

# The Pluto Observer

Watchdog to the Solar System

Earth Edition

November 2008

## American Oil Speculators Finally Lose First Game

From our big orbiting telescope out near the Van Allen Belts we Plutonians have noticed that gasoline prices in the United States have dropped significantly this fall. Well, we aren't surprised. When Wall Street speculators are caught red-handed while artificially manipulating the price of crude oil to make gigantic windfall profits, the proverbial usually hits the fan. And when it hits the fan, that's usually the end of it. We Plutonians never really expected anyone on Wall Street to have to actually pay the price for their dastardly deeds. We were wrong. If Americans could only now learn a lesson from the orchestrated \$4-plus per gallon price of their favorite fuel, it might never happen again. But we doubt that. Environmental responsibility in the good old USA seems to be just a rainy day thing.

## And Here He Goes Again

We at the Observer think it's high time for Pope Benedict XVI to stop antagonizing people of other faiths. If you don't like the inscription in Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum which alleges that Pope Pius XII did not protest the Nazi genocide of Jews during World War II, then stay home. But it also wouldn't hurt Israel to leave sleeping dogs lie. For once.

## Using Patriotism for a Cheesy Hard Sell

On Pluto we don't have organized sports because we've seen the negative affects they often produce. A case in point is the unconscionable use of Navy fighter jets and a Marine Corps honor guard by Penn State University to sell their homecoming football match-up with Michigan as something patriotic. It's more like plain ol' "unsportsmanlike conduct" to us.

## November Backhand-of-the-Month Award

We have no choice but to award the *Plutonian Backhand-of-the-Month Award* to The United States State Department and the Bush White House for removing North Korea from its blacklist of nations harboring terrorists. When we first mentioned it in the *Observer* back in March of this year, we hoped it would never actually happen. And now it's a sad reality. Just because a nuclear nation – and a sworn enemy of the United States – promises to dismantle *some* of its nuclear capability and to allow *some* inspections of its nuclear facilities, is no reason to pretend that it no longer has you in its nuclear gun sights. And here we Plutonians thought the Americans were smarter than that.

The fact that the Democratic-led U.S. Congress has agreed to pass a \$700 billion dollar plan to bail out America's depression-bound economy has us puzzled out here on the ninth planet. Originally, we viewed this action as nothing more than a Republican president making American taxpayers pay the price for his inability to guide the country's economy for eight years. Or was it simple neglect or maybe downright unwillingness? We'll never know. And then we figured that maybe George Bush is just trying to hand over a clean economic slate to the next president. But if the next president is John McCain that's just more of the *same ol' same ol'*. One good ole Republican boy looking out for another. And if Barack Obama is the next commander in chief we can't help but believe that this \$700 billion present from Santa Claus will either have a warranty that will expire by January 2009 or have no guarantee at all. Or maybe it will just bite back for four years and bring the GOP back to the federal trough in 2012. Only time will tell.

## In the Next Issue of The Pluto Observer

- ☞ Why Pluto still is and always will be a planet
- ☞ The 2009 worldwide elections on Jupiter and how they will affect the U.S. economy on Earth