



## THE SHEILA TACKU COLUMN #1 (MAR. 2013)

'because when you don't exist you can pretty much say what you like...'

Hi Beings, and welcome back to my brand new revamped 'gossip page'. Sorry for not being in touch for a while, the aliens only deposited me back on this planet a couple of days ago, so I'm still trying to re-acclimatize to Earth's gravity and eccentric axial tilt. Thanks to all you who've Gary with the latest goss, so here goes...

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In fear for his life from their minions, 'Anglepoise' (not his real name, of course), writes about developments over at the UEMC™. Panting into a cell phone as he seeks to evade their rabid canines he says:- *'...the usual shenanigans... (allegedly), they have upset quite a few of the independent retailers in the good ole US, all because of the release of the latest supplement. This is an official rule upgrade/whatever. But they decided to make it available direct from them, which has peed off the neighbours no end. One has even posted an open letter to the 'UEMC™' (gawd bless 'er!) saying that he is banning anyone from using it in his shop. This is no lone gunman here; he has the backing of a few disgruntled shop owners. A US 'UEMC™' sales rep responded that the independents could indeed order it for their stores. BUT!!! It apparently sold out before they could do so! They are openly threatening to drastically reduce orders as discontent is apparently rife amongst American independent store owners. Other rumours include the 'UEMC™' disappearing from 'Facebook', don't ask me why I'm not on 'Facebook'. All I can make out is it is rumoured to be about their legal team forcing a writer from using the term space marine in his/her book for sale on Amazon. In fact I think there are 2 authors been stepped on here. Anyway the media has got wind of this and an article*

*appeared somewhere. The 'UEMC™', fearful of upsetting their shareholders disappeared from 'FB' in a puff of logic. So to speak. The other rumour is that 'UEMC™ Minecast' is to disappear from their shelves in the next two years or so. You can imagine the tears of joy from the faithful as they may no longer have to endure wonky models filled with bubbly goodness for much longer. What a complete disaster this product has been. Aggh! Aggh! They've got me! Help! Help! Oh my God! It's full of sprues!*

Ok, thanks 'Anglepose', looking forward to your next regeneration...

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Stewart Foragn writes: "*Statuesque Miniatures' in Edinburgh continue to produce very high quality metal miniatures. Top rule-writing celebrity Rick Priestley went to great lengths to plug his kickstarter for, 'Beyond the Gates Of Antares'. Now the kickstarter has disappeared (possibly to Antares), the reason being that they started too early and have decided to go away and have a think about things. They did get a lot of flak for the lack of hard detail, but I'm sure they'll come back from Antares sometime. You did, didn't you Sheila? Speculation is rife on 'Dakka Dakka' that 'Triple Helix' are having a hard time of it and could be the next company to go mammaries vertical. Not a good sign. They can (allegedly) be damn slow on deliveries though - but - let's face it - the recession is mainly to blame'*. Thanks Stewart - I'm sure it would help companies if people paid-up more promptly!

\*

'*Foundry Miniatures'* are making big changes to their website and ranges - and sent the world and her husband a long email to prove it. Basically the new management sensibly spent six months reviewing before action. A new website is promised, a retro-refit back to the informative 2000 AD format, and a sample page is available for viewing - see below:-

**COMPLETE LIST OF STREET VIOLENCE COLLECTIONS. Click any to view.**

**SV1 INTO THE STREETS**  
 SV011 SWAT Team Alpha  
 SV012 SWAT Team Take-down  
 SV013 Scabies Punks  
 SV014 Mercenary Fire Team  
 SV015 Mistress Trude's Street Girls  
 SV016 Juno's Crew  
 SV017 The Hardwire Troupe  
 SV018 Yossa's Bonehead Skins

**SV2 DOWN ON THE KILLING FLOOR**  
 SV021 SWAT Team Suppression  
 SV022 Fast Lucy's Street Girls  
 SV023 Outlaw Trash  
 SV024 Sarge's Korporation  
 SV025 The Family  
 SV026 Gazza's Good Boys  
 SV027 Garfield's Yardies  
 SV028 SWAT Team Hammer

**SV3 DARK HEART OF THE CITY**  
 SV031 Street Cops  
 SV032 Freelance Assassins  
 SV033 Alice White & the Dwarfs  
 SV034 The Mob  
 SV035 Young Plugs  
 SV036 Yakuza Kingpin  
 SV037 The B Team  
 SV038 Mistress Medusa's Domimatrix Coven

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'Foundry' also promise to 'remove substandard and UnFoundrylike models'. I asked Gary what this means, but he just mumbled something about 'constructive dismissal for oldies'. Yet the 'Foundry' announcement does seem to suggest a 'budget' range and/or other unwanted ending up on 'EBay'. A 'steampunk orcs' range is also hinted at - cew!! A bold series of moves - see the 'Foundry' website for details.

\*

I want to say something about the change of editorship at 'Miniature Wargames'... but Gary won't let me. However, our listening posts in The Neutral Zone are starting to detect significant coms traffic about the possibility of a major manufacturer stepping in to sponsor a new sci-fant magazine. We shall see...

\*

Were you at Emily's party on Friday? I wasn't, but apparently Mike got totally out of it - and Dave and Claire got in with each other! Yeah, try explaining *that* at college on Monday? I doubt Jasmine and Daz will *ever* accept the stated, 'we were under the stairs discussing the sociology project' gambit - and indeed have subsequently themselves been spending an unusual amount of time together. Are we to see a realignment of forces within the Geoffhurst Road gang? I think we should be told...

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Well, that's all for this month. More goss as I get it - and if you don't see Tom Daley for a while... it'll mean my cunning plan has come to fruition... Love and peace

**Sheila XX**