

An off the cuff rebuttal of Joshua Tyree's thesis:

ON THE IMPLAUSIBILITY OF THE DEATH STAR'S TRASH

COMPACTOR. <http://www.mcsweeneys.net/2002/01/10deathstar.html>

Alternative title: Excerpts of my MSNG conversation with Tony (My Patient Friend or MPF) of 1-June-2005

22:12:33 ME MPF ok 1- she was in jail there for a time and taken in and out of her cell often so may have observed waste desposal at some point during her captivity

22:13:24 ME MPF 2- it is a spaceship so no fixed stable wall against which to push without accumulating wear on the joints of the other side, so two that close in on each other is more logical for the physics of it

22:13:41 MPF ME that's insane

22:13:46 MPF ME but go on

22:14:28 ME MPF 3- compacting trash is not a priority function so it would run in the background of other operations on the death star, thus it being slow going and only taking place when there is a surplus of energy elsewhere

22:15:25 ME MPF 4- it is not that it only does it sideways, it is that the camera is on a fixed level with the ground, which moves up as the ceiling moves down (thus compacting cubes as with any standard compactor)

22:16:07 ME MPF 5- if you've seen cockroaches and rats you shouldn't even be stupid enough to ask such a question

22:16:09 MPF ME ha

22:16:12 MPF ME !

22:16:38 MPF ME they are small ...

22:17:59 ME MPF an octopus the size of a couch can squeeze through a space the size of a quarter by compacting its own physical body (fact of science) 6- because in space you're not going to recycle what you've decided to throw away in the trash so who cares if the septic waste is combined with metal items

22:18:22 MPF ME hmm ... octopus = roach = rat

22:18:43 MPF ME ummm ... why compact it at all?

22:19:04 MPF ME space is rather large

22:20:17 ME MPF actually, octopi are quite cuddly beings 7- because OBVIOUSLY anything you jut out into space will eventually burn through the atmosphere of one of your planets (the death star nearly always being near a heavenly body around which it can orbit) and the smaller the item that has to burn through the less chance it will take out an important tower or energy field or whatever

22:21:09 MPF ME yes so lots of small bodies (eg non-compacted trash) = less risk

22:21:44 MPF ME large, dense compacted body of trash = flaming meteor demolishing your blaster factory

22:22:45 ME MPF BUT NO think of the russian ship that fell to earth, otherwise contemplate a constant rain of ash caused by the trash floating by compared to the occasional meteor shower (i like shooting stars) 8- wast of money and time and the emperor, doing everything himself by personal decree, would surely not waste his time on such a sideline as spending money on a garbage fleet

22:23:49 MPF ME have you seen rots yet?

22:24:00 MPF ME address 9 first of course

22:24:43 ME MPF 9- space may be infinite but gravity is a constant and all the spaceships more or less hang about the same spots so it would actually cause a problem (see 7) and BACK TO 7 again, you can't have small bits floating about because they might jam the hinges on one of your bay doors, or stick to a repeating antenna, etc.

22:25:02 ME MPF What is rots?

22:25:07 MPF ME revenge of the sith

22:25:16 MPF ME and you the star wars nerd

22:26:36 ME MPF yes, i thought it was poignant that all darth's efforts to avoid what he dreads are precisely what brings about the events he wants to avoid. Also rather a beautiful example of how easy it is to play a naive person's weaknesses no matter how powerful or skilled they may be in other areas+

22:27:19 MPF ME I agree

22:27:47 MPF ME but the "playing a naive person's weaknesses" was a little overwrought I though

22:28:06 MPF ME he must have creepily mentioned saving padme about 9 times

22:28:17 MPF ME OK LUCAS, I GET IT