

The Pluto Observer

Watchdog to the Solar System

Earth Edition

August 2007

August 2007 Backhand Award

Honoring the unprecedented request of our star reporter, Jonco Bugos, *The Pluto Observer* bestows the August *Backhand-of-the-Month Award* on the Pennsylvania State Legislature in the United States.

After it failed to pass a new fiscal budget last month, Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell had no choice but to shut down the state government on July 8th due to lack of funding for most state services. Budget stalemates in the State Capitol Building in Harrisburg are more likely to be the result of power moves, last-minute palm greasing and a breach of good ol' boy clubhouse etiquette than anything else. But any failure of government that tosses family picnickers out of state parks while keeping state-run casinos open always raises the eyebrows and the ire of its residents.

In Pennsylvania, where U.S. citizens are taxed more than anyplace else in that country, a good house-cleaning ought to be the next political order of business.

Fingering the Real Bully

A month ago, Japan's defense minister Kyuma made an unfortunate remark in a speech at a university in Chiba, which is just east of Tokyo. While trying not to advocate the use of nuclear weapons or to condone the use of two such weapons against Japan at the end of World War Two, Kyuma nonetheless forced his countrymen's ire when he said he understood that the United States had no other choice. We at the *Observer* agree.

Japan, like Germany, was a country that needed to be squashed like a bug during the second world war on planet Earth and yet it was spared and rebuilt by the same country that dropped atomic bombs on it sixty-two years ago, forcing Japan's unconditional surrender.

And just like Germany, it's high time for Japan to accept its violent and warlike past and simply move past it. Nothing is gained by pointing an accusatory finger at the country you, yourself, attacked sixty-six years ago and crying "Bully!".

A Lot of Hot Air in China

Now that China's booming economy has pushed its annual carbon dioxide emissions past record levels previously held by the United States, that Asian country needs to stop complaining about the so-called "green imperialism" requests by other nations for stronger emission controls in China.

Any nation that owes much of its booming economy's success to the consumer markets in the United States and other developed Western nations ought to be just a little grateful and become part of the global warming solution instead of its biggest problem.

In the next issue of The Pluto Observer

- ☞ Blame it on the moon: How Earth criminals got away with murder in the 20th Century
- ☞ The star dust trail is still the best way to Oregon
- ☞ Five Star hotels on Jupiter