

“It looks as if that great old dream is not a dream after all. It is something that can be done.”

The song “High Hopes”, by Cahn and Van Heusen, was written for the 1959 Frank Sinatra film *A Hole in the Head*, and won an Academy Award. The next year, a modified version (also performed by Sinatra) was used in John F. Kennedy’s campaign for President, and between the association of Kennedy with the Apollo Program, and of ‘walking on the Moon’ with doing the impossible, the song just seemed to fit. We note that “High Hopes” was the wakeup call for the crew of *Gemini VII* on 8 December 1965. Frank Borman and Jim Lovell orbited Luna three years later in *Apollo 8*, and Lovell returned as commander of the ill-fated *Apollo 13*.

Thanks to Lisa Hayes, for the idea behind the item titled “Third Best Today”. (Following that rule with my writing might get these issues out sooner.)

Correspondence gives us not only material to print, but a channel for the dialogue by which a participatory effort lives or dies, so we welcome your letters.

In addition to cash, we sometimes receive books or other items which can either be used for Project purposes or sold. One such **donation** was a bundle of 43 United States Postal Service postpaid envelopes (Scott #U617), for the 25¢ rate, bearing a space art hologram. We invite suggestions for effective promotional uses.

—**Christopher Carson**
(publius)

Moon Phases

Last Quarter	30 October 12:47 GMT
New	6 November 04:52 GMT
First Quarter	13 November 16:37 GMT
Full	21 November 17:29 GMT
Last Quarter	28 November 20:37 GMT
New	5 December 17:37 GMT

In Our Lifetimes

“I’m sure it will happen, but not in my lifetime.” The topic of space development seems to attract this sort of comment irresistably.

It may sound more positive than the old standby, “it can’t be done”, but in truth it expresses precisely the wrong attitude, because the fundamental problem is not technological but psychological. The human use of space has remained more prospective than real precisely because too few people see it as a sufficiently realistic prospect that they are willing to commit their resources to it. Those who think of it as a thing of the future will do little to make it a reality in the present, and those who say it is bound to come will not exert themselves to bring it about.

To describe the problem as economic is to say the same thing another way. People will pay for something, or work for it, if they want it, or if they expect to gain by it, materially or otherwise — but only if they expect to get it.

Industry Update

Some of the questions concerning **Excalibur Almaz** have probably been answered by the involvement of both EA and the **Heinlein Prize Trust** in financing the reorganization of the troubled **Sea Launch** enterprise. EA CEO Arthur Dula and Executive Vice President Buckner Hightower are both trustees of the Trust ; since they would hardly take unnecessary risks with either shareholder or Trust funds, we may anticipate not only an increased volume of business for Sea Launch, but a role for it in support of Excalibur Almaz operations. Although never so used, the *Zenit* vehicle operated by Sea Launch was originally intended for manned service, both independently and in its role as liquid rocket booster for the *Energia–Buran* shuttle, and in overall capabilities it is a good substitute for the *Proton* of the original *Almaz* system.

Virgin Galactic has announced contracts with the **Southwest Research Institute** to fly two suborbital science missions, with six more planned.

Space–X anticipates making the first launch of its *Falcon Heavy* vehicle from Vandenberg Air Force Base (Point Arguello, California), around the end of 2012. CEO Elon Musk describes its advertised low-orbit payload capability of 53 tonnes as “more... than any vehicle in history, apart from the *Saturn V*.”

“L–5 by ’95!” That slogan of the 1970s shows much more the proper spirit, but the disappointment of the hopes it represented nearly dealt a death blow to the space movement.

We are farther from that date now than it was from the first Space Shuttle flight, and it is high time that we let go of the failures of the past, and turn our faces once more to the future. This time, however, we must take more care that our goal can be reached with the means available to us, and that progress can be made swiftly enough to turn doubt into faith rather than despair.

There is no magic moment but now. We can have space settlement when we really want it. Launch costs, political indifference, and financial uncertainty are formidable obstacles, but hardly insurmountable ones, and what we cannot climb over we may be able to walk around.

“Luna City or Bust!” Let this be our rallying cry, and let us not stop short of victory — well within our lifetimes.

Letter

I received your LUNA #8 and some time ago you sent me LUNA #1 to 4, and I thank you for all of them. I read all of it, not hard at only 2 pages per issue. I’m interested in outer space settlement. I hope that one day there will be outposts of humanity thruout the solar system. I’m in favor of a Moon–first strategy.

I wonder what is the purpose of LUNA? It seems to be intended as outreach to newbies. But I wonder what it is that you want your readers to do? You mention lunarcc.org, but it would seem useful to also tell readers who may be seeing LUNA for the first time that lunarpedia exists.

I would find LUNA more interesting if you discussed actual details concerning lunar settlement, problems and possible solutions. Perhaps you could get some dialogue going with readers on such detailed plans. I know this kind of thing can be found on the internet, but I would like to see it in a paper publication. I would probably participate in such a discussion myself. My internet connection is limited. I have it only at work, with no printer connected to the computer I use, and no time for me to contribute. It’s strictly read–only, on my break time. So I would like to see more about space on paper, and receive it by mail. I suppose

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Donation Drives

The undertakings of the Luna Project to date have been planned and carried out largely by one person, Christopher Carson, perhaps better known by his *nom de guerre* of *publius*. While he is more than willing to devote himself to this effort, his resources of time, energy, and money are quite limited. Others must become involved if progress is to be made.

Direct participation is very powerful, but those who find it difficult to commit their time or bring their talents to bear may prefer to aid the work of the Project by contributing money. In August, after the Raleigh NASFiC, *publius* decided to make a trial of this approach. He put out two calls for pledges of financial support, one to pay for the printing of colour posters, and the other to assist with sending him, as Project representative, to the Melbourne Worldcon. In each case, payment was to be made, and the activity would go ahead, only if half the required funds were pledged in a specified time. Strong early support led him to proceed on both counts. As can be seen from the statement below, however, neither was fully funded. (All sums are in US currency.)

As of 31 May 2011

Posters	Goal	Travel
\$573.73		\$1000
\$174.18	Unpaid Pledges	\$179.01
\$246.65	Paid	\$377.78
Total Received to Date		\$624.43
Total Yet to be Raised		\$949.30

We are now requesting contributions to make up the difference. As an inducement, anyone giving at least \$5 may request up to a total of ten posters, and anyone giving at least \$20 will be entitled to a T-shirt, bearing a four-colour relief map of the subterrestrial lunar hemisphere, with a choice of slogans, "Luna City or Bust!" or "Home Sweet Home".

Cheques or money orders should be made out to Christopher Carson, and mailed to the Project address. Please inquire for PayPal details. Any surplus will be made over to the Publications Fund.

Publicity

In addition to placing advertisements in science-fiction convention program books, as noted in the sidebar, we are experimenting in a small way with Internet advertising. In keeping with our overall strategy of seeking a sympathetic audience first, and in the interests of simplicity, we have been using the *Project Wonderful* service to promote the Project mostly in science-fiction- and space-themed Web comics. This is a notoriously low-density form of publicity, and it remains to be seen whether it proves an effective method of raising awareness.

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it's assumed that anyone interested in space will read all about it online.

Another way LUNA could be more interesting would be if it were to include lunar development NEWS, reports on what is actually happening. I would subscribe to that kind of publication, or to a somewhat broader SOLAR SYSTEM NEWS. That would be a magazine covering developments off-Earth, but thruout the solar system, from the Sun to the Oort Cloud, but no farther. All astronomy magazines that I have seen are focused almost entirely on distant galaxies. I don't care enough about that to subscribe. I know that such news is scattered thruout the internet at such websites as moondaily.com and marsdaily.com, and some items at space.com, but I would like to get that in a paper publication.

I'm in favor of a permanent manned science station on the Moon as the logical next step (analogous to Antarctic science stations). There are a lot of details that need to be worked out for how humans can live long term on the Moon. In some ways the Moon is harder to live on than Mars will be, especially the 14 days of light, 14 days of darkness cycle. Also radiation and micro-meteorites are a worse problem on the Moon. A science station would have to figure out how best to cope with these problems. Theorizing is a necessary first step, but eventually nothing can replace actual experience. Long term space living can better be developed on the Moon rather than Mars because the Moon is only 3 days away from Earth if serious problems are encountered. I don't think humans will go to Mars until we have nuclear rockets to shorten the travel time.

I'm also skeptical about relying on a govt agency like NASA. I hope that space can be developed with private funds rather than coercively acquired tax dollars. Besides my preferences, NASA's long term prospects are poor because, in a few years, social security, medicare, and interest on the enormous govt debt, are going to eat up all of the US Govt's budget. NASA and everything else not essential will be starved, if not abolished. At the present moment, prospects for an eventual Chinese presence on the Moon seem brighter.

Besides publishing in several other zines, I have published my own LIVING FREE since 1979. I sometimes write on space subjects, but I haven't found others who show much interest. I'm enclosing a list of space articles that I have published in LF, and a sample of one of these articles that I wrote.

Good luck with LUNA. I wish there was more to it.

—Jim Stumm
Box 29
Buffalo, New York 14223

(Response in our next number — ed.)

Events

- Duckon**², Chicago, 18–20 June
 - Apollocon**², Houston, 25–27 June
 - Confirmation**¹³ (Westercon/ConChord), Pasadena, 1–4 July
 - ReConStruction**¹³ (NASFiC), Raleigh, 5–8 August
 - Au Contraire**², Wellington, 27–29 August
 - Aussiecon 4**¹³ (Worldcon), Melbourne, 2–6 September (ads in Progress Report 2 and Souvenir Book)
 - FenCon**¹, Dallas, 17–19 September
 - Capricon**¹, Chicago, 10–13 February
 - Boskone**¹, Boston, 18–20 February
 - Space Access Conference**, Phoenix, 7–9 April
 - International Space Development Conference**, Huntsville, 18–22 May
 - Westercon 64**, San Jose, 1–4 July
 - Renovation** (Worldcon), Reno, 17–21 August
 - Completed**
 - Definite**
 - Under Consideration*
 - ¹Table
 - ²Small Display or Flyers
 - ³Advertisement
- We are attempting to improve our outreach, for example by placing **Luna!** on flyer tables at science-fiction fandom conventions. If you think we should be aware of an upcoming event, please contact me.
- publius**

Address all inquiries to
Editor
P.O. Box 1035, Fort Worth
Texas 76101 USA
or
ed_luna@lunarcc.org

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This issue written, compiled, and edited by C.D. Carson
publius@lunarcc.org

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