

# The Week That Was: 2010-09-11 (September 11, 2010)

## Brought to You by SEPP ([www.SEPP.org](http://www.SEPP.org))

### The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Fred Singer will be lecturing overseas until Sept 21, including India, Israel, and Sicily. He asks that you send him only high-priority e-mail. Please direct other correspondence to Ken Haapala. Lectures open to the public are: Sept 13 or 14 Berlin; Sept 16 or 17 Paris. Also at Princeton U on Sept 23, Annandale, VA on Sept 25, and Purdue U on Sept 27. To attend, contact [ken@haapala.com](mailto:ken@haapala.com) for details.

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If you are in the Washington DC Area, do not forget to attend the SEPP-SEEE Climate-Energy Forum at 10:30 am on Sept 25 in the Ernst Community Center at the Annandale Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College. This is located about one mile outside the Beltway off Little River Turnpike. No reservations are required. This is no fee but donations are greatly appreciated. The speakers will include Fred Singer on recent science, Marc Morano on the political situation, and Ken Haapala on energy and economics. For information on the Ernst Center see: (<http://tinyurl.com/cs5j76>)

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At 8 pm on September 27 Fred Singer and Ken Haapala will be panelists in a Global Warming Forum held at the Loeb Playhouse of Purdue University sponsored by the College of Engineering, College of Science, and the Global Policy Research Institute. The two other panelists will be Susan Avery, President and Director of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, and Robert Socolow, Co-Director, the Carbon Mitigation Initiative. The Forum is free and open to the public.

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PLEASE NOTE that the complete TWTW, including the articles, can be downloaded in an easily printable form at the web site: <http://www.haapala.com/sepp/the-week-that-was.cfm>.

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#### Quote of the Week

*Powerful patronage makes people over-confident. They come to believe that they are untouchable. Like the royal favourites of mediaeval times, they soar in the air on a zephyr of preferment, only to get too close to the sun and plunge to earth.* John Brignell

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#### Numbers of the Week: \$0.10, 0

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#### THIS WEEK:

***By Ken Haapala, Executive Vice President Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)***

This week marks the return of the science editorials. Before he departed for his extended tour, Fred Singer carefully prepared an extended series of science editorials the access to which was temporarily disabled by a computer virus. This week's editorial is a review of A.W. Montford's *The Hockey Stick Illusion* which has been roundly denounced by alarmists. Georgia Tech Professor Judith Curry, who is not a "skeptic", recommended the book as a description of what climate scientists should avoid in order to keep the trust of the public. For that sound advice, she was bitterly attacked in blogs by alarmists. (Please see below "The Curry Agonistes" under Seeking A Middle Ground.)

Almost fittingly, perhaps in response, this week *Nature* published an editorial decrying the increase in skepticism of science among the public. *Nature* did not distinguish between advocacy of human caused global warming and science. The editorial blamed "deniers" and "right wing" US politicians. *Nature* failed to note it published the now debunked "Hockey Stick" that went against the first two publications of the IPCC, a large body of scientific research, and human history and refused to publish careful research contradicting this computer model driven deceit.

The editorial illustrates a serious concern that it fails to make. The more intensely scientific institutions embrace the findings of the IPCC and its speculative computer projections, the greater the public backlash

will be against all science. Thus it is important to differentiate between the politicized science of the IPCC and science in general, which the editorial does not. Please see “Science scorned”, #2 of the Articles below.

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For some time TWTW has mentioned the momentous change in the affordable energy prospects for the US, and for many other countries, since the development of practical hydraulic fracturing of shale containing natural gas, combined with horizontal drilling. The extent of this change has scarcely been noticed in the press and by official Washington. This week two items appeared of note. A company that owns a facility in Louisiana designed to **import** Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) received preliminary approval to use the facility to **export** LNG. The US has a number of LNG facilities that were built, some about 30 years ago, to be import LNG as the US was projected to run out of natural gas.

The second item is that the EPA is requesting drilling companies provide it with the chemicals used during drilling and hydraulic fracturing. Chemical fracturing of wells has been commonplace for many years and it is appropriate that the chemicals for hydraulic fracturing be known so that waste water can be properly treated. However, given the recent history of the EPA in regulating energy producers, other than wind and solar, there is reason to be concerned that this request may be the beginning of an effort to hobble the very bright spot in the US energy picture and the US economy. The EPA’s “scientific” finding that carbon dioxide emissions endanger human health and welfare is but one example of the extent to which EPA is abuse its power.

Also, solar and wind have powerful political supporters in Washington and in many state government. The new wave of natural gas promises to overwhelm any practical prospects for wind and solar making the mandates of producing high percentages of electricity from solar and wind expensive and wasteful. Will these politicians try to hobble the promise of abundant, affordable natural gas? (Please see # 3 and 4 under Articles)

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The Numbers of the Week: is \$0.10, 0. According to the Chicago Climate Exchange, on September 10, 2010 the trading price of a metric ton of carbon dioxide in the US was \$0.10 and there were 0 tons traded that day. The trading contracts are legally enforceable but trading has virtually stopped since July 2010. The trading price peaked on June 2, 2008 with prices of \$7.40 per metric ton. The volume at that time frequently exceeded 75,000 tons. There is still opportunity to get on ground floor of Al Gore’s scheme of trading in indulgences! [H/t Carol Kirkstadt]

<http://www.chicagoclimatex.com/market/data/summary.jsf>

Under the section “Keep on Trading” JoAnne Nova has an excellent critique Deutsche Bank’s latest publication justifying investing in carbon credits [indulgences].

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**SEPP SCIENCE EDITORIAL #25-2010 (Sep 11, 2010)**  
*By S. Fred Singer, President, Science and Environmental Policy Project*

**BOOK REVIEW “The Hockey Stick Illusion: Climategate and the Corruption of Science. “**  
**By A.W. Montford. Stacey International. London. 2010. 482pp.**

Andrew Montford, a Scot, blogs under the name of Bishop Hill. I have not met him personally, but in correspondence with him I generally address him as Your Grace a bit of humor.

This is probably the best book about the Hockey Stick. And while some of the detail may be overwhelming to the innocent reader, it does present all of the relevant facts as far as I can tell. You will not only become an expert on tree rings, and get to know trees by their “first name,” so to speak, but you will also get to learn about difficult statistical concepts, such as “principal component analysis.” PCA is

an important statistical technique and one which the originator of the Hockey Stick, Professor Michael Mann, apparently failed to fully grasp.

There is little one can add to Montford's comprehensive account, so I will just supply some personal details. My own involvement in the hockey-stick affair is of no real consequence -- and certainly not as important as that of the Canadians, Steven McIntyre and Ross McKittrick. They are the ones who "broke the Hockey Stick," and Professor Edward Wegman of George Mason University, an expert statistician, provided the finishing touches.

I first learned of the Hockey Stick by reading the original paper by Mann, Bradley, and Hughes in *Nature* in 1998 and was surprised that it showed an extended decline of global (or NH) temperatures since the year 1000AD, until a sudden and major warming in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (the "blade" of the Hockey Stick). But providing some reassurance, there seemed to be good overlap between 1900 and 1980 with the instrumental record of Phil Jones, which showed a continuing rise in temperature from 1980 to the end of the century.

I had no basis to question the MBH work, but I noticed that the proxy record suddenly stopped in 1980 and did not extend beyond.

At that time, I was heavily influenced by the satellite data of Christy and Spencer that showed no atmospheric warming trend from 1979 to 1997 -- in contrast to Jones' surface data from weather stations. Since Mann was using the Jones temperature data for calibration of the proxy record, I asked Mann if he had any post-1980 proxies. He replied rather brusquely that there were no suitable data available. This was my only exchange with Mann, and I've preserved those emails.

Of course, I did not believe Mann, since I knew of tree ring data (by Jacoby in 1996) that showed no temperature rise since 1940 (see figure 16 in my 1997 book *Hot Talk Cold Science*). I also knew that Dahl-Jensen's ice cores showed no temperature rise since 1940. Hence I had doubts about the Jones data and still do.

Following this unsatisfactory e-mail exchange with Mann, I had correspondence with McIntyre, Charles Keller, and others, trying to collect some post-1980 proxies to decide whether the Jones record was sound -- and whether Mann had stopped his proxy record in 1980 because it did not agree with Jones. Today we know, thanks to Climategate, that this might have been "Mann's *Nature* trick" in order to "hide the decline [of temperature]."

I visited Ed Cook at the Lamont Geophysical Laboratory to get post-1980 tree ring data, but was unsuccessful and finally gave up and turned to other matters. I also had a chance to speak briefly to Mann at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, but could not extract any information from him. By then, he clearly regarded me as an 'enemy' and would not have given me anything of value.

My next encounter with the Hockey Stick was to review the IPCC's 3<sup>rd</sup> Assessment draft report in 2000. In the draft, the Hockey Stick was represented along with the Jones instrumental record, using colors of black and blue. I prevailed on IPCC to use colors that were easily distinguishable and was glad to see the Jones record appearing in red in the final IPCC version.

My next encounter came in 2003 when the editor of *Energy & Environment* sent me the first of the McIntyre and McKittrick papers for review. I was surprised to learn of some half dozen or so cases where Mann had clearly mishandled the data, even substituting imaginary sequences to fill gaps where data were not available. Of course, I endorsed publication of this first of the M&M attacks on the Hockey Stick.

I also witnessed the encounter between Mann and McIntyre at the hearings arraigned by the National Academy (NAS), charged to write a report on the Hockey Stick. Tellingly, Mann presented a brief account of his work and then immediately walked out without taking any questions or listening to the McIntyre presentation. It was a thoroughly disappointing performance, particularly since some have misinterpreted the NAS report as an endorsement of the Hockey Stick. Actually, it was just the opposite, but it was misleading. The NAS stated that the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the warmest in the last 400 years, without making it clear that 400 years ago the earth was in the depth of the Little Ice Age.

It is certainly noteworthy that the IPCC in its fourth assessment report [2007] no longer displays the Hockey Stick. It had been demolished by able statisticians like Wegman and von Storch. M&M had shown in the meantime that random numbers fed into the Mann algorithm would always produce a hockey-stick-shaped result.

The “Last Hurrah” for the Hockey Stick came in 2009 in a report by the United Nations Environment Program. Apparently, UNEP wanted to dramatize matters before the crucial Dec 2009 Copenhagen meeting and brought back the Hockey Stick in an inexpertly written report on climate change. They called it an “update” of the IPCC, but I’m sure that responsible IPCC scientists would not have agreed with that characterization. When we inquired where their Hockey Stick graph originated, we were led to a Norwegian biologist who had republished a graph he had found in Wikipedia – too funny for words! UNEP immediately reissued their report and replaced their Hockey Stick graph with a less controversial one.

There is a serious matter, however, which bears discussion: Did Mann commit fraud? I would give him the benefit of the doubt and suggest that his initial *Nature* publication contained many errors, including major statistical ones, which he might not have been aware of. But certainly, after these errors had been pointed out to him in no uncertain terms, how could he maintain his original posture and claim that the Hockey Stick truly represented the global temperature record of the last 1000 years? All this in spite of many publications, both before and after 1998, that clearly told a different story: The compilation of temperature values by Soon and Baliunas, who were viciously attacked by the IPCC crowd; the isotope data of Cuffey; the global proxy data (omitting tree rings) of Loehle, which clearly showed the medieval warm period to be warmer than today; the deep-sea sediment record of Kegwin; and, of course, the historical record.

The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Kenneth Cuccinelli, is currently engaged in extracting from the University of Virginia (where Mann was a faculty member from 1999 to 2005) the e-mail records and other material relating to Mann. The University is fighting this demand in court yet it had already agreed some months ago to deliver the e-mail records of Patrick Michaels to Greenpeace! At that time, no cries of “academic freedom” were raised by the usual suspects. The silence then, and vociferous objections now expose the hypocrisy of the UVa Faculty Senate, the AAUP, the AAAS, and the Union of Concerned Scientists.

It is quite likely that Cuccinelli will discover a “smoking gun.” Perhaps some of the emails that Phil Jones admitted to having deleted might tell us just when Mann became himself aware that the Hockey Stick was bogus and a fraud.

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**ARTICLES:**

For the numbered articles below please see:

[www.haapala.com/sepp/the-week-that-was.cfm](http://www.haapala.com/sepp/the-week-that-was.cfm).

**1. Two Different Approaches to Academic Monkey Business**

By Charles Battig, WSJ, Sep 3, 2010

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703882304575465920291577014.html?mod=ITP\\_opinion\\_1](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703882304575465920291577014.html?mod=ITP_opinion_1)

## 2. Science scorned

Nature 467, 133 (09 September 2010)

Published on line 08 September 2010 [H/t Watts Up With That]

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v467/n7312/full/467133a.html>

[SEPP Comment: The publisher of the Hockey Stick, which contradicted the first two IPCC reports, a large body of physical evidence, and human history, blames others for public skepticism of global warming science equating it to be skepticism of all science.]

## 3. Cheniere Wins Approval to Export U.S. Liquefied Natural Gas

By Isabel Ordonez, WSJ, Sep 9, 2010

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704644404575482290198119482.html?mod=WSJ\\_Energy\\_leftHeadlines](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704644404575482290198119482.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines)

## 4. EPA Seeks Gas-Drilling Facts

By Siobhan Hughes, WSJ, Sep 10, 2010

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704644404575482060132963700.html?mod=WSJ\\_Energy\\_leftHeadlines](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704644404575482060132963700.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines)

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## NEWS YOU CAN USE:

### *Climategate Continued*

#### **Kiwigate – NZ Crown Agency Taken To Court Over Temp Records**

International Climate Science Coalition, Sep 7, 2010 [H/t Francois Guillaumat]

<http://climatescienceinternational.org/index.php>

### *Challenging the Orthodoxy*

#### **The Greening of Godzilla**

By Walter Russell Mead, American Interest, Aug 28, 2010 [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2010/08/28/the-greening-of-godzilla/>

#### **The environmental movement in retreat**

By George Will, Washington Post, Sep 5, 2010 [H/t Marc Morano, Climate Depot]

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/03/AR2010090304151.html?hpid=opinionsbox1>

#### **An Open Letter to Mr. Bill Gates**

The Quality of Life for the World's Poorest Can Be Advanced Farther, Faster, Cheaper and More Surely Through Adaptation than Through Zero-Carbon Technologies

By Indur Goklay, Watts Up With That, Sep 11, 2010

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/>

#### **Mortality Update**

World Climate Report, Sep 8, 2010

<http://www.worldclimaterreport.com/index.php/2010/09/08/mortality-update/>

### *Defending the Orthodoxy*

#### **Main Climate Threat from CO2 Sources Yet to Be Built**

Press Release, Carnegie Institution for Science, Sep 9, 2010 [H/t Watts Up With That]

[http://carnegiescience.edu/news/main\\_climate\\_threat\\_co2\\_sources\\_yet\\_be\\_built](http://carnegiescience.edu/news/main_climate_threat_co2_sources_yet_be_built)

### **Irrigation's Cooling Effects May Mask Warming – For Now**

If Water Runs Short, Some Regions May Suffer Significantly

Press Release, The Earth Institute Columbia University, Sep 7, 2010 [H/t Watts Up With That]

*[SEPP Comment: In a painstaking empirical study using actual temperature measurements covering over 80 years, John Christy et al. showed that irrigation of the southern part of California's Central Valley produced a daytime cooling trend and a nighttime warming trend with the net being a warming trend. Now, using model simulations, these researchers claim irrigation may be hiding global warming!]*

### **Weird Weather in a Warming World**

By Andrew Revkin, NYT, Sep 7, 2010

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/08/opinion/08revkin.html?th&emc=th>

*[SEPP Comment: Andy should take a look at Joe D'Aleo's web site, ICECAP.US]*

### **After a Year of Setbacks, U.N. Looks to Take Charge of World's Agenda**

By George Russell, Fox News, Sep 8, 2010 [H/t Marc Morano Climate Depot]

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2010/09/08/years-setbacks-looks-world-leader/?test=latestnews>

### **Disasters show 'screaming' need for action – climate chief**

By Alexandria Troubnikoff and Richard Ingham, AFP, Sep 2, 2010 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jpZtLuYXleUEhmyOBCBbMPkDdQvw>

### ***Seeking A Middle Ground***

#### **Large Scale Climate Modification – Agriculture & Urban Heat Islands Are Changing Regional And Continental Climates**

By Bill DiPuccio, Pielke Research Group, Sep 10, 2010 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2010/09/10/guest-post-large-scale-climate-modification-agriculture-urban-heat-islands-are-changing-regional-and-continental-climates-by-bill-dipuccio/>

*[SEPP Comment: Unfortunately, IPCC and government agencies reporting global surface temperatures do not adjust their data for the Urban Heat Island effect.]*

### **The Curry Agonistes**

By Keit Kloor, Collide-a-Scape, Aug 3, 2010 [H/t Francois Guillaumat]

<http://www.collide-a-scape.com/2010/08/03/the-curry-agonistes/>

*[SEPP Comment: Let this be a lesson to her, do not cross the orthodoxy.]*

### **President Obama is right to back lawsuit of carbon emissions**

Editorial, Washington Post, Sep 7, 2010 [H/t David Manuta]

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/06/AR2010090603086.html?referrer=emailarticle>

### ***Report by the InterAcademy Council***

#### **The IPCC: More hot air?**

Editorial, Pittsburg Tribune, Sep 3, 2010 [H/t Real Clear Politics]

[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/opinion/s\\_697677.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/opinion/s_697677.html)

### **A cunning bid to shore up the ruins of the IPCC**

The Inter-Academy report into the IPCC, led by Rajendra Pachauri, tiptoes around a mighty elephant in the room,

By Christopher Booker, Telegraph, UK, Sep 4, 2010 [H/t Marc Morano, Climate Depot]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/7981979/A-cunning-bid-to-shore-up-the-ruins-of-the-IPCC.html>

### ***BP Oil Spill and Aftermath***

#### **A Necessary Moratorium**

Editorial, NYT, Sep 6, 2010

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/07/opinion/07tue1.html?th&emc=th>

*[SEPP Comment: After each airline crash, should we have a six month moratorium of air travel?]*

#### **BP Report Pins Most of Blame on Others**

Contractors Transocean and Halliburton Reject the Findings

By Ben Casselman and Spencer Swartz, WSJ, Sep 8, 2010

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703453804575479273612869274.html>

### ***Energy Issues***

#### **‘Green’ jobs no longer golden in stimulus**

Environmental projects fail to live up to hype

By Patrice Hill, Washington Times, Sep 9, 2010

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/sep/9/green-jobs-no-longer-golden-in-stimulus/>

#### **After Soaring, Wind Glides**

By Bill Sweet, IEEE Spectrum, Aug 30, 2010

<http://spectrum.ieee.org/energywise/green-tech/wind/after-soaring-wind-glides>

#### **Wind is Not Power at All, Part III (Power Value)**

By Kent Hawkins, Master Resource, Sep 10, 2010 [H/t John Droz]

<http://www.masterresource.org/2010/09/wind-not-power-iii/>

*[SEPP Comment: Third of a three part series, the first two are referenced in this article]*

#### **Australia can meet its 2020 targets with just 35 nuclear power plants or 8000 solar ones!**

By JoAnne Nova, Sep 9, 2010

<http://joannenova.com.au/>

#### **Wind Falters While Nuclear Surges**

By Doug Hoffman, The Resilient Earth, GWPF, Sep 6, 2010 [H/t Francois Guillaumat]

<http://www.thegwpf.org/energy-news/1503-wind-falters-while-nuclear-surges.html>

#### **World’s biggest wave energy site off Cornish coast set to go live**

Daily Mail, Sep 6, 2010

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1309502/Worlds-biggest-wave-energy-site-Cornish-coast-set-live.html>

#### **China sailing ahead in offshore wind power**

By Staff Writers, Wind Daily, UPI, Sep 8, 2010 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

[http://www.winddaily.com/reports/China\\_sailing\\_ahead\\_in\\_offshore\\_wind\\_power\\_999.html](http://www.winddaily.com/reports/China_sailing_ahead_in_offshore_wind_power_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: The project is located on an intertidal zone where construction and maintenance should be less costly than in deepwater. In the US, many such zones are called “fragile” tidal wetlands making such construction extremely difficult if not impossible.]*

### ***EPA and other Regulators On the March***

**Kiss Your Ash Goodbye – Regulating Coal Combustion Byproducts As Hazardous Is An Unnecessary Job Killer**

By Ben Lieberman, Global Warming.org, Sep 8, 2010, [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2010/09/08/kiss-your-ash-goodbye-%E2%80%94-regulating-coal-combustion-byproducts-as-hazardous-is-an-unnecessary-job-killer/>

[SEPP Comment: Anything to kill King Coal]

**Unsolved Coal Ash Problem**

Editorial, NYT, Sep 5, 2010

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/06/opinion/06mon4.html?\\_r=1&th&emc=th](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/06/opinion/06mon4.html?_r=1&th&emc=th)

**If you have bedbugs, thank Al Gore**

By Ethel C. Fenig, American Thinker, Sep 9, 2010

[http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/09/if\\_you\\_have\\_bedbugs\\_thank\\_al\\_g.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/09/if_you_have_bedbugs_thank_al_g.html)

**Keep On Trading**

**Deutsche Bank – A Wunch of Bankers**

“Bankers feed scare-mongering report”

JoAnne Nova, Sep 11, 2010

<http://joannenova.com.au/2010/09/deutsche-bank-a-wunch-of-bankers/#more-10193>

[SEPP Comment: With the collapse of the Chicago Climate Exchange, European promoters of carbon credits such as Deutsche Bank are getting nervous. Please see this article for a commentary on the Bank’s latest justification for investing in carbon credits.]

**Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC**

For a full list of articles see [www.NIPCCreport.org](http://www.NIPCCreport.org)

**The Medieval and Roman Warm Periods in Southeast Italy**

Reference: Frisia, S., Borsato, A., Spotl, C., Villa, I.M. and Cucchi, F. 2005. Climate variability in the SE Alps of Italy over the past 17,000 years reconstructed from a stalagmite record. *Boreas* **34**: 445-455.

Archived Sep 9, 2010

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2010/sep/09sep2010a5.html>

**Drought on the Northern Great Plains of America**

Reference: Fritz, S.C., Ito, E., Yu, Z., Laird, K.R. and Engstrom, D.R. 2000. Hydrologic variation in the Northern Great Plains during the last two millennia. *Quaternary Research* **53**: 175-184. Archived Sep 9, 2010

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2010/sep/09sep2010a4.html>

**Alpine Glaciers (Especially Those of Scandinavia)**

Reference: Nesje, A. 2009. Latest Pleistocene and Holocene alpine glacier fluctuations in Scandinavia. *Quaternary Science Reviews* **28**: 2119-2136. Archived Sep 8, 2010

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2010/sep/08sep2010a5.html>

**Miscellaneous Topics of Possible Interest**

**Scientists find evidence discrediting theory Amazon was virtually unlivable**

By Juan Forero, Washington Post, Sep 5, 2010 [H/t Marc Morano, Climate Depot]

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/03/AR2010090302302\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/03/AR2010090302302_pf.html)

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**BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:**

## Unusual Feed Supplement Could Ease Gassy Cows, Reduce Their Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Science Daily, Sep 8, 2010 [H/t Rupert Wyndham]

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/09/100907113135.htm>

[SEPP Comment: *Would chocolate work?*]

## Tylenol-loaded mice dropped from air to control snakes

CNN, Sep 7, 2010 [H/t Best on the Web]

<http://news.blogs.cnn.com/2010/09/07/tylenol-loaded-mice-dropped-from-air-to-control-snakes/>

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### ARTICLES:

#### 1. Two Different Approaches to Academic Monkey Business

By Charles Battig, WSJ, Sep 3, 2010

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703882304575465920291577014.html?mod=ITP\\_opinion\\_1](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703882304575465920291577014.html?mod=ITP_opinion_1)

Regarding Eric Felten's "[Morality Check: When Fad Science Is Bad Science](#)" (Taste, Aug. 27): Apparent differences in how "scientific misconduct" at Harvard University is handled, and how it has been handled at the University of Virginia in the matter of climatologist Michael Mann are illustrative.

Harvard professor of psychology Marc Hauser was found "solely responsible for eight instances of scientific misconduct" involving the "data acquisition, data analysis, data retention and the reporting of research methodologies and results" in the Aug. 20, statement by Harvard Dean Michael Smith. Three published papers by Mr. Hauser now need to be corrected or retracted, according to Mr. Smith. This finding was based on a faculty investigating commission study in response to "allegations of scientific misconduct" (and, I'd say, suspicions of monkey business in his research on monkey cognition).

An "inquiry phase," similar to the Harvard protocol, was initiated by Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli into the possible misuse of public funds by Michael Mann in his pursuit of employment and his use of such funds in his research activities when he was at the University of Virginia. The university and its supporters met this request with claims of impingement on sacred academic freedom and chilling the environment for academic research. Rather than welcome the chance to dispel the suspicion of scientific misconduct and protect its academic reputation, the university enlisted a high-powered Washington, D.C. legal team to fight the AG's request in court.

While this legal process proceeds, the court of public opinion wonders why the openness and direct dealing with such allegations exhibited by Harvard is not the Virginia way. Harvard demonstrated a scientifically open and self-policing protocol; Virginia offers claims of academic freedom and erects legal barricades. Whose research will the public more likely trust?

Charles Battig, M.D.

*Virginia Scientists and Engineers for Energy and Environment  
Charlottesville, Va.*

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#### 2. Science scorned

Nature 467, 133 (09 September 2010)

Published on line 08 September 2010 [H/t Watts Up With That]

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v467/n7312/full/467133a.html>

[SEPP Comment: *The publisher of the Hockey Stick, which contradicted the first two IPCC reports, a large body of physical evidence, and human history, blames others for public skepticism of global warming science equating it to be skepticism of all science.*]

**The anti-science strain pervading the right wing in the United States is the last thing the country needs in a time of economic challenge.**

“The four corners of deceit: government, academia, science and media. Those institutions are now corrupt and exist by virtue of deceit. That’s how they promulgate themselves; it is how they prosper.” It is tempting to laugh off this and other rhetoric broadcast by Rush Limbaugh, a conservative US radio host, but Limbaugh and similar voices are no laughing matter.

There is a growing anti-science streak on the American right that could have tangible societal and political impacts on many fronts — including regulation of environmental and other issues and stem-cell research. Take the surprise ousting last week of Lisa Murkowski, the incumbent Republican senator for Alaska, by political unknown Joe Miller in the Republican primary for the 2 November midterm congressional elections. Miller, who is backed by the conservative ‘Tea Party movement’, called his opponent’s acknowledgement of the reality of global warming “exhibit ‘A’ for why she needs to go”.

**“The country’s future crucially depends on education, science and technology.”**

The right-wing populism that is flourishing in the current climate of economic insecurity echoes many traditional conservative themes, such as opposition to taxes, regulation and immigration. But the Tea Party and its cheerleaders, who include Limbaugh, Fox News television host Glenn Beck and Sarah Palin (who famously decried fruitfly research as a waste of public money), are also tapping an age-old US political impulse — a suspicion of elites and expertise.

Denialism over global warming has become a scientific cause célèbre within the movement. Limbaugh, for instance, who has told his listeners that “science has become a home for displaced socialists and communists”, has called climate-change science “the biggest scam in the history of the world”. The Tea Party’s leanings encompass religious opposition to Darwinian evolution and to stem-cell and embryo research — which Beck has equated with eugenics. The movement is also averse to science-based regulation, which it sees as an excuse for intrusive government. Under the administration of George W. Bush, science in policy had already taken knocks from both neglect and ideology. Yet President Barack Obama’s promise to “restore science to its rightful place” seems to have linked science to liberal politics, making it even more of a target of the right.

US citizens face economic problems that are all too real, and the country’s future crucially depends on education, science and technology as it faces increasing competition from China and other emerging science powers. Last month’s recall of hundreds of millions of US eggs because of the risk of salmonella poisoning, and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, are timely reminders of why the US government needs to serve the people better by developing and enforcing improved science-based regulations. Yet the public often buys into anti-science, anti-regulation agendas that are orchestrated by business interests and their sponsored think tanks and front groups.

In the current poisoned political atmosphere, the defenders of science have few easy remedies. Reassuringly, polls continue to show that the overwhelming majority of the US public sees science as a force for good, and the anti-science rumblings may be ephemeral. As educators, scientists should redouble their efforts to promote rationalism, scholarship and critical thought among the young, and engage with both the media and politicians to help illuminate the pressing science-based issues of our time.

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**3. Cheniere Wins Approval to Export U.S. Liquefied Natural Gas**

By Isabel Ordonez, WSJ, Sep 9, 2010

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704644404575482290198119482.html?mod=WSJ\\_Energy\\_leftHeadlines](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704644404575482290198119482.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines)

HOUSTON—The U.S. Department of Energy said Thursday it has granted approval to Cheniere Energy Partners LP's bid to export liquefied natural gas produced in North America from a terminal in Louisiana.

The approval, granted Sept. 7, puts the terminal in Cameron Parish one step closer to becoming the first facility to export natural gas produced in the Lower 48 states, drawing supply from the burgeoning unconventional gas fields in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

The proposal underscores how the natural-gas supply picture in the U.S. has turned from scarcity to overabundance, thanks to the exploitation of rock formations called shales.

It also marks a radical shift in the plans of companies such as Cheniere, which once planned to profit from building multibillion-dollar liquefaction terminals in different U.S. coastal locations.

But the natural-gas shale boom brought those plans to a halt. North America's new gas wealth has prompted other export projects, such as [Apache](#) Corp.'s proposed facility in British Columbia, which aims to supply Asia with large quantities of Canadian natural gas. Natural gas, usually shipped through pipelines, has traditionally been a regional market, but when it is converted into liquid, it can be shipped overseas.

Through its Sabine Pass Liquefaction subsidiary, Cheniere asked the Department of Energy in early August for permission to export up to 16 million metric tons annually for 30 years. It also filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to build, in phases, a liquefaction facility that would eventually handle an average of 2.6 billion cubic feet a day from four liquefied natural gas, or LNG, trains.

The Department of Energy's approval allows Cheniere's unit to export LNG to any nation that has the capacity to import the fuel and with which the U.S. has entered, or may in the future enter, into a Free Trade Agreement, including Canada, Mexico, Chile and Singapore, according to the order from the Department of Energy.

Gas-bearing rock formations known as shales have changed the view that domestic U.S. natural-gas output would decline and that new supplies would have to come into the U.S. from other countries. In fact, these new supplies have depressed gas prices, discouraging gas imports that were once thought critical to feed growing demand for the fuel.

Prolific onshore gas fields in Texas and Oklahoma, and the well-documented unconventional gas fields in the Barnett, Haynesville, Eagle Ford, Fayetteville, Woodford and Bossier basins in Texas and Louisiana, would represent the most likely sources of physical supply for the Sabine Pass, Cheniere's unit said in its application.

The Sabine Pass LNG terminal is already an import facility. With a total send-out capacity of four billion cubic feet a day and 16.8 billion cubic feet of storage capacity, it is the largest receiving terminal, by regasification capacity, in the world, according to Cheniere's website.

The FERC recently allowed Sabine Pass to use the terminal for the additional purpose of exporting foreign-sourced LNG.

Cheniere will soon file a separate application for authorization to export LNG to countries with which a Free Trade Agreement applicable to natural gas and LNG isn't in effect, according to the application it filed in August. The second application will be subject to more rigorous public-interest review and analysis by the Department of Energy, the company has said in the application.

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#### 4. EPA Seeks Gas-Drilling Facts

By Siobhan Hughes, WSJ, Sep 10, 2010

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704644404575482060132963700.html?mod=WSJ\\_Energy\\_leftHeadlines](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704644404575482060132963700.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines)

WASHINGTON—The Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday asked nine big natural-gas companies and contractors to disclose the chemicals used in a controversial technique for accessing the fuel from vast underground gas fields.

The request, made to companies including [Halliburton](#) Co. and [Schlumberger](#) Ltd., comes amid a growing public backlash over a relatively new method of gas drilling. The debate is coming to a head as the EPA next week wraps up a series of public hearings in preparation for a study on the effect of the procedure, known as hydraulic fracturing.

"Natural gas is an important part of our nation's energy future, and it's critical that the extraction of this valuable natural resource does not come at the expense of safe water and healthy communities." "By sharing information about the chemicals and methods they are using, these companies will help us make a thorough and efficient review of hydraulic fracturing and determine the best path forward," EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said in a statement.

Halliburton said in a statement that "we will of course fully cooperate."

The EPA said that in addition to the chemical composition of the fluids, it also wants data on the chemicals' effects on human health and the environment, standard operating procedures at their hydraulic fracturing sites and the locations of sites where fracturing has been conducted.

"This information will be used as the basis for gathering further detailed information on a representative selection of sites," the EPA said in a statement.

Residents in areas that sit atop the gas locked in underground rock formations, or shale, fear the chemicals used in the drilling procedure will contaminate drinking water. Companies say that while the chemicals aren't publicly disclosed because they are commercially sensitive, the information is shared with local regulators. Companies also say that no evidence exists showing that the techniques are unsafe.

The EPA asked that the information be provided on a voluntary basis within 30 days, and asked companies to respond within seven days on whether they would comply.

The EPA said it expects companies to cooperate since the data are similar to information that has been provided separately to Congress. The EPA said that if companies do not comply voluntarily, it is "prepared to use its authorities to require the information needed to carry out its study."

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