

WATCH

THE

SKIES





THE LOST HEIR

By Andi O'Connor

16.10

Mystandia is at a tipping point. The Grand Sorcerer is about to announce his successor. The rebel organization is almost ready to make its move against the rulers. Three Chosen, those imbued with extraordinary magic, have come to light. Mionee, the Grand Sorcerer's youngest daughter begins her own personal rebellion. Finally, the long lost heir of the Keera lineage returns from hiding on Earth to Dragonath. The fragile peace of Mystandia is about to split at the seams. Young Darrak, brought to this distant world by the Grand Sorcerer Laronem, is the spark that sets off the fireworks. Even as Darrak begins to learn about his developing powers, back on Earth, Mionee's magical interference is altering the weather in a dangerous fashion. Alliances will form, nations will prepare for war and Mystandia will become a hotbed of intrigue, a dangerous place for a former young college student whose ancestry could make him King.

- Next month's book— Master Segreant—Mel Odom
- Dear Crabby nips rumors of aliens invading politics in the bud
- Save your leftovers, recommends Stefanie Hackenberg, in this month's Cosplay Tip

Check out the website at: watchtheskies.org or contact us at: wtsnewsletter@gmail.com



Home of Watch the Skies
and awesome books too.

NEW RELEASES

November 2016

- Adams, John Joseph, & Douglas Cohen, eds. - **What the #@&% Is That?**
- Bassingthwaite, Don - **Cocktails at Seven, Apocalypse at Eight: The Derby Cavendish Stories**
- Beaulieu, Bradley P., & Rob Ziegler - **The Burning Light**
- Beukes, Lauren - **Slipping**
- Bishop, Michael - **Other Arms Reach Out to Me: Thirteen Georgia Stories**
- Bonesteel, Elizabeth - **Remnants of Trust**
- Bova, Ben - **Apes and Angels**
- Burgis, Stephanie - **Congress of Secrets**
- Butcher, Jim, & Kerrie Lynn Hughes, eds. - **Shadowed Souls**
- Chabon, Michael - **Moonglow**
- Chizmar, Richard - **A Long December**
- Corey, James S. A. - **Babylon's Ashes**
- DalGLISH, David - **Fireborn**
- Dann, Jack - **Concentration**
- Dann, Jack, ed. - **Dreaming in the Dark**
- Dellamonica, A. M., & Steve Berman, eds. - **Heiresses of Russ 2016: The Year's Best Lesbian Speculative Fiction**
- Dunstall, S. K. - **Confluence**
- Egan, Greg - **The Four Thousand, the Eight Hundred**
- Emshwiller, Carol - **The Collected Stories of Carol Emshwiller, Volume 2 •**
- Fleskes, John, ed. - **Spectrum 23: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art •**
- Gernsback, Hugo - **The Perversity of Things: Hugo Gernsback on Media, Tinkering, and Scientifiction**
- Harrison, Kim - **The Operator**
- Hutchinson, Dave - **Europe in Winter**

Irwin, Robert - **Wonders Will Never Cease**
Itäranta, Emmi - **The Weaver**
Johansen, Erika - **The Fate of the Tearling**
Lansdale, Joe R. - **Dead on the Bones: Pulp on Fire**
Larbalestier, Justine - **My Sister Rosa**
Liu, Ken, ed. - **Invisible Planets**
Lovegrove, James - **The Cthulhu Casebooks: Sherlock Holmes and the Shadwell Shadows**
MacLeod, Ken - **The Corporation Wars: Dissidence**
Maresca, Marshall Ryan - **An Import of Intrigue**
Marillier, Juliet - **Den of Wolves**
Matheson, Richard Christian - **Zoopraxis**
Neumeier, Rachel - **The Mountain of Kept Memory**
Newman, Emma - **After Atlas**
Rowling, J. K. - **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: The Original Screenplay**
Sagara, Michelle - **Cast in Flight**
Sanderson, Brandon - **Arcanum Unbounded: The Cosmere Collection**
Shinn, Sharon - **Unquiet Land**
Sterling, Bruce - **Pirate Utopia**
Swainston, Steph - **Fair Rebel**
Weber, David - **At the Sign of Triumph**
Weber, David - **Shadow of Victory**
Wilber, Rick - **Alien Morning**
Yolen, Jane, & Adam Stemple - **The Seelie King's War**

Halloween Activities

[Ghosttour.com](http://ghosttour.com)—offers a number of tours in the South Pennsylvania area : Lancaster, Strasburg, Gettysburg and Philadelphia

[Harrisburghauntedhouses.com](http://harrisburghauntedhouses.com) offers tours in the 'burg

[Dauphincountyhistory.org](http://dauphincountyhistory.org) can hook you up with tours of the Harris-Cameron Mansion by candlelight

[Bubesbrewery.com](http://bubesbrewery.com) will let you mix libation and tour

<http://www.yorkcountyparks.org> will help you set up a tour of Raab park to look for spirits at the York Iron Company Mine

[Afterdarkinvestigations.com](http://afterdarkinvestigations.com) has several different tours in and around the Gettysburg area and there are lots of other tours in and around town as well including <http://www.ghostlyimages.net> will take you inside the Jenny Wade house and <http://www.ghostsofgettysburg.com> offers tours based on the books of local author Mark Nesbitt

If you are fascinated with Ghostbusters try :

The Radio Free Gozaria Project, which is producing audio content examining all of the Ghostbuster movies as well as the cultural phenomenon they've created—radiofreegozaria.wordpress.com

Also there are the Harrisburg Ghostbusters, whom you can find on facebook and follow on twitter at @harrisburgghostbuster. The Central PA Ghostbusters , are another group who do charity work and various appearances—<http://www.centralpaghostbusters.com/>

Finally, Dan Akroyd will be doing a bottle signing of Crystal Head Vodka at 4:00PM on Friday October 21st, at the Fine Wine and Spirits store at the Hershey Square Shopping Center, Hummelstown, PA.

For Fall fun, Stefanie Hackenberg recommends Lawyer's Farm as—THE BEST FARM FOR AUTUMN ACTIVITIES EVAR. Located in Thurmont, MD, Lawyer's Farm has 5 Corn Mazes (the aerial view of their main one is insane), 2 Pumpkin Cannons that you use to shoot baby pumpkins at -- no joke -- 50 foot Transformers robots made from vehicles and farm equipment, a Barrel Train Ride, Hay Maze, Mini Ziplines, a Hay Fort, Playground, Bouncy Ball Racing , U-Pick Pumpkin Patch, Pedal Cart Track, Bunny Farm, Corn Box, Rubber Duck Races, and a bonfire in a teepee for adults to gather for cider and BBQ. There's a great video at the top of their website about the farm: <http://www.winterbrookfarmsmd.com/>

Dear Crabby recommends :

Terror Behind The Walls A massive haunted house in Eastern State Penitentiary.

Terror In The Park 10/31/16 Only Abandoned Williams Grove Amusement Park open for haunting.

Family Fun For Halloween Knoeble's Amusement Park does a lovely Halloween presentation that has a little bit of something for everyone and it's affordable

Cosplay Tip of the Month: ALWAYS save your scraps

Worbla, EVA foam, fabric, yarn, FOSSHAPE, PVC, leather, whatever . . . as long as your stash is not taking over your home, keep in mind that scraps are almost always useful for some later project. Even goofs make great scraps for other detail work.

By Stefanie Hackenberg

THE BEST OF
**DEFENDING
THE
FUTURE**



SERIES EDITOR
MIKE McPHAIL
EDITOR
**DANIELLE
ACKLEY-McPHAIL**

COMING IN NOVEMBER

EVENT HORIZON

-DC has something unusual planned and it's starting to show in the newly revamped Batman. It looks like the Watchmen are being layered into the DC full universe. Batman ran across a certain bloodstained smiley face button that made a lot of Watchmen fans sit up and take notice. There have been other hints in the Flash and other places that a larger power seems to be manipulating the world—could that perhaps be Dr. Manhattan? Tim King who is writing the new Batman series says all of this is no accident but rather very carefully laid groundwork for a big event that is still coming. Look for more Watchmen influences is the word.

-Get your light saber on—LudoSport arrives from Europe in San Francisco to open a Light Saber Academy. Running schools across the pond since 2006, LudoSport will bring the formalism and competitive edge to the sport that it has been promoting. According to their school, there are seven forms of combat and ten rules. Combatants are ranked by experience and much like martial art schools wear appropriate uniforms based upon their skill. Starting in Italy, LudoSport has since opened schools in Russia, the U.K., Sweden and Belgium. The San Francisco school will be the first one in the U.S.

-While we're on the topic of Star Wars, which given the recent drop of the second Rogue One trailer shouldn't surprise, you can redecorate Star Wars style. There are three different beds available: the land speeder, the X-Wing bed—where it's split down the center by the ship like a bundling board and the Millennium Falcon cockpit bed. Finally, the tie fighter desk, which rounds out the collection, is the cheapest item in the collection at \$400 with the X-Wing bed being the most expensive at \$1,200.

(EVENT HORIZON continued)

-Apparently, some creative person was really reaching for some serious product placement when they decided that the TV show General Hospital was the place to advertise the new Doctor Strange movie. Two characters in a romantic moment discuss going to see the movie and one says that he'd never see it without her. Ok, so it is the longest running soap and there are plenty of people watching it—but are they really your target audience? Gotta' wonder some days.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Celebrate the Book and Celebrate the Book's Mini-Comicon
Carlisle's Bosler Library presents a celebration of the written word featuring guest author Lisa Scottoline. The event runs all of the week ending 10-22-16. The Mini-Comicon will run from 3:00PM to 9:00PM on Thursday. Major vendor and guest author events are on Friday and Saturday. Most events take place at the Bosler Library in Carlisle, PA.

Barnes and Noble Lancaster will be hosting Star Wars cosplayers for Star Wars reads on 10-30-16

Philcon—the convention of the Philadelphia Science Fiction will be held in Cherry Hill, NJ November 18-20th. C.J. Cherryh is the guest of honor, David Seely the Artist Guest of Honor and L.E. Modesitt Jr. the Special Guest. More information is available at Philcon.org

Chessiecon will be held in Baltimore from Novemeber 25-27 at the Radisson North Baltimore Hotel. The Guest of Honor is Sarah Pinsker, Artist Guest of Honor—Tabitha Ladin and Musical Guest of Honor S.J. Tucker. More information at <http://www.chessicon.org/>

DEAR CRABBY

Dear Crabby,

Recently Metropolitan Magazine posited that one of our 2016 presidential candidates is an alien, but nobody can agree on which one. Do you think it's Drumpf with his orange skin and unnatural hair or Clintstone with her long trek to actual human expressions and reactions? Maybe both of them are really aliens from separate races and they're vying for our planet winner takes all? How will we fight off the alien invasion? Do you think it will begin promptly on Inauguration Day or do you think if an alien wins they'll wait to lull us into a false sense of security? Do you think they'll try to wreck the country to weaken Earth's resistance?

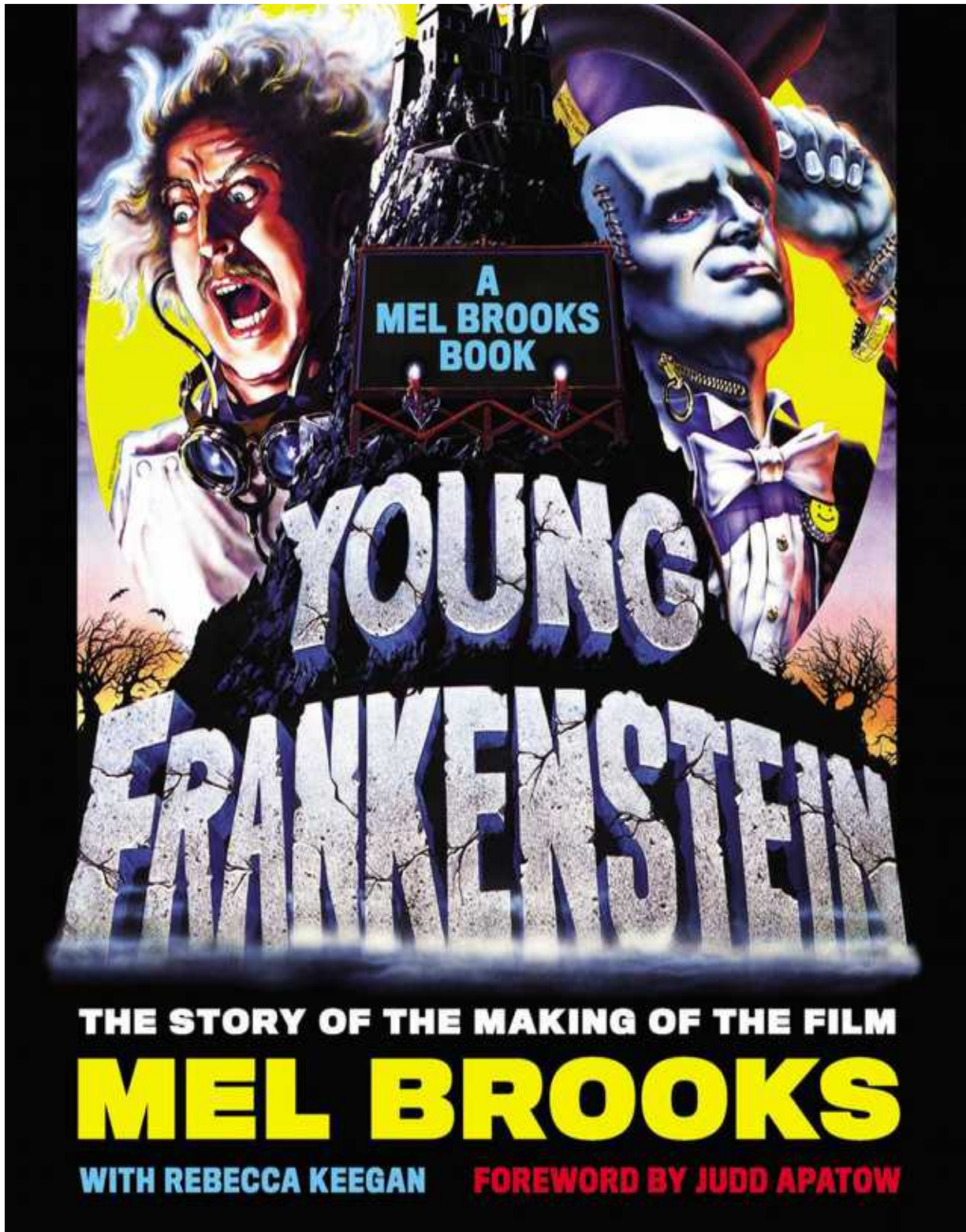
Fearfully Freaked Out



Dear Freaky,

Okay, first in a laundry list of comments in reply to your obvious instability is the fact that you've made it clear why so many people in other countries *hate* Americans. Don't you think it's pretty presumptuous that you'd assume that a) Aliens would come to America to start an invasion, b) that taking over America would in some way weaken the rest of the world, and c) that an alien could possibly do more harm to our country than we ourselves are doing? As if anyone in this country would even notice if our president was an alien. Have you actually not noticed the deterioration of our government over the last 75 years? That's rhetorical because if you had I might possibly have a hope that if an alien *were* to be elected that someone else in the country might actually recognize it instead of considering drowning myself in a vat of caramel like a candied apple this Halloween before I can see any more of this horror story unfold. In the meantime I suggest you lay off the trash magazines, stop binge watching the horror movies, and cut back on the psychotropics...in that order. Quit trying to think,

Crabby



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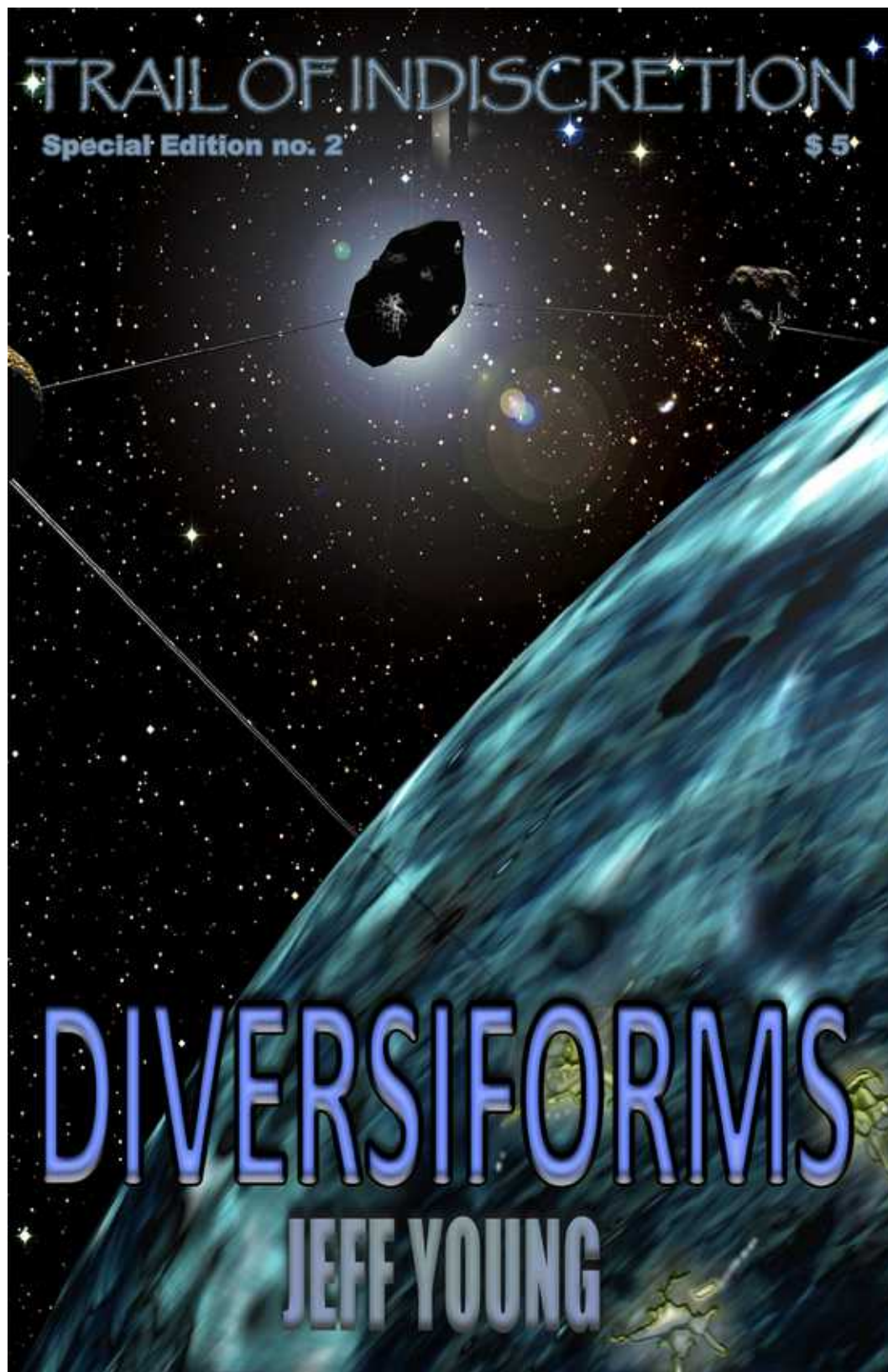
SCIENCEY STUFF

-Small dark glassy spheres may hold the answer to a strange event that occurred after the death of the dinosaurs and as recently as 56 million years ago. The Paleocene/Eocene Thermal Maximum, often referred to as the PETM was a time when an influx of carbon in the atmosphere caused a temperature rise of 5-8 degrees celsius. Fossil evidence indicates that the event caused massive wildlife migrations. Reviewing sediments from the coast of New Jersey, scientists found the spheres when they were looking for fossils to aid them in dating the material. Since the spheres are so dark, the researchers believe they were missed in previous experiments since they would blend in to dark background of the trays used to sort the sediment. The chemical nature of the spheres excludes volcanic activity as a source and it is believed that they are microtektites of the kind caused by comets or asteroids impacting the Earth. In the same samples excess amounts of charcoal and charred plant matter were found indicating the type of heat attributable to an impact. This impact unlike the prior one 10 million years earlier (the dino-killer) is apparently one puzzle piece in a group of consequences which caused the PETM. There was also oceanic volcanism which released organic carbon from rocks. The continuing rise of temperature may have also freed seafloor methane or caused melting of the permafrost, which also would have released methane cycling the climate into a run-away greenhouse effect. While charcoal has been found in other areas to back up the burning, additional searches for the microtektites are proving difficult. The scientists are also unsure if the impact would have global or merely local effects since they are only beginning their investigation into the nature of the impactor.

Tillyer's News of the High Frontier

-You can become a part of the first nation in space—ASGARDIA. Named for the Norse city in the sky, this concept was developed by a group of space scientists who wish to create a place in orbit that will exist outside of the laws of the Earth, will provide opportunities to mine asteroids and evolve a system to protect the planet from impacts from asteroids as well as space debris. Asgardia's first act will be to establish a foothold in space in the form of an independently owned space station set to be launched between 2017-2018. Asgardia's web site—<http://asgardia.space/>- will not only allow you to register as a member but also has information about a contest seeking a design for a flag, an insignia and a national anthem. The contest is open until 1-20-2017. But can you just set up a nation in space? WTS has looked at space legislation before with regards to the mining of asteroids. These are laws set up by the United Nations, but it should be mentioned that not all of the members are signatories to this legislation. If nothing else, this effort will put to the test if it is possible to establish a free haven in orbit literally above the laws.

-Asteroid hunters using the Pan-STARRS survey telescope in Hawaii have just found a second moon in orbit around the Earth. Now 2016 HO3 is not much of a moon and not really spherical measuring about 37.5 meters across and 91 meters wide. It doesn't even do a good job orbiting the Earth since it travels along in an ellipse, where it's closest approach is 14 million KM from us and ranges out to 40 million KM. Astronomers refer to 2016 HO3 as a "quasi satellite". Since it travels with the Earth, 2016 HO3's year is very similar to ours at 365.93 days versus the Earth's 365.24 days, which shouldn't be too surprising since it is traveling along with the Earth. There are other asteroids, which travel along with the Earth in its travels about the Sun that are known as NEOs—near Earth Objects. The asteroids, however, do not orbit about the Earth, which makes 2016 HO3 a rather interesting object. Could we use this as we begin to explore space? Certainly, it now becomes a destination for exploration and possibly mining.



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