

Re: Deep Impact Kicks Off Fourth of July with Deep Space Fireworks

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- *From:* [echomko at @XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX](mailto:echomko_at_XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX) (Eric Chomko)
 - *Date:* Wed, 3 Aug 2005 17:49:59 +0000 (UTC)
-

spinoza1111@xxxxxxx wrote:

: Eric Chomko wrote:

[...]

:> :> Your implication about Deep Impact is that we've somehow decreased our
:> :> chances of survival by sending a probe into comet. The notion is false on
:> :> its face!

:>

:> : No, my implication is that we seem in the past to have decreased our
:> : chances of survival by treating nature-on-Earth as a dead system. We
:> : found for example that DDT kills disease vectors. We did not realize
:> : the impact this would have on biodiversity.

:>

:> Which has nothing to do with a probe hitting a comet several AU from the
:> earth!

: Methodologically, it does.

No it doesn't! Your belief is what is present here, nothing more!

: Dude, we've just discovered a new planet, or
: planet-like object (larger than Pluto). Its working name is Xena
: because the geeks who discovered it at Palomar thought Xena (Warrior
: Princess) was hot (as did I). Its official name is secret because it is
: under review by the international body responsible for planet names.

: See International Herald Tribune (or New York Times) *circa* 8-1-2005.

I'm familiar with the object!

: The point being that we do not know enough about the risks of
: destructive stunts because our knowledge of bodies in space is
: incomplete.

And always will be. But scratching the surface of a comet is safe enough to
risk.

:> : My implication is that IF space is NOT a dead system then we might

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: > : learn from the past.

: >

: > We do, by knocking bits off the surface of comets with a probe.

: No, we learn from the past by acquiring maturity and learning that

: "dead" nature (whether on Earth or in space) might be "live" in the

: (scientifically verifiable) sense of taking steps to defend its

: teleology, steps we cannot anticipate.

Your whole hands-off approach is akin to treating a lab rat as the Indians
treat cows as sacred.

: > : Sure, Deep Impact probably, to several decimal places, will not effect

: > : life on earth. My thesis is that it continues and sets a precedent of

: > : preferring destructive and invasive space exploration (that is subject

: > : to Heisenbergian effects, metaphorically and in the large) and this

: > : increases the probability of the Empire (of space) St