

Re: Barack Obama Pits Space Explorers Against School Children

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2007-12/msg00035.html>

- *From:* Ian Parker <ianparker2@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 3 Dec 2007 03:14:00 -0800 (PST)
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On 3 Dec, 07:45, Quadibloc <jsav...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Dec 2, 5:39 am, "Mark R. Whittington" <mwhitti...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Whenever a politician wants to do something "for the children", it's time to watch out.

Slashing funding for space projects isn't similar to undermining gay rights or banning pornography or whatever.

But, yes, it's true that children are – quite properly – valued emotionally by everyone. So, if your point is that this is when politicians don't want people to think too hard about what they're advocating – yep, you're right, time to watch out.

I think there is one very fundamental point underlining this. OK the US will not be able to go to the ISS. What is the ISS doing anyway? Why have we got to go to the Moon/Mars what will we get out of it?

Space has got to be packaged in terms of what directly relates to life on Earth. The dinosaurs were wiped out by an Asteroid strike. We have the technology to divert asteroids, we need to spend a relatively small (in terms of the amounts of money that are spent by governments) to ensure that this does not happen. We don't want our children going the way of T Rex.

OPEC has far too much power. Perhaps eventually space solar power has a role to play. We need NOW to work on small scale demonstrations. SSP has got one important by product. If you can produce a spot 1km in size that will have enormous implications for WiFi particularly in remote areas. It will also render "Great Firewalls obsolete. You may or may not be able to see the Great Wall from LEO. You are able to see neither the Great Wall nor the Great Firewall from GEO.

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There may be other objectives relating to life on Earth I have not mentioned. This is the form in which space will increasingly have to be packaged.

– Ian Parker