The Interesting Times

Issue #2 * October 2016

Surrealist's Ball



Anarcho-Surrealist Revival Parties

The Anarcho-Surrealist Party, one of many Garth Spencer gags that didn't go anywhere, is the original Facebook group for those who can't believe in one-dimensional politics anymore and want to do something creative.

This moribund joke is survived by two splinter parties, the **Second Reformed Anarcho-Surrealist Party with a Hot Tub in the Backyard Society Inc.** and the **Steampunk Viking Klingon Operetta Society**, which will hold auditions monthly for the purpose of performing Gilbert and Sullivan in the original Klingon.

For more information search Facebook, or contact garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.



E-APA Soliciting Members

e-APA, the electronic APA, is open to new members! To view the requirements or apply for membership, see the "Members of e-APA" Facebook page, or contact garth.van.spencer@gmail.com

As in other Amateur Publishing Associations, monthly mailings of e-APA include contributions from the several members, collated and distributed to the membership by an Official Editor. Also as in other APAs, e-APA requires regular contributions of a minimum number of pages per month. Unlike prior APAs in SF fandom and other circles, e-APA

is not particularly restricted as to subject or content, is conducted entirely online. Contributions are accepted (and mailings are distributed) in PDF format, and accessible from efanzines.com with a monthly password. (October mailings are password-free.)

Another electronic APA, TePe (The Electronic Press Exchange), administered out of Las Vegas, ceased operation in early 2016.

If you are interested in joining e-APA, contact garth.van.spencer@gmail.com or view the "Members of e-APA" page for the guidelines, browse efanzines.com for sample October editions open to non-members, or submit a contribution to Garth before the first of the month.

Somewhere Over the Rainbow

Plans for first space nation 'Asgardia' revealed, citizenship applications opened

"... Scientists have unveiled plans for "Asgardia", a floating nation and defender of the Earth with room for 100,000 citizens.

"Dr Igor Ashurbeyli of the Aerospace International Research Center announced the plans in Paris, saying Asgardia aims to "flourish free from the tight restrictions of state control that currently exist." He announced the plans on the same day he became chairman of UNESCO's Science of Space committee.

"Ashurbeyli said their mission is to act as guardians of the Earth, and the "nation" would first get to work building a protective shield to protect Earth from debris, asteroids and coronal mass ejections from the sun.

"Currently all space programs, including commercial, must be supervised and authorised by a government on Earth. When applications for Asgardian citizenship goes above 100,000 they can apply to the UN for the status of state, according to Ashurbeyli.

"An <u>online registration form</u> is welcoming applications for citizenship, with the first 100,000 qualifying for automatic citizenship. No word yet on how people can become citizens in the future, or whether there'll be a wall built between Asgardia and Earth.

"Named after the city in the sky [sic!] ruled by Odin in Norse mythology, Asgardia is the work of a team of scientists and legal experts who claim it will someday become a member of the United Nations with its own flag and national anthem.

Asgardia gets underway in late 2017, when the team plan to launch a satellite into a low-Earth orbit. ..."

www.rt.com/viral/362555-plans-first-space-nation/, 12 Oct, 2016

Masthead

Welcome to *The Interesting Times* #2, dated October 2016, a propaganda organ of the World Government of Spuzzum. Actually, this local edition is a zine distributed by Garth Spencer at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com. This zine is available for contributions in the form of articles, letters, illustrations, or other zines in trade.

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Errata

In last issue's letter column, I referred to a "Subcultures" section, which was not in fact included in that issue. This section now appears in this issue.

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Just as a conversation starter, we present the following op/ed article. -Ed.

Monetarism

The Core Cause of Our Inability to Combat Climate Change

(and what we need to do to fix the problem):

by P. Gerber, on Facebook, September 25, 2016

The economic and political quagmire we are in is not just the result of one generation's neglect. The roots go back hundreds of years to the struggle for control of the money supply by profiteers, and to the late 1960s in particular. In the USA the battle was lost in 1923 with the creation of the Federal Reserve. In Canada it wasn't until the early '70s under Trudeau (Pierre Elliott, not Justin), followed immediately thereafter by all the other commonwealth countries, then the countries of South America. One of the most recent was monetarization of the UK as Tony Blair's first act of office.

The core issue is that under "monetarism", which is the policy of giving control of a nation's money supply to a central private bank, a significant portion of the nation's entire tax revenue goes towards paying that central bank to manage the money supply. The private banks then allow the nation to "borrow" money it "lends" (the money is not actually borrowed or lent, it is created out of thin air as an entry in a ledger - or, these days, a spreadsheet), up until the "interest rate" results in an annual payment of a significant portion of the nation's tax revenues to the central bank. Then it increases the interest rate to such a high rate that the government cannot repay the deficit much less the debt, so the national debt continues to rise and rise. When the debt reaches some astronomical amount that can never be repaid in any meaningful lifetime, the central bank then requires the government to eliminate social programs and social benefits and reduce overall government spending to such a point as interest payments can just (barely) be met. When governments do that ("good boy" politicians comply) then the interest rates are dropped to a rate that consumes "only" about 20-40% of all taxes rather than 90% or more.

Thus the situation is that for the duration of the last 40 years in most countries, when every government in the world should have been investing in infrastructure efficiencies, science and research, all governments have instead had huge tax revenues siphoned off to private pockets, to the amount globally of putting many trillions of dollars in the hands of the private moneylenders.

The global initiative to move every government to monetarism started in earnest following the "Club of Rome" meetings starting in the late 1960s, where a huge number of the world's political, economic, and scientific leaders met to discuss what to do about the world's expanding population and pollution problems. It was during those meetings that some of the worst scenarios for global food and water shortages and climate disaster were first publicly recognized. The scientists' response was to discuss it further for about a decade, and then to publish a book called The Limits to Growth. The real power behind governments – the big banks – decided instead to move the entire world to a model where they would siphon off trillions of dollars into their own pockets, presumably to create vast underground bunkers where they could live in comfort while the rest of the world devolved into wars for resources.

Those policies were enacted as monetarism: every government has been paying the price ever since. Those bunkers were in fact built in every major country -- some the size of small cities -- and that would be the end of the story. Except, they didn't know everything. They didn't then know about the Cambrian Mass Extinction causes, about ocean acidification, about methane hydrate deposits, about triggering a "hot Earth" again. As a result, all their preparations, all their underground cities, all their accumulated wealth, is about to come to nothing, because no warm-blooded oxygenbreathing life will survive the ecological shift and extinctions which are on their way. It takes the Earth tens of millions of years to resequester all the CO₂ released by warming the methane hydrates, and no underground city of any sort will survive that long.

So, they wrote off 99.9999% of all humanity about 40 years ago and then watched as the investments which could have saved us have been eroded or eliminated in the name of "cost-cutting" and "controlling government spending". They won't get the last laugh. But if they retreat to their underground cities they might be the last to die.

But that's only if we continue to abide by the insanity of monetarism policies. It's the greatest scam perpetrated in human history, the costliest service ever, delivering the least value possible. It's time for it to end, time to write off most of the world's "national debt", time to tax the hell out of the wealthiest individuals and corporations, time to revoke or drastically reduce all costs of patents and non-artistic intellectual property, and time to actually focus on solving the problems of our making, rather than attempting to hide from them

I still think it's possible to save most of the world's life, including most of humanity; but only if we

actually start taking the reins of power and control away from the greedy sociopaths who have claimed authority over civilization long past any right to do so. Out with the sociopaths. In with socially conscientious scientists, engineers, doctors, futurists, social workers, and anyone else who has good critical reasoning skills and a functioning soul.



Missing in Action

Where is allan brockmen, and where did Tim Smick go? What is Joyce Worley's current e-mail? And what happened to Jim Mowatt? – G. Spencer

Letters

Taral Wayne, taral@bell.net, September 25, 2016

Asking what a Vancouver fan is publishing is like asking about the weather. Anything is possible and nothing predictable. (And, lately, Graeme Cameron is providing the most surprising answer of all – nothing!)

A language of 125 words might well cut to the bone, but it is not unique in that. Most pidgin languages do the same naturally, though the choice of words can be highly idiosyncratic. "Me sama snoo snoo on bossa boat" might meant a woman is offering paid sex on a yacht, for example. A purely logical choice would use fewer words, because they were made up instead of borrowed. But pidgins evolve into creoles and creoles become outright languages for a reason. There are two ways to explain to the boss why you didn't finish the assignment on time – one of them gets you an extension of time and the other gets you fired - they same the same thing but use words of subtly different meaning.

Of course, I remember now that you have trouble sometimes with those subtleties, so a language of 125 words that just calls the boss a "boob" might appeal to you.

I was WAHFed? I don't have any record of sending a loc... but I may have emailed a few words on something. This, on the other, I'll save as just barely qualifying as a letter.

As you may know, I am now officially a member of the leisure class. No, not my retirement. It's true, though, that I went from disability to retirement in early October, but I am referring to the post Broken Toys era. Upon putting the final touches on the final issue, I celebrated my leisure by writing two or three new articles and piece of fiction set in a small town in Northern Ontario. Yes, it's splendid to be able to relax. But, seriously, it is going to be a bit of a challenge overcoming the habit of meeting a monthly deadline and tackling longer term projects. I'm making a start with some artwork whose completion is long overdue, and after that ... who knows? Maybe I'll build a model kit, or even clean out the linen closet. It has to be done someday, and there might even be a lost civilization in there.

For a gallery of my art

- -- http://www.furaffinity.net/user/saara/
- -- http://taralwayne.deviantart.com/

To download my fanzines

- -- http://efanzines.com/Taral/index.htm
- -- http://fanac.org/fanzines/BrokenToys/

Do-Ming Lum, September 27, 2016

Holy crap - Lexie Pakulak passed away. What a piece of shit. I did not know, and I am sad at finding this out.

Brad Foster, Oct. 31, 2016

First, I'm phasing out my old juno email address, which is where you sent this. Erase that one from your files, and note that, for all future fannish correspondence, you can get me here at: jabberwocky2000@hotmail.com.

Second-- hey, look, a brand-new fanzine! I like the title, too. The Interesting Times. Though, as it gets closer to the actual election here in the states, it's more like "The Scarv as Fuck Times" > But, that might be just a -bit- too abrupt for a fanzine title. So probably a good idea to stick with what you

have here now.



((Not long ago I had the bad taste to ask Spider Robinson whether it was time to ghost-write the novel Robert Heinlein never wrote, The Stone Pillow, about how a theocratic dictatorship overcomes the United States. As usual some other writer was already producing the story, but I never expected the television miniseries would be presented as real news.))

Pleased you found a home for my little "Feather Face" person on the front of this new issue as well. I think they've been waiting patiently for a couple

of years now, so it gives me hope for the dozens of other 'toons out there in the files of other zine editors that, someday, someday, they too will be released back to the world!

((My fault in this respect is that I haven't properly kept track of which illos I have, and have used. About time I corrected that.))

Good grief, a language with only 125 words? Who would think such a thing would be a -good- idea? Shades of meaning, simply beautiful words, why would anyone want to get rid of all that? Nope, I don't think going to be buying into Toki Pona.

Good to read you are more relieved than terrified at the thought of now having to look for work again. As you noted in your second paragraph, about leading a life of constant rejection or being ignored, picking to go out there as an artist is one way to do it. I've spent my entire life as a continual quest for the "next job", so don't even think about it that way any more. Every once in a while, I wonder what it might be like to have the same job to go to each week, with a regularly appearing pay check. but then, I don't know if I'd be any good at that anymore, either. Gold dog, new tricks...

Say, since you want this new zine to be more focused on "having fun and doing neat stuff", does that mean you'd be up for some more of my goofy little toons? If so, do you promise to use them within at least, oh, three or four years of my sending them to you. (I joke, I joke!) Let me know, still have a couple of things on hand here not sent out yet. Been a slow year for creating -new- items, eye problems and such, but I do have one or two looking for homes still.

((HELL, yes! Let me know if I should expand the type on this zine – when I configure zines for online consumption, I generally use 14-point type, and landscape layout.))

WAHF: Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand

Excuses, Excuses

This issue was to feature a broad overview and digest of mundane news, but, well ... time.

It may be just as well to invite you all to submit alternative news, and good news at that, about constructive efforts that actually make a more habitable environment, an economy that actually offers employment and small business opportunities, and promote responsible policing and effective public services. In the meantime ...

Subcultures

SF IN CANADA

Fictons seeking previously published submissions

"FICTONS is seeking previously-published works of short fiction, in all genres, to be republished in electronic form for a whole new generation of readers.

"If you have written a work of short fiction that has previously been professionally published, and would like to know more about how FICTONS can market, distribute and generate royalties on your work, please contact us at authors@fictons.com."

(Note: Fictons previously appeared as an occasional fiction magazine supported by the B.C. Science Fiction Association. – Ed.)

Copper Cylinder Awards Announced

"The Sunburst Award Society is pleased to announce the winners of the fifth annual **Copper Cylinder Award**. The Copper Cylinder Award is an annual award for Canadian literature of the fantastic, selected by members of the Sunburst Award Society for books published during the previous year. It derives its name from what is considered the first Canadian scientific romance, A Strange Manuscript Found in a Copper Cylinder, by James De Mille (1833-1880). All winners of the Copper Cylinder receive a unique, handcrafted copper cylinder trophy.

"Adult Award: The winner of the 2016 Copper Cylinder Adult Award is Signal to Noise by Silvia Moreno-Garcia (Solaris).

"From the <u>publisher</u>: Painting an intimate picture of love, friendship and family, award-winning short fiction author Silvia Moreno-Garcia's debut novel *Signal to Noise* is a literary mixtape of the fantastical and the mundane. Capturing perfectly the power that the right song, at the right moment, can hold over its listener, Moreno-Garcia effortlessly transforms this experience into a genredefying story of musical alchemy and identity, in a love story to music which will resonate with the reader long after the book's closing words.'

"Mexican by birth, Canadian by inclination, **Silvia Moreno-Garcia** lives in beautiful British Columbia with her family and two cats. Her speculative fiction has been collected in *This Strange Way of Dying. Signal to Noise* is her debut novel.

"Young Adult Award: The winner of the 2016 Copper Cylinder Young Adult Award is <u>An</u>
<u>Inheritance of Ashes</u> by Leah Bobet(Scholastic Canada).

"From the <u>publisher</u>: The strange war down south — with its rumours of gods and monsters — is over. And while 16-year-old Hallie and her sister wait to see who will return from the distant battlefield, they struggle to maintain their family farm. When Hallie hires a veteran to help them, the war comes home in ways no one could have imagined, and soon Hallie is taking dangerous risks — and keeping desperate secrets. But even as she slowly learns more about the war and the men who fought it, ugly truths about Hallie's own family are emerging. And while monsters and armies are converging on the small farm, the greatest threat to Hallie's home may be Hallie herself."

"Leah Bobet grew up in Vaughan, ON, and currently resides in Toronto. Bobet is the author of multiple short stories and poems that have appeared in magazines, anthologies, and school readers around the world. *An Inheritance of Ashes* has been shortlisted for the 2016 Canadian Library Association Young Adult Book Award.

"The **Sunburst Award Society** also confers the annual juried **Sunburst Awards for Excellence in Canadian Literature of the Fantastic.** Both awards celebrate the best in Canadian fantastic literature published during the previous calendar year.

"For additional information about the Copper Cylinder Awards, Sunburst Award Society membership, and the voting process, please visit the website at http://coppercylinderaward.ca

"For additional information about the Sunburst Awards, the nominees and jurors, eligibility, and the selection process, please visit the website at http://sunburstaward.org.

(from SFWA.org, posted October 5, 2016)

FANDOM

Call for VCON 42 Bids

"The West Coast Science Fiction Association (WCSFA) would like to remind all current members that we are currently accepting applications from groups interested in becoming the core of the organizing committee (ConCom) for the VCON 42 convention, to be held in October 2017 at a venue still to be determined.

"In order for a committee bidding to run VCON 42 to be considered, the requirements and procedures noted in the following blog post must be

followed: http://wcsfa.org/2016/08/call-for-bids-to-run-vcon-42-in-2017/

"Completed bid information must be submitted to the WCSFA board secretary (secretary@wcsfa.org) no later than MON 31 OCT, 2016.

"The WCSFA board highly recommends that anyone interested in being a VCON bid chair contact us to formally declare yourself much earlier than the bid deadline so that we may provide you with information and documentation that will be useful for developing your bid.

"WCSFA exists to support fan-run events like VCON and is ready to provide any declared bid chair with assistance to help bring about a strong bid. Such assistance may include but is not limited to access to shared resources, forwarding names of potential ConCom volunteers who come forward during the course of the bid process, financial budget advice, and specifics for required and traditional event activities."

(Jenni Merrifield: secretary@wcsfa.org
2016 Secretary, West Coast Science Fiction Association)

(A WCSFA meeting to hear VCON 42 bids will be held November 12, 2016. – Ed.)

NON-FANNISH ZINEDOM

Canzine 2016, a "Festival of Zine Culture and the Independent Arts" will be held November 5, 2016 at Simon Fraser University's downtown Vancouver campus (149 West Hastings Street) from 1 to 7 pm. Attendance is free. This event will feature hundreds of zines, comics, and artist books for sale. For more information see canzine.ca.

PAGANITY

Asatru Quarrels

Some people who worship pre-Christian Germanic gods are trying hard to dissociate themselves from other people who worship pre-Christian Germanic gods. Partly their grounds that this form of worship, "Asatru", should be open to all; and partly, they want to distinguish themselves from racists operating under the colour of Asatru.

One of the differences of opinion that came up on Facebook in 2016 was between the Asatru Folk Assembly and various other groups, such as The Asatru Community (Inc.) and the Heathen Freehold Society of B.C. The AFA took the "folkish" position, which was that people of northern European descent were the ones eligible to join their member

groups. (The AFA also voiced other positions about the roles of men and women, which would be familiar to rather conservative, traditional Christian denominations.) The other heathen associations took the "universalist" position, that their groups should be open to all.

Later in 2016, perhaps as an outgrowth of the American federal election campaign, news media began to report on groups calling themselves "Soldiers of Odin", alleging that their volunteer parties patrolled neighbourhoods to keep the peace, break up incipient robberies and assaults, and discourage drug use and trafficking. The fact that people feared, expected, or had to report harassment of anyone who wasn't white and male and known to the patrols was implied, but not made explicit. Branches of this organization have begun to appear, not only across the United States, but in Canada as well.

In retrospect this is all fairly predictable. Asatru, and rune signs, are never going to be quite free of association with fascism and racism, and racists will persistently take in vain the fair name of Odin. It is pleasantly surprising that anyone cared to revive Asatru at all.

Why is 1984 Considered a Dystopia when *The Lord of the Rings* Isn't?

by Karl Johanson, from Issue 4 of Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine

Dystopia: 1. An imaginary place or state in which the condition of life is extremely bad, as from deprivation, oppression, or terror. 2. A work describing such a place or state.

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition.

The novel 1984 is commonly referred to as a "dystopia". In fact, it is often the title that people first suggest when asked for an example. In contrast, I haven't ever heard of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy being referred to as a dystopia. Judging whether or not a story is dystopic or not is clearly a very subjective matter. The following is presented as opinion and as a thought exercise, and is not intended to be any kind of 'final word' on the subject.

A brief thought may lead one to think that a dystopia would be a story about a violent society. In fact, 'violent' covers the 'bad' and the 'terror' portion of the definition of dystopia quite well. Clearly 1984 takes place in a violent society. The

unspecified country in which this story takes place is described as being at war, although this war may be only propaganda. The protagonist, Winston Smith, undergoes some rather nasty torture, and it is suggested that Julia, Winston's girlfriend, does as well. Other violence in the story includes Symes, a colleague of Winston, being executed. I suggest however, that it isn't the violence, or rather, the violence alone, which leads to this story, and or the society described in the story, to be considered dystopic. If violence alone were sufficient to lead to a story being labelled a dystopia, then The Lord of the Rings, which is clearly a violent story, would also be considered dystopic. The violence in *The* Lord of the Rings isn't subtle, it isn't all dealt with 'off screen', it isn't something which only affects 'others' and not the main characters. Wars have been fought in Middle Earth for millennia. Clearly The Lord of the Rings is considerably more violent than 1984.

The government in 1984* is depicted as a dictatorship, and such governments tend to be 'oppressive', which is part of the definition of dystopia. I suggest that this alone doesn't make the story dystopic. If the presence of a dictatorship is enough to cause a story to be labelled a dystopia, then The Lord of the Rings, which features many dictatorial governments, could be considered a dystopia as well. Not only are some of the governments dictatorial in The Lord of the Rings, but a significant point of the story is the return of Aragon, the 'rightful' king, to his position as an unelected dictator. The leaders of the Elves seem to have little in the way of a mandate to rule, other than the possession of rings of power.

(*It is sometimes suggested that 1984 wasn't intended to be a cautionary tale about the possible political dangers in the future (the future for the time the story was written, of course), rather that it was a parable of the conditions already existing in the Soviet Union at the time the story was written. Another of George Orwell's stories, *Animal Farm*, is clearly a parable about the Russian revolution and the formation of the pseudo-communist dictatorship which resulted.)

I don't think that *The Lord of the Rings* is excluded from the label dystopia because 'good' triumphs over 'evil'. In the end, the great evil in *The Lord of the Rings* is defeated. In reading this story, one doesn't feel the certainty of this outcome, which is part of the tension of the story. Similarly, there is no sense of certainty that the great evil will prevail. What I think makes *1984* a dystopia is the sense of hopelessness, the sense that the character(s) have virtually no control over the world around them. Nothing Winston does is likely to significantly affect either the society he lives in, or his own life.

In spite of some very terrible things happening around and to the characters in *The Lord of the Rings*, there is a sense that the characters have some level of ability to affect the lot of their own lives, and the lot of the society around them. There is no sense of certainty of abilities to affect things in a specific direction, just probabilities. The story suggests that not only are things not predestined, but that people (any of the numerous 'Middle Earth' races) can influence the world around them in a positive way. They can do this by fighting with a sword, carrying a ring through a dangerous journey, or simply by lending a hand as one can, as done by such characters as Galadriel's Elves, Tom Bombadil and many others.

Had the great evil actually prevailed in *The Lord of the Rings*, then things would have changed irrevocably to a situation where the people in the story would have had no control over their own, or their society's destiny. The story universe would have become a clear example of a dystopia, and I suggest that that was part of the point of the story.

The Lord of the Rings underwent a surge of popularity in the 1960s. While a marketing push likely was a factor in this popularity surge, many suggest that some people's reactions to the Vietnam war was a significant factor in the novel's popularity. As characters in the story rebel against extremely powerful forces in the novel, many people chose to rebel against the powerful political forces involved in the Vietnam war. Protests against Vietnam may have ended the war earlier, or it may have made some politicians dig in their heels and drag the war out, one can't say for sure. My point is, that the people willing to protest the war didn't see the idea of protesting, even protesting against the most powerful nation in the world, as a cause destined to failure. Many such people may have seen parallels between The Lord of the Rings and events of the sixties, and took inspiration from the novel. Similarly, many have taken inspiration from the novel 1984, recognizing that the story portrays a world which we should strive to prevent. I hope that I have the clarity of vision needed to see elements of such a dystopic world, wherever they unfortunately appear, and the strength of character to stand up and speak out against them.

Obituaries

Kathryn Lynn Yule 1961-2016

"Kathryn Lynn Yule (nee Barbara) was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to William and Marilynn Yule and died of brain cancer at her home in Portland, Oregon at the age of 55. She attended Kennewick High School and Lewis and Clark College, where she majored in foreign languages and spent a year abroad in Munich. After working for the Red Cross as an administrative assistant and then for some years as a clerical temp, she retired early and spent her time knitting, traveling, square dancing, and attending science fiction conventions with her husband, science fiction writer David D. Levine. They were together for thirty-two years and married for twenty-five. ...

"Kate is survived by her husband David D. Levine, sister Susan Yule, nieces Isobel and Alexandra Wright, brother William A. Yule, and parents William D. and Marilynn Yule." Funeral services were held on Sunday October 16 at 1:00 pm at Wilhelm's Portland Memorial Chapel in Portland, Oregon (wilhelmportlandmemorial.com). Contributions in her name may be sent to the Multnomah County Library Foundation (libraryfoundation.org).

(David Levine, on Facebook, Oct. 10, 2016)

Classifieds

Contact Garth Spencer for advertising information at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

WRITE FOR INTERESTING TIMES!

Travel the world! Eat steak! Fight the Belgian
World Domination Conspiracy and the evil Cult of
Kali! Just contact me at
garth.van.spencer@gmail.com!

Art of Garthness (freelance secretarial, copy editing and proofreading services) by arrangement with Garth Spencer at 4240 Perry Street, Vancouver, BC CANADA V5N 3X5. You can also contact me at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

Anarcho-Surrealist Party – the original Facebook group for those who can't believe in one-dimensional politics anymore and want to do something creative. Search Facebook or contact me at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

Alien Abductees Anonymous – a Facebook group for aliens who are unfairly confined to this planet. If you are such an alien, look for us on Facebook or contact me at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

Paragon Investigations – for all your paranormal research, detection and litigation needs. Our skilled and experienced staff are ready to serve you! Contact fruvousfox@gmail.com

Steampunk Viking Klingon Operetta Society – auditions monthly. Contact me at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

Heathen Geeks meets up monthly. Mead! Shieldmaidens! Operetta auditions! Mead! Authentic Viking tabletop games! Rituals featuring mead! See our Facebook page or contact me at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

Second Reformed Anarcho-Surrealist Party with a Hot Tub in the Backyard Society Inc. - The iconoclastic and original splinter group! Contact me at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

Bavarian Illuminati (Local 391) – We know how to get things done! Bury \$3,125 in your backyard and one of our underground agents will contact you.

Calendar (local)

November 2016

November: National Novel Writing Month (*whose nation? -GS*)

November 1: All Soul's Day

November (into December) – Iul-manuð (*Yule month*). Saxon calendar

November 5: Guy Fawkes' Day.

November 6 (2:00 a.m.) Daylight Savings time ends.

November 9: Remembrance for Queen Sigrid of Sweden

November 11: Remembrance Day in Canada; Feast of the Einherjar: Celebrate the fallen warriors in Asgard. Recommended lore: Poetic Edda, <u>Grímnismál</u> (Lay of Grimnir)

November 18-20: Orycon 38, Portland, OR. Guests of Honor: Writer: David Weber, Editor: Diana Gill, Artist: David Mattingly, Music: Mark Osier, and Special Musical Guest Leslie Hudson. "Oregon's premiere science fiction convention hosts some of the major names in science fiction and fantasy, as well as offer many events for convention-goers – including panels, gaming, a vendors' room, and special activities for children." (Westercon 69 page) Room Reservations cut off October 27, 2016. Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront, 1401 SW Naito Parkway, Portland, Oregon 97201. Memberships (USD): to Nov. 5/16, Adults (13 and up) \$60, children (6-12) half-price; at the door, adults \$65, children \$30; under-6 children free.

Email registration@orycon.org or download registration form from www.orycon.org and mail to OryCon 38 Registration, c/o D. Stephen Raymond, 720 NW Battaglia Avenue, Gresham OR 97030. During Orycon 38, Registration Hours are as follows: 10 AM - 8 PM Friday, 10 AM - 9 PM Saturday, 10 AM - 2 PM Sunday.

November 27 / last Thursday: Feast of Ullr and Skadi, Weyland Smith's Day: Poetic Edda, Atlakviða

December 2016

Polar Borealis #3 (SF magazine edited by R. Graeme Cameron) due to be released

February 2017

Warning: Somewhere around this time, earth scientists including geologists and volcanologists expect an increase in minor earthquakes in the Pacific Northwest, specifically from Puget Sound through Vancouver Island. Probably you simply need to see that cabinets and shelving are securely fastened to walls; but updating and completing your earthquake kit and survival plan for more serious events is always a Good Thing.

Freedom of the Press

I confess, I really should have prepared better, but in the event this column will have just a few reviews of zines, and a whole lot more recent listings ...

BCSFAzine #517, edited by Felicity Walker, available at http://efanzines.com. The editor has fallen behind so that this "June 2016" edition came out in October; however, she is catching up by publishing more than once a month. This edition still lists the old website for BCSFA, and emphasizes the crafting/workshop aspects of the upcoming VCON, dedicated to puppetry, world-making, and other crowdpleasers.

Opuntia #354 from Dale Speirs , available at fanac.org and http://efanzines.com. Travelling in beautiful summer Alberta; Trekcetera museum moving from Vulcan to Drumheller in BC; observations on how badly SF authors foresaw future technology; and the 6^{th} part of a serialized review of fiction, radio, movies and TV shows about Mars

Spartacus 16, Aug-Sept 2016, from Guy Lillian III, 1390 Holly Avenue, Merritt Island, FL 32952, USA. Email GHLIII@yahoo.com; archived at efanzines.com. Mike Glyer and our friend STEVE STILES win Hugo Awards, and the Sad Puppies are vanquished.

The National Fantasy Fan, September 2016, George Phillies, at fanac.org. A newsletter, so it features club news, a writers' contest, and a club award.

The Revenge of Hump Day, September 28, 2016, Tim Bolgeo, available at http://efanzines.com. Mostly local fan and convention news, some science and technical/historical news.

Tightbeam #273, NFFF, available at fanac.org and http://efanzines.com. Relaunched as a genzine since issue #264.

Contemporary zines very much worth reading:

Alexiad #88, August 2016, edited by Lisa & Joseph Major, available at http://efanzines.com

An Homage to Paul Myron Anthony Linebarger, Bill Wright, available at http://efanzines.com

Ansible #350, September 2016, from Dave Langford (news.ansible.uk)

Broken Toys #50 - final issue, Taral Wayne, available at fanac.org and http://efanzines.com

Burnaby Writers' Society Newsletter Sept/Oct 2016

CyberCozen - September 2016, Leybl Botwinik, available at fanac.org and http://efanzines.com

File 770, Mike Glyer (file770.com)

Fornax 13, October 2016, Charles Rector, creator@myway.com

Fugghead #5, Dan Steffan, available at http://efanzines.com

Pulp Literature September 2016

Surprising Stories September 2016, John Thiel, available at http://efanzines.com

Swill #31, Spring/Summer 2016 (swill uldunemedia.ca)

The MT Void, Mark and Evelyn Leeper, at fanac.org

The Ray X X-rayer #124 and #125, Ray Palm', available at http://efanzines.com

The Science Fact Science Fiction Concatenation (autumn 2016), available at http://efanzines.com

The White Notebooks #6, Pete Young, available at http://efanzines.com

The Zine Dump #38, Guy H. Lillian, available at http://efanzines.com

Vibrator #2.0.30, Graham Charnock, available at http://efanzines.com

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