

# Interesting Times #6

March-April 2017



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## Strange Fictions Press Launches New Sci-Fi and Fantasy Zine

(FW Neun, Feb. 27, 2017) “Science fiction and fantasy book imprint Strange Fictions Press is delighted to announce the official launch of their new webzine, *Strange Fictions SciFi & Fantasy Zine*. *Strange Fictions Zine* focuses on publishing speculative short fiction, nonfiction, art, and poetry twice a week for genre fans worldwide.

“*Strange Fictions* is the latest project from the editors of *The Battered Suitcase*, launched in 2008.

The editors add: ‘Working with a broad range of authors is just too addictive, and it’s exciting to be back to publishing short fiction again. We really missed the ability to reach new readers on a frequent basis.’

“Vagabondage Press is not new to genre fiction, having previously launched their horror and dark fiction imprint, Dark Alley Press. Their roots are truly in genre fiction; raised on the classic pulp sci-fi magazines, and the company found itself gravitating more frequently to genre books — science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Adding an online periodical seemed like a natural way to connect with other fans.

“*Strange Fictions SciFi & Fantasy Zine* officially launch[ed] on Feb. 28 with ‘This Chicken Outfit,’ by Pushcart nominated author, A.L. Sirois. Sirois’ short stories have appeared in *Thema*, *Amazing Stories*, and *Isaac Asimov’s Science Fiction Magazine*. He has also contributed comic art for DC, Marvel, and Charlton.

“New stories, poems, and essays will appear every Tuesday and Friday. Subscribers can sign up for email notifications whenever a new story is posted.

"Strange Fictions SF&F Zine is open to submissions from both new and experienced genre writers, and details can be found at the website.

"About Vagabondage Press LLC: Established in 2008, Vagabondage Press was established with the launch of *The Battered Suitcase*, providing a platform for intelligent, imaginative fiction, nonfiction, and poetry from a wide range of indie authors, artists, and musicians. In 2011, Battered Suitcase Press began publishing a variety of novels focusing on diversity. In 2013, Dark Alley Press was initiated, focusing on horror and dark fiction, along with the quarterly publication of the *Ink Stains Anthology* series."

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Masthead

Welcome to *The Interesting Times* #6, dated March/April 2017, 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

"Hi There!" (Taral Wayne)..... p. 1  
Pensive Moai (F. Walker?)..... p. 8

Submit Your Work to "Not For Print - Issue 02"

(Ello network, Mar. 28/17) **Not For Print Issue 02 — Resist** seeks submissions that challenge today's status quo, move beyond the obvious and become "the mirror of our betrayed ideals" and "the hammer with which to shape" a better reality.

Here and now, more than ever, we need the artists, designers, creators, the thinkers — the doers. We need to lead with work and ideas that challenge unacceptable social norms and that reflect the world we wish to see and experience for generations to come. When Ello says Resist, we mean that together we possess the power to act as gatekeepers of a better vision, a vision to withstand and to serve as proof against the people, ideas and

movements that draw us backwards rather than propel us forwards.

We need not accept ill conceived thoughts, ideas and policies. We need not comply with the powers that be. We must rise up and resist the temptations of complacency to build the inclusive and prosperous future we desire.

*Art is the Mirror of our betrayed ideals.*  
DORIS LESSING

**Not For Print Issue 02 — Resist is sponsored by WeTransfer**

**WeTransfer** is the simplest way to send your files around the world. And supporting the creative industries is part of our DNA. We give away 30% of our advertising inventory to showcase art, design, music, photography, illustration, film and much more. Last year, we gave one billion page impressions to promote creative projects we love.

"We are proud to be partnering with Ello to support this issue of Not For Print. We believe in the power of creative ideas to challenge and change the way we see the world, and we are excited to see the submissions."

**How to Submit** - Share 3 pieces of art or writing that speak to the theme "Resist" in a single post. No video or GIFs will be featured in the print magazine, but may be included in a special digital version of *Not For Print*.

Include your name, a link to your portfolio, your location, and 2-5 sentences about the art you've submitted.

Tag **@notforprint** & **@wetransfer**.

We're stoked to see your work.

**Contest Dates**

March 28, 2017 - April 21, 2017 at 11:59pm MT

**Selection Process** - Our curatorial team will repost select submissions from the **@notforprint** page. Starting April 22, 2017 our panel of judges will choose 50 winners, to be announced May 9, 2017. We will be featuring an additional artist and selecting a special image for a second cover – stay tuned.

Missing Persons

Where is Ross Chamberlain?

Where do I return Clifton Amsbury's articles, or if I am permitted to publish them, where should I send contributor copies?

## Letters

**Dale Speirs, [opuntia57@hotmail.com](mailto:opuntia57@hotmail.com), February 2, 2017**

I wouldn't worry about the One World Government, not after the deplorables in flyover country elected Trump, and the working people in Britain told the chattering classes in Croydon to get stuffed by voting for Brexit.

On a more cheerful note, June 21, 2017, will be the 24th annual World Wide Party. At 21h00 your local time, raise a glass and celebrate zinedom around the world.

The idea is to get a wave of fannish fellowship circling the world. Face east and toast fellow zinesters who have already celebrated the WWP. Then face south and north for those in your time zone, and finally to the west for those who will celebrate in the next hour.

**Lyn McConchie, February 3, 2017**

Re your comments last ish on my comments: Yup, and it gets my goat. I too am of 'that' generation that actually gets out and *does* things. Like you, I write articles for my local newspaper (recycling and consumer, and I am their 'stringer' for weather in my village). I also write for our national SPCA quarterly (animals), and for CADS UK (articles on mystery authors/books etc.). I also do a large number of competitions each week. The advantage of that is twofold: I win a steady trickle of small (\$20-\$50) prizes, which I donate to a number of local charities for raffles; then too, so long as I keep all of that up, I may not suffer brain-fade.

Of course, that's just hobbies. For real work I own and run a small farm (sheep, hens, geese, and a steer most years), and write professionally. So far the tally is 39 books published (and 300+ stories). That averages out to around a book published every 8 months, plus a story about every 5 weeks. It drives me mad to hear the 'younger generation' complain they're bored, there's nothing to do, they don't see why they should have to work so hard. Having work you enjoy doing is a gift. And I, for one, am grateful for it. Apart from anything else it ain't so bad for a crippled, overweight old bag with damn-all schooling, who'll be 71 about the time you're reading this!

*(I confess. I don't actually behave all that differently, so I am inclined to cut some slack. The bottom line is that you can't have a feel for how much work things take, until you've seen some jobs through yourself. Today I discover that I overestimate my stamina and wind – as the rest of*

*Vancouver is discovering, each time we have an unexpected snowfall to shovel off the steps and sidewalk ...))*

Oh, and for those expecting quakes. I heartily recommend blu-tacking your ornaments to the shelves. It was what saved a number of mine November 14<sup>th</sup>, when we were hit with a 7.8 at midnight. (Unfortunately the cat wasn't blu-tacked down and he's still getting over the shock - in both senses. As is my long-time friend next door, she had a heart attack. Don't think blu-tack would have done a lot there, but...)

**Lloyd Penney, [penneys@bell.net](mailto:penneys@bell.net), March 3, 2017**

The big catch-up continues on with the big e-stack of e-zines I have, and next up on the long list is *The Interesting Times* 5. I hope I can get it to you before IT6 comes out.

Good Stiles cartoon, but I suspect that isn't Hell, but somewhere in Washington. I didn't know about the Northwest Fan Fest, but I wish WCSFA good luck on managing this. My own experience here is that literary and media groups don't work together well, but that may just be what happens here. Science at conventions has worked well in the past...for a number of years, Yvonne was in charge of the science programming at Ad Astra, which was very popular, especially with the panelists, who had rarely had the chance to tell others about their own scientific passions. Yvonne ran the track the same way space conferences do, with speaker gift packages for all who took part as a way of thanking them. Could that be the way to get the Mad Science Fair going?

My loc...Tara has made another trip to the hospital, and he is slowly recovering from a stroke. Local fan Steve Baldassarra is helping him with his recovery. We didn't do well in Guelph sales-wise, so our next sales event is CostumeCon 35, April 20-24 in Mississauga. We notice that while SF cons aren't good for us, trade shows, craft shows and flea markets are actually better, so we are starting to aim that way, and provide something the general public has never seen before.

Mad scientist? Probably just slightly perturbed. If nothing else, a good excuse for a hall costume. A mad scientist's lair would be some fun, but only with funding from a far richer source than me.

Alternative news is fine, as long as it doesn't contain alternative facts. There are times I think the public is made docile and easily confused by the huge selection of popular culture available these days, which keep their attentions away from the sneaky politicians who line their pockets with the contents of the public purse. The campaigns of

the past US presidential election prove that the Republicans accused the Democrats of doing that the Republicans were doing themselves, and the Democrats were largely right about what they said the Republicans would do in office. It's all one big diversionary tactic.

For me, the big jobhunt continues ever onward, as if that was something new. The resumes pour out, and there is little or no response, which makes me wonder if they advertised jobs ever existed. Bless Yvonne for trying to make life as normal as possible during these trying times.

I think I am done for the moment. Lots more fanzines to work on, so I will get with it. After lunch, of course. Take care, see you the next time.

*We Also Heard From Cathy Palmer-Lister*

## It Approaches

BRITISH COLUMBIA (CBC, ElectionsBC, News 1130) – The upcoming provincial election in British Columbia on May 9, 2017 holds few surprises.

The Liberal Party (the incumbent administration), led by Premier Christy Clark, is campaigning on the promises of “controlling government spending, cutting taxes for the middle class to create jobs”, and “growing the economy”. Specifically, the Liberal Party is proposing an 'active senior' tax credit (for up to \$500 a year on things like gym memberships and yoga classes) and a 'respite' tax credit (for hiring help to care for elderly parents), a loyalty discount program for BC Ferries users, and a promise to cap Metro Vancouver crossing tolls.

The New Democratic Party (the official opposition), led by John Rogan, is campaigning on the promises of making life more affordable”, “fixing services we] depend on” and “creating good, sustainable jobs in BC”. Specific promises include freezing BC Hydro rates, and removing bridge tolls.

Campaign advertising by the Liberals is self-congratulatory about growing the economy, and alleges John Horgan has flipped his position more than once on positions that speak to one's values and goals, such as supporting or opposing the Trans Mountain Pipeline project.

Campaign advertising by the NDP alleges that Christy Clark's policies in office have favoured established real-estate and high-income groups.

Some polls indicate that the NDP has a slight lead over the Liberals. Advance polls also indicate possible gains for the Green Party on Vancouver Island.

A truly complete ballot of all provincial parties should include at least the registered parties - The B.C. New Republican Party; B.C. Vision; The BC Citizens First Party; The BC First Party; The BC Marijuana Party; The BC NDP; The BC Progressive Party; The BC Refederation Party; The British Columbia Action Party; The British Columbia Conservative Party; The British Columbia Excalibur Party; The British Columbia Liberal Party; The British Columbia Libertarian Party; The British Columbia Party; The British Columbia Peoples Party; The British Columbia Social Credit Party; The Cascadia Party of British Columbia; The Christian Heritage Party of British Columbia; The Communist Party of BC; The Cultural Action Party For British Columbia; The Green Party Political Association of British Columbia; The Land Air Water Party; The People's Front; The Platinum Party of Employers Who Think and Act to Increase Awareness; The Unparty - The Consensus-Building Party; The Vancouver Island Party; The Work Less Party of British Columbia; and Your Political Party of BC.

Usually reliable sources indicate the Anarcho-Surrealist Party was caught off guard, as usual, and had neither funding nor candidates ready to campaign.

To register to vote, browse to <http://elections.bc.ca/register-to-vote/>. To contact ElectionsBC and determine eligibility to vote, browse to [electionsbc.ca](http://electionsbc.ca), or phone 1-800-661-8683 (TTY 1-888-456-5448), or email [electionsbc@elections.bc.ca](mailto:electionsbc@elections.bc.ca).

## Blast from the Past: 2016 articles I lost and found again

*Weekend Edition: The Tipping Point Is Quickly Approaching*

(an article dated 2016 conveyed by D. Malinski)

Someone's note: "The U.S. is going into a time of troubles at least as bad as any experienced in any advanced country in the last century."

Casey Research founder Doug Casey knows it sounds outrageous—and he'll probably get a lot of backlash—but he believes every American needs to be concerned right now...

Today and tomorrow, Doug will share his thoughts on this coming crisis...and why it will be much worse—and last much longer—than most people expect...

“Making the chicken run” is what Rhodesians used to say about neighbors who packed up and got out during the '60s and '70s, before the place became Zimbabwe. It was considered “unpatriotic” to leave Rhodesia. But it was genuinely idiotic not to.

I've written many times about the importance of internationalizing your assets, your mode of living, and your way of thinking. I suspect most readers have treated those articles as they might a travelogue to some distant and exotic land: interesting fodder for cocktail party chatter, but basically academic and of little immediate personal relevance.

I'm directing these comments toward the U.S. mainly because that's where the problem is most acute, but they're applicable to most countries.

Now, in 2016, the U.S. is in real trouble. Not as bad as Rhodesia 40 years ago—and definitely a different kind of trouble—but plenty serious. For many years, it's been obvious that the country was eventually going to hit the wall, and now the inevitable is rapidly becoming imminent.

What do I mean by that? There's plenty of reason to be concerned about things financial and economic. But I personally believe we haven't been bearish enough on the eventual social and political fallout from the Greater Depression. Nothing is certain, but the odds are high that the U.S. is going into a time of troubles at least as bad as any experienced in any advanced country in the last century.

I hate saying things like that, if only because it sounds outrageous and inflammatory and can create a credibility gap. It invites arguments with people, and although I enjoy discussion, I dislike arguing.

It strikes most people as outrageous because the long-running post-WWII boom has been punctuated only by brief recessions. After 70 years, why should it ever end? The thought of a nasty end certainly runs counter to the experience of almost everyone now alive—including myself—and our personal experience is what we tend to trust most. But it seems to me we're very close to a tipping point. Ice stays ice even while it's being warmed—until the temperature goes over 32° F, where it changes very quickly into something very different.

That point—economic bankruptcy accompanied by financial chaos—is quickly approaching for the U.S. government. With deficits over a trillion dollars per year for as far as the eye can see, the U.S. Treasury will very soon be unable to roll over its maturing debt at anything near current interest rates. The only reliable buyer will be the Federal Reserve, which can buy only by creating new dollars.

*(I wish I knew the source of this article. – GS)*

*Watch This Maryland Grandfather Perfectly Explain Truth About Obama Economy*

(another article dated 2016 conveyed by D. Malinski)

They brought him down to Washington to give an “outsider's” perspective on the economy, but what he said was not what they... [Warning: Contains Sensitive Material] –

Within the next 24 months, the dollar is likely to start losing value rapidly and noticeably. Foreigners, who own over 7.3 trillion of them (including T-bills and other IOUs), will start panicking to dump them. So will Americans. The dollar bond market, today worth \$40 trillion, will be devastated by much higher interest rates, a rapidly depreciating dollar, and an epidemic of defaults.

And that will be just the start of the trouble. Since the U.S. property market floats on a sea of debt (and is easy to tax), it's also going to be hit very hard, again, this time by stifling mortgage rates. The next step is up for interest rates. Forget about property owners paying their existing mortgages; many won't be able to pay their taxes and utilities, and maintenance will be out of the question.

The pain will spread. Insurance companies are invested mostly in bonds and real estate; many will go bankrupt. The same is true of most pension funds. If the stock market doesn't collapse, it will only be because money is looking for a place to hide from inflation. The payout for Social Security will drop significantly in real terms, if not in dollars. The standard of living of most Americans will fall.

This rough sequence of events has happened in many countries in recent decades, and they've survived the tough times. But it has the potential, at least in relative terms, to be more serious in the U.S. than it was in Argentina, Brazil, Serbia, Russia, Mozambique, or Zimbabwe for two main reasons.

First, many people in those countries knew they couldn't trust their government and acted accordingly, even in contravention of the law, by accumulating assets elsewhere. So, there was a significant pool of capital available for rebuilding. Americans, on the other hand, tend to be much more insular, law-abiding, and trusting in their government. When they lose their U.S. assets, they'll have lost everything.

Second, those societies were significantly more rural than the U.S. is today. As in the America of

100 years ago, much of the population lived quite close to the land and had practical skills and habits that helped them get through the tough times. For 21st-century Americans, it's a different story. Shortages and disorder are going to hit commuters who live in suburbs, and urban dwellers who think milk appears in cartons magically, like a ton of bricks.

One thing you can absolutely count on is that everyone will look to the government to “do something.” Americans really do think governments control the way the world works. Another certainty is that the U.S. government will “step in” massively, because everyone will want them to, and the politicians themselves believe they should. This will greatly aggravate the crisis and make it last much longer than necessary.

Someone note: As Doug mentioned above, a giant financial hurricane is about to hit America...and your wealth is likely in the path of destruction.

*(I wish I knew the source of this article, too. – GS)*

## How to Skin a Beaver

Taral Wayne

I was recently urged to read an article that some wag had written about American plans to invade Canada. It is not that the US is planning to do so, the author contended, but we live in interesting times with an unpredictable president coming up to bat. America has invaded Canada before, and had plans for doing so as late as the 1920s, so perhaps it isn't as unthinkable as we imagine. In any case, the author contacted a professor at the Royal Military College of Canada for advice on how to proceed with the invasion, so I think we may assume that a genuine invasion from the United States would closely resemble the one outlined in his article.

Before I read the article, however, I decided to try my hand at playing Napoleon. I've written my own plan for invading Canada. Not very surprisingly, the two plans are very similar. Mine is, in fact, a bit more detailed than the one in the article ... as repeated by the author. I'd guess the professor knows his stuff at least as well as I.

So here is my invasion plan, America. Use it wisely, and remember I get 1% of the loot and can have any ten people I name sent to Gitmo as enemies of the state.

1) Occupy all southern CAF airbases by sending in marines in helicopters. That's the highest priority.

2) Occupy ports of Vancouver and Victoria with units of the USN from Puget Sound.

3) If oil is a prime motive for the invasion, then send an armoured brigade into Alberta, using speed to take control of the oil fields. Edmonton and Calgary can come later. If oil is not a concern, then skip step 3 ... you'll get it all later, anyway.

4a) Launch the main land assault against Toronto, moving over the border at Niagara. A simultaneous assault from the border at Windsor is optional. It'll fall into US hands regardless. A fast seizure of downtown Toronto using Marines in copters or amphibious vehicles from across the lake might also be a good idea.

4b) Launch an assault against Montreal at same time. This may well be the hardest part of the invasion, since the city must be reached through about 50 miles of the Eastern Townships and then crossing the St. Lawrence, but a fast armoured division should do nicely once the bridges are secured. I'd get parachute teams followed by helicopter in troops there first thing, to hold the bridges until the heavy units arrived. Apart from a brigade and a command post in City Hall, I don't think a major military presence inside Montreal or Toronto are necessary. We just have to know they are outside, waiting.

5) The USN can take a little more time about occupying Halifax or any other harbors they want in Atlantic Canada. They should be controlled, but speed isn't essential. Rather than rush troops in, a simple display of naval superiority close offshore might well be enough to assert authority.

6) The Canadian government at this point has little alternative but to sue for terms. Ottawa itself can be taken as part of the surrender... no need to fight for it. US troops should be securing the CBC as well as all other major city broadcast facilities as they move in, post-surrender. Close the airports. Do what can be done about the Internet, etc. This stage could be reached in as little as 24 hours, and should take no more than 48.

7) Begin neutralizing more distant CAF bases, and tighten your grip on the rural population. Then, as control spreads out through the country, divide up the loot among the corporations sponsoring the invasion ...

Of course, I would never enter into such an arrangement with the President of the United States, not for 1%, not for 10%, not even for outright ownership of the Leafs and the keys to the National Air Space Museum in Ottawa. The

incoming president is not known for honest business deals, and I have no doubt he'd welch on ours.

## Classifieds

Contact Garth Spencer for advertising information at [garth.van.spencer@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:garth.van.spencer@gmail.com)!

**Art of Garthness (freelance secretarial, copy editing and proofreading services) - \$25 per hour** or 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:garth.van.spencer@gmail.com).

**Paragon Investigations** – for all your paranormal research, detection and litigation needs. Our skilled and experienced staff are ready to believe you! Contact [fruvousfox@gmail.com](mailto:fruvousfox@gmail.com)

**Steampunk Viking Klingon Operetta Society** – auditions monthly. Contact me at [garth.van.spencer@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Book Review

*Fragment*, by Craig Russel. Saskatoon: Thistledown Press, 2016.

It's bad enough that avalanching glaciers in Antarctica separate a massive ice sheet from the continent, and thrust it into the ocean. Worse, that the catastrophe destroys McMurdo Station, stranding a few survivors for a submarine to try to rescue. Worse yet, to find the course of the ice sheet can create disasters for migrating whales, and for places like the Falklands. But when the administration of the U.S.A. tries to spin it for political gain ... and the remnants of the ice sheet cause a catastrophe in the Caribbean, forbye ... and the submariners are beginning to communicate with the whales in the ice sheet's path ... whose cause will prevail?

Craig Russell, a lawyer in Brandon, Manitoba, won the 201 American Moonbeam Award goldmetal for young-adult fantasy, for his novel *Black Bottle Man*. He was also a finalist for the Prix Aurora Award for Best English Science Fiction or Fantasy Novel.

## Calendar

### May 2017

May 1: **May Day**, sacred to Freyja & Freyr: about Sex, love, and fertility. Enjoy the flowers of spring, also

May 6: **Tsurucon** at Gateway Christian School in Red Deer, Alberta

May 9: Election Day in British Columbia

May 9 - Remembrance for Gudrod of Gudbrandsdal

May 19-20: **Nishikaze** at the University of Lethbridge, Physical Education Building, Lethbridge, Alberta

May 19-21: **Keycon 34** at Radisson Hotel in Winnipeg, MB. [www.keycon.org/2017/](http://www.keycon.org/2017/)

May 26-29: **Miscon 31** in Missoula, MT.  
<http://www.miscon.org/>

May 27-28: **FanQuest**, University of Winnipeg,  
Riddell Hall and Eckhardt-Gramatte Hall,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

## June 2017

June 9 - Remembrance for Sigurd the  
Dragonslayer

June (into July) – **Liða-manuð** (Liða Month). Liða  
is the opposite of Mothers' Night and is  
celebrated on the Summer Solstice. Saxon  
calendar

June 9-11: **The Brass Screw Confederacy 2017**  
in Port Townsend, WA. <http://brass-screw.org/>

June 10-11: **Calgary Horror Con**, Clarion Hotel &  
Conference Centre, Calgary, Alberta

June 15-18: **Fur-Eh!** at the Ramada Edmonton  
Hotel & Conference Centre, Edmonton,  
Alberta

June 16-18: **ConComCon 24** in Tacoma, WA. See  
Concomcon's Facebook page.

June 21: **the 24th annual World Wide Party**. "At  
21h00 your local time, raise a glass and  
celebrate zinedom around the world. The  
idea is to get a wave of fannish fellowship  
circling the world. Face east and toast  
fellow zinesters who have already celebrated  
the WWP. Then face south and north for  
those in your time zone, and finally to the  
west for those who will celebrate in the next  
hour." (D. Speirs)

June 23-24: **Cascade Writers 2017**, Tacoma, WA.  
See  
<http://cascadewriters.com/event/switch-it-up-with-tina-connelly-and-alex-c-renwick/>

June 21: summer solstice; **Midsumarblot**, sacred  
to Sunna & all the gods. The Highest point  
of the sun. Vital forces at peak. Major  
festival. An all gods blót.

June 30 - July 2, **Otafest**, at the Calgary Telus  
Convention Centre, Calgary, Alberta

## July 2017

July 1-4: **Westercon 70** in Tempe, AZ. GoHs: Julie  
Dillon, Larry Elmore, Connie Willis, Gini  
Koch.

July 6-19: **NASFiC** in San Juan, Puerto Rico. See  
<https://www.northamericon17.com>

July 21-23, **Ai-Kon**, RBC Convention Centre in  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

July 22-23, **Ganbatte**, TCU Place,  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

## Freedom of the Press

Next time I'm going to base a whole issue on  
received fanzines. I am annoyed with myself for  
constantly treating them like an afterthought.

