from our viewpoint...

We've got to make the trip to Mars

On to Mars!

It's about time.

The exploration of space has moved hardly at all in the three and a half decades since Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon.

Now President Bush says it's time to push forward, to talk about a manned mission to Mars.

Yes, it'll cost billions.

Yes, the budget is already in the red.

And, yes, we've got to go.

Why, some will ask?

As much as anything, to advance the cause of knowledge. Research to advance the space program brought us calculators and digital devices of all sorts, mini-computers and electronic cameras, all manner of advances which make everyday life so much richer.

These created whole new industries in manufacturing and services which help drive the world economy.

The knowledge necessary to get to the moon brought advances in medicine, engineering, psychology and business. The money may have been spent to boost a few men to that nearby neighbor, but it bought a lot more than a short vacation for a few guys.

Big projects often pay big dividends.

So far, there's no gold or treasure to show from moon exploration, of course. No diamonds, not secret formulas, no oil or energy.

But the benefits of going, the knowledge obtained along the way, those make the effort worthwhile.

And if man is going to press on into space, it'll have to be the United States that leads the way. We are the only power with the wealth and manpower to mount this effort.

We can, and should, include the rest of the world in our plans. The days of the space race are long gone. There is no one left to compete with.

So why not join hands with our friends, tap the brain power of the world's leading thinkers and mount one human effort for space exploration.

There's no doubt we'll be able to reach Mars, stopping first to build a base on our moon. The goal is attainable, if difficult.

Beyond that?

Who knows? The only thing that's certain is that we'll go. That's the central truth. Humans are explorers. We always have pushed the envelope of knowledge, sailing off into the

uncharted sea, pushing into the interior wilderness, studying the unknown stars. To stay earthbound would be to deny our heritage.

We can't.

We have to explore.

The effort will be rewarded with knowledge and riches beyond belief.

And now we are taking the next logical step. On to Mars! — Steve Haynes

The Goodland Star-News





Wish I could have gone to Tunisia

I won't say I was envious. That sounds so petty. Petty, yes. True, absolutely.

Back in August, Steve got an invite to go with a group of publishers to Tunisia.

The man organizing the trip is from Iowa, but he knows a man in Washington who works for several small Arab countries.

These places would like to see more American tourist dollars flowing into their small corners of the world and, oh yes, if we could influence the State Department, that would be nice, too.

The man from Iowa pointed out that since Tunisia is a Moslem country, he was only inviting male publishers.

Steve was hesitant, but I told him he would decided the jumping-off point was Washingbe crazy to turn down the invitation.

The last bunch of Americans to get a free trip to Tunisia found themselves fighting the Germans outside Tunis, the capital city.



Thanksgiving, but the contact said that timing wasn't a strong point on these trips.

Thanksgiving came and went, and there was no call. Then around Christmas, the call came. The trip was on. Could Steve leave on Jan. 10 from Washington or New York? Sure, but which?

Several e-mails and phone calls later, it was ton. The journalists would be flying Air France and, oh yes, the publisher from Iowa was taking his wife.

Now, I like these folks, and he was doing a ing and I get Montezuma's revenge. The tour was supposed to take place around lot of work to set this whole thing up. I had no

reason to complain or bemoan. He was giving Steve a golden opportunity.

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But I was so jealous I couldn't sleep for two nights. I made Steve's life miserable for about a week. Then I mostly got over it.

I put Steve on the plane in Denver that would take him to Washington and returned home. After all, I had a lot to do and now I had no man under my feet to get in my way.

Of course, there was no man to feed the dog, do the laundry or help with all those hundreds of other chores that Steve does every week. I was busy. Very busy.

I also took a day off to visit my mother in Concordia. Mom confided she had had the 24hour stomach bug the day before.

The next day, Irealized I had brought Mom's bug home with me.

Now, that's just not fair. Steve goes travel-

If I weren't so miserable, I'd get him.

No one likes to be conned

No one like to admit they've been conned by an embezzler. Banks and borkerages, especially, will go to almost any length to sweep this crime under the rug.

It looks bad when people find out that one of the loan officers has been tapping the till. It's worse when a stockbroker has been accessing

the customers' accounts.



A stickup man walks in, points a gun at you, tells you to fork over the money or he'll kill you. That's relatively straightforward.

An embezzler smiles, shakes your hand, asks about the wife and kids. And steals everything he can get his hands on.

Some are cynical thieves. Others are weak Let me say up front, I have no sympathy for to temptation, pressed by financial needs, expensive habits and weak morals, perha s. None has much integrity or moral fiber. Nice guys indeed. One I know of, when confronted, reportedly looked at the assembled accusers said, "Why are you doing this to me?" And there were some among the victims who felt sorry for him. Not me. I felt sorry for the people who had donated the money he stole, to the board members who had trusted him, to the customers who's accounts he may have pilfered. But not for him. As a Christian, I wouldn't presume to judge any human soul. We're all sinners, and I'd pray for our redemption, all of us. But whether you see it as weakness or deceit, or both, you can't condone stealing, lying and weaseling. It's a rotten crime, one that deserves to wind up in court, on the front page, in a prison cell, because the more embezzlers we let go, the more weak souls will try it.

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It happens all the time, but few embezzlers embezzlers. My father's law partner cleaned are actually prosecuted, and that's a shame. If out the firm's accounts, leaving dad with a more of them went to jail, it might cut down stack of bills and an empty checkbook. on this peculiar white collar crime.

had mixed emotions last year when the accountants told them their executive director had he owed, though. Last time I hear, he was a city been "loaning" himself money from association accounts.

but by the time the final total had rolled in at \$117,000 in alleged misappropriations, there was not a tear to be shed for the group's exleader.

The board voted to turn the case over to the police and district attorney, and more power to them. It was embarrassing to be sure to have to admit it had happened on their watch, but the members had the courage to act.

Letter Policy

The Goodland Star-News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, and must include a telephone number and a signature. Unsigned letters will not be published. Form letters will be rejected, as will letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and good taste. We encourage letters, with address and phone numbers, by e-mail to: <star-news@nwkansas.com>.

garfield

The fellow went to court and promised to The board of the Kansas Press Association make restitution, giving up his license to practice law. He never did repay mom everything officials in an unnamed Midwestern town.

Dad had a stroke a couple of years later, and There may have been some sympathy at first, Mom always blamed the financial mess for putting him in an early grave at 55.

My dislike for embezzlers runs deep.

You'd think more people would be angry when they find out, but oddly enough, the first impulse often is to feel sorry of the thief.

That's because embezzlers are likable people. We wouldn't trust them with the checkbook or the bank bag unless we thought they were nice guys.

That's what makes embezzlement such a rotten, despicable crime.

where to write

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