

Contradictory Data Raises Worry

In the Sunday February 6, 2008 Boston Globe, Bryan Bender wrote an article "[New US military report on global warming raises worry](#)" in which he noted: "New US military report says scientific data on global warming is 'contradictory' - Suggests cause remains 'open question'".

Meteorologist Dave Epstein wrote this excellent letter which he agreed to share with us.

Dear Bryan,

As a meteorologist, I just wanted to comment on your article in Saturday's Paper. The headline is a good place to start and I will expound from there. Please take the time to read this as I have spent some time thinking this through for you.

You stated that 'New US military report of global warming raises worry'. Why does this raise worry? Let me give you a few facts about global warming that you should have considered before you wrote Saturday's article. No disrespect, but please read on. I have training in meteorology for over 25 years. I am also an instructor of meteorology at Framingham State and Colby College in Maine. That doesn't make me an expert in climate per se, but I do know science.

1. Man-Made global warming is a theory. It has not been proven. Models that have been used to come up with the theory that man caused the warming of the 80s/90s are fatally flawed. Believe it or not, it is possible that aspects of the traditional greenhouse gas explanation could be largely wrong, and if you think I am crazy, let's visit an article just published in the prestigious journal Climate Dynamics. (Compo, G.P. and P.D. Sardeshmukh. 2008. Oceanic influences on recent continental warming. Climate Dynamics, DOI 10.1007/s00382-008-0448-9). Go take a look. Here is but one line from the report. **"Evidence is presented that the recent worldwide land warming has occurred largely in response to a worldwide warming of the oceans rather than as a direct response to increasing greenhouse gases (GHGs) over land."**

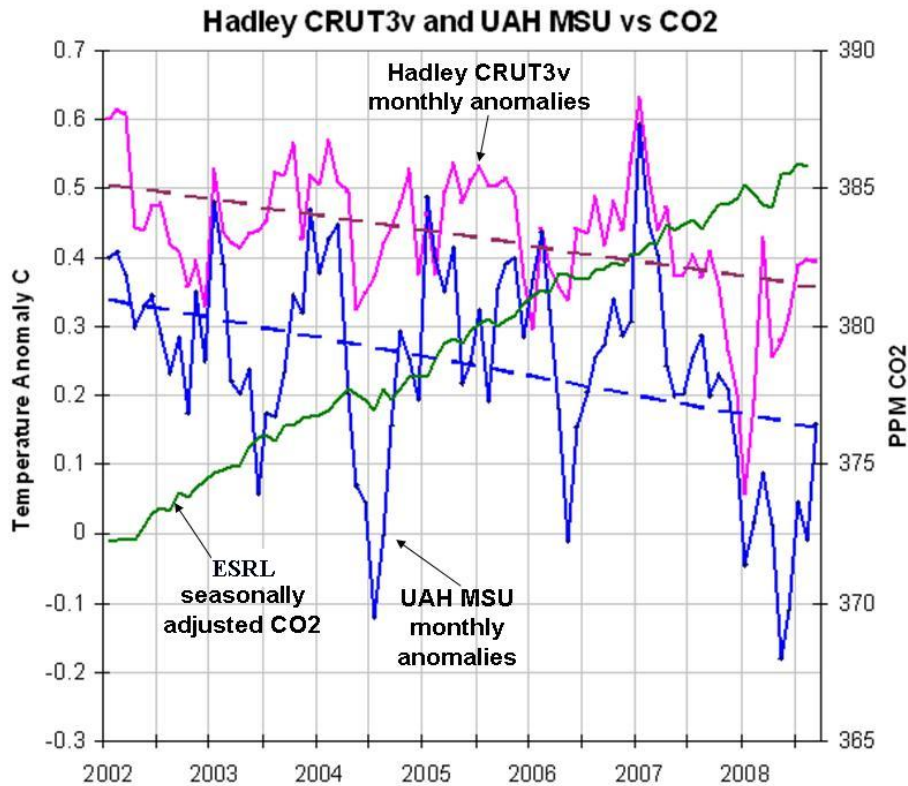
2. The IPCC is an organization that does NO research, it has never done ANY research and many of the members of the panel have never done any research. The number 90% confident was made-up. Period. If you dig around you will find that to be the case.

3. The data that shows that we are warming is fatally flawed. I could give you many examples too long and boring for this but here is but one. Did you know, for example in October NOAA said that we had just had our warmest October on record but had to retract that from using SEPTEMBER data. That is just because they got caught by a blogger.

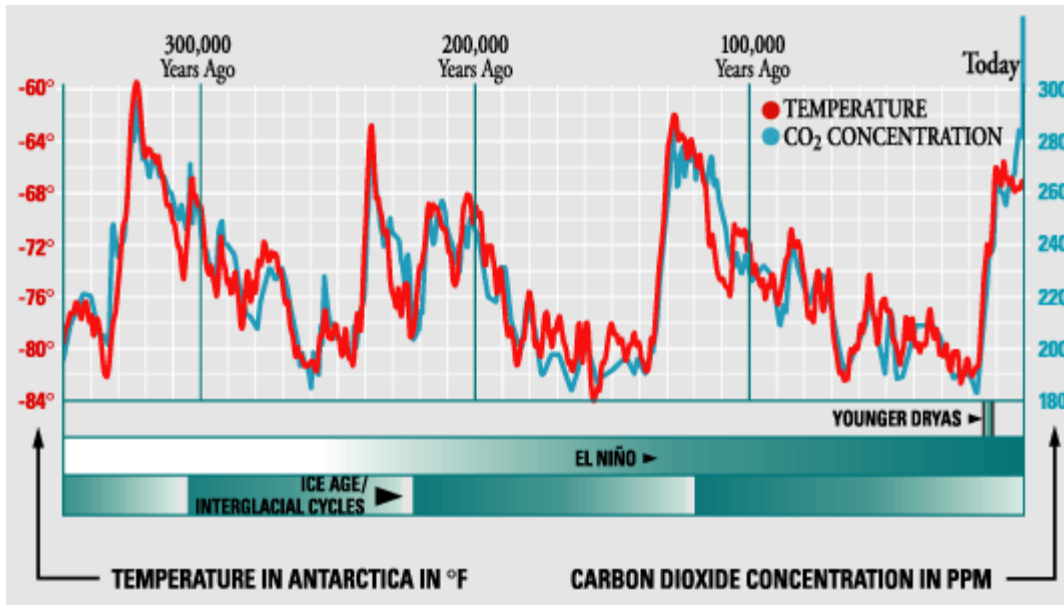
4. Did you know that the planet has been COOLING for the past several years. This year is set to be the coolest since 2000, according to a preliminary estimate of global average temperature that is due to be released next week by the Met Office. The global average

for 2008 should come in close to 14.3C, which is 0.14C below the average temperature for 2001-07.

5. CO₂, while increasing is acting OPPOSITE to temperature for the past 5 years. See last image of the [three](#).



6. Ice in the arctic is poised to go above long-term averages this year. It has been rapidly increasing all fall and glaciers actually GREW for the first time in 250 years in parts of Alaska.



I am not going to go on and bore you with data. However, as a journalist isn't it your responsibility to present the data and not go find data which supports your personal views contradicting what you might not like?

You can find all sort of people to say that man is causing the climate to change. Guess what, the climate is changing. And it may well be getting cooler not warmer.

As a good journalist ask yourself this question. Why do so many people try to shut down debate about a scientific UNPROVEN principle? I would argue it is because they want to change the way we consume/drive/live and this is the best way to get noticed. I am an environmentalist myself. I have preserved land, I started my own weekly [gardening/conservation](#) show on the web and I have long been a huge proponent of slowing down consumption in general. However, not by creating some trumped up science.

Look at something else. What is the climate we are trying to get to? For argument sake, let's say we all got rid of cars tomorrow. Now based on the science, we should start to cool right? How much? How cold would we get? Would we return to the temperatures of the 1700s and the little ice age? Did you know that the cold of that time caused more damage to the planet, to animals to crops than any warming has.

At least look at the graphs I am sending to you to keep this whole thing in perspective. Why are we (man) being blamed for something that has occurred for over 450,000 years of past records?

I think if you dig further you will find number of REPUTABLE scientists who AGREE with the Joint Forces. Remember, when people try to shut down debate on something that has not been proven, that is the time to open up more debate.

Thanks for reading this. I am happy to discuss further.

Dave Epstein, Meteorologist.