OMNI WARMING/WEATHER NEWSLETTER #2, November 15, 2013. Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace, Justice, and Ecology (defending Mother Earth, the atmosphere, threatened species, forests, rivers and oceans, the eroding land).

Write or Call the White House

President Obama has declared his commitment to creating the most open and accessible administration in American history. That begins with taking comments and questions from you, the public, through our website.

Call the President

PHONE NUMBERS
Comments: 202-456-1111
Switchboard: 202-456-1414

TTY/TTD
Comments: 202-456-6213
Visitor's Office: 202-456-2121

Write a letter to the President

Here are a few simple things you can do to make sure your message gets to the White House as quickly as possible.

1. If possible, email us! This is the fastest way to get your message to President Obama.

2. If you write a letter, please consider typing it on an 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper. If you hand-write your letter, please consider using pen and writing as neatly as possible.

3. Please include your return address on your letter as well as your envelope. If you have an email address, please consider including that as well.

4. And finally, be sure to include the full address of the White House to make sure your message gets to us as quickly and directly as possible:

   The White House
   1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
   Washington, DC 20500

Newsletters
See: Anthropogenic, Climate, Scientific Consensus, Corporate Disinformation, Droughts, Ice Melting, Fires, Floods, Public Ignorance, Media (Corporate Mainstream), Official Irresponsibility, Security, Warming, County Judge (Emergency Management, Quorum Court), Weather, The Weather Channel, etc.

Contents #1
2011 WRITINGS ON WEATHER EXTREMES
Weather News by Cities
Leahy: Climate Produces the Weather
2010 CO2 Surpassed Worst Case Scenario
UN’s IPCC: Warming and Extremes Will Increase Globally in 21st Century
Yale Project: Public Better Informed?
Rolling Stone: Corporate Disinformation Campaign
ACE Research (from Malcolm C)
Art Hobson: Warming and Weather Extremes, Connecting the Dots
Bill McKibben: Corporations versus Reality of Warming and Extremes
deMause: Failure of Mainstream (Corporate) Media to Report the Truth

2012 WRITINGS ON WEATHER EXTREMES
Lubchenco and Karl: Extreme Weather Events Increasing Suggesting the Future
McKibben, Misc. April-May
Hansen: Past Six Summers Hottest
EDF: Heat, Drought, Floods, Forest Fires
Common Dreams: Warming Arctic Forecasts Ruin
Worldwatch: Time Running Out

Contents #2 Nov. 15, 2013
Art Hobson, Global Warming
Latest IPCC Report: Climate Disaster
Global Warming: Look At Lessons From The Past

ART HOBSON
ahobson@uark.edu

In 2005, following the release of Al Gore’s climate change documentary “An Inconvenient Truth,” the single most-common criticism of the film focused on the animation showing ocean water flowing into the World Trade Center memorial site. Global warming skeptics called these scenes unbelievable, irresponsible, absurd. Yet last Oct. 29, the surging seas of superstorm Sandy sent millions of gallons of ocean water into the basement levels of the trade center site, damaging equipment and electrical systems. The flooding, years ahead of the schedule predicted in typical global warming scenarios, was caused when seas rose 13 feet above normal and rushed down city streets.

Human-caused climate change contributed significantly to Sandy’s devastation of the eastern coastline. Because global temperatures have increased by 1.5 Fahrenheit degrees since 1900, there’s now 4 percent more water vapor in Earth’s atmosphere. This increases the severity of extreme weather events such as Sandy. Additionally, the ocean water east of New Jersey was 9 degrees above average as Sandy approached the coast, partially because of global warming. It’s just such high ocean temperatures that provide the energy for hurricanes. Similarly, Hurricane Katrina, which devastated New Orleans in 2005, was driven by record-high ocean temperatures east of Florida and along the Gulf Coast. Global warming caused at least some of that temperature increment.

Science magazine is arguably the world’s most respected scientific journal. In recent years, each weekly issue has contained several high-quality articles about climate change. An Aug. 2 article, based on calculations done independently at 25 computer modeling centers, projects that continuation of today’s greenhouse gas emissions will create warming during this century that is comparable to the largest planetary transformations of the past 65 million years but is orders of magnitude more rapid. Temperatures in 2050 will be 3.5 degrees warmer than today, and 7 degrees warmer in 2100.

Several recent articles have looked at lessons we can learn from past conditions. One historical analogue to our current global warming is the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum
that raised global temperatures by 7 to 14 degrees 55 million years ago, and ushered in a new geological age — the Eocene. It was caused by large natural releases of carbon dioxide and methane that were comparable to the amounts that will be released by human activities by 2100 if we continue along our present path. During the Eocene, temperatures were too warm to support polar ice caps, causing sea levels to be 150 feet higher than they are today.

An article on June 21 concerns a more recent period when the configuration of the continents was similar to today’s configuration, and when carbon dioxide levels were similar to today’s. According to the article, “The geologic record makes it clear global temperatures are intimately linked to changes in atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations.” Data from the Russian Arctic region show how climate varied during the Pliocene era 3.6 to 2.2 million years ago when carbon dioxide levels were about 400 parts per million (meaning that, for every million air molecules, there were on average 400 carbon dioxide molecules) — the same as today’s levels. Polar summertime temperatures during this period were 18 degrees higher than today, making it too warm for the polar ice caps to exist, and sea levels were 70 feet higher than today. As Earth adjusts or “equilibrates” to our present high carbon dioxide concentrations, will Pliocene conditions return?

Beginning about 2 million years ago, carbon dioxide levels dropped and the planet cooled into the Pleistocene period, characterized by alternating ice ages and warmer “interglacials.” During the Pleistocene, carbon dioxide levels varied between 180 parts per million during the long cold intervals, and 280 parts per million during the warm intervals. Civilization arose 10,000 years ago as the last ice age ended and Earth entered its present interglacial period, with carbon dioxide levels at 280 parts per million. Now, just since about 1800, we have driven the level of this key climate control up to 400 parts per million, comparable to Pliocene levels. Unless we come to our senses and reduce emissions enormously, carbon dioxide will reach levels not known since the Eocene era 55 million years ago.

Humans are now the primary force causing planetary geological change. Our activities are driving Earth toward a new geological era that is likely to persist for thousands of years. Yet business continues as usual, and some U.S. senators complain that global warming is a hoax. I am astonished at our epic immorality, and I shudder for my grandchildren.

ART HOBSON IS A PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF PHYSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS.


[See p. 313, Al Gore, The Future, for a succinct statement of the scientific consensus, and his Chap. 6 is an excellent survey of what we know about climate change and what we should do. –Dick]

'Unequivocal' says IPCC: Planet Is Burning, Humans Are Causing It
by Jon Queally. Common Dreams.
"Global scientific consensus says planet is changing in ways unseen in thousands of years and if something 'substantial' not done, and soon, the results will be unthinkable."
Climate Change Report Supports Bill McKibben's 'Terrifying New Math'

RL Miller, Takepart.com, Reader Supported News, Sept. 29, 2013

RL Miller reports: "The world's top climate scientists [UN's IPCC] on Friday unveiled their much-anticipated assessment of global warming and the conclusion couldn't be more definitive."

READ MORE

World’s Top Climate Scientists Give Us Hope for a Better Future If We Act Now

by Stephanie Tunmore. Common Dreams.
"The IPCC didn't just deliver the bad news. They also looked at potential pathways for the future."

READ MORE

IPCC Climate Report: Human Impact Is 'Unequivocal'

Fiona Harvey, Guardian UK

Harvey reports: "World leaders must now respond to an 'unequivocal' message from climate scientists and act with policies to cut greenhouse gas emissions, the United Nations secretary-general urged on Friday."

READ MORE

An article in the Sept. Oct. Skeptical Inquirer, "Has Global Warming Stopped?" by Morrison, Mashey, and Boslough refute assertions that the rise of global temperatures has slowed and reached a plateau. Such a belief confuses weather and climate. The article is clear and seems highly well-informed, with helpful graphics. –Dick

ANTHROPOGENIC WARMING

Gary Kahanak

Aug 25 (1 day ago)
Here is the definitive work on the topic by James Hansen [http://www.giss.nasa.gov/research/briefs/hansen_16/](http://www.giss.nasa.gov/research/briefs/hansen_16/). This is the science brief, which summarizes the original paper. Here is the link to the abstract and to the full paper [http://pubs.giss.nasa.gov/abs/ha06510a.html](http://pubs.giss.nasa.gov/abs/ha06510a.html).


Relevant quote from the paper: "The fact that Earth gained energy at a rate 0.58 W/m² during a deep prolonged solar minimum reveals that there is a strong positive forcing overwhelming the negative forcing by below-average solar irradiance. That result is not a surprise, given knowledge of other forcings [anthropogenic—Dick], but it provides unequivocal refutation of assertions that the Sun is the dominant climate forcing."

Gary

---

**Climate Catastrophe Coming to a City Near You**

*Dennis Trainor, Jr., Video Feature, NationofChange, August 14, 2013*: A study by the Global Carbon Project says a continued increase in carbon dioxide emissions means the planet could see up to triple the maximum 2-degree target set by the United Nations in 2010 and heat of the planet up enough to usher in a temperature rise of up to 6 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. So eat local, wear a Jimmy Carter Cardigan while driving your Prius and compost all you want, but unless the humans of the world slam on the breaks and do a 180 turn radically altering the way we produce, consume and live, Armageddon like conditions will be coming to a town near you this century.

READ  |  DISCUSS  |  SHARE

---

**SILENT SUNDAYS**

*ACTION ALERTS*
Global Warming Silence on Sunday TV
No talk about climate's contribution to catastrophe


digg
You'd think a massive hurricane that wreaked havoc along the East Coast might force the high-profile Sunday morning TV shows to talk about climate change.
You'd be wrong.
It's time for us to tell the Sunday talkshows: Talk about climate change. Sign FAIR's petition today.

It is difficult for most people to keep ignoring the link between catastrophic climate change and weather catastrophes like "superstorm" Sandy. But with the devastation still being tallied--over 100 dead in the United States, dozens more in the Caribbean, tens of billions of dollars in damage--the Sunday shows on November 4 couldn't be bothered to talk about what caused this storm to be so damaging, and will make future devastating storms inevitable.

On NBC's Meet the Press, host David Gregory said at the top of the show (11/4/12):
Should more attention be paid to a changing climate's impact on the severity of these storms?

The answer to that question would appear to be no--since the episode never talked about climate change again.

On ABC's This Week (11/4/12), right-leaning pundit Matthew Dowd made a passing comment about climate change and how it would affect Mitt Romney's electioneering.

On CBS's Face the Nation, host Bob Schieffer likewise framed the storm in terms of its impact on the election (11/4/12):
And then there's the wild card: What impact will the superstorm that destroyed parts of New Jersey and plunged the lower half of Manhattan into darkness have on the races?

On Fox News Sunday (11/4/12), climate change was not an issue either; the hurricane was discussed as a political opportunity for President Barack Obama.

There's no doubt that climate change is rarely a front-burner issue for corporate media. But the weekend after a massive, once-in-a-century storm ravages the East Coast, climate change is hardly a footnote on the networks' Sunday shows?

If this was not the time to talk about climate change, when will that day come?

ACTION:
Tell the Sunday shows: It's time to have a real discussion of climate change--with experts on climate, not political pundits. Sign FAIR's petition tod

THE WEATHER CHANNEL and the Science of Meteorology
By Dick Bennett
During March 20-13, 2013 TWC heavily advertised their forthcoming programs on mass extinctions, forecasting the end times. Our planet has experienced 5 mass extinctions, and we are at the beginning of the 6th. What the ad does not reveal is that the first five had natural causes while the present mass extinction is caused by humans. The ad is the Mother of All Distractions from the present anthropogenic warming/extreme weather.

Another equally intensely advertized program was an adventure series on prospecting. Yes prospecting. Yes, while the greatest catastrophe ever faced by humans rushes upon us, TWC focused on prospecting and the End Times, the comparatively trivial and the immensely serious but irrelevant past.

What should be the supremely urgent challenge to a program staffed by meteorologists—meteorology the science dealing with the atmosphere, weather and climate—is dismissed by the comparatively insignificant and by association with the fanaticlly religious. Several years ago one Sunday I visited the “Crosses Church” in a nearby town. As you enter the building the relatively small outer foyer led into the large foyer and to the right into the Bookstore. Just inside the Bookstore I found books by Joel Rosenberg, *The Last Jihad* and *The Last Days*, and by Adrian Rogers, *Unveiling the End of Times of Our Times*. To the left you reach the impressive sanctuary designed so that the congregation experiences the minister’s sermon with three enormous crosses behind him outside the building seen through a window several stories high. For older Christians, and for all Christians of all ages in certain denominations, the Cross signifies the return of the Christ to His Heavenly Father, the promise through the Cross of eternal life for the faithful, and the eventual planetary destruction when the sheep will find their Home with God, and this Eternal Future surely resonates in the minds of all these believers who listen to TWC’s ad for the End Times program.

While the planet, humanity, and all species, are threatened with more and more human-caused, intense weather extremes, floods, droughts, fires, rising seas, mass extinctions, and refugees of all species, and the need for humans to be informed and globally, massively adapting, TWC plays to fundamentalist inevitability and the bottom line.

ABRACADABRA September 28, 2013, that broken, faux Weather Channel, composed of ignorant or cowardly meteorologists, has been transformed into a well-informed, truth-telling, authentic, reliable scientific source of information about Climate Change! Today at 5:13 a.m. CST, WC presented facts about anthropogenic warming (fossil fuels and cutting forests), seas rising, the urgent need to reverse CO2, and the equally urgent need to concentrate on adaptations to protect the world’s populations.

What happened between March and September to inspire (compel!) this change, I do not yet know. If you know tell me in time for my next newsletter on Climate Change.

UPDATE NOVEMBER 15, 2013

Yes, a new series of “The Prospectors” is showing, and with a young woman prospector dressed in a Western movie top right out of the familiar barroom.

But at least the “meteorologists” are mentioning climate change. How?

This morning a tear-jerker about the stressed-out Polar Bears, their numbers decreasing, their struggle for food intensifying. Al and Stephanie, the poor Polar Bears, isn’t it a shame.

CANT is a word that by now is surely familiar to everyone watching TWC. From the *Random House*
Webster’s College Dictionary (1991): “cant –n. 1. insincere or hypocritical statements, esp. pious platitudes.” If they are what they claim to be (and all the rest on TWC) they have known, or should have known, the climate was warming and the weather was becoming more extreme, and the animals were threatened. In 1988 James Hansen wrote about and testified before Congress the facts of warming, and one of the UN’s greatest initiatives, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), was established in the same year. No scientist certainly and no responsible official should have been ignorant since the 1990s. (But of course, in some extenuation, the fossil fuel industry was spending millions of dollars to prevent that awareness.)
‘Global Weirdness,’ Climate Central’s Book Debut

**Published: July 24th, 2012**

By Climate Central

There’s a lot of debate about climate change, but not in the scientific community. People who actually study the climate overwhelmingly agree that greenhouse gases generated by human activity are pushing Earth’s climate into a state the world hasn’t seen for many tens of thousands of years. These experts don’t know to the last detail what will happen, but they’ve learned enough to make them very concerned.

This book is an attempt to explain why — to lay out the current state of knowledge about climate change, including what we know, how we know it, and what’s left to figure out. We’ve done our best to explain the underlying science given in clear and simple language, and without the melodrama that characterizes much of the conversation about climate change — “we’re all doomed,” on the one hand, and “it’s just a hoax” on the other. We aren’t interested in preaching. We believe that the facts, presented in a straightforward way, are convincing enough.

BUY THE BOOK

Random House, Inc.
Barnes and Noble
Amazon
IndieBound.org
Powell’s
We've also taken great care to avoid bias. We acknowledge that some aspects of the problem can't yet be addressed with certainty. We also make clear what climate scientists are confident about.

To ensure technical accuracy, each chapter has been carefully reviewed by Climate Central scientists. The chapters have then been reviewed again by eminent outside scientists who have particular expertise in the relevant subject areas—and then, if necessary, revised again.

The result, we believe, is an accurate overview of the state of climate science as it exists today.

Watch the Trailer:

Don't Have Flash? Watch this video on your iPad or iPhone here

Chapter 3:

Our Ancestors Survived Climate Change. But It Wasn't Always Pretty

The human species has lived through times of drastic climate change. Since modern humans first evolved, perhaps 200,000 years ago, the planet has gone through at least one Ice Age, when temperatures were somewhere between 7.2°F and 14.4°F colder than they are today (this
is a worldwide average; some places would have been considerably warmer or cooler). That
didn’t stop our ancestors from spreading over most of the world. It didn’t stop them from
perfecting crude stone tools. It didn’t stop them from creating beautiful paintings, like the
ones on cave walls at Lascaux, France, or on rocks in Australia.

And when the climate warmed up dramatically, about ten thousand years ago, our ancestors
not only survived but started to flourish. It’s probably no coincidence that human civilization
developed during these last ten thousand years, a period in which temperatures have been not
only warm but extraordinarily steady. The climate was unusually stable during this period, at
least in some parts of the world, which may have helped spur the development of agriculture.
That in turn allowed for a dramatic expansion of our population.

Indeed, the human population has exploded over the past ten thousand years, from about five
million at the start (about the same as the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, but spread
evenly across the world) to nearly seven billion today.

Beyond that, the original five million had no permanent addresses. Just as their ancestors had
for millions of years, they lived in small bands that might stay in one place for an extended
time, but if they had to pick up and move because a glacier was inching closer or a drought
was lingering too long, they could do it. Some of these bands were undoubtedly wiped out by
changes in climate, among other reasons. However, these events wouldn’t threaten the species
as a whole.

But after our ancestors invented agriculture, most people stopped foraging through the fields
and forests for fruits and seeds and began planting them. Farming is a much more efficient
way of getting food, and an abundant food supply made it possible for populations to grow.
However, it also meant people had to stay in one place, which led to the creation and growth
of cities. These tended to arise near lakes, rivers, and oceans — sources of food, water, and
transportation — which are also likely to rise or fall as the climate changes.

That’s why climate change is such a worry today. It’s one thing for a small band of people to
pack up camp and move a couple hundred miles to a better location if the climate changes. It’s
a very different thing to try to move a city like Cairo or New York or Shanghai because the sea
level is rising. It’s very different to relocate the farms of the Midwestern United States up to
Canada — along with the highways and railroads and power lines that serve them — because
it’s become too hot and dry to grow grain. It’s very different to move tens of millions of people
out of harm’s way in low-lying coastal nations like Bangladesh. Our civilization, in short, is
very highly adapted to the present climate. Major changes of any sort would almost certainly
be extremely disruptive.

So while the human species has survived climate change in the distant past, those adjustments
were relatively simple — but even so, they probably involved levels of mortality that we are
unaccustomed to today. It should be a given that individual lives matter, not just the survival
of the species. The result of global warming is projected to push temperatures above the range
of previous interglacial periods, but even if the changes were no greater than those humans
have lived through in the past, our very large population and the existence of modern
civilization make this a whole different ball game.
What’s Really Going on With Arctic Sea Ice?
Slate writer Phil Plait debunks the recent misinformation about melting ice and explains why you should care about climate change

Scientists announced recently that Arctic sea ice has officially reached its minimum extent for the summer, shrinking to 5.1 million square kilometers. That’s significantly higher than last year’s record low of just over 3.4 million square kilometers, a fact that has led conservative news outlets and even members of Congress to suggest that worries about global warming and melting ice are overstated.

But as astronomer and Slate writer Phil Plait explains in this video, these claims are “incredibly misleading.”

“You can’t look year-to-year, that’s not the right way to do this,” says Plait. “The right way to do this is to look over a long period of time. And when you do that, you see that the minimum extent of sea ice in the Arctic is decreasing over time…the trend is definitely downward.”

According to the National Snow & Ice Data Center, which tracks the ice melt, this year’s minimum extent was the sixth lowest in the 35-year satellite record. “The pattern we’ve seen so far is an overall downward trend in summer ice extent, punctuated by ups and downs due to natural variability in weather patterns and ocean conditions,” said NSIDC director Mark Serreze in a press release. “We could be looking at summers with essentially no sea ice on the Arctic Ocean only a few decades from now.”

Or, as Plait puts it: “We’re below average. It’s getting worse over time. The cause is global warming. And the cause of that is us.”© 2013

Amy Goodman | Typhoon Haiyan Demands Climate Action at the UN Summit in Warsaw
Amy Goodman, Truthdig, RSN, Nov. 24, 2013

Goodman writes: "While the science is dry and peer-reviewed, the reality on the ground is grim and deadly. Typhoon Haiyan (which is called Yolanda in the Philippines) is the latest, epic example."
END CLIMATE/WEATHER NEWSLETTER #2

--
Dick Bennett

Newsletters
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/

Index:
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/
National/International Days
MY NEW EMAIL ADDRESS
j.dick.bennett@gmail.com
(479) 442-4600
2582 Jimmie Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72703