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INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION**

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COMET 17P/HOLMES

H. H. Hsieh, A. Fitzsimmons, and D. L. Pollacco, Queen's University, Belfast, on behalf of the WASP Consortium, report that the SuperWASP-N facility was serendipitously imaging the position of comet 17P throughout October, and that the comet is not visible in unfiltered CCD images to a limiting magnitude of $V \approx 15$ at or prior to Oct. 23.27 UT. The comet is visible in the next image taken on Oct. 23.99 and brightens steadily, becoming saturated at \approx Oct. 24.10. From photometry performed using apertures $70''$ in radius (5.1 pixels; 124000 km at the comet), a nearly 3-fold increase in the comet's brightness is found (from $V \approx 9.7$ to 8.6) in the 2.6 hours of unsaturated data. The brightening of the comet during this period is consistent with a power law with an exponent of 2, which would be expected from the linear expansion of an optically thick dust coma. Assuming a constant rate of expansion, the time of the comet's initial outburst is found to be \approx Oct. 23.8 UT.

COMET P/2007 T4 (GIBBS)

Additional astrometry and the following revised orbital elements from *MPEC* 2007-V101 show this comet (cf. *IAUC* 8880) to be of short period:

$$\left. \begin{array}{ll} T = 2007 \text{ July } 20.3414 \text{ TT} & \omega = 42.3664 \\ e = 0.614168 & \Omega = 37.1654 \\ q = 2.005990 \text{ AU} & i = 23.8690 \end{array} \right\} 2000.0$$

$$a = 5.199127 \text{ AU} \quad n^\circ = 0.0831397 \quad P = 11.9 \text{ years}$$

COMET C/2007 T1 (McNAUGHT)

Revised orbital elements (cf. *IAUC* 8877) from *MPEC* 2007-V53:

$$\left. \begin{array}{ll} T = 2007 \text{ Dec. } 12.520 \text{ TT} & \omega = 233.728 \\ & \Omega = 111.429 \\ q = 0.96882 \text{ AU} & i = 117.646 \end{array} \right\} 2000.0$$

2007 VW₂₆₆

Another retrograde asteroidal object ($i = 108^\circ$, $q = 3.34 \text{ AU}$, $P = 12.1 \text{ yr}$, $\text{mag} \sim 20$) has been discovered, this time via the Mt. Lemmon survey (details given on *MPEC* 2007-W21).