

Opinion

We went to the moon

By LYNDON ZAITZ

Human beings once trod the moon. The first time man stepped foot on the lunar surface was 50 years tomorrow (July 20, 1969). Apollo 11, a marvel of mankind's scientific reach, was followed by six successful moon landings. Man last walked on the moon in 1972. Our gaze turned elsewhere after that.

Once we proved to ourselves that we could send astronauts to the moon and return them safely to earth, NASA started thinking of other missions that would benefit the people of Earth. The moon missions led directly to the development of the space shuttle. There were 135 shuttle launches—two ended in tragic failure.

The launching of satellites have become ho-hum years ago. The public lost its awe about shuttle launches. Manned missions to the moon have become something that happened a long time ago and it doesn't have much to do with the lives of contemporary Americans. The 50th anniversary of the first moon mission has spawned a number of documentaries about the extraordinary efforts lift man from his terrestrial landscape into the cosmos.

Have the hundreds of sci-fi movies in the past half century about galaxies far, far away made us immune to the wonders of space exploration? Perhaps. But it shouldn't. When we turn our gaze to the stars, shouldn't we tingle with the possibilities?

Man's natural inclination to explore went from astronomically big to infinitesimally small with exploration into smaller and smaller technology for domestic use: small movie screens, small phones. We turned inward.

In the late 1950s, as the world entered the Sputnik era (the first man-made satellite sent into orbit around the earth), the 'when I grow up' dreams of kids shifted from

fireman to astronaut; the collective imagination was stoked. Astronauts, for a time, became our national heroes: Alan Shepard (first American in space) and John Glenn (first American to orbit earth). They were heroes for a good reason: they were courageous, took risks and tempted death to achieve their dreams.

Naysayers will oppose further space travel spending because there are plenty of problems here at home. Limited budgets caused more harm to space exploration than anything else. Mankind has gained much more from our space programs that we could ever lose.

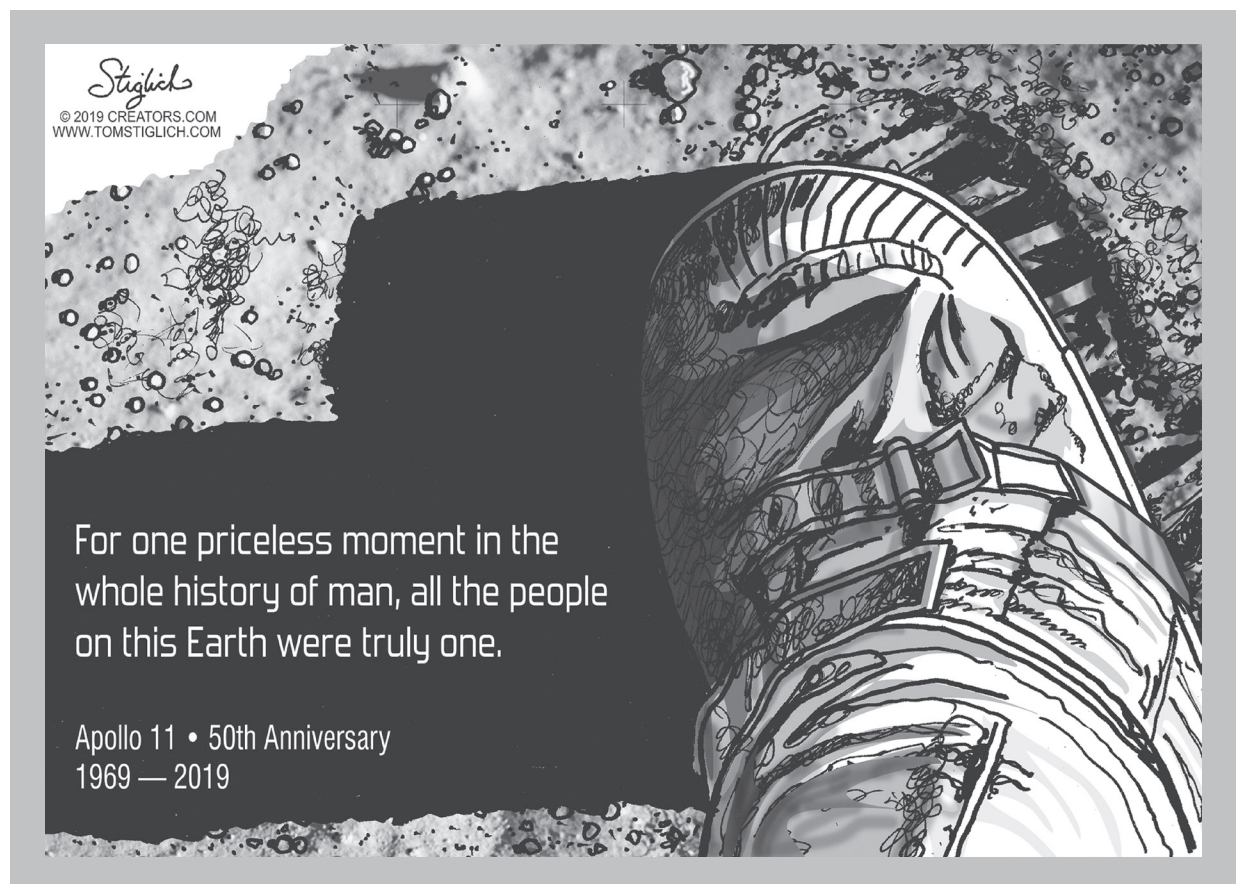
Here are some inventions we use everyday that come directly from our space travel research: camera phones, CAT scans, LEDs, athletic shoes, wireless headsets, portable computer and computer mouse. Of course there are many more. Would these inventions have come about without space travel? Maybe, but they all were answers to problems that needed to be solved when traveling into outer space.

To many people, the first manned mission to the moon is ancient history. It is unfortunate that we have let this amazing giant step for mankind fade into the past. Neil Armstrong's first step off the landing module into the dust of the lunar surface should not be reduced to a question in a trivia game. Let us be thrilled by man's ability to burst out of his surroundings, reach for the unknown.

Just as much as we like to celebrate anniversaries of events, we like to turn and face the future and move forward without trepidation but with passion and excitement. Who knows how far we can go when we foster the dreams of little astronauts and scientists. Mars?

(Lyndon Zaitz is publisher of the *Keizertimes*.)

zaitz writes



Will Demos fight Trump or each other?

By E.J. DIONNE JR.

The media love conflict, and the current fights among Democrats—in the House of Representatives and on the presidential campaign trail—are irresistible for us journalists. And so many of Trump's outrages are treated not as the moral disgraces they are but as campaign strategy. As in: Boy, all that cruelty at the border and his threat to ignore the law and add that citizenship-status question to the census plays great with his base, and isn't he a genius? Trump has so debased the standards of our politics that we stop noticing how low we have sunk.

But the Democrats' primary mission right now is precisely to force attention to what those wielding authority—meaning, especially, Trump, but also his enablers in the Republican-led Senate—are doing to our country. They can't just blame the press for seeing that there is a lot of, well, tension in the House Democratic caucus. Reporters aren't making up the fact that progressives and moderates often dump on each other. Progressives say moderates aren't being militant enough against Trump. Moderates say progressives are not attentive enough to the middle-of-the-road voters and districts that gave them their House majority in the first place.

Whatever their disagreements, Democrats are united on many things. Perhaps a vile Trump tweet on Sunday will remind Democrats why they should be battling him, not each other. Without naming them, he attacked four first-term Democratic congresswomen—Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Ayanna Pressley and Rashida Tlaib—for standing up against his cruel border policies. Trump told the four progressives they should "go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came."

It was despicable thing to say, not to mention typically ill-informed, since all but Omar were born in the United States.

The four have been quarreling with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, but she quickly rose to their defense, assailing Trump's "xenophobic comments" and declaring that his signature slogan about American greatness "has always been about making America white again."

Here's hoping Trump's malice encourages Democrats to face up to the stakes of the fight they're in. It's already hard enough to be in the opposition. In the presidential campaign, the Democratic candidates must necessarily challenge each other over the best way forward. There are genuine policy and philosophical differences among them, and because the Republican Party has moved so far to the right, the Democratic Party is now home to everyone from former Republican moderates to democratic socialists. So, yes, there's a lot to argue about.

It's necessary for Democrats running for president to challenge each other over the best way forward in view of the genuine policy and philosophical differences among them. Because the Republican Party has moved so far to the right, Democrats are now home to everyone from former Republican moderates to democratic socialists. So, yes, there's a lot to argue about.

Democratic presidential candidates should join in an informal union (they are pro-union, aren't they?) and agree to stop answering "raise your hands" questions in debates. Inevitably, they are forced later to say that this or that issue is complicated, that the question they were asked was not exactly the right question—and the more they explain themselves, the more slippery they look.

other voices

Here's your sign

By ANDREW J. JACKSON

9 a.m., Saturday. You're inside your living room when a black pickup cruises past your home slowly. The couple inside the truck is eyeballing your home, scoping out the scene.

Good thing you've installed a surveillance cam on the front porch. Are they porch pirates? Too bad you don't have one of those exploding glitter boxes that you saw in that viral video.

They could be cat burglars casing the joint. Do they want to give you a landscaping or roofing quote? Are they those dastardly security system scammers?

Maybe you could put them on blast on social media.

Maybe they're religious recruiters or long-lost cousins on a road trip across the country? Maybe they used to live here?

They speed off down the street, out of sight. "That was weird. What's up with that?" you ask yourself.

Those unwanted gawkers are at your home because they followed your bright yellow sign at the corner of River and Chemawa, leading them to your home.

They're simply bargain hunting, garage salers—two weeks too late.

This would've never happened if you would have removed the sign following your sale. Instead you were lazy, or you forgot.

So pretty please, with sugar on top — after your sale, make it a priority to collect your signs and properly dispose of them. Perhaps, even recycle it in your blue bin.

If you follow through, you're less likely to receive any unwanted guests. Plus, you'll less likely be contributing to Keizer's litter issue.

No one says "I wanna be a junkie when I grow up." And nobody likes a litterbug.

(Andrew Jackson is the *Keizertimes* production manager, graphic designer and resident smart aleck.)

the more I know



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When do we start seeing the 'best people'?

"We have to get the best people," said Donald Trump when asked before he got to the Oval Office how he'd go about staffing his administration. "We need to get the best and the finest, and, if we don't, we'll be in trouble for a long period of time and maybe never come out of it."

Oh, what a prophet! Yes, Trump, in the presidency, has chosen the staff to join him in the White House. Unfortunately, they have been and are mainly a remarkably scandalous, corrupt collection of boondoggle champions, composing a dreadfully incompetent staff and arguably the worst-managed administration in U.S. history.

Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta resigned a week ago amid intense scrutiny from his role as a U.S. attorney. Therein, a decade ago, he made a deal with hedge fund financier Jeffrey Epstein that allowed Epstein to plead guilty to a lesser offense in a horrific sex-crime/sex trafficking case.

Trump told reporters a week ago that Acosta had decided to step aside. He called Acosta a "great labor secretary, not just a good one and a tremendous talent." "This was him, not me," Trump remarked in regard to the resignation decision as Acosta stood by his side. "I said to Alex, you don't have to do this."

But we know why Acosta resigned. He had become an embarrassment to Trump. I doubt that Trump had any idea whether he was doing a good job or not because he proven no interest in such matters. Of late, we're aware that Acosta had been under pressure by White House Chief of Staff Mick

Mulvaney who viewed him as not aggressive enough in eliminating the rights of working people, ending workplace safety regulations, or supporting corporate interests.

Not a betting man, yet, what's known about Trump leads me to believe he cared minimally whether Acosta gave the that monster, Epstein, a sweetheart deal. Nevertheless, Trump has proven he will work hard to provide special privileges to the wealthy and break laws to do it. He himself has bragged openly about abusing women and has been accused of rape. So, why would he care if one of his current or former rich pals molested young women.

Fact is, Trump is known for bursting into the dressing rooms of beauty contests to watch teenage girls dress and undress. He has been recorded on such occasions to comment that, "in a few years, I'll be dating her" and has lustfully commented about his own daughter, Ivanka.

Regarding Jeff Epstein, he said,

"I've known Jeff for fifteen years. Terrific guy who's a lot of fun to be with. He likes beautiful women as I do, on the younger side."

In the White House, what's important to Trump is always looking good and staying in the limelight without negative distractions. After all, as with all the surviving White House staff, their job is not to reflect badly on Trump and that's how Acosta failed him.

Acosta is just another turnover to Trump who will soon replace him. He apparently pays little attention to vetting these people who too often come from disgustingly blemished backgrounds. This condition, characterized by undesirability, is a chronic outcome throughout the Trump administration. Three-quarters of the original top White House position holders are gone for one reason or another, argued the worst record of that kind among the other 44 presidents. In the White House, pandemonium prevails with the only interest there being re-election. Meanwhile, we Americans are the big losers.

(Gene H. McIntyre shares his opinion regularly in the *Keizertimes*.)

Share your opinion

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