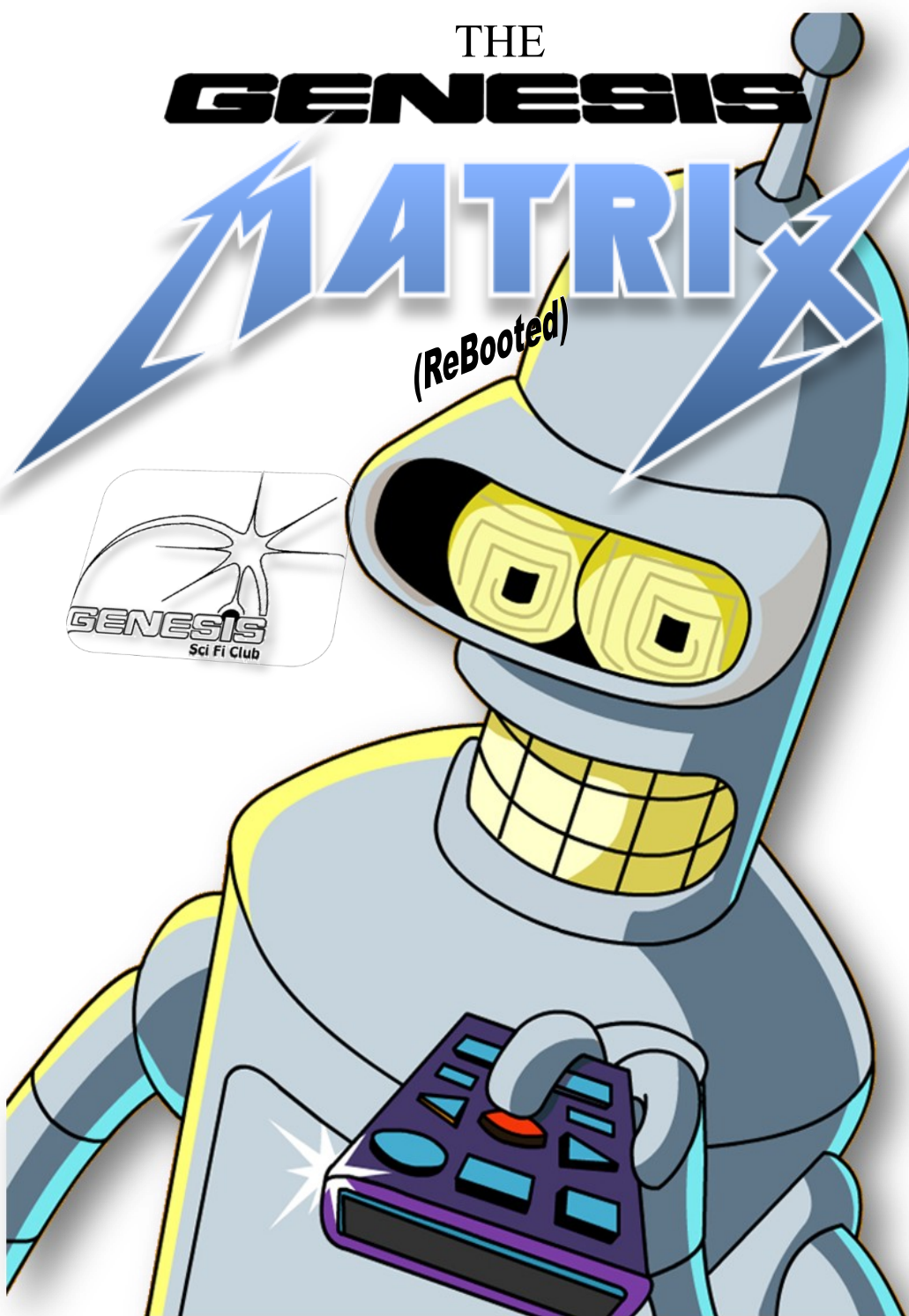
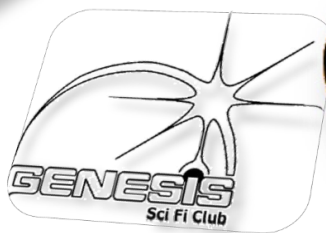
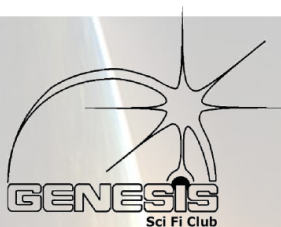


THE **GENESIS**

MATRIX

(ReBooted)



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FEBRUARY 2013

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—
KEEP CALM
AND
SWAN OFF

GOLD CHANNEL

Good afternoon and welcome to Genesis, and once again, it's AGM month. (More of that later).

Firstly this month a reminder that it's AGM and membership renewal time. Annual membership is £5 and entitles you to entrance to the monthly meetings for just £2, as opposed to £3. So please seek out the Minister for Money (Matt) and form an orderly queue if necessary. If any of your contact details have changed please fill in a new membership form, which will be available at the front desk, and hand back to Matt. Membership cards will be prepared and handed out next month, if you would like the picture changed on your card please let me know, but if there is a specific one you want you will need to find it and provide it to me by e-mail and make sure it is suitable for putting on a card. (The final decision of what can and can't go a membership card will rest with me and the secretary).

The AGM will also be today, where you will be able to elect the committee for the coming year, or volunteer for the committee yourself. Matt and David will be standing again but I will be stepping down, so I'd just like to say thank you to David and Matt for their help and all their efforts in the last two years and also thank everyone who has sold and folded raffle tickets, donated raffle prizes, help set up and break down the meetings, sort out the sound system or the screen, presented quizzes and meeting programs, sourced program items, organised events between meetings, or anything else that I've forgotten.

We've had a pretty successful year one way or other, with several club events happening throughout the year and the launch of the Book Club, which has proved a big success. So thanks for coming to Genesis in the last twelve months and making it a good twelve months.

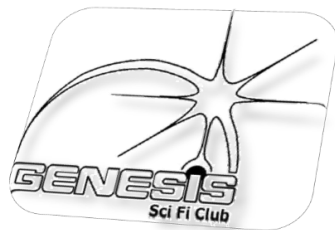
Thanks to Louise for last month's timetable, traditional episode malfunction included. The final episode of *Life On Mars* was good to see, and re-acquainting with *The X-Files* and *I, Robot* was also good. *The Big Bang Theory*, having watched *The Wrath of Khan* the night before, was, shall we say, deliberately good timing!

This month we have more *Big Bang*, and some new and recent stuff for your enjoyment, plus a Film Vote which has a 'let's not take things entirely seriously' thread running through it.

Anyway, enough wittering from me - enjoy the meeting.

This is me, swanning off....

Jeremy



Club Events For Your Diary

Cinema Trips

Films being released over the next few months which we may be going to see...

> *Star Trek: Into Darkness*

> Iron Man 3

> Jurassic Park IV

> The World's End

MEETING DATES FOR 2013.....

	Pub	Book Club	Main meeting	Program/ Quiz
February / March (AGM)	28th February	2nd March	10th March	Robert Green
March / April	28th March	30th March	7th April	David Offen-James
April / May	25th April	27th April	5th May	Paul Russell
May / June	23rd May	25th May	2nd June	Ross McNaughton
June	20th June	22nd June	30th June	Antony Walls
July	18th July	20th July	28th July	Steve Brice
August	15th August	17th August	25th August	Mark Sinclair
September	12th September	14th September	22nd September	Paul Belsey
October	10th October	12th October	20th October	Matthew Greet
October / November	31st October	9th November	10th November	Robert Green
December	5th December	7th December	15th December	The Committee

Memberships to be paid next month cards to be distributed in March.

Pub meeting are at the Queen's College Arms on the A340 between Basingstoke and Tadley until further notice.



THUNDERBIRDS ARE GO! FOR RETURN IN 2015

Just a few weeks after the death of Gerry Anderson, his most famous creations are heading back to TV for a CGI revival in 2015.

Thunderbirds are Go! will update the classic '60s series using a combination of CGI animation and live-action model sets. An order has been made for 26 half-hour episodes to air on ITV and the CITV channel, marking 50 years since the Gerry Anderson original debuted in 1965.

Anderson - who created the 'Supermarionation' series as a follow-up to his previous children's hit *Stingray* - passed away just after Christmas, but announced in 2011 that a new series was in development and that 'an agreement had been signed', but the status of the project had been largely unknown since then.

The revamped *Thunderbirds* is being produced by ITV Studios and New Zealand-based Pukeko Pictures, in collaboration with the world-famous Weta Workshop (*Avatar*, *The Lord of the Rings*).

ITV Studios' Denise O'Donoghue said: "*Thunderbirds* is a highly respected brand that continues to hold recognition around the world. This cult series is often credited as changing the history of animation and action-adventure, and we look forward to taking the show to another level while retaining the much-loved heritage that has endured over the past 50 years."

Ben 10's Rob Hoegee is head writer on the series, which is currently in pre-production.

Source bbc.co.uk

DOCTOR WHO 50TH ANNIVERSARY—JUST WHAT ARE THEY PLANNING?

Recent developments have cast some doubts on the scale of the BBC's plans for the upcoming 50th Anniversary of Doctor Who.

Despite earlier proclamations of grand plans, on the face of it, the celebrations in November may not be on the expected scale.

However, any fears may be tempered by the fact that there is still a long time (not to mention eight new episodes) to go until the anniversary, and although celebrations on BBC1 may be not quite as extensive as hoped for, there is no shortage of goings-on elsewhere.

The BFI at South bank are continuing their monthly screenings of a classic story every month, the royal mail are releasing a special set of stamps featuring all eleven TV Doctors in March, and the collaboration between AudioGo and Big Finish for an audio release per month continues.

But the reunion of present and past Doctors which has been typical of past anniversaries still remains unlikely, at least on TV, although a recent report in, of all places, *The Birmingham Mail* suggested that the hoped for multi-Doctor extravaganza was indeed happening. This was not only false but also lazy journalism, as the story reportedly being made for TV was actually *The Light At The End*, the anniversary audio story being made by Big Finish, for which all of the remaining Doctors from the 'Classic' era, plus a variety of supporting cast, have signed up.

When pressed about the story on Twitter, Colin Baker insisted that neither he, nor any of his 'erstwhile colleagues' had been approached to appear in a TV episode, and was unaware of any plans other than the audio story being released by Big Finish. The TV schedule appears to include only one special episode for the anniversary (which begins filming in April) and as yet, no Christmas Special, although that could simply mean it hasn't yet been commissioned.

However, what *is* known is that David Bradley, who featured heavily in the *Harry Potter* films as Filch the caretaker, will play William Hartnell in the anniversary biopic *An Adventure In Space And Time*, which will explore the origins of the show. The drama is written by Mark Gatiss and also features Brian Cox, Jessica Raine and Sacha Dharwan. **Jeremy Ogden**

Conventional Wisdom

As this year's Redemption convention is now less than two weeks away, and it will be the seventh that I've been to. In no particular order, here are some memorable events from past Redemptions.

Bronsonian Rhapsody

The late Michael Sheard threw himself into any convention he attended with gusto, and such was the case in Ashford in 2001, where, at the *Rocky Horror* themed disco, he assembled an impromptu choir which he conducted with relish for a sing-along rendition of the Queen classic. Sheard's presence allowed me to overcome my long-standing inability to watch episodes of *Grange Hill* featuring Mr Bronson, circa 1986, from anywhere but behind the sofa. While I was careful to avoid having to do the 'D' word, I was glad I was in the room to witness this.

Jim Mortimore and StarHyke

Myself and Ross chatted over breakfast in 2005 with Jim Mortimore, writer, composer, journalist, regarding his involvement in *StarHyke*. A long story cut short – Jim was less than impressed. (Not with the series. It hadn't been made yet. Although when it had, just about everyone was less than impressed). The treatment he had received at the hands of the producers was the target of Jim's dissatisfaction, but anyway. It wasn't the fact he'd got the rough end of the stick that was the highlight, it was the opportunity to have a long conversation with someone like Jim (and this was after sitting in the bar with him until 2.00 the previous morning), and the fact that he'd choose to unburden his troubles to a couple of more or less complete strangers at a sci-fi convention. And this is typical of Redemption guests—they're not the be-all-and-end-all of the event, but they're great to have and be around.

"We Were In This Pub...Can't Think Why..."

Gareth Thomas was a brilliant, entertaining, and very funny guest who was at the 2001 event with Michael Sheard. His anecdotes inevitably included the above line, and many of them were told while propping up the bar with a pint in hand and several more lined up in front of him, which added to the effect somehow!

Man of Iron

The bi-annual reconstruction of this un-made *Blake's 7* script, is always a highlight. I have

occasionally sacrificed being at another panel to see it. On being asked about it when he was a guest in 2005, Chris Boucher, for reasons I can't recall as he must have seen it before being script editor for the entire four series of *Blake's 7*, enquired "is it any good?" At which point the entire population of the room dissolved into fits of hysterical laughter. As I've often said, Paul Darrow, and more specifically this script, is the reason why writers write, and actors act!

Put A Sock In It

Among the guests in 2009 was Kev Sutherland and his Falsetto Sock Puppet Company. (Find it on YouTube – it's great!) His memorable 20-minute show, was replete with songs, in-jokes and a rendition of a classic science fiction series....*Demons*!

The Trial Of A Timelord

Back in 2003 I was persuaded, largely against my better judgement, to take part in a mock 'trial' of the Doctor, in which various people, including me and Ross while in appropriate costumes, were tried for crimes against the Laws of Time, and in fact, fashion. Long story short – I'm proud to say that while I was cleared of all charges, Ross was sentenced to utter annihilation, and regeneration – into me!

Blake

Watching the final episode of *Blake's 7* in the video room in 2009 was great, because it was a collective and slightly eerie experience. For the first twenty minutes or so, people were laughing and pointing at the ropey special effects and some dodgy dialogue, then the *Scorpio* crash sequence came along to the inevitable "it's still better than the Enterprise crash in *Star Trek: Generations*!" comments, and then things got quieter and more serious, as the end approached. And by the time Blake asked the desperate question "have you betrayed us? Have you betrayed me?!", the shots rang out around the tracking gallery on Gauda Prime, and the credits rolled for the last time, everyone was watching, glued to their seats and the screen. *More next month...*

Jeremy Ogden

NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE

BOOK REVIEW

The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien

Never Judge A Book By It's Film

(aka "Peter Jackson Must Die!")

THE HOBBIT
J.R.R. TOLKIEN

So as you will have seen in last month's magazine, a group of us went to see the new film version of

The Hobbit, and a fun time was had by all. However, whilst the vast majority were left enthusing lyrically about the film, I was less than impressed. I put this firmly down to my lack of understanding due to being the only one there that hadn't read the book, and therefore at a definite disadvantage. As a result I tried to restrain my lacklustre enthusiasm so as to not distract too much from the other positive comments.

Well, now I have read the book, thanks to it being suggested as the Book clubs title of the month by our own Antony. Having now completed it, I am very confused. Far more confused actually than I was having just seen the film! My problem is this. When *Lord of the Rings* was released (I refer of course to the film), many people criticised it for not being true to the written text. Things were missing, they'd say, or that didn't happen like that etc, etc. I, at the time was the first in line to defend the films, usually by saying something like "things don't work the same way on camera as they do in a book, so of course he's had to change things around a bit."

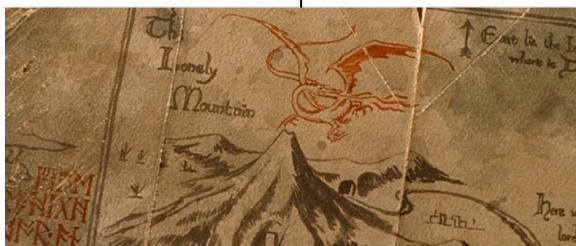
Now we have a situation where a completely different kind of story has been given the same "Epic" feel. This is a blatant attempt to gel it into the same mould as the previous three films. And I find myself in the uncomfortable position of being the one doing the criticising. What really confuses me most however is that everyone that complained about the *Lord of the Rings*, seem perfectly happy with *The Hobbit*. This is in spite of the fact that Peter Jackson has told a completely different story.

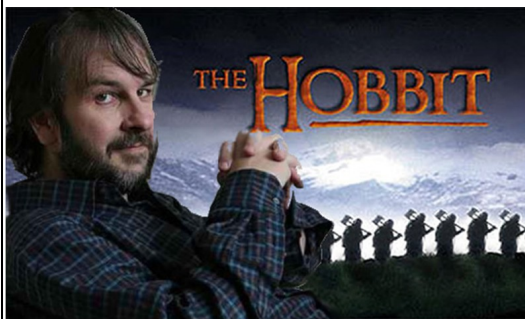
True, all of the elements of the book are there (at least up to the films' climax, which is only page 129 of the book, and the work only has 351 pages to start with,

including pictures!) But it doesn't feel like the same story. *The Hobbit* is a simple tale about simple folk, most of whom, are out of their comfort zone for most of

the time. It is written in a very forgiving, even simplistic style. Not in a way that patronises the reader at all, but in a way that lets the story unfold quickly and effortlessly. I am by no means a fast reader and yet I completed it in less than three days. This was because you just don't want to put it down. You're not drowned in swathing descriptive passages or led down unnecessary dead ends. Everything is there for a purpose of plot expansion and character development.

The feast that has been offered on





celluloid, by way of contrast, is slow, complex, and full of added material that comes solely from Peter Jackson's imagination. It's one thing to alter things around when transferring a book into a film, but to invent huge elements of added material to the point where the two stories look completely different is something else. I understand Jackson's motives in this. He has consciously sought to create a film that represents *The Hobbit* as Tolkien would have written it if he had used the same style as his work on *The Lord of the Rings*. But whilst I understand that, it doesn't change the fact that Tolkien didn't write it that way, and the story (at least in my opinion) suits its written style far more, as its contents are not complex enough to really work in the way that has been attempted by Jackson. Also, despite the long-winded approach that the film utilises, the characters are completely undeveloped. Of all the dwarves, only Thorin has any character at all, the rest are only used for comedic value, where as, in the book, by this stage, only Bombar is left as a comic figure, whilst others are becoming almost as established as Thorin. Actually, I would go so far as to say that only Gandalf is handled correctly in the film, and I believe that probably has more to do with Sir Ian McKellen than Peter Jackson.

In conclusion, "The film is dead, long live the book!"

Vice ChairGerkin

(Don't forget your toothbrush!)

3D PRINTED MOON BUILDING DESIGNS REVEALED

Architects Foster and Partners have revealed designs for a building on the Moon that could be constructed from material already on its surface.

An inflatable structure would be transported from Earth, then covered with a shell built by 3D printers. The printers, operated by robots, would use soil from the Moon, known as regolith, to build the layered cover.

The proposed site for the building is the southern pole of the Moon. It is designed to house four people and could be extended, the firm said. In 2010 a team of researchers from Washington State University found that artificial regolith containing silicon, aluminium, calcium, iron and magnesium oxide could be used by 3D printers to create solid objects.



The latest plans are the result of a collaboration between a number of organisations including the European Space Agency. The consortium tested the practicalities of using a printer on the Moon by setting up a D-shape 3D printer, which are used to print very large house-sized structures, in a vacuum chamber with simulated lunar material.

"As a practice, we are used to designing for extreme climates on Earth and exploiting the environmental benefits of using local, sustainable materials," said Xavier De Kestelier, a partner in the firm's specialist modelling group. "It has been a fascinating and unique design process, which has been driven by the possibilities inherent in the material."

Buildings on this planet by the architect firm include Wembley Stadium, the World Trade Centre in New York and Beijing airport. Last week US company Deep Space Industries (DSI) announced plans to use asteroid material for manufacture by harvesting them and using 3D printers sent into space. The company is also developing a bespoke 3D printer called MicroGravity Foundry for the purpose, it said, and hopes to be ready to start production by 2020.

Source: bbc.co.uk

WEIRD SCIENCE



THE SPACE SHUTTLE AND THE HORSES REAR END



Did you know that the US Standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8 1/2 inches.

That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? And what has this got to do with the Space Shuttle?

Answer: because that's the way they built them in Britain, and the US railroads were built by British expatriates.

So why did the British build them like that?

Because the first railway lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Inevitably, this begs the question, why did they use that gauge in Britain?

Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Okay! Why did their wagons use that odd wheel spacing? Because, if they tried to use any other spacing the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads. Because

that's the spacing of the old wheel ruts.

So...who built these old rutted roads?

The first long distance roads in Europe were built by Imperial Rome for the benefit of their legions. The Roman roads have been used ever since.

And...the ruts?

The original ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagons, were first made by the wheels of Roman war chariots. Since the chariots were made for or by Imperial Rome they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.

So, we finally have the answer to the original question. The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8 1/2 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman army war chariot.



And the motto of the story is... *"the bureaucratic mentality is the only constant in the Universe?"*

Well,...nearly. More like – *"specifications and bureaucracies live forever"*.

So, the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's ass came up with it, you may be exactly right. Because the Imperial Roman chariots were made to be just wide enough to accommodate the back-ends of two war-horses.

So, I hear you ask, what on Earth does all this have to do with the exploration of space?

Well, there's an interesting extension of the story about railroad gauge and horses' behinds.

When we saw a Space Shuttle sitting on the launch pad, with two big solid booster rockets (SRBs) attached to the sides of the main fuel tank, it's easy to imagine that the engineers who designed them may have wanted

to make them a bit bigger. (see the diagram on the right). The company that manufactured these rockets was Thiokol, at a factory in Utah and the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site.

The railroad from the factory runs through a tunnel in the mountains.

The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than a railroad track, and the railroad track is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So a major design feature of what was arguably the world's most

advanced transportation system was originally determined...by the width of a horse's behind.

And just what is the funniest picture that comes up in Google Image Search when the words "Horse's Behind Space Shuttle" are entered as a search query? A picture of none other than French football nut-case (pun very much intended) Zinedine Zidane!

Source: www.astrodigital.org

Engineer's Preferred Design?



Reality.



THE ORACLE

SNOW PLACE LIKE HOTH

Next time it snows, listen out for advice on vital items to have with you in your car.

Fully charged mobile phone—*check*.

Hot drink—*check* Blanket—*check*

Shovel—*check*. Screen wash—*check*.

Torch—*check*. Salt—*check*.

Water—*check*

Windscreen scraper—*check*.

De-icer—*check*.

Harpoon—*check*. Tow-cable—*check*.

Magnetic grappling hook—*check*.

Concussion grenade—*check*.

Lightsabre—*check*.

When You Wish Upon A Death Star

The White House has rejected a petition to build a super-laser armed Death Star.

In a playful response, a senior US government official said the Obama administration "does not support blowing up planets". The official also said the cost - about \$850 quadrillion - was too high.

More than 34,000 people had signed the petition, saying the project would spur job creation and strengthen defence. They also wanted the government to begin construction by 2016.

The White House is obliged to respond to all petitions that gain more than 25,000 signatures.

Responding to the petition, Paul Shawcross, head of the administration's budget office on science and space, admitted in a blog that "a Death Star isn't on the horizon".

"However, look carefully and you'll notice something already floating in the sky - that's no Moon, it's a Space Station!

Mr Shawcross was referring to the International Space Station, which currently has six people on board.

So, those who started and signed the petition can't win. But there are alternatives to fighting.



This Isn't the Petition Response You're Looking For

By Paul Shawcross

The Administration shares your desire for job creation and a strong national defense, but a Death Star isn't on the horizon. Here are a few reasons:

- The construction of the Death Star has been estimated to cost more than \$850,000,000,000,000,000. We're working hard to reduce the deficit, not expand it.
- The Administration does not support blowing up planets.
- Why would we spend countless taxpayer dollars on a Death Star with a fundamental flaw that can be exploited by a one-man starship?

However, look carefully and you'll notice something already floating in the sky -- that's no Moon, it's a Space Station! Yes, we already have a giant, football field-sized International Space Station in orbit around the Earth that's helping us learn how humans can live and thrive in space for long durations. The Space Station has six astronauts -- American, Russian, and Canadian -- living in it right now, conducting research, learning how to live and work in space over long periods of time, routinely welcoming visiting spacecraft and repairing onboard garbage mashers, etc. We've also got two robot science labs -- one wielding a laser -- roving around Mars, looking at whether life ever existed on the Red Planet.

Keep in mind, space is no longer just government-only. Private American companies, through NASA's Commercial Crew and Cargo Program Office (C3PO), are ferrying cargo -- and soon, crew -- to space for NASA, and are pursuing human missions to the Moon this decade.

Even though the United States doesn't have anything that can do the Kessel Run in less than 12 parsecs, we've got two spacecraft leaving the Solar System and we're building a probe that will fly to the exterior layers of the Sun. We are discovering hundreds of new planets in other star systems and building a much more powerful successor to the Hubble Space Telescope that will see back to the early days of the universe.

We don't have a Death Star, but we do have floating robot assistants on the Space Station, a President who knows his way around a light saber and advanced (marshmallow) cannon, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, which is supporting research on building Luke's arm, floating droids, and quadruped walkers.

We are living in the future! Enjoy it. Or better yet, help build it by pursuing a career in a science, technology, engineering or math-related field. The President has held the first-ever White House science fairs and Astronomy Night on the South Lawn because he knows these domains are critical to our country's future, and to ensuring the United States continues leading the world in doing big things.

If you do pursue a career in a science, technology, engineering or math-related field, the Force will be with us! Remember, the Death Star's power to destroy a planet, or even a whole star system, is insignificant next to the power of the Force.