

Mixed emotions

Your editorial *Man on the Moon: Mixed Emotions* is to be commended, I believe, for its breadth of perception. Our massive technological progress seems to dwarf our progress in human understanding; so we need to keep hearing the voices that question.

*E. E. Andersen
Cleveland Heights, Ohio*

Not for nought

In reference to *Man on the Moon: Mixed Emotions*, I disagree with several parts of your last three paragraphs.

First of all, we did not spend \$24 billion for 80 pounds of the moon. Included in that price was the invaluable pictures from Gemini that showed mineral deposits and geographical features, and also solved the mystery of why shrimp would not stay in a bay in Florida, a great help to our shrimp industry. Also that same \$24 billion has given us the great launch capability to send unmanned probes to the planets and launch space stations to study the earth. Then, the \$24 billion was not for the first mission but for the capability of getting us there, that costing only \$400 million. Finally there is the prestige we received for \$24 billion, more than the hundreds of billions spent on defense in past years.

Next, this is more than children putting their footprints on a fresh field of snow; it is like the time the fish left the water and stepped onto the land.

The verdict of history may also be that while population erupted, we found the needed living room for billions of people.

Man has found a replacement for war finally after millions of years, a much safer and less expensive pastime. I would be much happier to pay taxes if they went into our space program instead of war.

*Michael Smith
St. Joseph, Mo.*

Refreshingly sane

Your editorial of July 26 on the moon landing is refreshingly sane amid the shouting about a new era and how the human race will unite to conquer other worlds.

Suddenly, all the people and nations that have been hating us while taking our handouts are on our side, eh? Oh yeah?

However, on the slim chance that there is something to this idea, we should go to work on it instead of increasing the technology gap. If we can

make some headway toward cooperation, maybe some day the people of earth can agree on what their purpose is, whether human life is sacred or not, and many other philosophical fundamentals.

*Edward N. Horr
Hickory, N.C.*

Full concurrence

I wish to express my admiration for and full concurrence with your editorial *Man on the Moon: Mixed Emotions* in the July 26 issue of *SCIENCE NEWS*. I can only hope that there will be more, much more of this kind of thought among those interested in science.

I am a quite regular reader of *SCIENCE NEWS* but even my wife who is totally nonscientific, said the other day that it is the best thing available to the layman.

*W. M. Elsasser, Research Professor
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Balanced reaction

I was very impressed by the balanced reaction and the landing on the moon conveyed in your editorial in the July 26 issue.

As a non-scientist it is reassuring to see in *SCIENCE NEWS* a stated awareness of all the other challenges we face at this time, domestically and abroad as well.

The scientific community and the community at large are indeed well-served by your excellent publication.


*Wallace F. Holbrook
Washington, D.C.*

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