

The Pluto Observer

Watchdog to the Solar System

Earth Edition

November 2007

Reality Prize

As we've stated before, we Plutonians rarely doff our space helmets to anyone but, once again, we salute our headgear to a group of Earthlings. A big Plutonian "Tip-of-the-Hat" then to the Nobel Prize Committee for awarding this year's Nobel Peace Prize to former U.S. Vice President Al Gore and a panel of American scientists for collectively warning the world about the imminent danger of global warming. Too bad nobody listened to them until they made international headlines by winning a prize that makes instant idols out of anyone on celebrity-worshipping Earth.

Official Snub to a Shameless Leader

After U.S. President George Bush vetoed a bipartisan bill in that country that would have expanded health care coverage for low-income children, the ruling body on Pluto officially declared that at no time will George Bush be welcome on the ninth planet from the sun. And that decision was reached by a unanimous vote way out here.

November BOTM Award

By the same token, our decision where to bestow this month's *Plutonian Backhand-of-the-Month Award* was also influenced by the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. But there's a little twist to this. We at the *Observer* made "tsking" sounds when we unanimously agreed that the November BOTM will get bestowed on all the political watchdogs in the United States who turned Al Gore's Nobel Peace Prize into mere fodder for another White House steeplechase. My, oh, my. That's equivalent to offering a paper route to the kid who just won the National Spelling Bee. Doesn't anyone on Earth besides the Nobel Prize Committee get the global warming message yet?

Plutonians "Comet-ose"

Meteoric remnants from the tail of Halley's Comet that recently showered Earth had us at the *Observer* watching closely. We thought the Minor Planet Center would announce the fiery deaths of new planets they had just named.

Buck Rogers is "alive and well" in the 21st Century. While NASA is currently saying *no* to planning a return trip to the moon by 2020, China definitely *is* planning a "robotic mission" to the lunar surface in 2017. Either way, yes or no, it will still be another "big blast".

Let There Be Light Amid All That "Dark" Talk

We've kept quiet about it since 1947 but now it's time to let the cat out of the bag where *Dark Matter* and *Dark Energy* are concerned, the cosmic puzzles that have Earth astrophysicists scratching their weary heads. Dark Matter, which is believed by them to make up about 22% of the cosmos and Dark Energy which they think constitutes about 74% – leaving only 4% for ordinary matter like atoms and planets and people – are just two sides of a cosmic coin called "gravity", the real glue that holds everything together. Dark Energy flows out of "black holes" while Dark Matter flows into them. The rest is just nuts and bolts.