

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:* Jon Kickerston (*none\_at\_nospam.com*)

*Date:* 06/17/04

Date: Thu, 17 Jun 2004 20:56:32 GMT

"Chris L Peterson" <clp@alumni.caltech.edu> wrote in message :

>  
> *>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 figured that. Your previous statement was a good indicator.

I do believe

> *that some scientific knowledge is worth risking life for. We are not  
talking  
> about certain death here!*

That's certainly not what you implied above!

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.*

I have to admit probably that the Space Shuttle has helped man more than anything else that ever went into space, but we've lost 14(?) people. Were the small discoveries worth more than 14 irreplaceable lives? It's easy to take your position if you haven't lost anyone in such a way....

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*

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there are

> *plenty of people who would similarly accept that risk.*

Someone should do a poll and find out. I'm serious. If that's the case and what you say is true, woe onto those in that category.

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.*

No? What if I needed a certain type of cell from your body for a small, insignificant experiment I was conducting that may or may not produce useable results. The only catch is that you must expire because I can't take the cells from a living host. Think it's worth the risk?

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.*

>

Yeah, all this money thrown away on non-important matters when we should be using it for things that REALLY matter. What's the world coming to? I shouldn't ask that because I already know the answer.

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>

> *Chris L Peterson*

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