Got Moon?

As backwards as we may think the Chinese are, being communists and all, they may have a colony on the moon in the not-too-distant future. While being the undisputed "winner" of the space race of the Kennedy era by landing a man on the moon, the U.S. space program has been largely ignored and its budget drastically cut since then. China, on the other hand, has plans beyond the milestone of a moon landing. In 2001, the Chinese Sheenzhou 2 spacecraft had carried a monkey, a dog, a rabbit, and some snails into space; they have a 90 percent success rate launching dozens of satellites; and are hoping for a moon landing by 2010. According to the BBC quoting Chinese officials, the ultimate goal of all this is "to set up a permanent base on the moon in order to make use of its rich resources."

I can't say that I know what "rich resources" the Chinese think the moon is holding, but if they ever start a colony up there, I'll be the first to sign up to learn Mandarin to increase my chances of going along.

I remember when we, in the U.S., had aspirations of colonizing other planets. Ten years ago, the highlight of Disney World for me was a ride that was going to be done by the magic of colonizing other planets. Ten years ago, the highlight of Disney World for me was a ride that went through NASA's plans for the colonization of the moon. It was all going to be done by the magic year 2000. So what do we aspire to now besides not being attacked by Muslim extremists and fixing our economic recession? What happened to all those plans? Did we find out it was impossible or did we just stop dreaming?

Kennedy's dead, but our space program and our dreams of the possibilities don't have to be. A colony on the moon in the 2010s is no less likely than putting a man on the moon was in the 1960s. The people in a country with a per capita income of about $2,700 are on their way to the moon. Where are the people in a country with a per capita income of about $2,700 are on their way to the moon. Whether you like it or not, suck it up, because eventually you gotta cross. And if you don't you won't get run over—you won't get hurt—you just won't matter.

You aren't a pawn of your government. In fact, you ARE your government. For the people by the people. It's sobering and it's true. If you don't like that then you better get up and do something about it because there are no guarantees that anyone else will. Why? Because they are all stupid! The middle of the road is full of idiots. And don't think that spouting off some words will do the trick. You see where that got Bushy-boy.

Action - do something. And for heaven's sakes, think before you do it. It makes us feel worthless, pathetic and small.

I don't care about the war on terrorism. It's stupid. All I care about are the brain cells that are out there blowin' in the wind without a home.

Claim your brain, man! It's about time for human beings to get smart about something—themselves. You get me? Wake up man! This is stupid!

That's all I got to say.

As do I.

Wake Up, Stupid - Do Something

By Conrad Erb
Columnist

It's not often that the Opinion pages have seen consistent input from a variety of cynics, prophets and pundits over a variety of issues. The recent analytical pieces by Grimsrud, Yoder, Jenner and other outspoken Caucasian males have made for a worthwhile exercise in critical thinking and rhetoric.

While our society needs a good prophet, however, so too does it need a good prophetess. Instead of writing my own words, I share the following excerpt from the senior show of former EMU theater student, Joanna Doyle.

Her words call our attention to the invisible intellectual canvases of our society, upon which we paint as we share our thoughts about any number of issues, from sexuality and the church, to Walmart, to the American flag, to editorial integrity. He who has ears to hear, let him hear:

"Wake up, people! I am protesting stupidity! You think the issues are war, terrorism, AIDS, taxes, and oil drills? Think again. The media uses this stuff as eye-candy so we will all be distracted from the real issue: stupid-it-ty. We're all trapped in a rat race man, and we aren't even smart enough to eat the cheese once we get to the end. We just try to find the next maze.

I'm worried. Concerned that we don't really understand anything. That we have been fooled into letting our brains deteriorate so that we can't even form an opinion. Most of us don't even bother to agree or disagree—we just go with the flow. Georgie W. Bush summed it up pretty well at one of his press conferences: 'I think if you know what you believe it makes it a lot easier to answer questions and I can’t answer your question.' That was the best indicator of the state of the union that I've heard in a long time. And if that thought doesn't make you too happy, then do the trick. You see where that got Bushy-boy.

That's all I got to say.

As do I.

The Weather Vane

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