

Space Shuttle criticizing will start once it has been retired

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2009-01/msg00005.html>

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<http://us.cnn.com/2008/TECH/space/12/30/columbia.shuttle.disaster/index.html>

Once the Shuttles have been retired in 2010 you will hear more and more stories about what a POS the Shuttle really was. It's simply too dangerous a vehicle to fly in, much too fragile, since a small defect can (I would say 'will') immediately lead to the loss of the entire crew. Because of this, NASA needs to spend enormous amounts of money to keep the Shuttles in tip-top shape, and even then there's a chance some unforeseen defect will kill the crew.

NASA, when they designed the Shuttle, forgot that during the Apollo and Gemini flights, many things went wrong. The only reason the crew survived was because of the toughness of the capsules, their simple designs, and their inherent safety (no active stabilization needed during reentry).