

THE FORTRESSIAN LETTER

“As It Develops”



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Albarral 8

A New Dawn Dawns

Temporal Province Becomes Newest Fortressian Territory

DI – In a bold move with no precedent in history, the Principality of the Pillow Fortress becomes the first country ever to annex territory in time rather than space. The Dawn Interval Province (DI), formally established by Royal Decree 00039, consists of a five minute period from 5:35AM to 5:40AM Fortressian Standard Time (FST), recurring every twenty-four hours. Immediately upon its founding the DI was given a flag and a government, which has many similarities to the Principality's other province, the Pillowans Abroad Province, in that it lacks those internal structures associated with having physical territory, such as an agriculture and housing & urban development branches. The DI is subdivided into five cantons, the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Cantons, though as of press time there are no canton governing boards or apparent plans for further subdivisions such as townships or districts.

Robots Join Platinum Band

New Order Reflects Changing Nature of War

PA – The Order of the Robots (OrR) became the ninth order of the Platinum Band, having unmanned and autonomous systems as its area of responsibility. Simultaneously, the Robots Branch of the Department of Defense was established as was the Robots Commissariat within the Libertine Party, fully integrating the new order at a rapid pace. “The wars in both Ukraine and Iran, neither of which the Principality recognize as states, have signaled

that the future of warfare will have a largely robotic, drone component,” said the new Defense branch's spox, “this is likely to be a transformation in war fighting similar to the development of dedicated air forces during and after World War II, or the ongoing militarization of space, in which the Pillow Fortress is a leader.” That last part referencing the Order of the Spacy, the world's first independent armed service dedicated exclusively to space combat.

Trouble settling on the OrR's visual identity, according to sources with first hand knowledge of the issue, slightly delayed its announcement. Eventually yellow was chosen to be the order's official color, owing to yellow being the color of awards given by all the other

orders except the Order of the Air Force for service members piloting drones. All those awards, except the aforementioned Air Force decoration, were discontinued as soon as the OrR was established. “The future of integrated Band warfare means that operating a drone will not necessarily be so significant,” said a Department of Defense spox, “that is why the orders were requested to abolish those awards.”

The full extent of the OrR's capabilities and their useful in combat have yet to be tested, but with the inclusion of “Pattern Command” being in charge of “the use of long range strategic missiles”, it is clear that the government expects more from it than just hand grenades taped to quad copters.

Council of Territory Flag Unchanged

No New Design Despite DI Presence

PA – The flag of the Council of Territory has remained unchanged, keeping its older design of five stars, one for each seat, on a green field, this despite the number of seats on the Council having doubled to ten with the establishment of the Dawn Interval Province. “Ever since the last election, Directory flags are not our area of responsibility,” said a spox for the Department of Culture, which had previously been the organ most concerned with Fortressian flags, “you'll need to ask the Council of Territory itself.”

Following up with the Council, it was evident that redesigning the flag was of a low priority. “We've got more important things to do right now,” said the Director from the Pillowans Abroad Province, “Maybe after we're done with the new legal code.”

Tellurian Roundup

News From the Outside

TELLURIA – The United States celebrated its 250th anniversary with fireworks, drone displays, and airplane flyovers, among other things. Many of the nation's allies joined in and offered their support and congratulations..

TELLURIA – Sony announced that it's next generation gaming console will not use physical media, sparking outrage from gamers everywhere. Shortly thereafter Microsoft made a similar announcement regarding the future of its Xbox consoles. Nintendo, the last of the major console publishers, has yet to make any statement, and seeing as their newest console only came out last year, they probably won't for some time.

Review: The Super Mario Galaxy Movie

The word ‘masterpiece’ gets thrown around a lot, but it is not an exaggeration to say that *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie* is one of humanity’s greatest cinematic achievements within the narrow category of video game adaptations.

Picking up shortly after the end of the previous film, our heroes Mario, Luigi, Princess Peach, and Toad must save the Mushroom Kingdom from the evil Bowser Jr.. They meet various friends and enemies on their journey which takes them across the universe. The animation is fluid and expressive, and the pacing is ultra fast, in a way mimicking that of the levels in the *Mario* games themselves. From one set piece to the next. Indeed, much of the criticism of the movie has been that the characters never slow down to whine about their feelings and stare listlessly into the middle distance, pondering some incomprehensible riddle the audience can only infer from their own previous experience with French New Wave cinema, or something. *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie* isn’t trying to be anything other than what it is, and in that, being the *Mario* experience, it does it extremely well.

Not to be the Mario Galaxy Defense Force, but there is one area of criticism that it is long since past due for retirement, and that is reducing and denigrating aspects of the film as mere “references” to the games. When a character shows up who first made their franchise debut in *Super Mario Bros. 2*, that is not a reference to *Super Mario Bros. 2*. Musical arrangements from *Super Mario World* are not references to *Super Mario World*. These elements are the building blocks of the Mario franchise. What other than them ought a Mario movie have used? Should it have created all new characters and locations and items? I suspect the whinging would be just as loud either way.

In time the harsh opinions will mellow out, and *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie* will be seen for the beloved classic that it is. Also, my Super Smash Bros. main is in it, so that’s an automatic perfect score. ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

Pillow Fortress Wiki Celebrates Major Milestone

Five Hundred Articles Cover All Aspects of Principality

ELEKTRASPACE – The five hundredth article appeared on the Pillow Fortress Wiki (PFW) this month, an astounding feat for a state as small as the Principality. Part of a larger series of changes to the articles regarding the Temple of Eusocianity, the specific article that cracked the five hundred threshold was on the Eusocian calendar. What makes this milestone more impressive is that the whole thing was done without the use of generative artificial intelligence. “We use that stuff for some images,” said User:HMJulia, the PFW’s most active participant, “but the text was all done by hand, so to speak.” She quickly added, “Not that there’s anything wrong with AI. The Principality is a strong believer in the future of AI.”

Originally *The Fortressian Letter* predicted the 500th article would appear sometime in either the late year 6 or by mid year 7, and while it is unfortunate to have been so incorrect, we believe that this moment provides a great learning opportunity, a lesson to all Pillowwans to hold out, no matter how long a project takes, be it writing a book, refurbishing a house, or creating a country, persistence and endurance pay off.

Shade in the Machine?

Google’s AI Search Labels Principality “fiction”

ELEKTRASPACE – Reports have come in from some Pillowwans that searching the Pillow Fortress in Google brings back disturbing results from the once-great search engine’s new AI feature, as it refers to the Principality as “fiction”. This is, of course, not at all accurate since the Pillow Fortress is real. “You’d expect this kind of sloppy reasoning from a person,” said a witness, “you know, something like ‘the Principality doesn’t have international recognition, therefore it’s not a real country, and if it’s not real then it must be fiction.’ But I guess even the machines can make these sorts of category errors if not corrected.”

When *The Fortressian Letter* searched the Pillow Fortress on Google the AI’s response, though dismissive and trite, did not use the terms “fiction” or “fictional” nor did it imply otherwise, perhaps indicating that its training data has been updated to more accurately reflect reality. Or maybe enough Pillowwans complained that it just doesn’t bother anymore.

Pillowwan Perspectives

The Dawn Interval Province is a radical new kind of territory, one with no precedence in history. Was the Princess’s decision a bold new direction for the Principality, or hubris in the extreme?

“It would be pretty cool, if time existed that is.”

Comment #1

“How can a five minute period extend across the entire universe and take place simultaneously. Surely time dilation would have some kind of effect, wouldn’t it?”

Comment #2

“Wow! A permanent reminder of the inexorable march of all things to oblivion, right there, forever a part of our fair Principality. Thanks, Princess!”

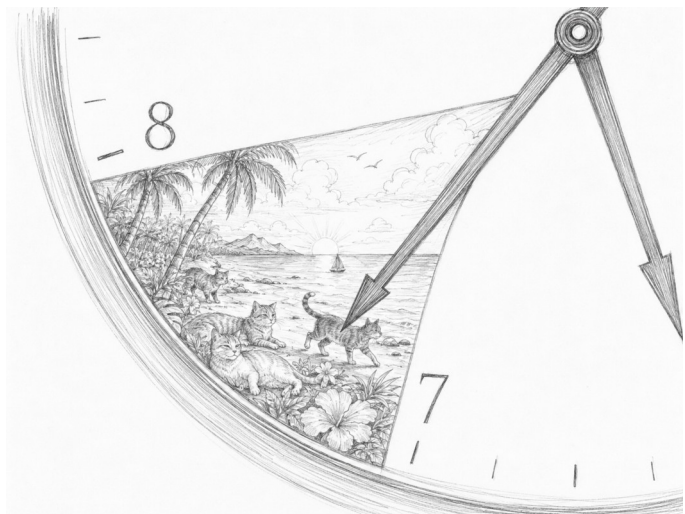
Comment #3

“Only the Pillow Fortress has the power and foresight, the creativity and drive to extend our reach outward and conquer the temporal realm! Today tomorrow, tomorrow the world!”

Comment #4

Estates Receive Identity

ELEKTRASPACE – New icons have been added for the eleven Estates of State, granting this relatively obscure aspect of Fortressian political culture a vibrant new visual identity.



“What A Time To Be Alive...”