

# The Pluto Observer

Watchdog to the Solar System

Earth Edition

March 2009

## March BOTM

We'll make our bestowal of the *Plutonian Backhand-of-the-Month Award* short and sweet this month. This now infamous award, which exposes groups of errant Earthlings for their bad behavior, goes to certain GOP members in the United States Congress. They get the March BOTM Award for refusing to cooperate in any way with their new Democratic leader, President Barack Obama. They can't think of any reason for giving America's new president a rough time except for the fact that he's not John McCain. The shame you refuse to feel has garnered you the BOTM for March 2009. So, wear it well.

## Tip-of-the-Hat

A big Plutonian tip-of-the-hat to U. S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for holding North Korea to the terms of its recent contract with the United States. Being removed from the list of nations who represent a terrorist threat to the U. S. means that you have to keep your word and continue dismantling your nuclear facilities, not testing a long-range missile that can reach Alaska. So, listen up.

## A Little Advice About a Lot of Ice

In light of last month's fatal airliner crash in Clarence, NY we at the *Observer* feel compelled to urge the American airline industry to come up with a better method of de-icing airplane wings. The two current methods of diverting engine heat to the wings or the other method of waiting for ice to build up on rubber strips on the wing's edges and then inflating the rubber to crack the ice off sounds just a little too 20<sup>th</sup> Century for this millennium. And it sounds just plain stupid if neither method works very well. Just pretend that ice has attacked America's wings and you have to go to war with the ice. You'll have a new solution within a matter of weeks. No, we're not kidding. We're absolutely *dead* serious.

### Plutonian Tip-of-the-Day

"When in doubt, dig a little deeper for the facts, and then keep digging until you finally hit the truth."

## Hat's Off to Penn State's Thon 2009

As we've said before, we Plutonians rarely doff our space helmets to anyone and very rarely to anyone on Earth. But this month we're delightfully inspired to express a big Plutonian "Hat's Off" to the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon for raising nearly \$7.5 million toward pediatric cancer treatment and research. Just when you think the college experience in America has become nothing but football tailgating and alcohol-fueled revelry, Penn State students do something like this to make everyone in the solar system really proud. And Penn State's Thon does it every year. We're sorry we didn't recognize your efforts sooner out here on Pluto.

### In the Next Issue of The Pluto Observer

- ☞ How to avoid Martian real estate scams.
- ☞ The truth about Venusians.
- ☞ The Ides of March myth.