

The Pluto Observer

Watchdog to the Solar System

Earth Edition

October 2007

October BOTM

The Pluto Observer sets a precedent this month by not bestowing the *Plutonian Backhand-of-the-Month Award* on a group of people but on an “idea” instead. It has always been the policy of the *Observer* not to award the Backhand to individuals and especially not to those holding political office. That would put our star reporter, Jonco Bugos, in the precarious position of looking like he had made a terroristic threat. And nothing could be further from the truth, since the BOTM Award is merely a figurative act of disdain for Earthling behavior.

Therefore, the *October BOTM Award* will be given to the so-called health care plan being touted by U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton as some kind of *actual* health care plan. Or anything very different from the so-called health care plan offered by President Bush that we at the *Observer* call “BushCare”.

Either plan ignores the fact that many Americans without any income will be doctoring themselves or simply *dying* when they become seriously ill, instead of purchasing government plans with the help of tax relief on reported income they simply don't have in the first place.

Milestone for Earth's Keepers of the Ozone

The *Observer* would like to wish a Happy 20th Birthday to the Montreal Protocol and its authors. This rare and visionary group brought together scientific think tanks and policymakers from around the globe in September 1987 in order to set a timetable for phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals on that otherwise backward and greedy planet.

For now, we'll postpone any hat-tipping to the Dupont Co. for being one of the leaders in calling for a change in the way Earthlings cool their refrigerators, homes and automobiles and for the way they propel their hair spray and graffiti paint. And that's because the Dupont Co. was more responsible for getting planet Earth into its big ozone mess in the first place than anybody else.

When volunteering is a last resort before public humiliation and class-action civil law suits for damages to the public health, Dupont's heralded participation looks and feels more like sun screen than sunshine to us.

Only On Earth

Plutonians have a hard time being sympathetic toward the 21st Century plights and perils of planet Earth when such distressing disparities exit there. On a technologically advanced world such as Earth, it is incongruent that a country like Germany offers monetary incentives to new parents who choose to stay home while China has no problem, remorsefulness or regret when it aborts nearly full-term fetuses in order to enforce its negative population growth policy.

The former Nazi nation's Elterngeld program, or parent money, is the German government's response to an unnatural declining birth rate in that country.

On Pluto, where birth and death are both uncontrolled, we simply scratch our heads and wonder at the buying and licensing of the natural reproduction process.

In the next issue of The Pluto Observer

☞ Osama bin Laden spotted on Mars: An Eyewitness Report
☞ NASA's new *Buck Rogers Rocket* replaces the Saturn V