Defending Planet Earth from Impacts by Asteroids

Dept. of Physics & Astronomy Distinguished Lecturer 2011 March 16, 2011 Kellogg Center Auditorium, 8 pm **Prof. Irwin I. Shapiro** Harvard/Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

Earth is continually bombarded by objects from space, hundreds of tons enter our air space daily. The good news is that most are exceedingly small and disappear in our atmosphere with hardly any being noticed.

My talk will concentrate on the larger cosmic intruders, which can cause appreciable damage and which, luckily for us, strike far less frequently. The key question is: What should we do to protect Earth from interlopers that would deprive us of life (and property)?

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