THE FORTRESSIAN LETTER

"As It Develops"

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'Micronations' Makes Its Way To Silver Screen

New documentary explores the curious world of self-declared countries

TELLURIA – The curious world of micronationalism has received a new cinematic treatment with the release of Micronations, a feature-length documentary directed by American filmmaker Joe Kowalski. The 97-minute film made its world premiere at New York's Tribeca Festival on June 5, 2026, introducing audiences to the kings, queens, presidents, and other figures responsible for establishing and governing their own countries. Rather than concentrating on any single micronation, the documentary explores the wider phenomenon, examining the personalities, communities, and institutions that have developed around the practice of founding countries. Among those featured are President Kevin Baugh of Molossia, Queen Carolyn Shelby of Ladonia, and Grand Duke Travis McHenry of Westarctica. The film also examines micronational gatherings, including diplomatic summits at which representatives of these self-declared states meet their counterparts.

Although micronationalism has received considerable attention through television segments, newspaper articles, and online documentaries, a feature-length production offers an opportunity for a more sustained examination of the subject. Kowalski's film is concerned not merely with the unusual institutions established by micronationalists but also with the motivations behind them. Questions of identity, belonging, political legitimacy, and the nature of sovereignty form an important part of its subject matter. The documentary has continued appearing at screenings since its Tribeca premiere, including showings at the Buffalo International Film Festival on October 11 and the Cleveland Cinematheque on October 24. Its next announced engagement is a special screening at the University of Toronto on November 9, where Kowalski is scheduled to participate in a question-and-answer session alongside micronationalism researcher Robert Motum and King George 2.0 of Slabovia. For micronationalists, the film represents another occasion on which their unusual political activities have found an audience beyond their own community. Whether the documentary will change public perceptions of micronationalism remains to be seen. At the very least, audiences will have an opportunity to discover that the world contains considerably more countries than their school atlases might suggest.

MetroTrans Reclassified As Crown Corporation

Fortressian Railway Enterprise Receives New Institutional Designation

PA – The Principality of the Pillow Fortress has reclassified MetroTrans, its railway enterprise, as a Crown corporation. The change establishes MetroTrans's position within the Principality's Crown-owned commercial sector, distinguishing the company from the ordinary business enterprises that constitute other parts of the national economy. Crown corporations occupy an unusual position in public administration. Although established or owned by governments, they may carry out commercial activities more commonly associated with private companies. Their precise relationship with the state varies according to the legal and organizational arrangements under which they operate day to day and year to year.

Railway enterprises are particularly well suited to this form of organization. Rail transportation combines the commercial activities of a business with the infrastructure responsibilities often associated with public authorities. For MetroTrans, the immediate development concerns its institutional classification rather than its physical operations. No new railway routes, construction projects, or passenger services are being announced as part of the present report. Nevertheless, the designation provides a distinct organizational identity for the railway company and establishes a basis upon which its future activities may be developed. The reclassification represents a modest but definite change in the structure of the Fortressian economy. For the time being, MetroTrans's newest development is administrative rather than locomotive.



The Fortressian Letter arrives, eventually.

A Note to Our Readers

The editorial staff of *The Fortressian Letter* wishes to extend its sincerest apologies for the considerable delay in publishing this issue. A combination of competing obligations, unforeseen difficulties, and the ordinary complications of producing a publication has placed us rather further behind schedule than originally anticipated.

While delays are sometimes unavoidable, we recognize the importance of maintaining a regular publication schedule and regret that we have fallen short of that expectation. We appreciate the continued patience and understanding of our readers, particularly those who have been awaiting the next installment of Fortressian news and commentary.

Thank you for your continued readership. We look forward to bringing you future issues with considerably greater punctuality, or, at the very least, less embarrassment.

-*The Fortressian Letter* staff

TELLURIA ROUNDUP

News From The Outside

TELLURIA — Nations Reach New Biodiversity Agreement

Representatives attending the United Nations COP17 biodiversity conference in Yerevan have reached an agreement intended to accelerate international conservation efforts. The agreement, known as the Yerevan Pathway, follows a review finding that countries are falling behind on most of their previously established biodiversity targets. Among the objectives are reducing environmentally harmful subsidies, protecting natural habitats, and increasing financial support for conservation in developing countries. Although delegates reached an agreement on further action, substantial disagreements remain concerning how conservation programs will be financed. The next biodiversity conference is scheduled to take place in Ecuador in 2028.

TELLURIA — Martian Rock Reveals Clues To Red Planet's Past

A meteorite discovered in the Sahara Desert has been identified as one of the oldest known pieces of Mars ever recovered on Earth. The specimen, designated Teghaza 001, was discovered in Mali in 2022. Recent scientific analysis determined that the rock formed more than 4.1 billion years ago. Its minerals preserve evidence of interactions between water and rock during the earliest periods of Martian history. Scientists hope the discovery will help them better understand the environment of ancient Mars, particularly the extent to which water was present on the planet billions of years ago. Although the findings may contribute to research into the possibility of ancient Martian life, the meteorite itself provides no direct evidence of living organisms.

TELLURIA — Ancient Clay Figure Discovered At Burial Mound

Japanese archaeologists have uncovered an unusual clay figurine at a burial site in Gunma Prefecture. The object, a type of funerary sculpture known as a haniwa, is believed to date from the fifth century. The surviving portion of the figure measures approximately 40 centimeters in height and depicts a person wearing elaborate ornaments, including bracelets and a painted sash. Researchers believe the figure may represent a female religious practitioner associated with ancient burial ceremonies. The discovery offers additional evidence of the ceremonial traditions practiced during Japan's Kofun period, when elaborate burial mounds were constructed for members of the ruling elite. The artifact has been placed on public display at a local archaeological museum.

TELLURIA — New Satellite Launched For National Navigation System

India has successfully launched a new satellite intended to strengthen its domestic positioning and navigation capabilities. The NVS-03 satellite was carried into space on October 30 aboard a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre. The spacecraft forms part of India's NavIC satellite navigation system, which is intended to provide positioning and timing services across India and surrounding regions. Following its successful initial deployment into transfer orbit, the satellite must undergo further orbital maneuvers before reaching its intended operating position. The launch represents another step in India's effort to maintain a satellite navigation capability independent of foreign systems.

TELLURIA — United Nations Calls For Investigation Into Detainee's Death

The United Nations has called for an independent investigation following the reported death of a Yemeni human rights staff member held by Houthi authorities. Mohammad el Shami had been detained since June 2024. His family was recently informed that he had died in custody, although the circumstances of his death remain unclear. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk called for a thorough investigation and demanded the release of other detained UN personnel and humanitarian workers. The incident adds to international concerns over the treatment of humanitarian and international organization personnel in Yemen, where years of conflict have severely affected civilian life and public institutions.

The Fortressian Letter Wishes All Eusocian Faithful A Solemn Day of Atonement

REVIEW: You Can See Everything (2026)

Nathan Fielder has made a career out of blurring the lines between reality and fiction, and You Can See Everything may be his most ambitious attempt yet. Part documentary, part psychological drama, and part examination of documentary filmmaking itself, the film is an unusual and frequently fascinating experience, even if it doesn't quite stick the landing.

The film follows disgraced Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes during the weeks leading up to her imprisonment for fraud. What initially appears to be a relatively conventional documentary quickly becomes something considerably stranger. Fielder's characteristically awkward interactions with Holmes, her husband Billy Evans, and the people surrounding them create an atmosphere in which it becomes increasingly difficult to determine who is being sincere, who is performing, and who is manipulating whom.

This uncertainty is the film's greatest strength. Holmes is an intriguing subject precisely because her public persona was so carefully constructed, and Fielder proves an unusually appropriate person to investigate it. His willingness to question not only his subjects but also his own methods lends the film a self-awareness rarely found in conventional documentaries. The cinematography is equally impressive, lending ordinary conversations an almost unsettling dramatic quality.

Unfortunately, the final portion is somewhat less satisfying. As the documentary becomes increasingly concerned with its own construction, it begins to lose sight of the people who made its earlier sections so compelling. The ending seems determined to arrive at some grand statement about truth, representation, and the impossibility of knowing another person, but the conclusion feels less convincing than the questions that precede it. The film ultimately seems to be searching for a revelation that never quite materializes.

Nevertheless, You Can See Everything remains a remarkable achievement. At nearly three hours, it is occasionally indulgent, but rarely dull. Its unusual structure, fascinating subjects, and persistent atmosphere of uncertainty make it one of the more interesting documentaries of recent years.

The ending may leave something to be desired, but the journey there is more than worth taking.

★★★★☆☆☆