

sci.astro.amateur: Re: Kerry on Bush Space Plan: At least he's in favor of Saving Hubble!

## Re: Kerry on Bush Space Plan: At least he's in favor of Saving Hubble!

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**From:** Chris L Peterson ([clp\\_at\\_alumni.caltech.edu](mailto:clp_at_alumni.caltech.edu))

**Date:** 06/17/04

Date: Thu, 17 Jun 2004 20:43:38 GMT

On Thu, 17 Jun 2004 20:30:01 GMT, "Jon Kickerston" <[none@nospam.com](mailto:none@nospam.com)> wrote:

>Now I must say something, even though I was not going to respond to this  
>thread any further. You, sir, are an idiot! Period. If you think it's  
>worth more than human life, why don't you go fight a war like is being  
>fought right now in Iraq. Once you return, I'm sure your pathetic opinion  
>would change. Geez... I still can't believe someone made such a  
>statement.....

Well, as it happens I don't believe there is anything being fought for in Iraq worth a foreign life, so I wouldn't make that sacrifice personally. I do believe that some scientific knowledge is worth risking life for. We are not talking about certain death here! The Space Shuttle has a risk associated with its use. So maybe something like one in fifty or a hundred flights will result in a loss of life. IMO that is a reasonable risk in exchange for the value of the HST— a risk I would personally accept. I don't ask you to agree, but I think there are plenty of people who would similarly accept that risk. I don't think that makes us idiots any more than it makes you one for thinking the HST data isn't worth a (your) life. These are value judgements, and not really subject to any kind of objective analysis. All I'm saying is that if there is a crew of astronauts willing to accept the very slightly higher risk of flying the Shuttle to the HST (as opposed to the ISS) there is no reason not to do so. If it can be done robotically for a reasonable price, that's fine. I just don't think the HST should be sacrificed because of an irrational fear of Shuttle safety problems.

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