Mainstream (corporate) media during the past decades failed to inform the public adequately about climate change, but these failures have been examined and reported, and some notable improvements have occurred recently. (This newsletter is complemented by those on corporate scams and denial, which partly explain the delay in public comprehension and government delay. See Nakashian and others below.)

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

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**IPCC, CLIMATE CHANGE 2013: THE PHYSICAL SCIENCE BASIS**
Summary for Policymakers

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ANALYSIS: How The Media Covered the UN Climate Reports in Three Charts

Denise Robbins, Research, NationofChange, April 18, 2018: The final installment of the U.N.’s top
climate report, which calls for prompt, extensive action to avoid calamitous impacts from climate change, garnered relatively little attention from the major print, cable and broadcast media outlets compared to the first installment. However, coverage of the third report rightfully gave far less space to those who cast doubt on the science.
THREE ARTICLES ON REPORTING WARMING IN EXTRA! (DEC. 2013).

MELANIE NAKASHIAN, “CERTAIN SCIENCE, DUBIOUS REPORTING.”

Reports on Part One of the 5th UN IPCC Report, Sept. 2013, the consensus of thousands of scientists from 39 countries, or 97%, yet corporate media still report denialists: Washington Post, L.A. Times, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and particularly Fox News. This “false balance” prevents the public from understanding the perils ahead and brings media credibility into disrepute. --Dick

PETER HART, “WEATHER—WITHOUT CLIMATE.”

“A new FAIR study shows that even when covering weather events that scientists suggest are linked to climate change, the news rarely mentions the changing climate.” --Dick

JANINE JACKSON, “CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT THE FUTURE,”
EXTRA!

Traditional training of reporters to give “both sides” madly deranges reports when only one side exists. Reporting the sun will rise does not justify acknowledging the wacko denier. Because anthropocentric, atmospheric, CO2 warming receives the approval of 99% of climatologists, and all national scientific academies, to report the 1% disagreement, partly the puppetry of fossil fuel industry propaganda, is grossly irresponsible. “Sadly, corporate reporters’ fealty to notions of partisan balance means that many stories on climate policy still include the predictable protests of deniers like Sen. James ‘God’s still up there’ Inhofe (R.-Ok.). Journalists should be “reporting countless compelling stories on the actually happening effects of climate shifts”; for example, the seas rising to drown the Pacific nation of Tuvalu. (Jackson might have pointed out that the plight of Tuvalu was a fact by 2005, when Tim Flannery described it in The Weathermakers). --Dick
Time Ignores Climate Change to Paint a 'Golden Age' of Fracking

By Jim Naureckas 24 Comments

You have to wonder: Do journalists covering energy issues imagine they and their loved ones are going to be living on another planet in the not-too-distant future? That seems like the only reason you would write a piece about the world discovering ways to extract and burn vast new quantities of hydrocarbons without mentioning one word about climate change. That's what Bryan Walsh gave us in the May 21 issue of Time magazine—an article about fracking that doesn't mention the technology's powerful contribution to global warming.

The headline over this article: "The Golden Age."

Walsh does refer to fracking's ecological impact, referring to "environmental concerns over fracking—chiefly the possibility of groundwater pollution." The groundwater contamination associated with fracking is certainly bad, but most environmentalists will tell you that climate change is the biggest challenge facing humanity—and that finding new ways to burn carbon (and release methane as well) is utterly unhelpful.

Walsh concludes his article: "Fracking is here to stay, scrambling a global energy picture that had long seemed settled." Actually, the only thing that was settled was that people would have to totally reinvent their energy systems if they wanted to avoid catastrophe. But for Time magazine, ignoring that catastrophe seems to be the next best thing.

FILED UNDER: CLIMATE CHANGE, TIME TAGGED WITH: FRACKING

Jim Naureckas, Global Disaster? Not on the Agenda

Extra! (November 2012). Failure of two main Parties and mainstream media to present Climate Change.

SILENT SUNDAYS

ACTION ALERTS
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 today.
"Fox News e-mail shows network's slant on climate change  12-19-10

"Fox News Channel's top Washington editor ordered the network's reporters to couple any mention of global climate change with skepticism about the data underlying such a scientific conclusion, according to an e-mail released by a liberal media-watchdog group Wednesday.

Media Matters for America said the internal e-mail from Bill Sammon, Fox News's Washington bureau chief, called into question the network's impartiality in reporting on climate change.

In an e-mail sent last December to Fox News's journalists in the wake of a global conference on climate change, Sammon asked Fox journalists to "refrain from asserting that the planet has warmed (or cooled) in any given period without IMMEDIATELY pointing out that such theories are based upon data that critics have called into question. It is not our place as journalists to assert such notions as facts, especially as this debate intensifies."

Rest of Washington Post story here  https://mail.google.com/mail/?hl=en&shva=1#inbox/12cfc361892efdfb

FILM ON CC


Moyers interviewed Anthony Leiserowitz, Yale Projects on Climate Change Communication

Full of dramatic facts.
11 record disasters in 2011 each costing over $1 billion.
Price-Waterhouse Accounting firm declared: if world double its expenditures? the planet's temp would rise 6 degrees.
6 levels of human awareness.
Why public passive?  Powerful corporate disinformation campaign.
Science on CC and action based on facts will reduce jobs?  No, and public knows it, but corp. disinfo. undermines mobilization.
Framing the CC debate:
What route leads to freedom for US citizens?
What future do you envision for your grandchildren?
Greening the Media
Richard Maxwell and Toby Miller, Oxford UP, 2012

Description
You will never look at your cell phone, TV, or computer the same way after reading this book. Greening the Media not only reveals the dirty secrets that hide inside our favorite electronic devices; it also takes apart the myths that have pushed these gadgets to the center of our lives. Marshaling an astounding array of economic, environmental, and historical facts, Maxwell and Miller debunk the idea that information and communication technologies (ICT) are clean and ecologically benign. The authors show how the physical reality of making, consuming, and discarding them is rife with toxic ingredients, poisonous working conditions, and hazardous waste. But all is not lost. As the title suggests, Maxwell and Miller dwell critically on these environmental problems in order to think creatively about ways to solve them. They enlist a range of potential allies in this effort to foster greener media--from green consumers to green citizens, with stops along the way to hear from exploited workers, celebrities, and assorted bureaucrats. Ultimately, Greening the Media rethinks the status of print and screen technologies, opening new lines of historical and social analysis of ICT, consumer electronics, and media production.

Features
- Identifies the media’s complicity in environmental pollution, illustrating how information technology contributes to the global ecological crisis
- Lays out a plan for change and sustainability in various media industries
- Examines hot-button issues such as global-warming, cellphone safety, and technological waste

Reviews
"Someone once said that people should never go into the kitchen of a restaurant where they enjoy eating. Toby Miller and Richard Maxwell take us into the electronic media’s kitchen, and the food will never taste the same again. In a brilliant, even stunning, expose of the environmental practices and impact of media corporations, Greening the Media is one of the most important media books in years. Extremely readable and entertaining, this highly
original and well-researched book should be mandatory reading for everyone with a cell phone or a flat-screen television." --Robert W. McChesney, coauthor of The Death and Life of American Journalism

About the Author(s)
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Toby Miller is Distinguished Professor of Media & Cultural Studies at the University of California, Riverside.

COMMENTS ON THE WEATHER CHANNEL BY DICK BENNETT

THE WEATHER CHANNEL and Pretend 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 of climate change 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 fanatically 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.

Because 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—, our professionals and officials should be telling the truth and helping people be informed and globally, massively adapting, but just one year ago TWC played to fundamentalist inevitability and the bottom line.
ABRACADABRA September 28, 2013, that broken, faux The Weather Channel, for years composed of ignorant or cowardly ostensible 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, TWC 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. Do you?

UPDATE NOVEMBER 15, 2013: OH OH, IT’S STILL PLAYTIME ON TWC

Yes, a new series of “The Prospectors” is showing, and with a young woman prospector dressed in a Western movie outfit 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 among the People. But TWC is supposed to be meteorologists!)

From Wikipedia:

“2007 global warming controversy

The web site Capital Weather published an interview with WJLA meteorologist Brian van de Graaff. In this interview, van de Graaff stated:

The subject of global warming definitely makes headlines in the media and is a topic of much debate. I try to read up on the subject to have a better understanding, but it is complex. Often, it is so politicized and those on both sides don't always appear to have their facts straight. History has taught us that weather patterns are cyclical and although we have noticed a warming pattern in recent time, I don't know what generalizations can be made from this with the lack of long-term scientific data. That's all I will say about this.”

Van de Graaff was so ignorant I wonder what the result of that statement was. Did TWC give him a raise in 2007? Possibly. I doubt they fired him, for that was typical. Where is he now? —Dick

Return to 2014: I have blamed the false meteorologists. But aren't we all culpable? How many of us well-informed people pushed TWC employees to tell the truth. I didn't. Why did we allow them to get away with ignorance and lying? Why do informed people defer
to them who are supposed to be the informed? We did the same thing with local responsible officials—our so-called “emergency managers” and Quorum Court. But at last even the fake meteorologists on the Weather Channel now refer to warming. At 4:50 this morning the possibility of severe droughts and water shortage were acknowledged as part of this "apprisehensive and congested world." And a film was referred to with Scott Momaday and Meryl Streep, "Sky Island," dir. by John Grabowski, in which warming and its consequences were confronted, quoting Momaday, "Let us learn to live rightly in this world." Had the ecology movement pushed TWC “meteorologists” the past decade to perform their duty to tell the truth, maybe they would have started doing so earlier. But at least now they go along with consumer opinion even though they didn’t lead it.

END CLIMATE CHANGE AND MEDIA NEWSLETTER #1

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Dick Bennett

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