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Moon theory

From: Dan Syes <dsyes@micron.net>
Date: Tue, 29 Jul 1997 17:04:47 -0600
Fwd Date: Mon, 28 Jul 1997 22:10:04 -0400
Subject: Moon theory

Anybody who has ever read Zacharia Stitchin's books might recognize this.....

New evidence supports theory on moon's creation

July 28, 1997
Web posted at: 11:45 a.m. EDT (1545 GMT)

DENVER (CNN) --
Scientists at the University of Colorado have found new evidence supporting a theory which says that the moon was born of a collision between the Earth and a planet three times larger than Mars.

Astrophysicist Robin Canup is to present her theory on the moon's birth at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Cambridge, Massachusetts, this week.

The "giant impact" theory is not new. In fact, it was developed in the 1970s and was advanced in the late 1980s. But the main problem with the theory was that there wouldn't have been enough material to create Earth's moon.

Canup and her colleagues did some new calculations and determined that the collision was much bigger than previously thought. The scientists say they found that the collision was so big that some of Earth's surface vaporized. Computer modeling indicates that a "protoplanet" bumping about the sun between Earth and Mars was the attacker. Material from Earth's surface and mantle spewed into an orbit around Earth.

Canup said the material spread into a gaseous disk that whirled around Earth until it formed several small hot moonlets. They gradually coalesced into the moon. The scientists say the new results emphasize the major role that chance events play in the history of the solar system.

Theories abound about where in the universe Earth's moon originated, including that it was traveling through space and was captured by Earth's gravity.

An analysis of moon rocks returned to Earth during the U.S. Apollo space program missions has led to general acceptance that the moon is a chip off Earth's shoulder.

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