

Berd Cage - February 2, 2010

If They Can Put A Man On The Moon...

There is a group of people in this world who don't believe Commander Neil Armstrong actually walked on the moon on July 20, 1969. Although I was only 11 years old, I do remember watching the news on television and listening to those memorable words "one small step ..." The skeptics believe this was just another Hollywood production to intimidate the Soviets and attract more funding to the space program. Although I don't classify myself among those skeptics, I find myself asking almost everyday, "If they can put a man on the moon, why ....?" The "why" in that sentence is usually followed by whatever has me perplexed that day.

Most recently it has been "Why can't they make a winter diesel that doesn't choke people?" I have seen pictures of friends in Nepal who couldn't see to the end of the city block because of the air pollution mainly from diesel. So, yeah, why can't they make a fuel that can do the work of diesel and burn clean and stench-free?

My next most commonly thought question is, "If they can put a man on the moon, why can't they make a windshield wiper blade that will actually work properly for at least one whole year?" One whole year — that's all I ask. I have spent half as much money on wiper blades as I have spent on the regular oil changes every year. I've tried the Teflon coated, the spring loaded, and yes, the top of the line wiper blades, only to find that they just can't seem to make it through our Alberta winters. For years I accepted this as penance for driving a minivan requiring longer wiper blades for the larger windshield, but I have even heard the same complaint from truckers of all makes and sizes of trucks. I guess they have never needed to develop an efficient wiper blade at Cape Canaveral.

It had to have taken a lot of technology to send those men to the moon, so why hasn't that technology produced a hearing aid that actually works like you need them to? I haven't reached the stage of needing a hearing aid as yet, but can recall all the problems my mom and father-in-law had with theirs. Even though the hearing aid manufacturers all proclaim their product to be state-of-the-art, they all seem to give endless grief to their wearers.

I doubt that Nassau ever thought sending someone to the moon would be thought of so much in our everyday lives over 40 years later, or maybe they did. Maybe they are behind all the faulty hearing aids, the dirty diesel and the two-month wiper blades. Sounds like a conspiracy someone should look into. I bet you could even get government funding to do that study.

Bernadine Visotto is a Mountaineer columnist who doesn't try to be sarcastic - it just comes naturally.