

Re: NASA Rushing To Mars As Per Bush's Policy

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2005-02/2470.html>

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On Tue, 22 Feb 2005 17:44:40 GMT, "Steven L."
<sdlitvin@earthlinkNOSPAM.net> wrote:

>

>*Meanwhile, scientists worry about the impact of the huge enterprise on
>other endeavors, such as astronomy, physics and climate change.*

Translation: "I WANT MINE! NOW!"

If there are Earthlike planets orbiting other stars I'm sure they'll still be there in 2012. Europa either has liquid water under the surface or it doesn't: No one seriously gives a damn except that they're afraid they'll have to teach Physics 101 to the freshmen next year instead of live off a government grant.

Meanwhile the Space shuttle fleet remains grounded; the follow-on Second Generation Shuttles are still wet dreams on somebody's drafting board, and the cost of building these, returning to the Moon, and manned exploration of Mars go up by the day. These goals are attainable in the short (10-15 year) term, we've put them off far too long already. The Space Shuttle was slated to *retire* in 2005, not limp along for another 5-7 years. These Qwut Widdle Wobots sending back pictures of rocks named for Harvey Comics characters are nice but we need to put some boots on the ground to get any REAL science done. President Bush appreciates that and I'm happy to see NASA gearing up for the missions to come.

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"It's a cliché that happens to be true: To win support, candidates and parties have to stand for something. They cannot be strictly against the opposition. Even worse, they cannot be for and against what the other side believes in."

- Boston Globe, 1/13/05

http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2005/01/13/blurred_messages_from