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COMET C/2006 U6 (SPACEWATCH)

An apparently asteroidal object discovered by the Spacewatch program, and posted on the Minor Planet Center's NEOCP webpage, has been reported to be marginally cometary in appearance by observers elsewhere: E. Christensen reports that his inspection of 30-s CCD frames taken by A. Gibbs at Mt. Lemmon on Oct. 28.2 UT suggests that the object's images appear soft. J. Young (Table Mountain) writes that his images, obtained in excellent seeing conditions (despite smoke from nearby fires) and moonlight on Oct. 30.1, show a diffuse $3''$-$4''$ coma with no hint of a tail.

2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.	*Observer*
Oct. 19.13426	$23^h32^m59^s.24$	$+3^\circ15'56''.5$	19.8	Spacewatch

The available astrometry, the following parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-U79.

$$T = 2008\ \text{June}\ 5.408\ \text{TT} \qquad \left.\begin{array}{l}\omega = 276^\circ.510\\ \Omega = 180.182\\ i = 84.964\end{array}\right\}2000.0$$
$$q = 2.50156\ \text{AU}$$

COMET C/2006 U7 (GIBBS)

Alex R. Gibbs reports his discovery of a comet on images taken with the Mt. Lemmon Survey 1.5-m reflector, the object then reported as diffuse with diameter $7''$, possibly elongated in p.a. 230°. Following posting on the NEOCP, J. Young notes a very diffuse $4''$-$5''$ coma and no tail on images taken at Table Mountain on Oct. 30.4 UT, adding that the comet is in a faint, somewhat-dense star field. Follow-up observations at Mt. Lemmon by Christensen on Oct. 30.4 (four 90-s exposures in good seeing) reveal a diffuse $5''$ coma and a $15''$ tail in p.a. 260°.

2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.	*Observer*
Oct. 28.29549	$3^h31^m54^s.84$	$+17^\circ55'24''.0$	20.8	Gibbs

The available astrometry, the following parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-U80.

$$T = 2008\ \text{Feb.}\ 23.969\ \text{TT} \qquad \left.\begin{array}{l}\omega = 68^\circ.853\\ \Omega = 56.166\\ i = 11.253\end{array}\right\}2000.0$$
$$q = 3.52395\ \text{AU}$$

2006 October 30 *Daniel W. E. Green*