

shag@aero.org (Rob Unverzagt) writes:

>In article <5APR199318045045@kelvin.jpl.nasa.gov> baalke@kelvin.jpl.nasa.gov (Ron Baalke) writes:

>> According the IAU Circular #5744, Comet Shoemaker-Levy 1993e, may be

>> temporarily in orbit around Jupiter. The comet had apparently made a

>> close flyby of Jupiter sometime in 1992 resulting in the breakup of the

>> comet. Attempts to determine the comet's orbit has been complicated by

>> the near impossibility of measuring the comet's center of mass.

>Am I missing something -- what does knowing the comet's center

>of mass do for you in orbit determination?

>Shag

I'm not sure, but it almost sounds like they can't figure out where the

nucleus is within the coma. If they're off by a couple hundred

miles, well, you can imagine the rest...

Phil Fraering |"Seems like every day we find out all sorts of stuff.

pgf@srl02.cacs.usl.edu|Like how the ancient Mayans had television." Repo Man