

Climate Central Is Actually Way Off To The Left

By Art Horn, Meteorologist

I didn't actually see what Heidi Cullen of Climate Central dressed up as for Halloween but I can make a good guess, Chicken Little. Cullen wrote a story recently for Salon Magazine arrogantly titled "Stop pretending it's not climate change". So now anyone who thinks differently than the highly educated and well paid Ms. Cullen is not only a denier they are now a pretender as well! Just below the [story headline](#) are three pictures. One shows a fire in Texas, as if they have never had a drought there and never had wild fires, old news. The next is a car nearly underwater in Paterson, New Jersey after tropical storm Irene, as if the northeast has never had a tropical storm or hurricane before, breaking news! The last picture is even better, a guy in New York moving snow with a snowblower in January. This just in (bring up dramatic music) it snows in New York in the winter, tune in at 11:00 for the shocking details, yikes! You can't make this stuff up.

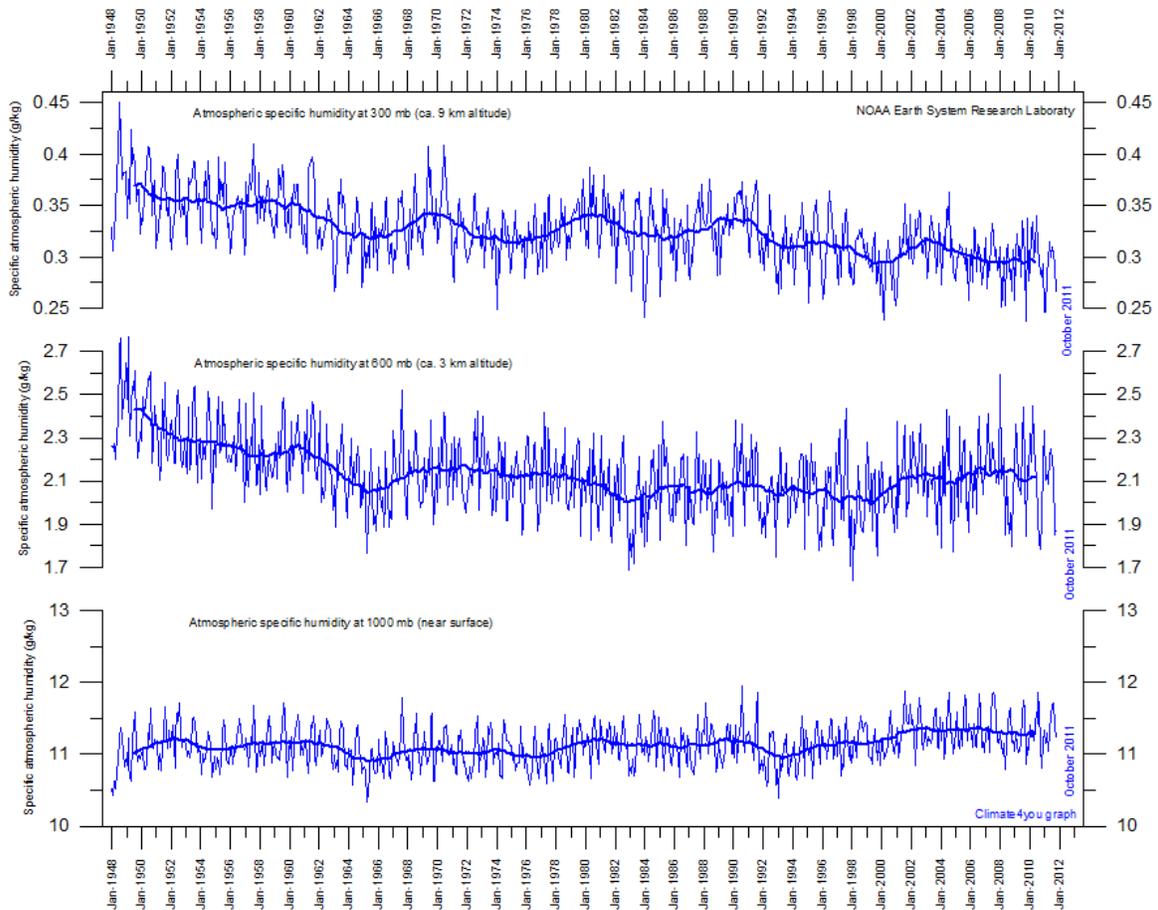
This story is as bad as it gets. It starts with a quote from weather expert and renowned climate scientist Brian Williams of NBC nightly news saying "All I know is this didn't happen when we were kids". Actually it all happened when he was a little boy but little Brian didn't notice because he was a just a kid. People who actually study the history of weather have seen all of this and more before. The story goes on to say "Floods, droughts, wildfires and tornadoes dominated the news many nights in 2011. The reason for this is because the news networks hire consultant to tell them what news stories will help them to keep their share of the audience from shrinking faster than it already is. The nightly news programs have been losing audience since the birth of cable TV in the early 1980s. Bring in the internet (thank the creator of the universe, not Al Gore) and phones that allow people to see whatever they want, wherever they want it and you have a communications revolution. There have always been dramatic weather events but now the networks are all over them because some consultant told them it would help keep viewers. I was a TV meteorologist for 25 years so I know of what I speak.

Then there is the big storm in Alaska scare, gee like they never get a big storm in Alaska, wow! Actually I was thinking of vacationing there this winter. I hear global warming is going to make it much more comfortable although still a little dark. The highly educated Ms. Cullen says that lack of protective arctic sea ice due to melting from global warming is making storm surges from storms like this recent one more threatening. Oh really! The truth, according to the state of [Alaska community database](#) community information summary, is that the little town of Kivalina is looking to relocate 2.5 miles away due to severe erosion and wind driven ice damage. What? Ice damage? That's right Heidi, wind driven ice damage. Maybe you should dump that Chicken Little outfit and dress up as a polar bear.

Cullen goes on to say that since her appearance here on earth in 1970 the temperature of the United States has been increasing at a rate of 0.5 degrees Fahrenheit per decade. When you take a closer look at the numbers you find something else. The actual trend from 1970 to 2011 is .46 degrees per decade, not a rounded off .5 degrees. The trend of

US temperature from 1980 to 2011 is only 0.4 degrees per decade. From 1990 to 2011 the rate of warming decreases to 0.25 degrees per decade and since 2000 the US temperature is declining at a rapid rate of -0.7 degrees per decade. What the intellectually gifted Ms. Cullen forgets to mention (or doesn't know?) is that naturally occurring ocean cycles significantly alter trends in temperatures for decades. The equatorial Pacific Ocean warms and cools for periods of 25 to 35 years. It's called the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO). For three decades from 1945 to 1975 when the Pacific was cooler the United States temperature trend was down by 0.18 degrees per decade. When the Pacific turned warmer in the mid-1970s until around 2000 the trend in United States temperature was up .66 degrees per decade. Since the Pacific Ocean has cooled since 2000 the trend of US temperature is plunging at the rate of 0.7 degrees per decade. If this rate were to continue for another 9 decades we would be in the next Ice Age by the year 2100. I don't think that will happen but I've been wrong before.

The story goes on and on. Ms. Cullen says "All weather is now born (weather is born?) into an environment that is warmer and moister because of man made, heat trapping greenhouse gas pollution. I guess her college professors never told her that carbon dioxide is plant food and without it all green, living things on earth would die. Strange stuff that pollution. She goes on to say "Thanks in part to warmer oceans, there is 4 percent more water vapor in the atmosphere and that amount will continue to increase as the planet warms, providing more fuel for storms. The figure of 4 percent more water vapor in the atmosphere comes from a prediction by an equation. The real world data from weather balloons over the last half century show no increase in water vapor in the atmosphere (NOAA ESRL Relative Humidity and Specific Humidity) As is usual with those predicting climate catastrophe, they rely on equations and computer models and ignore reality.



She goes on to say that this increase in water vapor will cause an increase in droughts, heat waves and wild fires. Well I guess the fire departments are going to have to find a new way to put out fires since water won't work anymore! I really like this one. Heidi says that the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is warning that "extremes caused by global warming could eventually grow so severe that some locations become marginal places to live". Kind of like Kivalina, Alaska. As if Kivalina, Alaska wasn't always a marginal place to live! Amazing, you can't make this stuff up.

This diatribe of disaster goes on to say the number of natural disasters has tripled over the past 20 years. Well those disasters must be kinder and gentler because deaths world wide from weather is [down dramatically](#) in the last 100 years. Cullen says extreme weather is increasing but she is wrong. There is no definition of what an extreme weather event is. If you want to call a snowstorm or a heat wave or a record high or low temperature "extreme weather" you can but it is completely subjective and therefore meaningless. Some say that reports of severe or extreme weather have increased over the decades but this is due to better reporting and mass communications, not more weather. People like Heidi Cullen walk around with a little dark cloud over their head. It prevents them from seeing the real world around them.