

THE FORTRESSIAN LETTER

“As It Develops”



Vol. II Issue 19

Turridor 7

Promises Made, Promises Broken

Government Fails to Complete Key Projects

PA – As the year 7 slowly nears its end, the government has almost run out of time for its myriad of programs, operations, content, and policies it originally announced last year, many of them are already well past their deadline, while still others have had zero updates, leading many in the Pillow Fortress to speculate that they have been canceled outright. A report outlining the future development of Marie Byrd Colony was due Bastal of this year, as was the legal code meant to replace the Pillow Fortress Code. All the while Project C has yet to result in any tangible contributions to Fortressian culture, and there's been no word on the manifesto commissioned by the Department of Culture.

To get to the bottom of what's going on, *The Fortressian Letter* talked with individuals inside the government and close to the Princess. “She's really rather heartbroken about it all,” said an official who spoke on condition of anonymity, “The year 6 was portrayed by the government as being full of hope and optimism, but behind the scenes there was anything but. Morale was at rock bottom. If it wasn't for Her Majesty's determination, we may have seen a total collapse of the Principality.”

The grim attitude within the government was confirmed by another individual. Again speaking anonymously, “It would be wrong to say those different projects were just press releases and news items. There definitely was the intention of completing them, but other, non-Fortressian related issues took a greater and greater amount of time and energy away from what could be devoted to the Principality.”

After long conversations with our sources, *The Fortressian Letter* has concluded the likely statuses of the different projects previously announced:

1. The Marie Byrd Development report has been scrapped.
2. The new legal code is still being worked on, and is expected to release sometime in either 8 or 9.
3. Project C has largely been overtaken by the ongoing, though as of yet small, Japanification operation, which rumor has it is named ‘Learning From Our Elders’ by the government.
4. Much of the manifesto has been outlined and some early chapters are in a rough draft form, but work is on hold until after the new legal code is finished.

Whether the government will continue to announce new projects before completing their previous ones remains to be seen, although current trends show a slowing down of the creation of new government entities as well as Royal Decrees and announcements. It took a little time, but it seems those in charge of the Pillow Fortress have learned not to put the cart before the horse.

Directory Passes First Ever Laws

Advisory Councils Work Together To Lay Legal Foundation

PA – After weeks and weeks of inaction following General Election 7 this Albarral, the Directory finally began to do its duty with each of the three advisory councils passing what was essentially the same law three times. The “Law

On Legislative Procedure of the Advisory Councils of the Directory” established various ground rules and regulations relating to how the Directory conducts its business, including provisions for determining quorum, as well as what sorts of legislative items that may be passed.

“You're going to start seeing serious output from us now,” said the Director of Territory representing the Pillowans Abroad Province, “With these procedural matters dealt with, the Directory will be able to finally fulfill its role as the Principality's legislature.” The representative from Her Majesty's Royal Guild was equally jubilant, saying, “Having the

Directory concordance at our disposal is a game changer,” referring to a type of bill created by the new law that requires all three advisory councils to pass it before it is given to the Princess for her assent.

In contrast to the self-congratulatory and prideful celebrating some in the Directory have shown over the Law On Legislative Procedure of the Advisory Councils of the Directory, some had a more measured response. “It's business as usual over here,” said the Directory of State, “good to have this foundation, but I wouldn't expect anything major happening on the legislative side for a while.”

Holiday Greetings

Our editors, reporters, contributors, staff, and everyone else here at *The Fortressian Letter* hereby offer our best wishes to the Eusocian Faithful. From our family to yours, may this holiday season be numinous. Have a solemn Day of Atonement and joyous Day of Thanks!

-Editor

Pillowan Perspectives

How well do you think the Directory has been doing since General Election 7?

“Can't really complain, can I? It's what I voted for.”

-An author

“Wish they'd get around to voting for my niche topic of interest.”

-A chef

“Who cares? We all know who the real power behind the Directory is. That's right, the Princess! And we all know who the real power behind her is. That's right, the corporations! Wake up, sheeple!”

-[refused to state profession]

WHYWHATHOW PILLOW FORTRESS

Brief Insights Into the Principality

In the final days before founding the Principality, Her Majesty the First Princess actually cycled between several different potential names for the state, with Pillow Fortress only being finalized the night before. What those other names were, though, remains a mystery, as only one was written down, and it remains classified to this day for “state security reasons”. Whatever those are!

Review: Goddess of Victory: Nikke

Gacha is a blight on the gaming industry and an insult to maidkind. Little more than sophisticated Skinner boxes, gacha games take advantage of their players by leveraging casino-like gambling mechanics paired with the fear of missing out, more often than not sold packaged in “anime inspired” dressing focused grouped to hell and so safe as to be completely soulless, using cheap sexuality to pander to people’s base desires at the expense of anything meaningful, enlightening, or prosocial.

But not all gacha games are created equal, and *Goddess of Victory: Nikke* is one of the better ones. Good, even. Set in a post apocalyptic future in which humans have been driven underground by an invading machinic-alien force known as Raptures, the player takes the role of a commander of a squad of the titular nikkes, robot-women hybrid soldiers, as they fight to reclaim the surface and save the world. The bulk of the gameplay is technically a third person shooter, though it’s better to think of it more like a shooting gallery with the squad of nikkes lined up in the foreground firing their weapons at enemies appearing in various levels of the background, though not as rigidly defined as traditional shooting galleries have been in video games. Other forms of gameplay will have the player choosing dialogue options when talking to the nikkes, and the ever present inventory management and resource allocation done primarily through menus. Additionally, certain special events come with their own minigames, and while these can be fun, they’re often very simplistic and blatantly aping other games currently on the market.

What sets *Nikke* apart from other gachas on the market (if its fans are to be believed) is the story, which is indeed quite good. The opening tutorial missions end with an emotional gut punch, something the developers know how and when to use effectively. Things are never too angsty, though, there’s plenty of lighthearted fun to be had, and even in the more serious moments, the game never gets pretentious or up its own ass. Speaking of...

There’s no denying that *Nikke* is a highly sexualized game. The vast majority of characters, being women, have over the top designs that accentuate their breasts, hips, and asses, the latter especially apparent during the combat (one wonders if the gameplay was an excuse for the fanservice, or if the fanservice was an excuse for the gameplay?). Even characters that don’t have exaggerated features are coded to appeal to different fetishes and kinks. There’s a chubby nikke, and a barefoot nikke, and a nikke that’s always sweating, multiple dominant and submissive nikkes, cheerleader nikkes, and schoolgirl nikkes, etc. Nothing in the game crosses the line into outright pornography, and there are other gachas on the market that push this boundary even further, somehow, but it’s maybe not something you’d feel comfortable playing at work.

As for the most pernicious aspect of gacha, the gambling, it’s not too bad in *Nikke*. Yes, progress will be slower if you don’t spend money, and yes one of its free daily rewards is located in the cash shop requiring you to go there, and yes there are occasional popups advertising limited time deals, and yes you likely won’t be able to level up the limited time characters to their fullest potential without paying but, uhh, wait, weren’t we saying *Nikke* was a good game?

At least it’s not Brown Dust II.



This Month in History

Turridor

31 Year 4: First confirmed case of COVID-19 in the Principality.

14 Year 6: Pillow Fortress Real is abolished.

31 Year 6: The advisory councils in the Directory each get a new flag.

US Government Shutdown Continues

No End In Sight For Beleaguered Nation

TELLURIA – The shutdown of the United States of America’s federal government continues unabated as no agreement has been made to resume necessary funding. Government employees have been fired, while the Pentagon struggles to pay out of pocket for its soldiers, who would otherwise go without their salaries during a shutdown scenario. Some experts believe the shutdown may last another month at the least, making it the longest in US history. All this chaos and confusion is sure to compound the negative effects already being felt by the US’s socialist trade policies, potentially leading to an international crisis if not resolved soon.

“We’re monitoring the situation,” said a Throne spox, “despite not currently recognizing any other countries, international relations and foreign affairs are a top priority.” Then adding, unprompted, “Aren’t you glad Her Majesty had foresight to include automatic government funding in all three of our constitutions?”

In times like these, it’s difficult not to be.

RUMOR: Ongoing Debate Regarding Pillow Fortress Wiki’s Scope

ELEKTRASPACE – High level discussions are allegedly happening in the Department of Culture regarding whether or not the Pillow Fortress should adopt a maximalist approach, becoming something like a true encyclopedia. What this means exactly is unclear, as the proposal was only brought up recently, but it’s been gaining traction in the past few days and weeks.

