

## Re: Kerry criticizes Bush's space vision

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As far as I'm concerned, Kerry is looking at low-earth orbital missions and micro-gravity experiments and nothing more, nothing about long-duration lunar and martian MANNED explorations. What kind of policy is that? We've been stuck in LEO since 1973. Seems like he prefers robotic exploration of the solar system and the heck with manned exploration. I find that the democrats are no longer dreamers when it comes to space exploration, unlike JFK. At least George Bush is dreaming about the long-term exploration of space where man and not machines will be doing the exploring. If it means possibly scrapping HST (I hope it doesn't come to that) and other projects to achieve those goals, so be it. And here again, are the democrats spouting how expensive it will cost, etc. etc. etc. and how unrealistic it is. The same thing was said back in the early '60s with Apollo and it was achieved 8 years after JFK proposed it. George Bush is looking ahead by 15-20 years.

Does Kerry say if he's going to increase NASA's budget if he becomes President (god forbid)? Of course not. He gives some convoluted response about how the taxpayers will get more bang to the dollar when it comes to space exploration and what the budget situation is, etc. etc. etc.

As for development of a low-cost space transportation system during the 1990's. Why didn't Clinton do something about it? Everytime something was proposed, it was judged too expensive to continue.

And finally, if Kerry is critical of Bush's space policy, why is it that virtually all the major space advocacy groups in the US have endorsed the plan? If I believe correctly, even Neil Armstrong and some of the other moon walkers have endorsed the plan as well. John Glenn on the other hand has criticized the plan, but then, he too is a democrat.

Paul