

The Interesting Times

Issue #3 * November 2016



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Around the World, Across the Nation, and Up Your Street

In this issue we're trying an experiment: harvesting news items from email and fanzines and Facebook posts we have received, to see what this kind of news collection looks like. – Ed.

ASGARDIA

FLAG IDEAS, ANYONE? (IT Press) – Asgardia, the prospective orbital-colony country, is soliciting ideas for a flag.

According to its November 10th broadcast email, “In order to vote, you must first create an online password, using the email address you used to register on the Asgardia website. You can create your password here:

<https://asgardia.space/user/request-password-reset>

Once you have created your password, please log into your Asgardia account and help us choose the flag of Asgardia! “

According to its email, Asgardia received 53,1846 applications for citizenship by October 31, 2016. For more information, see www.asgardia.space.

CANADA - Good News, Bad News

ONE STEP FORWARD (Leadnow.ca, Nov. 24/16) – Logan McIntosh of Leadnow reported:

“Just last week, **the government committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050** through a plan that includes, among other things,

- **A phase out of pollution from coal power plants by 2030,**
- **A national price on carbon,** and
- **Greater regulations on methane emissions** from the oil and gas sector.”

KINDER MORGAN TRANSMOUNTAIN PIPELINE (Leadnow.ca, Burnaby South NDP, Financial Post) – Resistance continues to an oil pipeline which

Kinder Morgan of Texas has planned to construct in BC.

According to Leadnow.ca, “We have every reason to believe the Liberal government will approve this pipeline, unless we all speak out together and show people across the country overwhelmingly oppose this project. ...

“If built, the Kinder Morgan Transmountain pipeline and tanker plan will:

1. **Threaten tens of thousands of jobs in the coastal economy with inevitable oil spills** from pipelines and oil tankers
2. **Pose a direct risk to one of the most fragile and diverse coastal ecosystems in the world** and push BC’s resident Orca pods to the brink of extinction
3. **Make it impossible for Canada to meet its international climate commitments** by unleashing global warming pollution at 56 times the rate of the entire City of Vancouver

“Oil spills from this pipeline and tanker plan are a question of when, not if. The Southern BC coast has one of the highest probabilities of a marine spills in Canada, and experts agree there’s more than 80% chance this pipeline will spill into the Burrard Inlet within the next 50 years.”

The Prime Minister is expected to deliver a decision on the matter on December 18, 2016.

For more information to check the assertions above, see:

Bloomberg - Trudeau Said to Plan Pipeline Approval, Favor Kinder Morgan

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-09-13/trudeau-said-to-plan-pipeline-approval-favoring-kinder-morgan>

Cred BC and *Georgia Strait* - What are the economic risks of the project? What are the economic benefits?

[http://credbc.ca/assessing-the-risks/Oil Spills in Our Back Yard: What British Columbians Need to Know](http://credbc.ca/assessing-the-risks/Oil%20Spills%20in%20Our%20Back%20Yard%3A%20What%20British%20Columbians%20Need%20to%20Know) <http://georgiastrait.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Oil-Spills-in-Your-Backyard-report-web.pdf>

City of Vancouver - What have we learned?

<http://vancouver.ca/green-vancouver/what-we-have-learned.aspx>

MetroNews - Pipeline popularity tanks: B.C. poll

<http://www.metronews.ca/news/vancouver/2016/03/02/poll-finds-pipeline-popularity-tanks.html>

City of Vancouver - Mayors stand together against Kinder Morgan pipeline proposal

<http://vancouver.ca/news-calendar/mayors-stand-together-against-kinder-morgan-pipeline-proposal.aspx>

Vancouver *Sun* - First Nations opposed to TransMountain Pipeline give final arguments

<http://www.vancouversun.com/technology/First+Nations+opposed+Trans+Mountain+Pipeline+give+final+arguments/11619742/story.html>

SIX QUESTIONS (West Coast Environmental Law) -

“... recent public engagement sessions on Kinder Morgan's pipeline and tankers proposal generated six important questions for the federal government to consider in its upcoming decision on the project. Staff Counsel Eugene Kung took some time to discuss what these questions mean, and how they could play into the government's decision. “

(see “Pipelines must be ‘decided on science’”, Greg Quinn, *Financial Post*, Nov. 26, 2016; also wcel.org or follow this link: [6 questions that define the fight against Kinder Morgan](#))

BELLA BELLA OIL SPILL and the ENBRIDGE NORTHERN GATEWAY OIL PIPELINE

(Bruce Mason, *Common Ground*, Nov. 2016) – A fuel barge, the *Nathan E. Stewart*, sank near Bella Bella with 200,000 litres of fuel onboard. Most of the fuel escaped and contaminated marine life, to the prejudice of the Heiltsuk Nation’s subsistence.

An article on the West Coast Environmental Law website declares, “With a decision on Northern Gateway due before the end of the month - and the devastating *Nathan E. Stewart* spill in Heiltsuk Nation territory - the urgent need for an oil tanker ban on the north Pacific coast has been on the minds of many British Columbians.”

Another article in the *Financial Post* of November 26, 2016 quotes Catherine McKenna, the federal environment minister: “It’s not pipelines that create emissions in the sense that oil and gas will go to market if there is a demand, and if they don’t go by pipe they will go by rail.”

(see “Pipelines must be ‘decided on science’”, Greg Quinn, *Financial Post*, Nov. 26, 2016; also wcel.org or follow this link: [The imminent federal decision on Northern Gateway...and the oil tanker ban?](#))

PACIFIC NORTHWEST LNG TERMINAL (DeSmog Canada) – “Gaps in basic knowledge about salmon in the estuary near Flora Bank call into question the review — and approval — of the Pacific Northwest LNG terminal proposed for the mouth of

the Skeena River, according to new research from fisheries biologist Jonathan Moore.

“Data published in the journal *Marine Ecology Progress Series* shows salmon species don’t merely transit through the Skeena River estuary, as advanced by Pacific Northwest LNG in its environmental assessment, but can linger in the unique estuary environment for much longer periods of time than previously thought.”

For more information, see DeSmog Canada: [Read more](#))

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS (West Coast Environmental Law) - “The environmental reviews happening right now represent a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape key federal laws that affect land, air water and the climate - including Canada's environmental assessment (EA) law and processes, the *Fisheries Act*, *Navigation Protection Act* and National Energy Board. Our team of lawyers has collected key information about the laws, review timelines, recommendations and ways to get involved.

(see wcel.org or follow this link: [Your guide to Canada's environmental law reviews](#))

ELECTORAL REFORM (Leadnow.ca) – A majority of Canadians want Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to carry out the voting-reform promise made during his election, according to a poll conducted in November 2016 with Environics Research.

The issue in Canada is the first-past-the-post system, in which even a party with a minority of the popular vote can form a government, if it received the largest minority of votes.

Leadnow.ca declares, “The main finding? **Way more people want Trudeau to keep his word than want him to break it: amongst Liberal, NDP and Green voters it’s around 7 to 1 in favour, with Conservative voters evenly split ...** The committee studying voting reform is starting to meet to draft their final recommendation – and it’s going to be announced on December 1st.”

CAMPAIGN TACTICS (Leadnow.ca, NDP) – Candidates in the Conservative leadership race are campaigning with the same tactics employed by Donald Trump’s campaign in the U.S., Leadnow.ca reports.

National Director Robert Fox of the NDP claimed further, in his November 17, 2016 email: “Brad Trost opposes a women’s right to choose and wants to resurrect the debate around marriage equality.

Maxime Bernier thinks bringing two-tired, US-style private health care to Canada is a good idea. And you’ve probably heard of Kellie Leitch’s Trump-inspired idea of screening immigrants for ‘anti-Canadian’ values.”

Meanwhile, the New Democrats claim to be “focused on making life better for all Canadians by:

- **Defending universal, public health care** from privatization, cuts and court challenges by powerful private interests.
- **Protecting good-paying jobs** from unfair trade deals that create a race to the bottom for Canadian workers.
- **Leading the way on fair pay** by fighting for a \$15 an hour federal minimum wage and pay equity for Canadian women.”

CETA (Leadnow.ca) – “The Canada-EU trade agreement (CETA) is 1700 pages of dense legal text. Normally, our MPs get 21 days and a detailed report weighing the pros and cons of a deal. But our government is breaking its rules by **fast-tracking CETA and forcing MPs to vote on CETA tomorrow without the information, time or democratic checks and balances they need to make an informed vote.**

“CETA is costly, risky and controversial: it will increase drug costs by \$1.65 billion a year, cost us good jobs, and give multinational corporations the right to sue the Canadian government for billions in private tribunals if our laws affect their profits.

“If CETA’s a good deal, then why break the rules to ram it through parliament? This looks alarmingly like Harper-era tactics. The Liberals were elected on a promise to restore transparency and fairness to Parliament - and that means they will be sensitive to hearing a major public outcry from people like you.

“CETA is a massive trade and corporate rights deal, that will have far-reaching impacts on Canada. If ratified, CETA would:

1. **Increase the cost of medicine by over \$1.65 billion a year**, by extending patent protections to Big Pharma that keep cheaper generics off the market
2. **Cost us at least 23,000 jobs**, reduce incomes, and worsen economic inequality
3. **Gives corporations and super wealthy investors special rights to sue Canada** in private tribunals for passing laws to protect health, local jobs, or the environment.

“We’re surprised to see the new government acting this way. They’ve passed other trade deals without breaking any rules. Just this summer they

passed the Canada-Ukraine trade deal by following the proper parliamentary process.

“They’ve also made special efforts to ensure an open and fair process on other controversial trade deals. For the Trans-Pacific Partnership (another toxic trade deal like CETA), they were preparing for an "open, fulsome" MP debate on the deal – and they even opened up cross country consultations, giving members of the public multiple ways to participate and have their say on whether or not we should join.

“As [a] staunchly pro-free trade party, the Trudeau Liberals are seeing the growing opposition to these kinds of bad trade deals. During those TPP consultations, the vast majority opposed joining the TPP. The government can see the tide turning, which is why they’re trying to ram CETA past the point of no return. You need to tell them you expect better.”

BILL C-51 STILL AN ISSUE (openmedia.org, Randall Garrison, MP [NDP], *Common Ground*, Nov. 2016) – The Privacy Commissioner of Canada, Daniel Therrien, described Bill C-51 thus: “The scale of information sharing between government departments and agencies being proposed in this bill is unprecedented. The new powers that would be created are excessive and the privacy safeguards being proposed are seriously deficient. All Canadians – not only terrorism suspects – will be caught in this web.”

Bill C-51 is a bill to enable enhanced government surveillance and information-sharing between Canadian government departments.

In October 2016, Randall Garrison (Member of Parliament for Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) introduced legislation to block Bill C-51. “To combat terrorism, we need to devote adequate resources to de-radicalization and to traditional intelligence and enforcement work. Restricting our rights and collecting mountains of private information on ordinary Canadians will not keep us safe,” he wrote by email on November 3, 2016.

Evidence for terrorist threats in Canada is somewhat thin. One of the few cases for it is the plot attributed to John Nuttall and Amanda Korody, to bomb the Legislative Assembly of B.C. Their convictions were overturned on July 29, 2016 by Madam Justice Catherine Bruce, who called it a “police-manufactured crime”. *The Globe and Mail* observed in an editorial on August 4, 2016, “The accused pair could not have managed a bomb attack ... without the RCMP’s step-by-step guidance.”

According to openmedia.org, “We can’t afford more cases like the invasive surveillance of children’s advocate Cindy Blackstock, who was being watched for advocating for the rights of First Nations children. From monitoring Cindy’s social media profiles, to surveilling her in-person at community events, these privacy violations were egregious.”

(For more information see the BC Civil Liberties Association, the [Office of the Privacy Commissioner](#) ([link](#)), and openmedia.org)

(See: editorials in *The Globe and Mail*, August 4 and 12, 2016; “RCMP Shifts Focus to Fighting Terrorism”, Colin Freeze, *The Globe and Mail*, October 22, 2016)

(See: “A Brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security”, Barrie Zwicker, reprinted in the Nov. 2016 edition of *Common Ground* magazine)

INTERNET TAX (openmedia.org, *Common Ground*, Nov. 2016) – Melanie Joly, Canadian Heritage Minister, is considering adding a new tax to Internet service providers. Canadians now pay Internet fees among the highest in the industrialized world, and 44 percent of low-income households do not have an Internet connection. This tax stands to make Internet access unaffordable to rural, northern Canadian, and low-income subscribers.

David Christopher, of OpenMedia, asserts that this tax is “the brainchild of Canada’s large publishers and broadcasters ... in order to subsidize industries struggling to adapt to the digital age.”

“More than 15,000 Canadians calling on Minister Joly to scrap the Internet tax”, according to openmedia.org on November 21, 2016.

(from openmedia.org, David Christopher, OpenMedia)

TALOSSA

VOTING LIKE A REAL LIVE COUNTRY (IT Press) – Talossa, the virtual republic that started as a kingdom, recently held a multi-issue election, not only to choose among political parties but among constitutional revisions.

The Kingdom (later Republic) of Talossa was declared unilaterally in Milwaukee by Ben Madison. While he began several interesting initiatives, such as a credible Talossan language and an invented history involving the Berbers, the most visible activity of Talossa has been internal politics and constitutional discussion, or

arguments. Some of the political parties in this online nation include the Free Democrats of Talossa (FreeDems), the Moderate Radical Party of Talossa (MRPT), the Republican Party of Talossa (REP), and the “Rexhalistaes Unificheschti pr’iensa Monarc’hâ Petrechind” (RUMP). For more information, see www.talossa.ca.

UNITED KINGDOM

BREXIT (The Daily Beast) – The government cannot leave the European Union without parliamentary approval, the High Court of the United Kingdom ruled on November 3, 2016.

UNITED STATES

NEWS OF FRESH DISASTERS (IT Press) – Mr. Donald Trump has been chosen by the Electoral College to become the next President of the United States.

This has made a lot of people very angry and has been widely regarded as a bad move.

DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE PROTESTS (Anti-Media.org, The Daily Beast) – Residents of the Standing Rock Sioux reservation are protesting an oil pipeline being built in North Dakota through their land. The pipeline plan also crosses the Missouri River.

“According to the Sacred Stone camp [website](#),” quotes the Anti-Media site, “they are opposing the pipeline because *[t]he Dakota Access threatens everything from farming and drinking water to entire ecosystems, wildlife and food sources surrounding the Missouri.*’ ... Farmers, ranchers, and landowners are also opposed to the pipeline. Many of them have had their [land taken from them](#) against their will and given to the pipeline via eminent domain. ...

“Pipeline police, bolstered by the North Dakota National Guard and [sheriffs imported](#) from around the country, have turned the standoff into a war zone. Water protectors are regularly pepper sprayed, tear gassed, and violently arrested.

“[The] police at the Dakota Access Pipeline site are decked out in riot gear, armed with military grade weapons, use armored cars or MRAPs with snipers on top of them, and have regularly used LRADs, a type of mass crowd dispersal weapon that uses a high pitched noise to hurt people’s ears — [sometimes permanently](#).

“Early reports of protesters being armed and violent have proven to be instances of

misinformation spread by law enforcement apparently seeking to demonize the opposition. No credible reports of violence by the protesters have been confirmed or prosecuted. Nearly all arrests stem from trespassing charges or crimes of journalism.”

It is of interest that this story was initially not covered by mainstream newspapers or television networks.



Appareil pour écrire en chertin de fer.

Writers Writing

Unnerving Magazine is a brand new online Canadian website which pays 1¢ a word (just like Polar

Borealis) for short story submissions of horror, dark science fiction (light), dark fantasy and dark literary. generally leaning strongly toward horror over other genres. Sex, gore and violence are welcome in moderation (nothing gratuitous). The same goes for bizarro works, nothing too far gone (whatever that means). Please no hard science fiction, sword and sorcery fantasy, erotica, romance, humor that isn’t sinister or literary works that venture so far into experimental that they become nonsense.

. For more details, go to:

<http://www.unnervingmagazine.com>

(*Burnaby Writers Society Newsletter*, Nov.-Dec. 2016, from R. Graeme Cameron, *publisher of Polar Borealis*)

Deadlight Horror Magazine: open to submissions to December 15. Flash fiction, 300 to 700 words. Short fiction 2,000 to 7,000 words. Poetry, to one page single spaced. Creative non-fiction: Accepting creative non-fiction stories that

are “terrible, horrible, or gross. “These are meant to be small stories about real-life, interesting things that have happened to our readers. Word count? 300 – 3000. Payment ranges from short stories (\$50) to \$10 poetry. For submission details go to <http://www.deadlightsmagazine.com/submissions/>

(*Burnaby Writers Society Newsletter*, Nov.-Dec. 2016)

More market and contest listings:
<http://www.placesforwriters.com/>

(*Burnaby Writers Society Newsletter*, Nov.-Dec. 2016)

HOW A WRITER IS SHUNNED (*Ansible* #352, November 2016) – Sunil Patel, a speculative writer who has been accused of gaslighting and preying upon women, is no longer published by The Book Smugglers (File770.com); he will no longer be editing the “POC Take Over” issues of *Fantastic Stories of the Imagination* (Facebook, Oct. 17, 2016); and he has resigned as Fiction Assistant Editor at *Mothership Zeta* (mothershipzeta.org, Oct. 18, 2016). He has promised on Twitter to reform.

Meanwhile, In Fandom

REMEMBRANCE DAYS IN VANCOUVER
(*Condensed from John Kurucz’s article in The Vancouver Courier, Thursday, November 10, 2016*)
- Colin Upton’s recent comic *Kicking at the Darkness*, a depiction of Canadian soldiers liberating the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in northern Germany, is part of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre’s exhibit “Canada Responds to the Holocaust 1944-45”.

Largely the exhibit features first-person perspectives from soldiers, survivors, workers and chaplains in the final days of the war in Europe. For example, veteran Edward Sheppard lent his war diary; he was part of a Canadian unit which freed prisoners from the Westerbork concentration camp in 1945.

This exhibit builds on research begun more than a decade ago, and accesses archival information from Israel, Holland, the United States, and the national archives in Ottawa.

The exhibit remains on display until March 31,. For more information, see vhcc.org.

WORLDCON CODE OF CONDUCT? (C. Palmer-Lister, CanadianConrunners) – Worldcon 75, to be held in Finland on August 9-13, 2017, has posted a rather detailed and prescriptive “Code of Conduct” for those who attend the Worldcon.

Attendees at North American and European science fiction conventions have been accustomed to somewhat daring costumes and sometimes demonstrative behaviour, which would not pass in other, “mundane” venues. Heretofore this has rarely been perceived as a problem; in fact at one Atlanta Worldcon, a member of hotel staff was overheard to say, “I like these people; they throw soft things.” That might have been a comparison to police or Shriners’ conventions.

However, volunteer security is a common feature of conventions. In fact the MidAmeriCon II committee produced an Incident Response Team Handbook, which is available on line (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aUg3TIq5kdLKEVsk-Kw0v3vmRe0Ps50z7xYwpp952Gc/edit#heading=h.sok2zpao257k>). Cathy Palmer-Lister writes that “It is very complicated, but the worth the time to read.”

The Worldcon 75 committee appears to be concerned, as their website states, that “Worldcon 75 is an international gathering and subject to Finnish law, which can differ from the law many participants may be used to.” The Code of Conduct contains explicit limitations on speech, e.g.:

- Racist, sexist, ageist, sizeist, homophobic, transphobic, ableist, or any other form of exclusionary/offensive speech or actions are unacceptable.
- Do not evaluate aloud or insult other people’s looks, clothing, or any aspect of their appearance.
- If someone states their discomfort with the current discussion topic or the kind of jokes, please save those jokes for another time. Jokes do not always translate well.
- Do not make unwelcome sexual remarks at or about other convention members, venue staff, or any associated personnel.
- It is not acceptable to keep talking to someone after they tell you to stop.

For more information, see <http://www.worldcon.fi/coc/>

E-APA UNDER NEW EDITORSHIP (IT Press) – the new Official Editor of e-APA is Garth Spencer, of Vancouver, B.C. He may be contacted with inquiries or contributions from aspiring members at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

e-APA is an electronic APA which has been produced on the first or second of each month for over a decade. In brief, members contribute a PDF apazine of up to 500 KB (4 to 6 pages) by the first of each month, with any form of self-expression "within the bounds of common courtesy and decency", as Garth puts it; the OE collates the contributions into one PDF document; the document is zipped and submitted to eFanzines.com; and an announcement with the unzip password is distributed to the members. More detailed guidelines are posted on eFanzines.com (soon to be updated).

Garth Spencer is a cranky old fan who used to be known for a cross-Canada newszine back in the 1980s.

NFFF OFFERS FRANKING SERVICE (N3F, Nov. 26, 2016) - George Phillies, President of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, emailed on November 26th to offer to circulate fanzines for faneditors. He writes:

"We're the oldest non-regional science fiction (and fantasy, and horror, and occult) club in the World. Founded in 1941, we've offered fen (fan; plural: fen) around the world a chance to interact, communicate, and tackle projects too big for one fan.

"Back in 1941, one of our founding purposes was to help circulate fanzines to fen across the globe. That project matches postal rates in days of yore, but thanks to the internet that project has risen from the grave. We already circulate our own zines (*The National Fantasy Fan*, *Tightbeam*, N'APA, *Ionisphere*, and, soon, *Eldritch Science*) to many members electronically.

"We have an active email list of several hundred fen of all sorts. We would be happy to circulate to them a sample copy (or, within limits of our server, regular issues) of your fanzine to all of our members. All you need to do is to email me a .PDF of your zine. We will do the rest."

Letters

Robert Runte, runte@uleth.ca, Nov. 5, 2016

Allan Brockman and Tim Smick both live in Vancouver but I believe both have pretty much gafiated a decade or more ago.

I did see Tim Smick at VCON a couple of years ago (2014?) but he might have just been there to visit with me, not actually registered at the con.

((Yes, I see him at conventions sometimes, but I guess his silence means he's not going to give me his current email.))

re [your comment about] remembering things: <http://www.warpworld.ca/comm/on-loss-memory-loss/>

Lyn McConchie, farside@wave.co.nz, Nov. 6, 2016

Okay, interesting couple of hooks in this one. First was the *Fictons* notice. Think I may have a possible reprint or two there. Must look them up and see what they want - and what if anything they pay.

Very interesting article on dystopias. The fact is that if you say that any 'violent society in which there is more bad than good,' is one, then half the societies on earth have been dystopic. Half? Hell, perhaps as many as 3/4ths. Oh, and *Animal Farm*, in addition to all the other descriptions, would also be dystopic. Come to that, a fellow fan in Aussie with whom I regularly correspond, would claim that right now Australia is dystopic - and considering some of the stories he tells me, I'm not sure I'd disagree.

I had a dystopic few hours on Guy Fawkes day myself. Don't ask me why, but for some odd reason while I was working hard on revision for my latest book, bumble bees began infiltrating the house. I'd correct a few pages, Thunder my Ocicat would descend on me howling like a werewolf, and demand that I remove a furry visitor. I'd rise, go collect the bee in a jar, evict it, return to my revision, and in half an hour I'd be summoned again. Over a little more than three hours I evicted nine bumble bees. And what really did baffle me, is that the only way they could have been entering the house is through the cat door - which I have for the cat, not hordes of bumble bees, and I have NO idea why on earth they wanted to be inside anyway. Having removed the last one I zoomed off to our local park for the community Guy Fawkes night and - at the rate the bees had been arriving, quite expected to see a lot more present on my return. Nope, a blessed miracle. Not a bumble bee. So were they coming in to see me? Enjoyed interrupting my revision? Or - hmmm - was Thunder sneaking them in to obtain attention. I'll probably never know, but if they start arriving again, I'm going to wait around a corner and watch him, just in case.

Meanwhile life is normally neither Utopic nor dystopic, merely very, very busy. [In the] last four months I've written two books, plus a number of articles, stories, and reviews. I've also revised three books now due out shortly - and said a few things

about current spring weather which has been erratic - extremely. Oh well, on with life, and so long as it continues I can't complain.

John Purcell, askance73@gmail.com, Nov. 13, 2016

It seems to me that the first page's illustration by Steve Stiles of "the surrealist's ball" is most *à propos*, considering the results of last week's US presidential election. I am sure everyone in the world, short of those living in caves high in the Himalayas or under rocks scattered across deserts and wastelands on this planet, knows what happened, but here is my take-away: the popular vote was won by Secretary Hillary Clinton, a deeply flawed, untrustworthy candidate with nonetheless impressive credentials in public service; but businessman Donald Trump, a severely damaged human being with no conscience and a complete disregard for anybody else's opinions, and about to stand trial for fraud charges, won the Electoral College vote ... and even *that* is not confirmed until December 19th rolls around. The electors are not all bound by state voting results; they can change their votes based on constitutionally defined criteria of the president-elect's qualifications and mental/emotional competence. If the Electoral College does change their votes to point where Hillary Clinton is named the president-elect, then expect an armed uprising from the very vocal and angry Trump supporters, who are already acting like the bigoted, xenophobic ignoramuses that they are. It's a frigging mess, is what it is, and Ghu only knows how it will all play out. Meanwhile international stock markets are fluctuating madly, and heads of state around the world don't know what to say to the president-elect – "Congratulations on winning the election. Hope your trial(s) goes just as well"? Sheesh ... Surreal doesn't quite describe it. Fucked up does.

((Guess my inspiration for the Anarcho-Surrealist Party makes a bit more sense now, eh?))

Anyway, there are a couple other topics in here I would like to touch on. The first of these is that I have no intention of ever joining an APA again. I appreciate your mentioning E-APA's need of members (so is FAPA), but my apahack days are long gone. Back in the late 1970s and early 1980s, I was in LASFAPA, MINNEAPA, AZAPA, and even was on the waiting list for FAPA for over a year. Then, from something like 2008 to 2011, I was active in SNAPS (Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society), my longest run in any APA (38 issues of *Nukking Futz*). No, I think I'm all tapped out on this type of fanac. I wish E-APA the best. Having a steady deadline to meet does help develop a

person's writing ability; but my time is mostly devoured by my professional duties as a college English professor.

((I did not know that.))

That article by P. Gerber about Monetarism is dead-on accurate. The bottom line on anything getting done has always been investors and politicians saying, "What's in it for me?" Too many people with the power, money, and ability to enact necessary changes are simply short-sighted, greedy bastards who don't give a rat's ass about long-term consequences. Because of their short-sightedness and provincialism, they have essentially doomed human civilization to extinction. Hate them all.

Why should I worry about whether or not a fantasy or science fiction novel is a dystopia? We're living in one already. Next topic, please.

By now you should have noticed, maybe even read, the new issue of *Askance* on efanzines.com, also *Shitgibbon: the Rant-thology*. Once I get my keester to the Post Office and buy \$50 worth of postage I will be able to mail out *Askew #16*, too. Yes, I have been busy here recently. Have to [be]: the end of the semester is rapidly advancing and I need to clear my fannish projects list to give myself time to grade essays and all kinds of other professorial duties.

((Excellent. Hope you have time to mention the anarcho-surrealist movement, i.e. me, to some of your students, and make them wonder if you're pulling their leg.))

In any event, thanks for the new issue, and I look forward to your next one.

We Also Heard From: Ed Meskys, Chuck Connor, Randy Barnhart, Bill Burns, R. Graeme Cameron, & Taral Wayne

Classifieds

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

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4240 Perry Street, Vancouver, BC CANADA V5N 3X5. You can also contact me at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

e-APA, the electronic Amateur Publication Association, is open to new members! Contact Garth Spencer for a copy of the submission guidelines, or see the “Members of e-APA” Facebook page! Deadline for mailings is the first of every month. You can contact Garth Spencer 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 semi-quarterly. 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.

In Remembrance

For Remembrance Day, November 11

Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us. ... There be [some] of them, that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported. And some there be, which have no memorial; who are perished, as though they had never been; and are become as though they

had never been born; and their children after them. But these were merciful men, whose righteousness hath not been forgotten. ... Their seed shall remain for ever, and their glory shall not be blotted out. Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore.

From Ecclesiasticus 44:1-14 KJV

... They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

From “For the Fallen”, by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), published in The Times newspaper on 21st September 1914.

Calendar (local)

December 2016

December 1: deadline for contributions to e-APA #152 (submit them to Garth Spencer now)

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

December 9 - Remembrance for Egill Skallagrimsson

December 16: 6-9 pm, Yule celebration at 251 East 11th Avenue, sponsored by Vancouver Pagan Pride

December 18: Yule thing at Garth’s place

[YULE \(JOL\) 20th December - January 1st:](#)

December (into January) – Iul-manuð (*Yule Month*). **Modarnaht (Mothers’ Night)**, the longest night of the year, the **Winter Solstice. Mothers’ Night** is the **first day of Iul**. There are **3 Days of Iul**. The year begins with Mothers’ Night, which is the Saxon New Year on which ceremonies are performed through the night. The word “**Iul**” means “wheel” (Wheel of the Year). Saxon calendar. **Yule Tide** is also sacred to Odin, Vili, & Ve. Each night do short divination ritual for each month of the year and write down for yourself. The **Winter Solstice** (Dec. 21) is sacred to Odin, Thor, Freyr & all the gods. Trim the tree before blót. Ask for

protection from the wild hunt during its 12 nights. Exchange gifts after blót.

December 24: Christmas Eve

December 25: Christmas Day

Dec. 30 – Jan. 1: [Newcon PDX](#) #5, an anime/comics/gaming convention at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel in Portland, Oregon. For more information see www.newconpdx.com.

December 31: New Year's Eve/**Twelfth Night of Yule**, Sacred to Odin, Thor, Freyr & all the gods. Make vows on your troth ring, hammer, or Freyr's boar, for the coming year. Celebrate the new year!

January 2017

January 1: New Year's Day. Also, Hogmanay in Scotland (Dec. 30-Jan. 1: torchlight procession, ceilidh, street party, candlelight concert, etc.).

Also, deadline for contributions to e-APA #153 (send to garth.van.spencer@gmail.com).

January 9 - Remembrance for Raud the Strong

Jan. 13-15: [OrcaCon](#), a gaming convention in the Holiday Inn Downtown in Everett, Washington. Rooms \$82/night with directcode ORCACON2017. Memberships \$55 USD adult, \$65 at the door. For more information see www.orcacon.org.

Jan. 13-15: Rustycon 34 at the Seattle Airport Marriott Hotel. GoHs: Author Robin Hobb, Costumer Bill Doran, Artist Michaela Eaves. Rooms: \$115 USD/night. Memberships: \$50 USD. Mail: **Rustycon, attn: Membership, PO Box 68215, Seattle, WA 98168-8215, USA** or see rustycon.com.

Jan. 15: deadline for contributions to N'APA, the APA of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For more information, see "Freedom of the Press".

January (into February) – Sol-manuð (*Cake Month*). **Cakes were baked for the Gods at the full moon of Sol-manuð.** Saxon calendar

Full Moon/ Thorrablót, sacred to Thor and Frost Giants.

Jan. 25: **Robbie Burns' Nicht**. For more information look up the "Selkirk Grace", and recipes for haggis, tatties and neeps.

Jan. 27-29: [Conflikt 10](#), a filk convention at the Doubletree Hilton Hotel near the Seattle Airport, Washington. For more information see conflikt.org. (Yes, L before i.)

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.

Feb 2: [DISTING \(Disablót\) 31st January / \(Charming of the Plow\) / Thorrablót / Feast of the Mother](#), sacred to Disir, Frigg & Nerthus. Honor motherly energies. Honor the Asynjur (female Aesir) as providers and protectors. Time to count your wealth and make plans for the next financial cycle. Charming of the plow (blessing of your work tools). Toast with milk. Offer honey and biscuits (grains).

February 9 - Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi

Feb. 13: BC Family Day

February 14 – Valentine's Day. Folk etymology has led to this day being called 'Feast of Vali' in modern Asatru, or **Feast of Love** a Blót to Freyja as goddess of love and sexual desire. Exchange cards (or stones) inscribed with runes to loved ones. Time to renew vows, and a good time for marriages/handfastings. Recommended lore: Poetic Edda, [Svipdagsmál](#) (lay of Svipdag)

February (into March) – Hred-manuð (*Hreða's Month*). **Hreða** is a Goddess and her name means "Glory." Sacrifices are performed to **Hreða** during this month. Saxon calendar

Masthead

Welcome to *The Interesting Times* #3, dated November 2016, a propaganda organ of the World Government of Spuzzum. 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.

Pictures

"The Rocking' Roc" (B. Foster)..... p. 1
Unclassifiable (clipart) p. 5
Newsfeed (clipart) p. 11

**In case you don't feel like
scrolling through your Newsfeed today,
let me sum it up for you:**

**Homophobia is bad.
So is rape culture.
Congress is inept.**

**Big business and the banks are screwing
the middle class and poor.**

**"We should ban all guns
or at least certain types."**

"No we shouldn't!"

Game of Thrones is awesome.

So is Dr. Who.

"God doesn't exist."

"Yes he does!"

**You should believe in yourself
and chase your dreams.**

**Friendship matters more than money
and puppies and kittens are adorable.**

**Also, George Takei posted something amusing
and made a pun about it.**

Other sources we should pursue in future include: Al Jazeera English, AlterNet, *Asia Times*, BBC, *Christian Science Monitor*, CNN, CSPAN, Democracy Now (Amy Goodman), *The Economist*, FAIR, *The Manchester Guardian*, MSNBC, *The New York Times*, Newsweek, PBS, Public Integrity, Reuters, RevealNews, Sputnik News, *The Independent*, *The Nation*, The Real News Network, Watchdog, WhoWhatWhy, Wikinews, WorldNews (recommended by J.A. Salmonson, Kurt Cagle)

If you can suggest to us better, more primary news sources, by all means do so.

Freedom of the Press

Ansible #352, November 2016, the monthly British SF newszine from David Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks. RG1 5AU, U.K.; news.ansible.uk.

Askance #38, October 2016, a personalzine from John Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station, TX 77845-3926, U.S.A.;

askance73@gmail.com. In this issue: several op/ed pieces by the editor and his correspondents, plus letters, plus fine amateur art. Examples: Purcell on the mindless evil that is sports; Taral Wayne on fan awards; Robert Bright takes a long, odd look at Heinlein's *Starship Troopers*, and the persistent libel that it was fascist; and Purcell reviews Dan Steffan's zine *Fugghead*, plus letters.

Askew #16, October 16, allegedly the paper-only zine from John Purcell (I received it by email). More op/ed articles about space, "the used-to-be frontier"; on the Worldcon, and Hugo Awards; on books read; on fanzines received in trade; obituaries; plus letters.

Burnaby Writers Society Newsletter, Nov.-Dec. 2016, a bimonthly events and market newsletter for members of the Burnaby Writers Society, c/o 6584 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5G 3T7. See also <http://burnabywritersnews.blogspot.com>. Not limited to local readings and writers' workshops – a good source of market and contest news. CDN \$35 annual membership (\$25 to seniors, students, and the unwaged).

Ionosphere 1, October 2016. One of the National Fantasy Fan Federation fanzines emailed to me by George Phillies (phillies@4liberty.net), the president who is on a drive to promote N3F, restart activities and recruit members. The N3F, you may recall, was one of several attempts to create one central fan organization, with local chapters: as Lloyd Penney described it, a "big front door" to fandom.

Editorial

"May you live in interesting times.

"May you come to the attention of those in high places.

"May you receive everything you deserve in this life."

Anon.

If a responsible citizen sets out to inform him- or herself about public issues, what sources should they go to and how much homework do they have to do?

This issue is in the nature of an experiment to answer that question. Instead of relying on a set of primary news sources (listed below), we are presenting the kind of news that an ordinary citizen might gather from a variety of easily-available sources – free community newspapers, online news services and popular causes, among them. It sounds like a lot of homework, doesn't it?

Of course this approach is susceptible to several biases, which should be painfully obvious when you read the stories. For example, none of the stories about oil and gas pipelines – or the protests against them – take into account the fact that we all depend on petroleum products; and until and unless adequate return has been made on the investments in petroleum infrastructure, protesting the infrastructure amounts to very little.

Ionosphere is a bulletin for one of N3F's specific activities, an N3F Fan-Pro Coordinating Activity. Editor John Thiel is soliciting fan, convention, news and "files" contacts for this bulletin. This issue features an interview with Adam-Troy Castro, a writer most often published in *Analog* magazine, winner of a Philip K. Dick Award, and nominated multiple time for Hugo, Stoker and Nebula Awards.

N'APA #225, November 2016, Official Collator George Phillies (phillies@4liberty.net). This is the bimonthly electronic APA of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, in PDF format (minac not specified); deadlines on the 15th of each odd-numbered month. In this issue: contributions from George Phillies, Jefferson Swycaffer, John Thiel, Kevin Trainor, and Lorien Rivendell.

Shitgibbon, a one-shot zine from John Purcell. *Shitgibbon* is inspired by the wonderfully creative invective directed at Donald Trump by the nation of Scotland. This gem features a Steve Stiles cover, and gorgeously overwritten rants about various things by various people. Al Bouchard, Steve Davidson, Nic Farey, John Teehan, Taral Wayne, Walt Wentz carry on about ant traps that don't work, pedestrians' bloody rudeness to the mobility-impaired, stupid shoppers and stupid clerks,

hackers, no-smoking signs, and other insults to intelligence such as Uber and "cultural appropriation".

Tightbeam #274, October 2016, the bimonthly N3F clubzine from Bob Jennings, 29 Whiting Road, Oxford, MA 01540-2035, U.S.A.;

fabficbks@aol.com. Featuring book reviews, Hugo finalists, an illustrated tour of Los Angeles, a review of movies old and new, and fanzine reviews.

The National Fantasy Fan, November 2016, from George Phillies (phillies@4liberty.net). The N3F newsletter, featuring various news, articles and letters.

WARP #96, from the Montreal SF and Fantasy Association; editor Cathy Palmer-Lister, warp@monsffa.com. Featuring letters, club events and news, convention and other event news, plus reviews of books, television series and movies.