



CONCOURS CENTRALE•SUPÉLEC

Anglais

MP, PC, PSI

3 heures

Calculatrices interdites

2010

L'usage de tout système électronique ou informatique est interdit dans cette épreuve.

Traduire en français le texte ci-dessous.

The Moon Landing

Historians in the distant future are likely to classify humanity's first steps on a world beyond our own as one of the most memorable achievements of the 20th century.

America's race to the Moon began with the fear that the Soviets had already bested us in space. By the time Neil Armstrong set foot on the Sea of Tranquility [...] on July 20, 1969, the feat brought a surge of pride and optimism to a nation mired in Vietnam and torn by urban riots and assassinations at home.

Never again would the human space flight program stir such excitement or seem so central to the nation's endeavors. After a few more visits, the Apollo moon program shut down and the manned space program was relegated to shuttle flights in low Earth orbit.

Now the question frustrating space enthusiasts is how to rekindle the old days of glory. The answer is not readily apparent. At a confirmation hearing for President Obama's choices to lead the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Senator John Rockefeller IV described the agency as "a splendid story of the past" that has been adrift and lost its fascination for Americans. The nominees [...] accepted the diagnosis but had trouble explaining how they would reinvigorate the agency beyond pushing harder on safety research, aeronautics and communicating with the public.

In truth, it may not be possible to bring more drama to human space flight any time soon. Putting a base on the Moon by 2020, as is currently planned, feels like going back to the scene of the earlier triumph even if the stay this time would be longer. Second acts seldom captivate. And a wholly new conquest, say a landing on Mars, is decades away, if it ever proves feasible.

Wayne Hale, a NASA veteran, blames the old "Star Trek" television series, of which he was a fan, for setting expectations too high with visits to interesting planets and challenging interactions with alien species. That's more glamour and excitement than real space travel can provide — unless, as Mr. Hale observes, we learn to travel at "warp speed" as the Trekkers did.

The New York Times, July 18, 2009