

Re: back to the moon

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Esmail Bonakdarian wrote:

NASA to Unveil Plans to Send 4 Astronauts to Moon in 2018

By Brian Berger
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6:43 p.m. ET

WASHINGTON NASA briefed senior White House officials Wednesday on its plan to spend \$100 billion and the next 12 years building the spacecraft and rockets it needs to put humans back on the Moon by 2018.

The U.S. space agency now expects to roll out its lunar exploration plan to key Congressional committees on Friday and to the broader public through a news conference on Monday, Washington sources tell SPACE.com.

<rest at http://space.com/news/050914_nasa_cev_update.html>

WHAT'S NEW Robert L. Park Friday, 16 Sep 05 Washington, DC

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

The "Establishment Clause" of the
First Amendment to The United States Constitution

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: McCARTHY ERA CHANGE IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL.
A federal judge in Sacramento ruled Wednesday that reciting the Pledge in public schools is an unconstitutional endorsement of religion. The ruling was immediately denounced by conservative religious groups, and is certain to be appealed. U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales vowed that the Justice Department will

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fight to overturn the ruling. As a substantive issue, the Pledge ranks right up there with flag burning. Congress added the words "under God" in 1954 at the suggestion of President Eisenhower. This was at the height of the communist witch hunt, at which time the public equated communism with atheism. A half-century later, we might note, the chief enemies of freedom are far from Godless.

2. PLEDGE OF RESTORATION: COST OF KATRINA RECOVERY MAY TOP \$200B. President Bush last night began by declaring "a faith in God no storm can take away." He told the nation "We will do what it takes, we will stay as long as it takes," to rebuild. That was the right thing to say, but after the Iraq screw-up, the Katrina screw-up, and the tax-cut screw-up we're in for hard times.

3. INTELLIGENT DESIGN: DOVER SCHOOL BOARD UNABLE TO STOP TRIAL. On Tuesday, a federal judge in Harrisburg, PA denied the Dover Area School Board request for a summary judgement. The trial will begin as scheduled on September 26. The legal team that represents the 11 parents who filed the lawsuit welcomed the decision. The lawsuit challenges a decision by the Board to require biology teachers to present "intelligent design" as an alternative to the scientific theory of evolution. The lawsuit alleges that "intelligent design" is a religious theory that lies far outside mainstream science. Who is the "intelligent designer"? The answer makes it clear that this is just religion.

4. THE POISON PILL: NASA UNVEILS PLANS TO VISIT THE MOON IN 2018. 2018? In 1961 John Kennedy promised the Moon "before this decade is out." From a standing start, America was on the moon in seven years. Now, after 44 years of "space progress," it's gonna take twice as long? What are we looking for? NASA says they'll find water, hydrogen and "valuable commodities." On the Moon? Go on! Maybe someone takes that seriously, but he's not writing this column. We've got robots on Mars right now. Put a few of them on the moon. They don't break for lunch, or complain about the cold nights, and they live on sunshine. Space exploration with humans is about over. The bills won't come due until Bush is safely out of office. Stick the next administration with an impossibly expensive and pointless program and let them take the blame for ending human space exploration. This is a poison pill.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND.

Opinions are the author's and not necessarily shared by the University of Maryland, but they should be.

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