

# The Pluto Observer

Watchdog to the Solar System

Earth Edition

May 2008

## Pie in the Sky

The big news in America these days, and especially in New York City, is the price spiral on a slice of pizza. Last year a slab of pizza in the Big Apple cost around two dollars. But this year, thanks to an inflationary rise in the cost of flour and cheese, a slice of pizza is about three dollars. While Americans are outraged at the unfair price of one of their favorite snack foods, children in Haiti are still eating mud pies while many in the rest of the Third World are sucking on stones, as usual.

## Losing Sight of The Olympic Spirit

Leave it to Earthlings to confuse athletics with politics and religion. True, China definitely needs to clean up its act if it wants to be viewed by the rest of the world as a humane nation that does not mistreat its citizens for having diverse religious, political and philosophical beliefs. But the Olympic Games ought to be an inviolable trust of the human spirit and a global celebration of athletic ability and sportsmanship and nothing less.

## A Darker Matter

Before scientists at the University of Rome start polishing their acceptance speeches for the Nobel Prize Committee they'd better come clean about their so-called findings that supposedly prove the existence of dark matter, the invisible material that binds the universe together. By burying their sodium iodide crystal detectors a mile underground they may think they have eliminated interference from known forces. But, scientists on Pluto strongly suspect that it is not dark matter that strikes the crystals and causes them to emit light. We think the crystal targets are being struck by neutrinos, which have no problem traveling clear through a planet and out the other side. But then we don't covet the Nobel Prize as the single underlying force behind all professional endeavors.

### Plutonian

### Tip-of-the-Day

Never mix politics, sex and religion together unless you're running for office.

## No Formula for Plain Greed

It has recently been reported that the reason for the unprecedented rising cost of oil and gasoline in the United States is hard for experts to put a finger on. Apparently, their cherished laws of supply and demand no longer support the formulas they have been using to account for the staggering cost of petroleum-based fuel products. While those of us on Pluto attribute Earth's petroleum woes to the ancient principles of greed and avarice, Americans are still scratching their heads and looking the other way as crooks bring the economies of the superpower nations on Earth to a grinding halt.

## In the Next Issue of The Pluto Observer

- ☞ Keeping Up Appearances: NASA's new Five-Year Plan
- ☞ Is that a Martian in your rearview?
- ☞ Pluto's Invisible Rings