

PLANETARY OBSERVATIONS...

From MUDD & The Heath Monitor Files

OOPS

SCIENTISTS at the University of East Anglia (UEA) have admitted throwing away much of the raw temperature data on which their predictions of global warming are based. It means that other academics are not able to check basic calculations said to show a long-term rise in temperature over the past 150 years.

The UEA's Climatic Research Unit (CRU) was forced to reveal the loss following requests for the data under Freedom of Information legislation.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article6936328.ece>

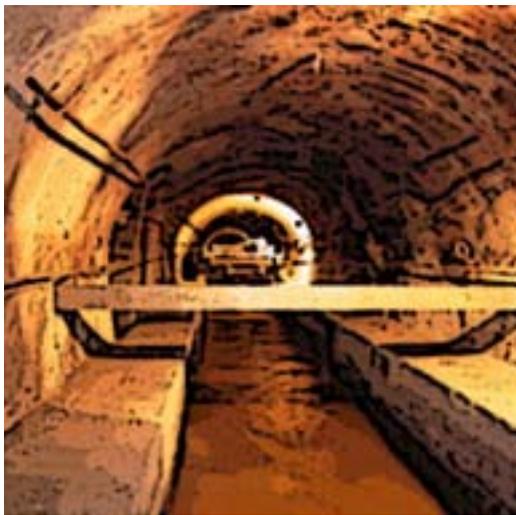
If this climate shit turns out to be tweaked data, nobody's ever gonna believe one more word out of any eco-freaks mouth. Science will be the last thing a enviro group will wanna cite in their fund raising letters. Green will be a nasty word. It'll be back to PG Time (pre-Gore).

Just goes to show - you never know what's gonna happen next!

The Tide is High...

London, England (CNN) -- A possible rise in sea levels by 0.5 meters by 2050 could put at risk more than \$28 trillion worth of assets in the world's largest coastal cities, according to a report compiled for the insurance industry. What's a poor urban cowboy to do? There's always the old ark routine. posted by Mudd

link - <http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/science/11/23/climate.report.wwf.allianz/index.html>



Sewer Shmewer

As reported in the erudite New York Times - "In the last three years alone, more than 9,400 of the nation's 25,000 sewage systems -- including those in major cities -- have reported violating the law by dumping untreated or partly treated human waste, chemicals and other hazardous materials into rivers and lakes and elsewhere, according to data from state environmental agencies and the Environmental Protection Agency. But fewer than one in five sewage systems that broke the law were ever fined or otherwise sanctioned by state or federal regulators, the Times analysis

shows." Further - "The E.P.A., in a statement, said that officials agreed that overflows posed a 'significant environmental and human health problem, and significantly reducing or eliminating such overflows has been a priority for E.P.A. enforcement since the mid-1990s.'" That's only 15 years! There's hope left. pass the lunger. posted by Mudd

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/23/us/23sewer.html?pagewanted=2&_r=1&hp&adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1258988695-mDMeizUp4PKKJpuAALQRPg

Debts R us

MSNBC reports that "With the national debt now topping \$12 trillion, the White House estimates that the government's tab for servicing the debt will exceed \$700 billion a year in 2019, up from \$202 billion this year, even if annual budget deficits shrink drastically..... In concrete terms, an additional \$500 billion a year in interest expense would total more than the combined federal budgets this year for education, energy, homeland security and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan." Uncle Sam is underwater. posted by Mudd

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34103722/ns/politics-the_new_york_times/

In case you've been a keen follower of the nefarious Dixieland Water Wars, there's breaking news. As reported by the Associated Press - "The new attorney handling Georgia's appeal in the long-running legal battle with Alabama and Florida over water rights will be paid \$855 an hour." And that's after a 10% discount! Where's my law license? posted by Mudd

http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2009/11/georgia_spare_no_water_wars_e.html

Coal Bucks

Thanks to the Christian Science Monitor, we learn that "Coal-fired plants produce about half the nation's electricity. The report found that pollutants like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter cost the US \$62 billion. That works out to about



3.2 cents' worth of "nonclimate" damages for every kilowatt-hour (kWh) generated." That's "non-climate" damages. Stuff like the toxic effects of air pollution on human lung tissue (especially kids and old folks). It's nice to put a number on toxic spew; but do we need to know how many cents' worth of damage foul air is worth? Isn't it insulting enough to know that America's air is too toxic for human consumption? When will America finally address fumes? Don't hold your breath. posted by Mudd

<http://features.csmonitor.com/environment/2009/11/19/the-hidden-costs-of-fossil-fuels-and-biofuels-too/>

from Spiegel Online -

The planet's temperature curve rose sharply for almost 30 years, as global temperatures increased by an average of 0.7 degrees Celsius (1.25 degrees Fahrenheit) from the 1970s to the late 1990s. "At present, however, the warming is taking a break," confirms meteorologist Mojib Latif of the Leibniz Institute of Marine Sciences in the northern German city of Kiel. Latif, one of Germany's best-known climatologists, says that the temperature curve has reached a plateau. "There can be no argument about that," he says. "We have to face that fact."

Even though the temperature standstill probably has no effect on the long-term warming trend, it does raise doubts about the predictive value of climate models, and it is also a political issue. For months, climate change skeptics have been gloating over the findings on their Internet forums. This has prompted many a climatologist to treat the temperature data in public with a sense of shame, thereby damaging their own credibility.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,662092,00.html>

Latex memo no. 12



Hold the phone! In a major exhibition of sanity, a UN panel has poked a proverbial hole in the Great Taboo - "The battle against global warming could be helped if the world slowed population growth by making free condoms and family planning advice more widely available, the U.N. Population Fund said Wednesday." (CNBC) The world's population is predicted to rise to 9.2 billion in 2050, with most of the growth in less developed regions. posted by Mudd

<http://www.cnn.com/id/34011642>

Drink UP!

Good news for men with a thing for the bottle - "Drinking alcohol every day cuts the risk of heart disease in men by more than a third, a major study suggests." As reported in the BBC, "For those drinking little - less than a shot of vodka a day for instance - the risk was reduced by 35%. And for those who drank anything from three shots to more than 11 shots each day, the risk worked out an average of 50% less." As a side note - various experts remain cautious about the study's findings, as being drunk tends to lead to other assorted catastrophes. bottoms up! posted by Mudd

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/8367141.stm>

Copenhagen or bust!

SHANGHAI (AP) -- China has overtaken the U.S. as the world's biggest market for automobiles, the first time any other country has bought more vehicles than the nation that produced Henry Ford, the Cadillac and the minivan.



<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Chinese-car-market-overtakes-apf-3774294944.html?x=0&sec=topStories&pos=7&asset=&ccode=>

More news from the folks who brought us the buzzword --- Sustainable economy...

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The economic recovery is likely to draw strength from exports such as farm products, autos, aircraft and industrial machinery -- all of which helped lower the nation's trade deficit in October.

link - <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Exports-up-for-6th-straight-apf-2526943026.html?x=0&sec=topStories&pos=9&asset=&ccode=>

Mojave Desert Deluxe

As reported by the New York Times – “Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced legislation in Congress on Monday to protect a million acres of the Mojave Desert in California by scuttling some 13 big solar plants and wind farms planned for the region.”

In a strange quirk of irony, eco-freaks are struggling to swallow this new wrinkle in their plans to support the Obama Administration’s goal of seeding the Public lands with so-called “sustainable” energy. It isn’t every day that conservationists whine over preservation of wildlands.

“This is arguably the best solar land in the world, and Senator Feinstein shouldn’t be allowed to take this land off the table without a proper and scientific environmental review,” said Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the environmentalist and a partner with a venture capital firm that invested in a solar developer called BrightSource Energy.

Did they say “partner in a venture capital firm” that pushes solar mojo?

The American Desert West is anything but empty of biodiversity and inherent value. The developers and their venture capitalists can stick their solar panels on rooftops where they belong. Except for one small catch, these solar arrays are industrial models that need lots of land to get the juice flowing. Think 30,000 acres for starters. You can’t just plop these hunkers on a Wal-Mart roof and say “Let the sun shine in!”

Every now an then a politician gets something right. Even if the Greenies stand to miss a profit in the exchange.



NED MUDD

JUST A FEW WORDS ABOUT TIGER

Jim Stiles

When the Tiger Woods story broke, it was front page news, even here in Australia, though I doubt it received the saturation coverage that Americans endured.

I immediately whipped out a couple cartoons, and imagined Tiger Jokes dispersed throughout this issue.

And then I thought...you know, this isn’t funny. It’s none of my business. The World is falling apart and we’re having fun with a family tragedy? Tiger Woods has his own demons to deal with. His children will suffer the most.

Enough said.





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