Celebs go to space



PHOTO | BLUE ORIGIN

From left to right, Lauren Sánchez, Katy Perry, Aisha Bowes, Kerianne Flynn, Gayle King and Amanda Nguyen getting ready for take off.

By Solé Scott
Editor-in-Chief

The top 1% once again showcases their privilege and how far they are disconnected to reality.

On April 14, six women went up to space for literally 11 minutes in Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin spacecraft.

Gayle King, Katy Perry, Lauren Sánchez, Aisha Bowe, Amanda Nguyen and Kerianne Flynn.

This event was hyped up so much that it interrupted the regular morning program and it was also livestreamed on TMZ.

My problem with this "mission" is that the ladies are being called astronauts, which is disrespectful to real astronauts who put in blood, sweat and tears for their respective occupation.

Now Aisha Bowe, who is an aerospace engineer that formerly worked at NASA and now is the founder and CEO of STEMBoard, has every right and this op-ed is not aimed at her.

Same goes for bioastronautics researcher Amanda Nguyen.

I just could nothelp but wonder why this money was spent on something so useless and completely out of touch.

I also wonder what the point of this was and why were we subjected to this eye rolling moment?

Gayle King recently said something that has rubbed me and other people on the internet the wrong way.

"I wish people would do more due diligence," King said. "And then my question is, 'Have y'all been to space?' Go to space or go to Blue Origin and see what they do and then come back and say, 'This is a terrible thing.'"

Apparently, the goal of Blue Origin was far more complicated and the celebrity women were not the true focus.

"The beauty of what they're trying to do there is to make it more accessible, to encourage people. Just think about this . . . . when they built the plane years ago, nobody thought that we would be getting on a 747 these days and thinking nothing about it. Nothing," King said.

I call bull in this whole statement because going to space will never be accessible to the average American living paycheck to paycheck. This is only for wealthy people who benefit from tax breaks.

The deposit for this 11-minute duration was $150,000. Now Gayle, you tell me how this will encourage people and make it accessible. Mind you this is not even the full ticket cost, which has not been disclosed.

Singer Katy Perry also made a statement on her tour in Mexico City where she brought two fans dressed in NASA spacesuits in stage.

"Has anyone ever called your dreams crazy," Perry said.

How ironic she miraculously pulls two fans on stage with that outfit on while she hints to the controversial event. To be frank, I think it was all set up and just for publicity, but what is new.

They are not the first celebrities to go to space as Blue Origin did a short expedition in 2021.

Actor William Shatner, former football player and television personality Michael Strahan and other people that are not well known.

I also happen to find that event to be a waste literally and figuratively and a stolen opportunity for other astronauts in the making.

I am afraid this Blue Origin duration will set a trend of celebrity's going to space and honestly, it is to showcase their wealth.

Why rate WWE matches?

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor



PHOTO | NEW JAPAN PRO-WRESTLING

Dave Meltzer in 2018.

Dave Meltzer's star rating system, a hallmark of his Wrestling Observer Newsletter, has long been a topic of debate in the professional wrestling community.

While Meltzer's contributions to wrestling journalism are undeniable, his approach to rating matches has faced significant criticism for several reasons.

One of the primary criticisms of Meltzer's star ratings is the inherent subjectivity involved.

Wrestling is an art form that encompasses storytelling, athleticism and audience engagement, making it challenging to quantify objectively.

Meltzer's ratings are based on his personal perspective, which may not resonate with all fans or reflect the diverse elements that contribute to a match's quality.

Additionally, Meltzer lacks in-ring experience, which some argue diminishes the credibility of his evaluations.

WWE Hall of Famer Bully Ray has expressed that a star rating would hold more weight if given by seasoned wrestlers like Ric Flair or Hulk Hogan, emphasizing that Meltzer's lack of in-ring experience undermines his authority in assessing matches.

Meltzer's star ratings have become a benchmark for many fans, often influencing their decision to watch a match.

This over-reliance can lead to a narrow view of wrestling, where matches are judged solely based on their ratings rather than their intrinsic qualities.

Bully Ray cautions against letting Meltzer's ratings dictate viewing choices, urging fans to watch matches and form their own opinions

Another concern is the perceived inflation of star ratings over time. Meltzer has awarded numerous matches six or even seven stars, a departure from the original five-star scale.

This expansion has led to questions about the consistency and value of his ratings.

Kenny Omega, a wrestler frequently rated highly by Meltzer, has acknowledged this shift, suggesting that the overuse of high ratings has diminished their significance.

Jim Cornette, a veteran of the wrestling industry, has expressed disdain for Meltzer's high ratings of chaotic, multi-man matches that he believes lack professional wrestling fundamentals. Cornette argues that such matches, which often prioritize spectacle over storytelling, should not be held in the same regard as matches that emphasize technical skill and narrative coherence.

Meltzer's ratings have also been criticized for favoring high-spot, fast-paced matches over traditional wrestling styles.

Wrestler Will Ospreay, who is known for his fast-paced stylized matches, holds the "remarkable achievement" of accumulating more five-star or higher, matches than WWE and NXT combined.

As of early 2025, Ospreay has amassed 49 well rated matches surpassing WWE's total of 20 and NXT's 18, which is blasphemous.

Conversely, Kurt Angle, widely regarded as one of the most technically proficient and accomplished wrestlers in wrestling history, has never received a five-star match rating from Meltzer.

Despite Angle delivering numerous critically acclaimed bouts throughout his career, including matches against Shawn Michaels at WrestleMania 21, Eddie Guerrero at SummerSlam 2004 and Brock Lesnar in a SmackDown Iron Man match, none have achieved the coveted five-star status.

Meltzer has poorly explained over the years that his five-star ratings are reserved for matches he considers "elite level" and often contenders for Match of the Year.

He has acknowledged that Angle's matches, such as his bout with Chris Benoit at the Royal Rumble 2003, were "pretty damn close" to earning five stars but ultimately fell short.

For Angle, the absence of a five-star rating is a point of surprise but not a source of bitterness. In interviews, he has expressed respect for Meltzer's opinion and understanding that personal style preferences may influence ratings.

However, he also noted that Meltzer's ratings are highly regarded by fans, which makes the omission noteworthy. This situation highlights the subjectivity inherent in Meltzer's rating system.

While Angle's matches have been lauded by fans and critics alike, the lack of a five-star rating from Meltzer raises questions about the criteria used and whether they adequately reflect the quality and impact of certain performances.

NXT delivers epic action

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

WWE's NXT brand has long been known for its ability to spotlight emerging talent and deliver high-energy matches.

The 2025 NXT Stand & Deliver premium live event held on April 19 at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, was no exception. The event featured a mix of established stars and rising talents, each vying to make their mark on the NXT landscape.

In the main event, NXT Champion Oba Femi successfully defended his title against Trick Williams and Je'Von Evans in a triple-threat match.

Femi, who made history as the first NIL program graduate to win a top championship in WWE, showcased his dominance throughout the match.

Despite interference and high-flying maneuvers from his challengers, Femi's resilience and strength prevailed, solidifying his status as a formidable champion.

The ladder match for the vacant NXT Women's North American Championship was the highlight of this Premium Live Event.

Sol Ruca emerged victorious, defeating Zaria, Kelani Jordan, Izzi Dame, Lola Vice and Thea Hail to claim the title.

The match was a testament to the athleticism and determination of the competitors, with each woman bringing her unique style to the bout.

In a surprising turn, Hank Walker and Tank Ledger, collectively known as Hank and Tank, defeated the reigning champions Nathan Frazer and Axiom, Fraxiom, to become the new NXT Tag Team Champions.

The match was a display of power and teamwork, with Hank and Tank's cohesive strategy overcoming the high-flying tactics of Fraxiom.

The NXT Women's Championship Fatal Four-Way match saw champion Stephanie Vaquer successfully defend her title against Giulia, Jaida Parker and Jordynne Grace.

Vaquer's dominance was evident as she executed a Spiral Tap and a Package Shoulder Breaker to secure the victory, retaining her championship and reaffirming her position atop the women's division.

Earlier in the evening, Ricky Saints successfully defended the NXT North American Championship against Ethan Page.

The match was a back-and-forth contest, with both competitors showcasing their skills.

Saints' resilience and determination led him to retain his title, continuing his reign as champion.

NXT Stand & Deliver was a compelling showcase of talent and storytelling.

The event highlighted the brand's commitment to developing new stars while maintaining the appeal of established champions.

With standout performances across the card, the event set a high standard for future NXT premium live events.

As the brand continues to evolve, fans can look forward to more thrilling matches and compelling narratives in the months to come.

These are the opinions of the Southern News Editoral Staff

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