Letters to the Editor

We invite readers of the *Journal of Space Philosophy* to send us letters referencing any past publication, to suggest subjects for future publication, or to submit information from anywhere in the Global Space Community. ***Bob Krone and Gordon Arthur***.

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From Dr. Kim Kee Young, December 9, 2015

Dear Editor,

I really appreciate your mind-wrenching vision and philosophy of Space and Earth, which Salena Gregory has documented well. I am much clearer now about what you seek from the study of Space from a philosophical perspective and the academic value of the *Journal of Space Philosophy*. Your venture is so valuable, and in time may lead to a breakthrough, with a brand new concept of ethical civilization for humankind on earth to influence future human history.

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From Kim Peart, September 11, 2016

Dear Editor,

"What do you want to create?" is an excellent question presented in the story, "How Do You Train for a Job That Doesn't Exist Yet?"[1]

Born in 1952 and raised in Howrah, I really did get to experience the best that civilisation has to offer, from making sand castles as a kid, learning solid life and bush skills in Scouts,

[1] Alexandra Carlton, "How Do You Train for a Job That Doesn't Exist Yet?" *The Mercury*, September 11, 2016, www.themercury.com.au/news/training-for-jobs-that-dont-yet-exist/news-story/1b8abbd9bb4d03fe49caa79bfb1b6b6a

finding opportunities with art, and discovering those very advanced minds at Princeton working out how to build cities in space.

Stung by the space bug in 1976, I waited for the future, but the future forgot to arrive, as automation delivered a growth economy that relies on around 5% unemployment to keep the wheels of growth turning, and we now gaze, mesmerised, into the robot revolution that is set to eliminate half of current paid work over the next couple of decades.

Why do we tolerate under-employment, unemployment, poverty, and homelessness in this nation of the once upon a time fair go? We have every opportunity under the sun, but we choose to deliver nightmare life to a large number of Australian citizens. We have become a mean and silly society dizzy on money. We have allowed politicians to rip us off, so we can blame the poor for their poverty, as we siphon the wealth of the nation from the bottom to the top gamblers, to send away on the winds of the global economy, instead of investing in the future of this nation.

We can do better, if we decide to transcend greed and invest in a sustainable industrial presence beyond Earth. We can create a stellar economy that will give us access to the level of wealth that will allow us to create a life opportunity for all, and deliver a healthy and creative life for all Earth's children.

That is the way to get peace on Earth, and we can do it, if we give a damn about a fair go future.

We have to create that future, and each of us can help do it. Go into Second Life and send an instant message to my avatar there, Starfarer, and I will show you our virtual space program, where we connect globally to create a new future on Earth and in space. If everyone joined us, anything would be possible.

Or write to me in Ross. We are getting our hands dirty there too, creating a better future with art, land, technology and imagineering.

Yours sincerely,

Kim Peart

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From Mike Snead, November 16, 2016

Dear Editor,

At every presidential election, many wish, as I once did, for a candidate that will "save" NASA and America's space program. As the last 40 years have shown, the real American political system does not work that way. Opening new frontiers has always been very expensive. To transform America from an occasional human space exploring nation into

a true commercial human spacefaring nation requires profits from substantial new markets and customers. Just wanting to be a spacefaring nation is not enough.

The election of Donald Trump to be America's next president holds the best prospect in recent decades for a president to be open to sound proposals that will transform America into a true commercial human spacefaring nation. The opportunity that now presents itself is very similar to that of commercial aviation at the end of World War II. Under post-WWII military contracts, the aviation industry developed the key enabling technologies for jet aviation. As the technology maturity of jet aviation improved in the early 1950s, this led to the rapid creation of the American commercial jet airline industry by the late 1950s. Only jet aviation provided the practical means to span the continental United States and the world's oceans in hours instead of days. Jet aviation's travel time compression opened the entire world to commerce and affordable leisure travel.

The market opening opportunity that will drive America's transformation into a true commercial human spacefaring nation is the unavoidable transition from fossil fuels to space-based sustainable energy. A typical coal or nuclear power plant provides 1 gigawatt (GW) of baseload electrical power. By 2100, the 10 billion humans populating the world will need roughly 50,000 GW of continuous baseload electrical power to have a fossil-fuel-free standard of living comparable to Europe and Japan. There are no practical terrestrial renewable or nuclear energy options to provide 50,000 GW of baseload power. Only space-based sustainable energy, such as GEO space solar power, can do this.

Here are the key calculations. The current American wholesale price of electrical power is about $0.08 per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

> 50,000 GW = 50,000,000 megawatts (MW)
>
> 50,000,000 MW = 50,000,000,000 kilowatts (kW)
>
> 50,000,000,000 kW x 365 days/year x 24 hours/day = 438 trillion kWh/year
>
> 438 trillion kWh/year x $0.08/kWh = $35 trillion/year in revenue

To transition from fossil fuels by 2100 and provide the world with a middle-class standard of living, a space solar power industry with ANNUAL revenues of roughly $35 trillion will be needed by 2100. This is roughly twice the total current US gross domestic product. Of this total, roughly $2.8 trillion/year will come from providing the 4,000 GW needed by the United States in 2100 to replace fossil fuels.

President-elect Trump is looking for ways to achieve real, private sector economic growth over the long term. For America, the world's need for space-based sustainable energy is a long-term, market-opening opportunity ideal for exploiting America's aerospace industrial mastery. This is the gleaming American spacefaring future vision to "sell" to the new president – not human Mars missions.

Bottom line: Stop worrying about saving NASA and focus on creating a great American commercial human spacefaring future for President-elect Trump to champion. This opportunity is now knocking quite loudly!

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