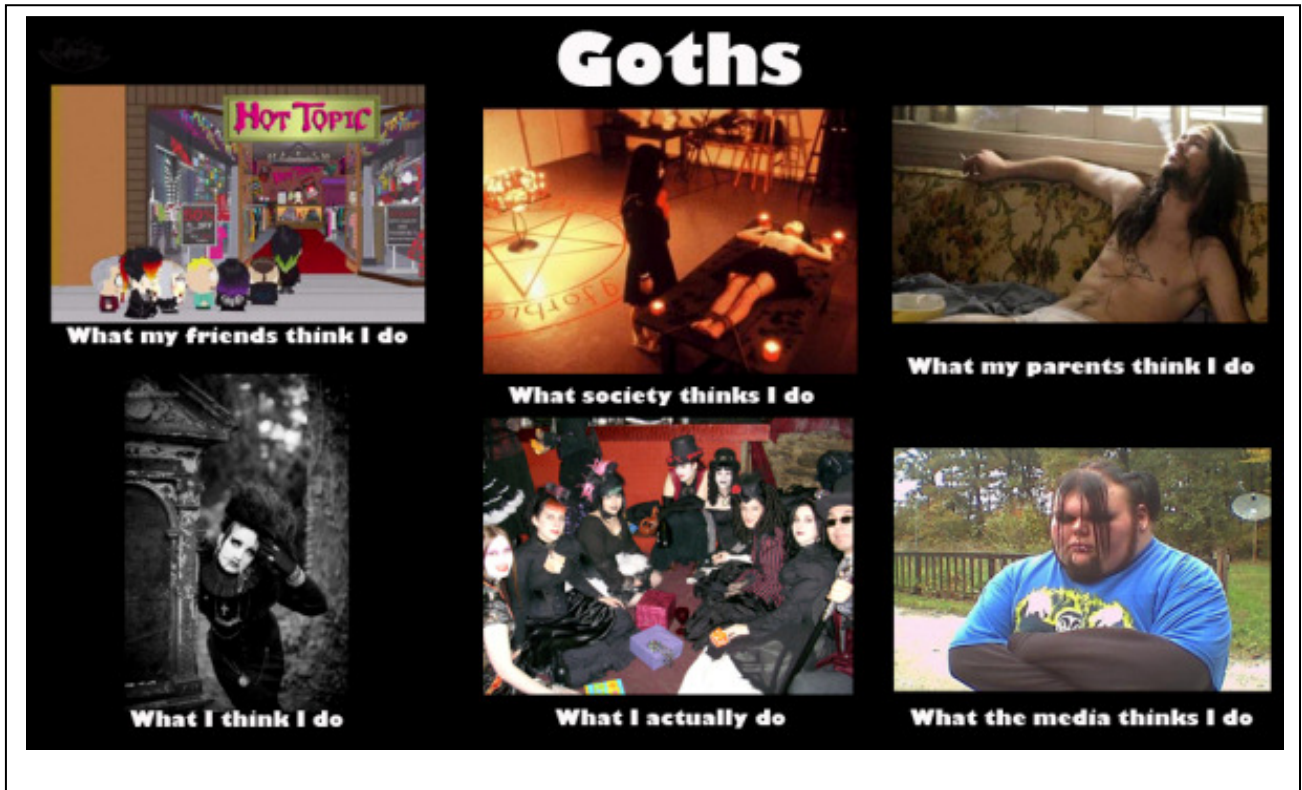
For those of you into C.19<sup>th</sup> the most excellent '[Heroes Of The Dark Age](#)' who are about to launch Austrians to go with their existing French and Bavarian ranges. They gave Gary one as a sample and he can be seen on [http://garymitchell.co.uk/?page\\_id=130](http://garymitchell.co.uk/?page_id=130) firing, as a comparison with one from 'Irregular'. His name is Wolfgang Strauss, and when he's not sniping the Emperor's enemies he likes to go waltzing with his fiancée Helga, and believes all nationalities in the Hapsburg realms should have their diversity respected, as long as they don't try for self-determination... Another cewl new thing are 'Forlorn Hopes' new Ming Chinese ( [www.forlornhopegames.com](http://www.forlornhopegames.com) ). Also hip are 'Angel Barracks' (<http://angelbarracks.co.uk/> ) who do a 6mm skirmish starter pack for £22.00 – including free PDF rules. 6mm skirmish? Yeah, I know, 6mm skirmish, but it works. Their painting is superb.

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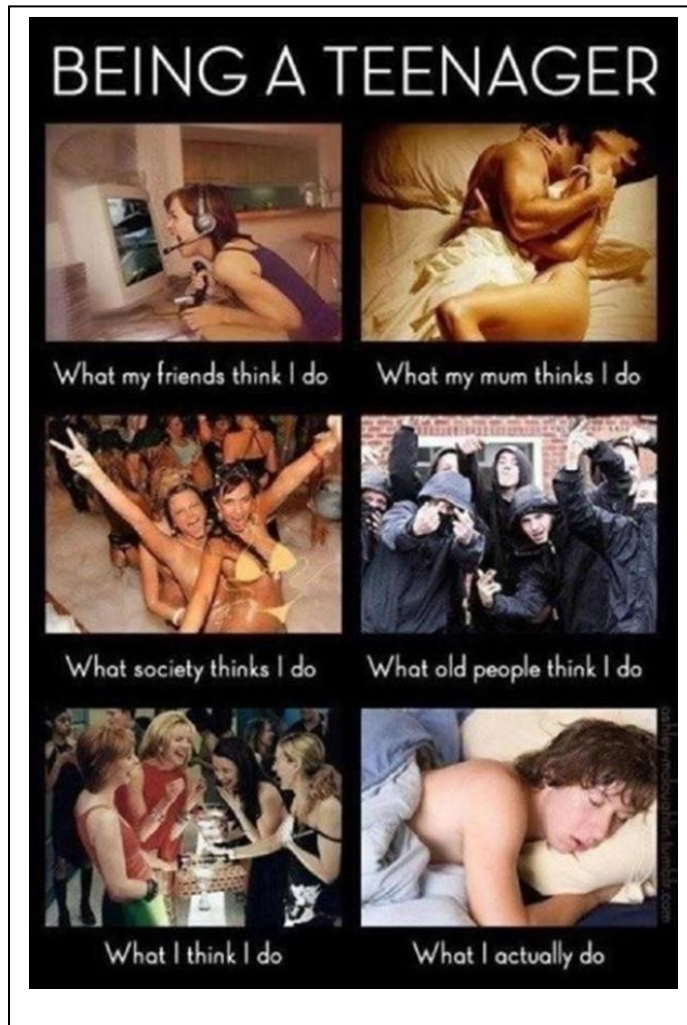
Spy-fi is getting hop now, what with '7TV' and the brilliant 'Crooked Dice' and all. Now 'Killer B Games' are getting in on the act with their 'Geezers Royale' spy-fi rules for £15.00 from [http://www.killerbgames.com/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=135](http://www.killerbgames.com/product_info.php?products_id=135) . You weren't expecting that, were you Mr Bond?

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Anyways, I saw this on the Net and it's me to a tee(n).





Got this of the Net an' all at 'The Daily Mash'... Had to laugh

## Looters return stuff to Games Workshop

SCORES of disappointed rioters queued up this morning to return goods they had mistakenly looted from Games Workshop.



What the fuck is this when it's at home?

Loking for something new in the way of fantasy miniatures? Correspondent David Knight recommends

[http://www.northumbriantinsoldier.co.uk/index.php?page=nightfolk-miniatures-gallery#prettyPhoto\[39\]/8/](http://www.northumbriantinsoldier.co.uk/index.php?page=nightfolk-miniatures-gallery#prettyPhoto[39]/8/)

And guess what? So do I!!!!

The crestfallen thieves had raided the store hoping for a 'PS3' or 'Nintendo' bounty but arrived home to find they had stolen a box containing 300 unpainted Orcs and a board game called *Beyond the Ultraforest of Kwang*.

Martin Bishop, 19, said: "I am returning *The Runerig of Fangor*.

"It includes two dice, each with about 40 sides and instructions on how to gain the trust of a 'cloud wizard'.

"And yet somehow I'm the fucking bad guy."

He added: "Nevertheless I am now immune to Dwarven magic, so it hasn't been a complete waste of time."

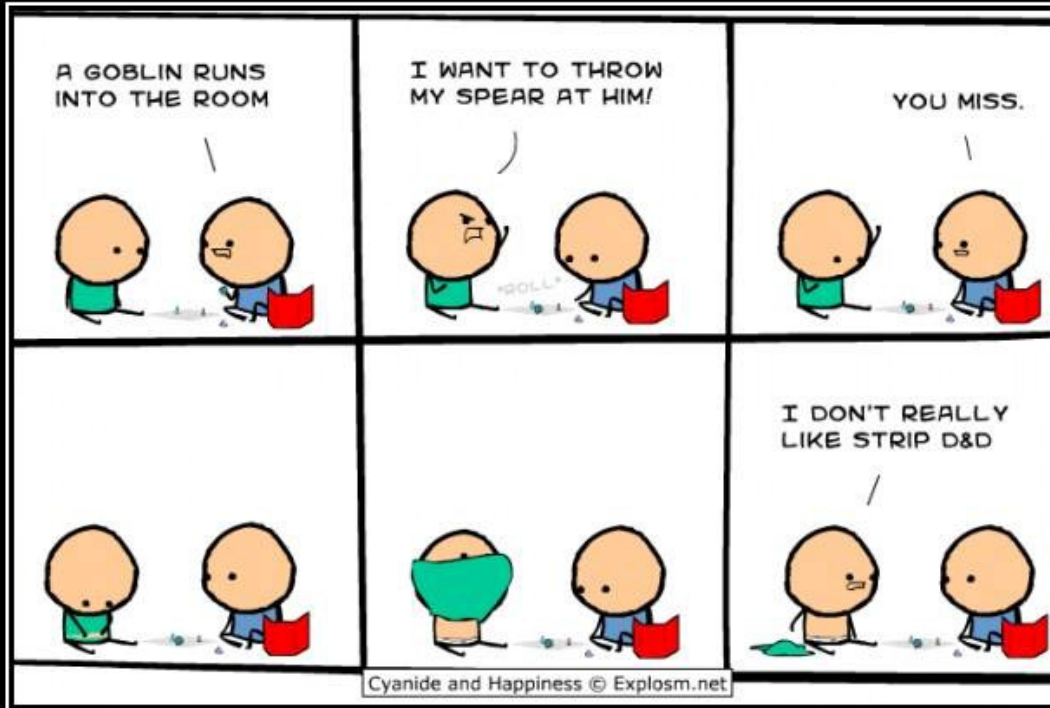
Meanwhile, historical kitsch outlet Past Times reported the return of a pair or resin bookends in the shape of the Egyptian cat-god Sekhmet and 254 teak statues of a fat, reclining Buddha.

And in Manchester, people who stole copies of *Limitless* starring Bradley Cooper have been setting fire to them and throwing them back through the window of 'HMV'.

Roy Hobbs, manager of 'Games Workshop' in Birmingham, said: "Welcome home my children. Let me bathe you in the healing milk of Fagnarbarak.

"I knew we would meet again."

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# HOUSERULES

Every group is unique

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Anyways, I think we have a winner for 'Epic Rules Fail' of the year in the latest edition of '*Crossed Lances*'. Have a look at <http://argonor-wargames.blogspot.dk/search/label/Crossed%20Lances> and <http://theminiaturespage.com/boards/msg.mv?id=332853> and <http://colgar6.blogspot.co.uk/2014/04/crossed-lances-review.html> . Sorry to drag these bodies from the car crash but – guys – 'market research' and 'playtesting' ? It's not rocket science, now is it? If you have any other nominations for 'crimes against wargaming', do let me know?

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Correspondent Stewart Forgan writes he is reading Daniel H Wilson's *'Robocalypse'*, and reckons it could make a good wargame not to mention film/TV series. Set out in similar style to the *'World War Z'* book, it's a bit like *'Terminator'* with robots taking over, though more towards the Asimov style where a computer becomes self aware and decides that humans have evolved as far as they can go. It starts out by taking control of small items before moving onto things like cars which end up driving themselves and trying to run over as many people as possible. Then onto the military. Stewart says it's an amazing read, Mr Wilson knowing his robots, judging by the bibliography at the start.



Anyways, 'Valhalla' wargames show. God awful stupid o'clock start after the England v Italy debacle (lost in case you've been on Mars). It was Father's Day so mum said to give Dad a rest and go to the show. Gotta say, good games and a 'target rich environment for spends. How rich? Like finding Zac Efron, the young Leonardo Di Capro, Harry Styles and Olly Murs, all in your General Studies class. The new 'Tantive IV' for 'Star Wars X-Wing' is not cheap, but big and impressive. I hate to think how big the box will be for the Super Star Destroyer model... Healthy bring and buy too. I know Gary's reviewed 'Valhalla' from East Street Games ( <http://valhalla.eaststreetgames.com/> ) in WSS but, gotta say, their new boxed set for £25.00 ahdv all the minis you need plus the re-writable cards and counters, all in a protective box. Looks like a bargain to me. Also new to me was 'Warzone Resurrection' ( <http://prodosgames.com/> ). I won't say too much about this at the mo But the rule book and universe for £35.00 is fab, and their range of miniatures will include aliens, predators, and colonial marines (if you get my drift). In some ways the territory is the same as the UEMC™ but they aim to 'aspire to be as good as and to exceed'. Yep, it's a 're-envisioning' of the games from the 1990's, but I can't say more as a full review is pending.

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Anyways, talking of which, I was at Emily's party on Saturday with Skinny Richard (just friends – OK), and we all recalled when Eddy Tor and his *copans* got talking (in a very 'laddish' way) about the buxom wenches on the 'MWwB' stand at 'Salute'. They got a full page in the mag. Politically incorrect? I ain't wearing no tight tee-shirt for no one (except, of course, Olly Murs). Eddy (of course) seemed to really dig them, and made some comments that would most certainly *not* withstand feminist analysis, so Ems (quietly rightly, IMO) had a go at him, but then that's Ems and, like, it's her party and she'll cry if she wants to, right?

But it's not just the 'Page 70' girls in #373 that made the issue a real navel-gazer (if you'll excuse the pun). 'Salute', an event attended by several thousand gamers, got one



page while the *'Donald Featherstone Tribute Weekend'*, an event attended by 12 people, got six. Because it was a pet project? Anyways, I mentioned our reservations to Gary M, when he came to pick his daughter Dee and me up after the party, and he said I'd better be careful what I write, as he used to scribe for the mag, and it could reflect badly on him as 'sour grapes'. Ok, point taken Gaz, nuffin' personal, *but...* General interest magazine or printed blog - that is the question? In #373 (for e.g.) there was SEVEN pages devoted to a review of 1970s SF game *'Ogre'* - confirming (one wag told me) the editor's status as the hobby's equivalent of *The Simpsons* 'Disco Stu', a well-meaning enthusiast perpetually trapped in the past. The impression Eddy (and I) get talking around the shows (and on blogs) is that the honeymoon period with the re-vamped *'MWwB'* is over for many readers. Information I am privy to suggests circulation is dropping whilst it is steady or increasing for other mags (good journos never reveal their sources - if I ain't a good journo it's the thought counts, right?)

Anyways, the editor mounted a vigorous defence of the mag on *'TMP'* at <http://theminiaturespage.com/boards/msg.mv?id=340680> but therein kinda let the cat out of the bag by saying only 'a couple of thousand' copies of *'MWwB'* go out each month. I understand the editor is on record as saying *'Battlegames'* (on its own) had a pre-merger print run of 2,000. I hope this still means, a yearish on from the merger, the combined mag is, as claimed, 'a growing success'. However, guys at the club and at shows – and Eddy and my correspondents - have expressed concern: they'd hoped the merger would be a genuine one, combining the best of both titles. Instead many believe we instead have a clone of *'Battlegames'*, which although fab wasn't economically viable. Industry insiders reckon the title at 'the margins of viability', as an eclectic spread of authors and topics isn't currently forthcoming (due to pay rates?), the format predictable (if you have *'The Wargaming Compendium'* you don't really need the mag). Sure, to broaden appeal there's now a regular boardgaming column, but that rather defeats the 'miniature' aspect, *n'est pas?* It could also be noted that, of the five boardgames under discussion in #374, only one is originally from this decade and one is from, yes - you guessed it, the 1970s. 'Fat Reg' seems to think boardgames are



'inappropriate', covered elsewhere on blogs, but I say 'live and let live'. Many of us do both.



THE THREE MUSKETEERS - IN REGIMENTAL SHIRTS

Anything new in the latest issue (#375)? Eddy got his issue before me and mailed me that the 'Secret Eye Candy Page' made its return with photos from public event 'Partizan', but sadly not a properly written and illustrated show report. And small and offbeat manufacturers never get reviewed - I know cos they tell me at shows. Eddy, whose gaming is a broader church than David Tennant and Olivia Coleman put together (geddit?), opines *'the editor's mission to produce the best wargames magazine the 70s never had. Clinging to old school horse and musket wargaming as if the last four decades had never happened, other articles are on Waterloo, the Peninsular War, 17th Century dragoons, 18th Century Italy and (yet again) Donald Featherstone'*. Mm... I understand from Facebook (other social media are available) is that the Editor has been commissioned to write a follow up to his excellent *'The Wargaming Compendium'* to feature own 'Wars of Faltenian Succession' - his long-running, old school 18th century imagi-nations game. Great! Not my bag, but anyways I hope this means more mag space to other periods - or has market research been conducted that I've missed?

Similar views to the above have been expressed down the club. Sales and advertising tend to go into a post-*'Salute'* summer slump - and this year there is no *'Colours'* to kick start an autumn feeding frenzy and, ergo, no *'Colours'* show guide for *'MWwB'*. True, there's an 'early renewal discount' and 'free issue' offer, but I'm told advertisers make modern print-mags viable. With the growth of the Net such revenue may not be out there. I understand from guys I've been PM'd\* by that in #372 & #373 four booked adverts were missed out due to 'administrative errors', but TBF this was admitted on their website. IMO someone at the publishers needs to lighten the poor editor's load, get him off the treadmill.

Bottom line? Soz if this sounds like a hatchet job, 'cos it's really meant to be constructive criticism - you should see what I got sent and cut - but this blog *does* exist to express the love that dare not speak its name. You know, a bit like voting Green or UKIP? The evidence from my sources has indeed been snowballing over the past year and - given that money is tight what with student loans an' all - I've had to let my sub lapse, and so have others. And now it's lapsed I've decided to publish and be damned. Maybe it's the writing on the wall for print media, *per se*, what with big companies 'owning' journals an' all?

Are we to see yet another realignment of forces within the Geoffhurst Road gang? I think we should be told... SYS

**Sheila XXXX**

\*PM'd = 'personal mail'. No matter how drunk I was I have never snogged the Prime Minister... though the same can't be said of Sam...