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Science : Discoveries 

July 16, 1862: This Comet Has Earth Written All Over It

Tony Long  07.16.07 | 2:00 AM

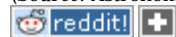
1862: American astronomer Lewis Swift discovers the presence of a large comet that will soon bear his name. Three days later, another American astronomer, Horace Tuttle, makes the same sighting. So this heavenly body comes down to us as the Comet Swift-Tuttle. Based on their observations, and those of other astronomers who began tracking the comet's highly elongated orbit, it was calculated that Swift-Tuttle would make its next appearance during the 1980s. They were close. Japanese astronomer Tsuruhiko Kiuchi rediscovered the comet in 1992. Aside from its unusual orbit, Swift-Tuttle is also significant as the host body of the Perseids meteor shower, one of the most prominent in the northern sky.

Oh, and there's one more thing.

Comets come and go, literally, but Swift-Tuttle's orbit is of particular interest to us earthlings since astronomers calculate that it is very [likely to strike](#) either the Earth or the moon on its next pass. They've even zeroed in on a date: Aug. 14, 2126.

We'll just have to wait and see.

(Source: *Astronomical Society of the Pacific*)



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Posted by: pilnomi 6 hours ago 0 Points

This is an "on this day" story.. Meaning it's news because of the date.. 7/16 .. duh! That, and you gotta know by now that wired will put ANYTHING on its front page, even blog posts. Oh and 15 Million miles is just a little too close for comfort wh... ◀

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Posted by: jwright 11 hours ago 0 Points

Why is this a "Wired Top Story"??? And why did it appear as a Web Clip in my Gmail account??? This is totally irresponsible "journalism" and should be removed from the site. This is just one more example of bogus scientific reporting.

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Posted by: Avatar28 18 hours ago 0 Points

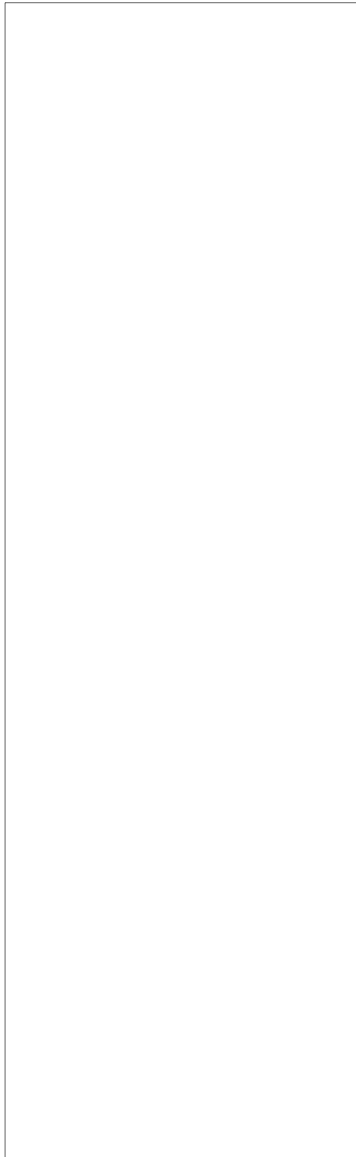
Did you even read the page you linked to? It even says that the comet is likely to miss us by a good 15 million miles, quite a comfortable margin. Secondly, that article is 14

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