

Time Traveler Scooter McGinty in...

AMERICA'S RACE TO THE MOON

JULY 20, 1969

HOUSTON, TRANQUILITY BASE
HERE--THE EAGLE HAS LANDED.

UH...HOUSTON, WE
HAVE A PROBLEM.

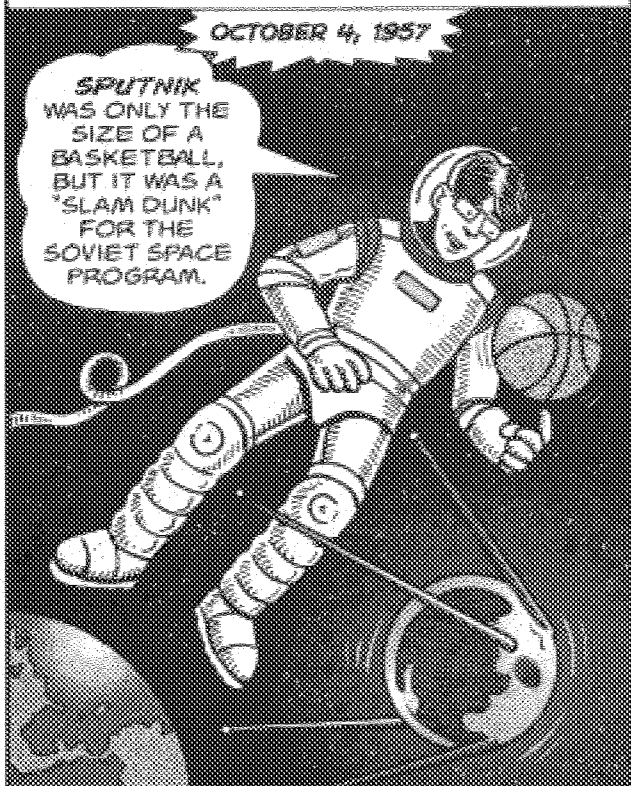
HEY, BUDDY, WHAT ARE
YOU DOING HERE?

I WANTED A FRONT-ROW
SEAT TO THIS HISTORIC
EVENT, THE FIRST-EVER
MOON LANDING! DID YOU
BRING ANY ICE? MY DRINK'S
A LITTLE WARM.

THE "SPACE RACE" BEGAN WHEN THE SOVIET UNION SURPRISED THE WORLD WITH SPUTNIK, THE FIRST SATELLITE EVER LAUNCHED INTO EARTH'S ORBIT.

OCTOBER 4, 1957

SPUTNIK WAS ONLY THE SIZE OF A BASKETBALL, BUT IT WAS A "SLAM DUNK" FOR THE SOVIET SPACE PROGRAM.



THE SOVIETS STRUCK AGAIN A MONTH LATER WHEN THEY LAUNCHED SPUTNIK II, WHICH CONTAINED LAIKA THE DOG, THE FIRST LIVING CREATURE TO JOURNEY INTO SPACE.

NOVEMBER 3, 1957

FETCH!



WOOF.

APRIL 12, 1961, MAIN STREET, USA

IF THESE COMMUNISTS CAN SEND ROCKETS INTO SPACE, THEY CAN DROP BOMBS ON OUR HEADS!

AND IF THE UNITED STATES IS SO GREAT, HOW COME THESE RUSSIANS BEAT US INTO SPACE?



UH, I HATE TO BREAK THE NEWS TO YOU, BUT THE SOVIETS JUST LAUNCHED THE FIRST HUMAN BEING INTO SPACE.

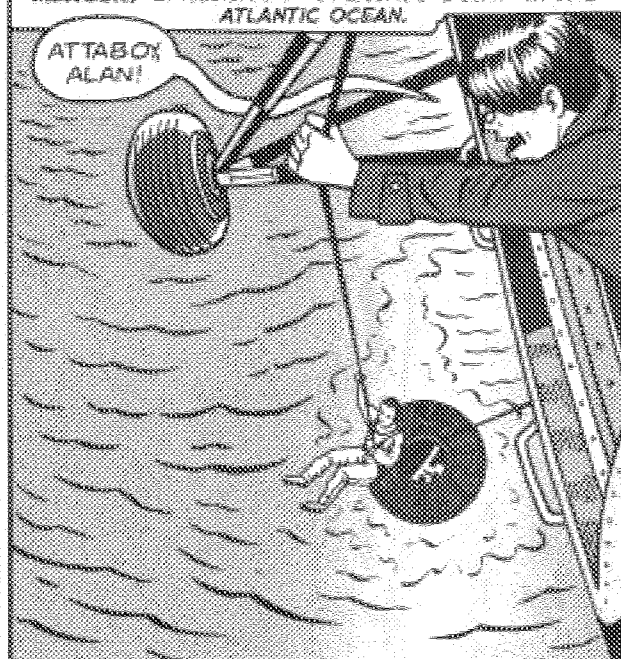
FACT BOX

Yuri Gagarin, who is considered a Russian hero, orbited the Earth for 108 minutes in the spacecraft Vostok I.

MAY 5, 1961

THE U.S. RESPONDED BY FORMING A GOVERNMENT AGENCY CALLED THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA). IN 1961, ASTRONAUT ALAN SHEPARD BECAME THE FIRST AMERICAN IN SPACE. AFTER A 15-MINUTE FLIGHT, SHEPARD WAS HOISTED ABOARD A HELICOPTER WHEN HIS MERCURY SPACECRAFT "SPLASHED DOWN" IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

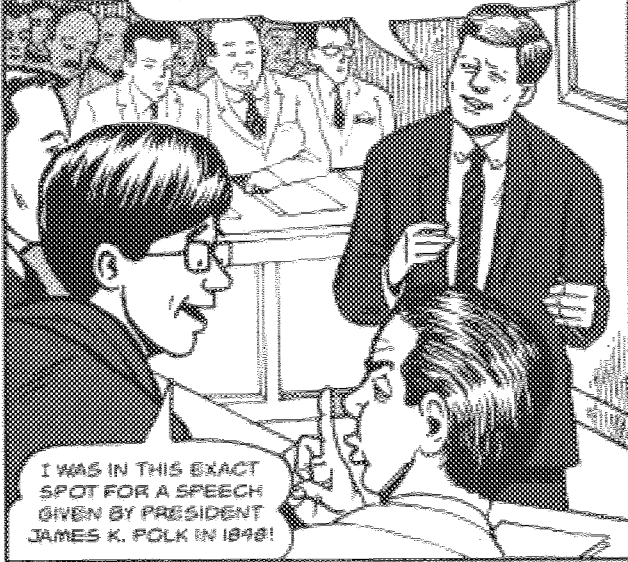
ATTABOY, ALAN!



EVEN WITH SHEPARD'S FLIGHT, AMERICANS FELT EMBARRASSED THAT THE U.S. WAS THE RUNNER-UP TO THE SOVIETS IN THE SPACE RACE. SO PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ISSUED A CHALLENGE THAT TRULY "LAUNCHED" THE U.S. SPACE PROGRAM.

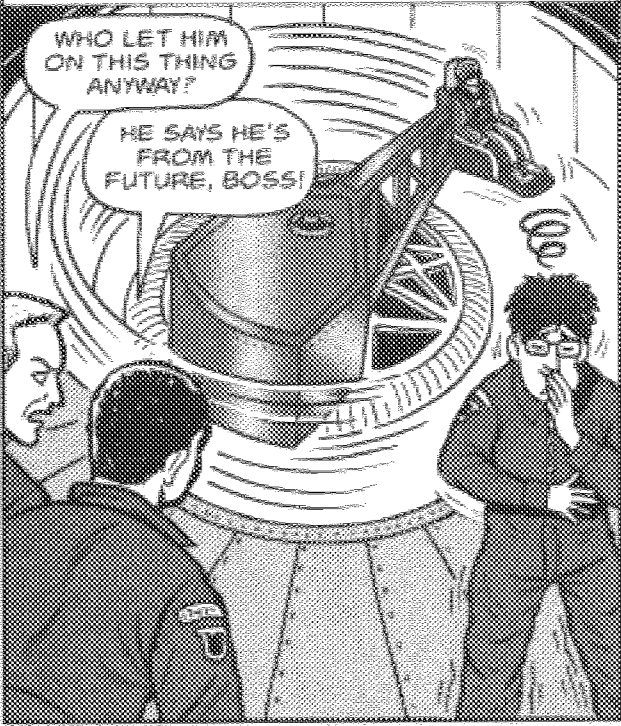
MAY 25, 1961

I BELIEVE THAT THIS NATION SHOULD COMMIT ITSELF TO ACHIEVING THE GOAL, BEFORE THIS DECADE IS OUT, OF LANDING A MAN ON THE MOON AND RETURNING HIM SAFELY TO THE EARTH.



I WAS IN THIS EXACT SPOT FOR A SPEECH GIVEN BY PRESIDENT JAMES K. POLK IN 1848!

IN NO TIME, THE TOP U.S. PILOTS WERE TRAINING FOR THE DIFFICULTIES OF SPACE FLIGHT AND ITS EFFECT ON THE HUMAN BODY. IN ONE SUCH TEST, THE ASTRONAUTS WERE SPUN AT HIGH SPEEDS TO INCREASE THE PRESSURE ON THEIR BODIES. NOT EVERYONE PASSED THE TEST!



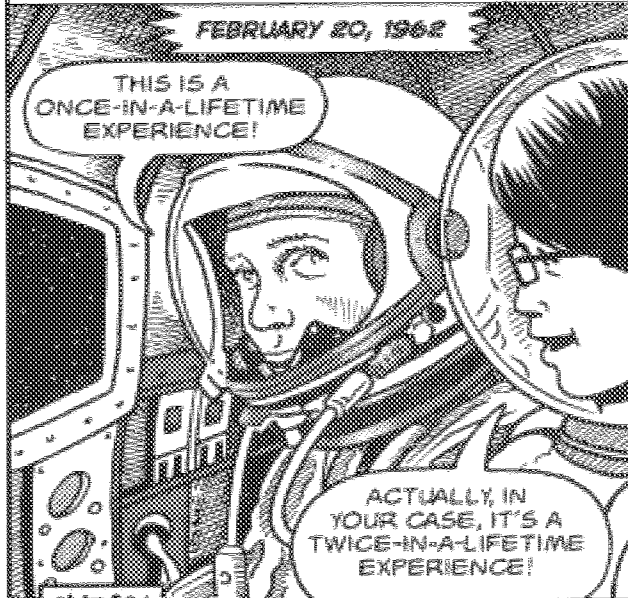
WHO LET HIM ON THIS THING ANYWAY?

HE SAYS HE'S FROM THE FUTURE, BOSS!

IN NASA'S NEXT GREAT ACHIEVEMENT, JOHN GLENN BECAME THE FIRST AMERICAN TO ORBIT EARTH, CIRCLING THE PLANET THREE TIMES IN 4 HOURS, 55 MINUTES, AND 23 SECONDS IN HIS FRIENDSHIP 7 SPACECRAFT.

FEBRUARY 20, 1968

THIS IS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!



ACTUALLY, IN YOUR CASE, IT'S A TWICE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!

FACT BOX

In 1998, at the age of 77, Glenn—who had served 24 years as a U.S. senator—returned to space for a 9-day space shuttle mission.

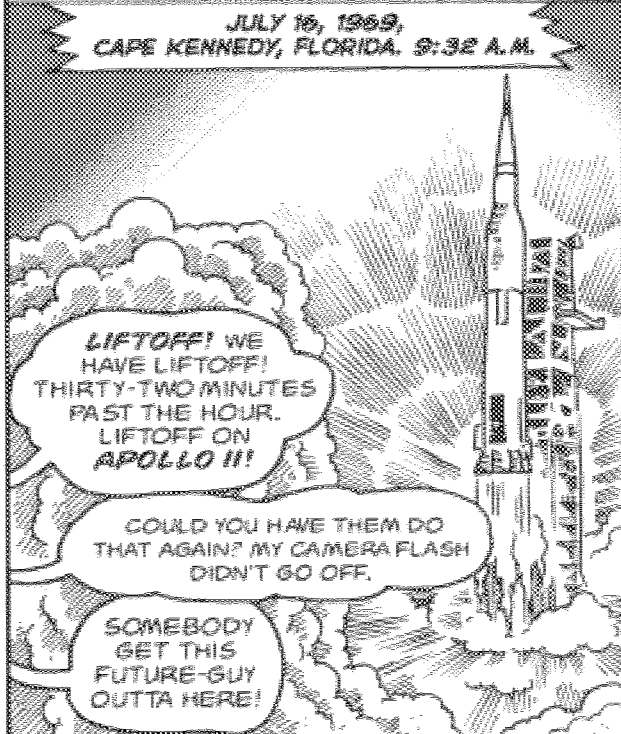
ALL THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE LEADING UP TO A CRISP, CLEAR MORNING IN FLORIDA, WHEN ASTRONAUTS NEIL ARMSTRONG, EDWIN "BUZZ" ALDRIN, AND MICHAEL COLLINS BLASTED OFF IN THEIR SPACESHIP, APOLLO 11.

JULY 16, 1969, CAPE KENNEDY, FLORIDA. 9:32 A.M.

LIFTOFF! WE HAVE LIFTOFF! THIRTY-TWO MINUTES PAST THE HOUR. LIFTOFF ON APOLLO 11!

COULD YOU HAVE THEM DO THAT AGAIN? MY CAMERA FLASH DIDN'T GO OFF.

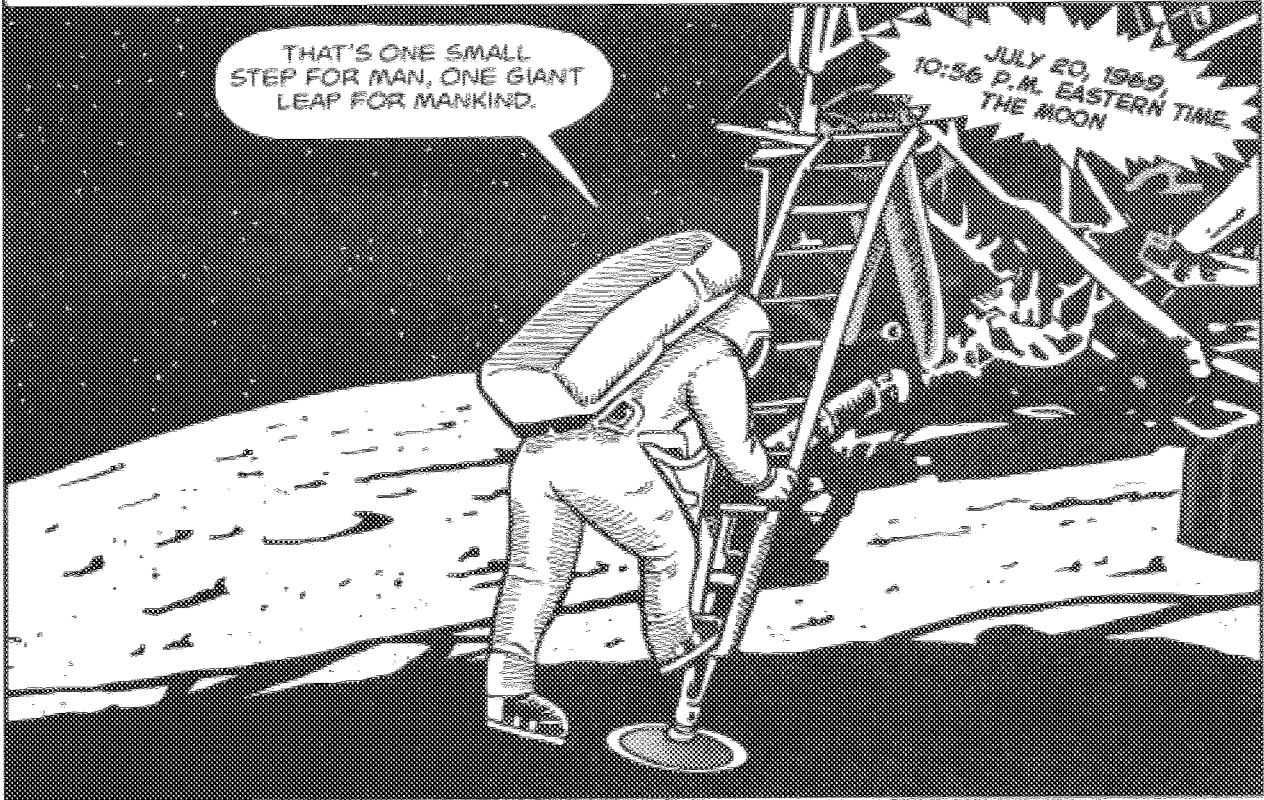
SOMEBODY GET THIS FUTURE-GUY OUTTA HERE!



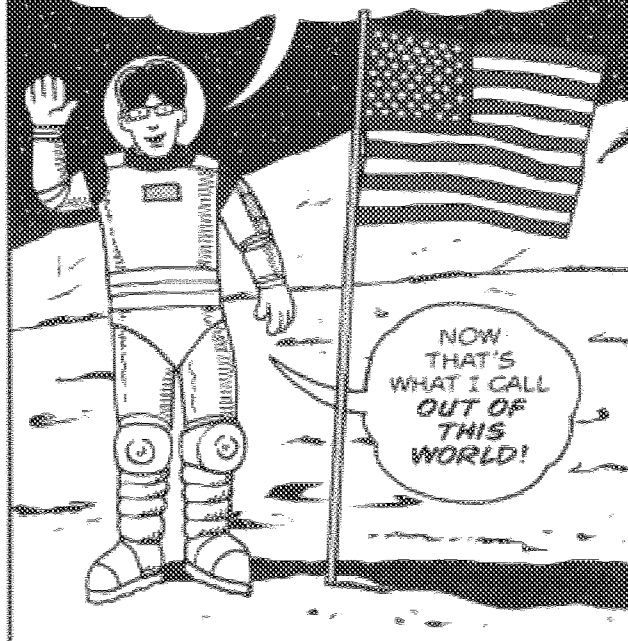
FOUR DAYS LATER, AS MORE THAN HALF A BILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE WATCHED ON TELEVISION, NEIL ARMSTRONG BECAME THE FIRST HUMAN BEING TO SET FOOT ON THE MOON.

THAT'S ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN, ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND.

JULY 20, 1969,
10:56 P.M. EASTERN TIME,
THE MOON



THE APOLLO 11 MISSION FULFILLED PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S GOAL OF PUTTING A MAN ON THE MOON BY THE END OF THE 1960S. THE SPACE PROGRAM GAVE US NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO USE ON EARTH. BUT MOST IMPORTANT, THE MOON LANDING SHOWED US IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DREAM BIG AND EVEN REACH THE STARS.



NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL OUT OF THIS WORLD!

SCOOTER'S QUICK QUIZ

1. What was the name of the Soviet Union's first space satellite?
2. What was America's first manned achievement in space?
3. Why do you think President Kennedy made the challenge he did to the U.S. space program?
4. Research NASA's accomplishments in space since 1969. List five missions and describe what the astronauts achieved in each.
5. In the future it may be possible for ordinary people—not just trained astronauts—to travel in space. Would you do this if you had the chance? What would you want to do once you got there?