

THE FORTRESSIAN LETTER

“As It Develops”

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Portcullose 7

New Aesthetic Proclaimed Principality Receives Rainbow Makeover For 7

PA – Her Majesty, the First Princess has issued a new royal pronouncement declaring “Vibrolume” to be the official art style of the year 7, for use by the government in a variety of contexts. Chosen by the First Princess and refined with the help of AI, Vibrolume marked by its exaggerated environments, neon rainbow colors, and high contrasts. “We wanted something both futuristic and optimistic,” said Her Majesty in a comment to *The Fortressian Letter*, “in these uncertain times people shouldn’t be wallowing in fear.

If we can add just a little bit of brightness to their day with Vibrolume then we’ve made the right choice.”

The previous year’s official art style, Royal Impasto Verve, could not be more different than its replacement, with its heavily textured brush strokes and impressionistic yet reasonable depictions of daily life. Will each new aesthetic be in some sense the ‘opposite’ of the one that came before? It is perhaps too early to tell, this being the tradition’s second year, but the willingness to make such a bold change signals Her Majesty’s seriousness about entrenching the official aesthetic as a feature of the Fortressian government graphic design; no style is off the table.

Vibrolume has not been met with universal praise, however, with many criticisms coming in as soon as it was announced. “It looks sort

of generic,” said one Pillowan, “and what happened to the unique colors schemes for the different departments?” A particular point of contention is how ‘AI’ the representative images appear to be. “With the previous look it was hard to tell it was AI,” said a Pillowan speaking on condition of anonymity, “but with this new one it’s hella obvious. Was this even a modern model? It looks like Dall-E 2.” The government has never denied using generative artificial intelligence in any area of its graphic design. “Maybe the Princess just thinks it’s cool?”

Regardless of whether or not Vibrolume is destined to be one of the more enduring official aesthetics, it’s here with us for the next nine months. Maybe Pillowans will be more successful using it than the government has been.

Constitutional Amendments Delayed

Is Silly Reason To Blame?

PA – The long rumored amendments to the Constitution of the Year I have been completed, with a draft document ready to be signed by Her Majesty, the First Princess, sources close to the matter say, but are deliberately being withheld until the beginning of Moatose. Believed to make substantial changes to the Xeer and other aspects of Fortressian government, according to the insider the delay was brought about not due to any political or practical concern, but due to aesthetics: had the amendments gone into affect in Portcullose, the last line of the document, where the notice of amendment goes, would be ever so slightly too long, and the ‘7’ in the date ‘1 Portcullose 7’ moved to the next line all by itself. The First Princess, allegedly, deemed this too awkward, and so has delayed making the amendments one month.

Frankly, this whole situation seems absurd. If other rumors are to be believed regarding just how long these amendments have been in the works, the First Princess could have easily promulgated them in Outwork 6 instead. Yet they’re not so easily dismissed, with the source having provided accurate information on the inner workings of the government in the past. Neither Her Majesty the First Princess nor her office spox responded to our request for comment, leaving the truth of the matter unconfirmed. What we do know, is that there has not been any messaging regarding when to expect the promulgation of the new constitutional amendments, or that the amendment issue has been dropped. The signs, as far as our reporters could determine, point to yes, it seems likely the new constitutional amendments have been delayed to Moatose at the earliest, and likely due to the typographical reasons the source alleges.

It will be up to Pillowans to decide if this delay ends up being a scandal alongside the near destruction of our historical documents, or no big deal. Surely everyone in the Throne is hoping it to be the latter, but if the people speak out and this becomes an issue, the year 7 will not be off to its strongest possible start.

Pillow Fortress Wiki Cleaned Up

Principality’s Online Home Less Mess

ELEKTRASPACE – The wiki at Pillowfortress.org has undergone a slight revamp, *The Fortressian Letter* has confirmed. Specifically, a chronic and longstanding markup error was corrected. When the Department of Culture first added infoboxes to the wiki they left a space between the template and the first line of body text. This created a conspicuous and unprofessional gap at the start of the page. This was noticed some time later, and future articles fixed the issue, but until recently the older articles remained untouched.

“The public facing image of the Principality is important,” said a DoC spox, “and we recognize the Pillow Fortress Wiki is one of the first places Pillowans and others go to be informed. Keeping it in proper shape is an important form of public relations. We had prioritized content, but now that we have more time, we were able to go back and clean things up.”

Pillowan Perspectives

With the start of 7, The Fortressian Letter asked everyday ordinary Pillowans what they’re hoping for in the new year:

“I’d like to see the world, go on an adventure and experience more of the Pillowans Abroad Province.”

-J. P. H.

“Catch up on work.”

-Julia P.

“Maintaining a schedule would be nice, but I’ve already failed.”

-J. Platz-Halter

Original 'Pillow Fortress' Found

Magic: The Gathering Decklist Sheds Light On Late Prehistory

PA – Historians have discovered a decklist for the game Magic: The Gathering created by the First Princess dating back to 2014, four years before she founded the Principality. What makes this particularly interesting is that she titled it “The Pillow Fortress”, thus making it one of the earliest known uses of that term by her. “Our great state gets its name from the Magic: The Gathering play style ‘pillow fort,’” said one of the researchers who unearthed this ancient piece of Fortressian lore, “what we have here is something of a missing link, possibly the first use of ‘The Pillow Fortress’ by Her Majesty.”

The decklist, intended for play in the Elder Dragon Highlander format, was never constructed, according to a comment from the First Princess. “That was a long time ago,” she remarked, “It’s kind of embarrassing looking back on some really bad choices. My Oloro deck was better.”

The Fortressian Letter is pleased to reprint “The Pillow Fortress” decklist in full below. Note that the commander is Teysa, Envoy of Ghosts:

12x Swamp	1x Merciless Eviction
13x Plains	1x New Benalia
1x Angelic Wall	1x No Mercy
1x Armageddon	1x Norn's Annex
1x Attrition	1x Oblivion Stone
1x Aurification	1x Order of the Stars
1x Austere Command	1x Orzhov Basilica
1x Basilica Guards	1x Orzhov Guildgate
1x Bitterblossom	1x Pariah
1x Black Sun's Zenith	1x Path to Exile
1x Blazing Archon	1x Perimeter Captain
1x Brainwash	1x Phyrexian Arena
1x Cathedral Membrane	1x Phyrexian Obliterator
1x Caves of Koilos	1x Platinum Angel
1x Damnation	1x Platinum Emperion
1x Disenchant	1x Souls of the Faultless
1x Doom Blade	1x Sphere of Safety
1x Dread	1x Stalwart Shield-Bearers
1x Enlightened Tutor	1x Stuffy Doll
1x Fetid Heath	1x Suture Priest
1x Flagstones of Trokair	1x Tainted Field
1x Force Bubble	1x Temple of Silence
1x Fountain Watch	1x Temporal Extortion
1x Ghostly Prison	1x Teysa, Envoy of Ghosts
1x Godless Shrine	1x Unburial Rites
1x Gray Merchant of Asphodel	1x Vivid Marsh
1x Hero's Downfall	1x Vivid Meadow
1x High Priest of Penance	1x Wall of Glare
1x Hissing Miasma	1x Wall of Hope
1x Humility	1x Wall of Nets
1x Hundred-Handed One	1x Wall of Omens
1x Idyllic Tutor	1x Wall of Reverence
1x Intrepid Hero	1x Wall of Souls
1x Isolated Chapel	1x Wall of Swords
1x Karmic Justice	1x Windborn Muse
1x Kor Haven	1x World Queller
1x Leyline of Sanctity	1x Wrath of God
1x Lightmine Field	1x Xathrid Gorgon
1x Martyr's Cause	

Editor’s Note: The Fortressian Letter would like to wish all citizens and subjects of the Principality of the Pillow Fortress a very happy new year 7!

OP ED:

It’s The Attempt That Matters

At the dawn of the year 7 we enter an ever more chaotic world. There’s precious little to be optimistic about. The economy? Where it isn’t funneling wealth to the wealthy and debt to the poor, it appears as precarious as ever. Peace? Conflicts continue to rage all across the planet, and where one ends, another looms on the horizon. Culture? Endless repetition and big budget spectacle has given way to bloated multi-franchise crossovers.

And here the Principality of the Pillow Fortress finds itself, a lone island in an ocean of reaction, hedonism, and cruelty. Where other countries backslide into authoritarianism, our democracy remains healthy, where others are content to make nothing but live service video games, superhero movies, and YA romantasy novels, our creative output is vital, unique, and our own. And where others surrender their freedoms for the illusion of security, Pillowans are brave enough to achieve both in equal measure.

The contrast between us and them could not be more stark. The light of our cause beating back the encroaching darkness could not be more apparent. It is as if we are the heroes of history, the protagonists of the great play that is statecraft, and as heroes are wont to do, we will overcome all foes, all challenges, all obstacles, and the suffering and misery we were made to endure will wash away in the catharsis of final and absolute victory.

But in reality there is no fate, no heroes or villains, and the “good guys” don’t always beat the “bad guys.” The Pillow Fortress is a small country, one of the smallest, in fact, and though noble, though ‘good’ in whatever sense that word may mean, it is not a strong country, nor an anti-fragile country. And though the government is always working towards an ever stronger state, the truth is that just as the Principality might exist for a hundred billion years, it might be snuffed out tomorrow.

In the end, what will have mattered most is the attempt. That people believed in the Fortressian values enough to come together and work towards the actualization of the Fortressian Telos, and in the face of a disbelieving world proclaim themselves Pillowans, this will be a beacon to all humanity, a reminder even at our lowest point as a species (which may very well be coming), that there is another way, and it can be yours, if you want it.

-Her Majesty, First Princess Julia Platz-Halter



“Never mind! I want the old aesthetic!”