

The Pluto Observer

Watchdog to the Solar System

Earth Edition

December 2006

BOTM Award

The staff of *The Pluto Observer* takes no pleasure in awarding this month's *Backhand-of-the-Month Award* to the following recipients but we would feel derelict in our duties if we didn't.

We, therefore, unceremoniously bestow the December BOTM Award on every Earthling who had any interest in the O. J. Simpson book, "If I Did It". That means everyone and anyone who wanted the book and its subsequent TV special made available to anyone on that greedy and backward planet.

Here on Pluto, murder-and-tell books are even more illegal than kiss-and-tell books and producing either is a crime punishable by exile to one of our three orbiting prison moons. And *murder* on Pluto is a crime that has always been punishable on Pluto by the swift extermination of all guilty parties.

Plutonian

Tip-of-the-Day

"Fool's Gold always glitters more in the dark than in the light of day."

A Day Late and Many Dollars Short

Now that Chinese citizens are becoming victims of text-messaging scams by fellow citizens, authorities in that country have finally got their backs up. Too bad China didn't give a hoot about their citizens scamming Americans on the Web for the past several years.

Cops as Killers

The November 25th shooting in Queens, NY that killed a bridegroom on his wedding day and injured two others does more than raise eyebrows in the rest of the solar system.

When police officers begin running around nightclubs like "loose cannons" in the name of the law it's time to take them off the streets and take away their guns. For starters.

Special Announcement:

We at the *Observer* would like to take a moment to extend sincere wishes for a speedy recovery to Penn State's **Joe Paterno**, the greatest college football coach of all time.

Highway Robbery

Once again, our giant orbiting telescope out near the Van Allen *Belts* (yes, we finally made it plural) have detected that gasoline prices in the United States rose considerably just before the Thanksgiving Holiday. Even more so than before Labor Day this year.

And, once again, we detected the unmistakable earmarks of "price gouging" even though the U.S. government denies that such illegal price-setting activities occur in that nation.

OK, then. In light of the feds' refusal to admit that oil companies are ripping off citizens each major holiday when many Americans take to the highways to visit relatives, we'll take a different, albeit familiar, approach to our story. Please define "gouging".

In the Next Issue of The Pluto Observer

☞ Does the *Observer's* orbiting telescope violate Earth's privacy laws?

☞ When alien abduction is a good thing.