

ROARSHOCK PAGE

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July 20, 2019 — ROARSHOCK PAGE well notes 50 years since the first humans landed on the Moon. According to Wikipedia... “Apollo 11 was the spaceflight that landed the first two people on the Moon. Commander Neil Armstrong and lunar module pilot Buzz Aldrin, both American, landed the Apollo Lunar Module Eagle on July 20, 1969, at 20:17 UTC. Armstrong became the first person to step onto the lunar surface six hours later on July 21 at 02:56:15 UTC; Aldrin joined him 19 minutes later. They spent about two and a quarter hours together outside the spacecraft, and collected 47.5 pounds (21.5 kg) of lunar material to bring back to Earth. Command module pilot Michael Collins flew the command module Columbia alone in lunar orbit while they were on the Moon's surface. Armstrong and Aldrin spent 21.5 hours on the lunar surface before rejoining Columbia in lunar orbit.” ... Now let us explore how vast possibilities seemed at that moment, and contrast with the appearance and reality trajectories of this present moment half a century on.

50 YEARS AGO, NOW, 50 YEARS ONWARD

July 1969. I was still 8 years old and watched the television news coverage of the first Moon landing with incredible excitement. When the audio came through of Neil Armstrong declaring, “The Eagle has landed” it was such a thrill to feel a part — to *be* a part — of one of the greatest, most spectacular achievements in human history. I was so optimistic in those moments by the potential human advancements that seemed to have opened up, and the promise of a progressive future I could work for and with in my lifetime. I imagined what would be accomplished in another 50 years, in 100 years.

Cooperation accomplishes more than competition, I have always believed, but a cooperative effort to prevail at a competitive challenge (the Space Race between the U.S. and the Soviet Union) can accomplish much more even than that, I must admit. So after the U.S. “won” the Race to the Moon, the exploration of space continued, but the same collective focus and feeling of participation was not sustained, and attention was dragged down by many grim events on Earth’s surface. It soon became obvious to me that progress was being deliberately bro-

ken, slowed down and sabotaged by powerful people in the world who did not want an advance in human evolution, a more progressive, equitable, and sustainable world order and expansion into space. Those who favor the status quo — to maintain their own comfort, power and privilege within it — would rather destroy the planet than cede any of their perceived control over it. Their shortsighted stupidity is overwhelming, I can only comprehend it as madness born of fear, ignorance, and fundamental cluelessness about nature and spirituality.

July 2019. I am 58 years old and living in a very scary Science Fiction world. It has been 47 years since NASA astronauts Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt became the most recent humans to land upon the Moon, where they stayed and walked for 3 days. Today we have no human presence or settlement on the Moon. Humans have not yet traveled to Mars, or any other celestial body. The most recent un-crewed Moon landing occurred on January 3, 2019 when the Chinese Chang'e 4 spacecraft made the first landing on the dark side of the Moon.

Despite the breaks applied by the old money power elites to maintain their control, technological advances have continued to bust out all over, and at an ever accelerating rate. Tech has so far outpaced politics and social arrangements that this has become a time of many fires, whole areas decimated, the insidious results of indifferent human pollution manifesting and rushing at us on many sides, and real possibilities of our own human extinction along with most life on Earth.

Our Artists, hopefully, give us comfort and enjoyment in the beauty and novelty of their crafts and inspirations. But they often also cause great alarm and distress showing realities and possible realities as they really are as they really might be. Usually, I go about my daily business and routines and take for granted that I have free will, but sometimes it feels like I live within a work of Art — a novel, or an opera, and a very dark opera too. Sometimes I feel as if I’m in a play. I am anyway.

July 2069. Your Author will be 108 if I live that long. The world will surely look a lot different than it does today. Today we can look back 50 years to the First Moon Landing and what the social world was like then, what were general attitudes and mostly universal com-

mon sense, look how much has changed by 2019 (despite all breaks and backlash), and extrapolate where we might be in adjusting our attitudes and common sense by 2069.

Science Fiction writers are often pretty smart. The Big 3 dystopian SF novels — *1984* by Orwell, Huxley's *Brave New World*, and *Fahrenheit 451* by Bradbury, together provide many metaphorical insights into the world situation we find ourselves in today. But what scares and worries me everyday is how Philip K. Dick keeps showing his crazy influence in this Artifice, this world I am living in. Luckily, I also have Robert Anton Wilson to guide me through chapel perilous. Always remember, Uncle Bob is now an Ancestor and in times of great need we may Invoke him. "BOB!"

In the next 50 years, if rational thought, scientific consensus and universal human dignity and rights do not win out over brutish greed, religious and cultural stupidity, and the law of the jungle, that would be a bummer, and I would foresee a future where nihilist anarchist hordes roam what remains of the country side.

If we are smart and we survive, and we build our green technology and work in compassion to lift up our species and heal our planet, there will be plenty of work to do and plenty of jobs cleaning up this epic mess we have created since the industrial revolution. And we will venture into space, transform our Science Fiction metaphor away from *Zombie* films and closer to the universe of *Star Trek*, which, if you watch it on your screen, you will see contains endless romance, exploration and adventure.

— D. A. Wilson
San Francisco, July 2019



JULY ALMANAC

- 07/01 1963 ZIP codes introduced for U.S. mail.
- 1979 Sony introduced the Walkman.
- 1980 *O Canada* officially became the national anthem of Canada.
- 2019 In Hong Kong, protesters stormed and defaced the legislature's chamber.
- 07/02 2019 NEW MOON
- 2019 A total solar eclipse over South America.
- 07/03 1890 Idaho admitted as the 43rd U.S. state.
- 07/04 2019 U.S. INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 1776 U.S. Declaration of Independence.
- 07/08 1947 Broadcast reports of a UFO crash landing in Roswell, New Mexico.
- 07/10 1925 Silence Day. Meher Baba began his life of silence that lasted 44 years.
- 07/11 1576 Martin Frobisher sighted Greenland.
- 1889 Tijuana, Mexico, was founded.
- 07/13 1527 John Dee was born.
- 1579 Arthur Dee was born.
- 2016 U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron resigned, was succeeded by Theresa May.
- 07/14 2019 FRENCH NATIONAL DAY (la Fête nationale)
- 1789 Storming of the Bastille in Paris.
- 07/16 2019 FULL BUCK MOON
- 07/20 1969 First landing of a manned spacecraft on the Moon in the Sea of Tranquility, where Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin become the first humans to walk on the Moon.
- 07/22 1598 *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare entered on the *Stationers' Register*.
- 07/24 1974 U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled, President Richard Nixon had no authority to withhold subpoenaed tape recordings.
- 07/30 1733 First Masonic Grand Lodge in the future U.S. constituted in Massachusetts.
- 07/31 1588 Spanish Armada spotted off English coast

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