Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams
INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION
Mailstop 18, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, MA 02138, U.S.A.
IAUSUBS@CFA.HARVARD.EDU or FAX 617-495-7231 (subscriptions)
CBAT@CFA.HARVARD.EDU (science)
URL `http://cfa-www.harvard.edu/iau/cbat.html` ISSN 0081-0304
Phone 617-495-7440/7244/7444 (for emergency use only)

COMET C/2006 Y2 (GIBBS)

A. R. Gibbs reports his discovery of a comet in the course of the Catalina Sky Survey (discovery observation tabulated below), noting that a picture from four co-added 30-s unfiltered CCD images taken with the Catalina 0.68-m Schmidt telescope on Dec. 26.5 UT shows a compact coma (stellar in appearance) with a narrow tail 12″ long in p.a. 280°; a co-added image from four 90-s co-added frames taken by Gibbs on Dec. 27.5 shows a dense coma of size 11″ × 8″, elongated in the direction of tail, which itself was still narrow and extending 70″ in p.a. 290°. Following posting on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, M. Tichý and J. Tichá write that their CCD images taken with the 1.06-m telescope at Kleť on Dec. 27.1 and 28.1 show the comet to be diffuse. K. Sárneczky reports that a co-added image (total exposure 720 s) taken with the Konkoly Observatory 0.60-m Schmidt telescope on Dec. 27.2 shows a 16″ tail in p.a. 280°.

2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Dec. 26.48652	$12^h46^m26^s.25$	$+4^\circ26'08''.9$	18.2

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-Y56. It is quite likely that this comet has an orbit of short period.

$$T = \text{2006 Dec. 30.971 TT} \qquad \left.\begin{array}{l} \omega = 27^\circ.858 \\ \Omega = 119.437 \\ i = 16.188 \end{array}\right\}2000.0$$

$$q = 1.36081 \text{ AU}$$

COMETS C/2006 U12 AND C/2006 U13 (SOHO)

Additional Kreutz sungrazing comets have been found on SOHO website images (cf. *IAUC* 8786). K. Battams notes that C/2006 U12 was diffuse, small, and faint (reaching mag 7.5). C/2006 U13 was tiny, very faint, and slightly diffuse with no tail.

Comet	2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Inst.	F	*MPEC*
C/2006 U12	Oct. 24.413	$13^h49^m.0$	$-12^\circ51'$	C2	TC	2006-X26
C/2006 U13	25.381	13 52.9	−13 14	C2	HS	2006-X26

  Daniel W. E. Green