

The Pluto Observer

Watchdog to the Solar System

Earth Edition

May 2009

Tip-of-the-Hat

The Pluto Observer tips its hat to U.S. Senator Arlen Specter for having the courage to switch parties after 29 years as a Republican in the U.S. Senate. We also tip our hat to Senator Specter for doing what few people have the decency to do when they get elected to Congress and that is daring to represent the people of their state rather than the political party they're affiliated with.

A Republican Senator who becomes a Democrat isn't necessarily making a political move – as Specter's foes are quick to point out – if his Senate voting record just happens to coincide with the beliefs of the Democratic Party. Especially if that senator is consistently doing what's best for the people of the state he represents. If more elected officials concerned themselves with doing the right thing instead of worrying about re-election, America the Beautiful would be an even better place to live than it is.

Plutonian Tip-of-the-Day

"A watched pot may never boil but an unwatched pot always boils over."

May BOTM Award

The Pluto Observer doesn't hand out a *Backhand-of-the-Month Award* each and every month. That would be too easy and too predictable. Besides, some months we have two or three recipients, so that kind of makes up for any oversight we may incur. This month's *Plutonian Backhand-of-the-Month Award*, a dishonor that exposes groups of Earthlings for their errant behavior, rather than delinquent individuals, gets bestowed on two recipients from Earth.

The first recipient for the May BOTM is the new federal administration in the United States for even thinking about another gun ban. Banning assault weapons will only put assault weapons in the hands of criminals and not law-abiding citizens. Didn't Prohibition teach you anything?

The second recipient is that rabble of rabid American gun owners who just have to have machine guns, which are intended for use by people who couldn't hit the broad side of a barn and/or who want to kill a lot of people in a jiffy.

Ground Zero

In light of past cases of salmonella in the United States that originated in Mexico, and the recent outbreak of "swine flu" that can also be linked to Mexico, it seems to us Plutonians that America's biggest health problem is not obesity or cancer or heart disease. It's *Mexico*.

Fixing the Blame in Latin America

During President Barack Obama's trip last month to attend the Summit of the Americas in Port of Spain, Trinidad, Venezuela's President Chavez presented the U.S. leader with a book about American and European political and economic interference in the region.

We at the *Observer* were waiting for President Obama to hand President Chavez a copy of the White House home-heating fuel bill for his own night-table reading, but that never happened. Too bad.

Pluto is still a planet.