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Al Gore's film more fiction than fact?

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COURTROOM CLIMATE

Give Al Gore credit.

He chose to base his multi-city "Climate in Crisis" summit in New York City in the month of July. Anyone familiar with the summer climate of the Big Apple knows why it is often referred to as the "Baked Apple." So this made for a potentially great backdrop as attendees literally sweated it out while being told global warming will be our ruin.

In truth, so much of what Gore has said and written about the subject is demonstrably false. For example:

♦ The climate record shows that, in the past 500,000 years, the warming of the Earth has preceded rises in the level of atmospheric carbon dioxide, which is counter to his and others' claims.

♦ His movie, "An Inconvenient Truth," implies that global warming is causing the snowpack to decline atop Mount Kilimanjaro. According to the *International Journal of Climatology*, the clear-cutting of the rain forest is reducing annual snowfall by greatly reducing overall precipitation.

♦ In his movie, Gore also claims that Himalayan glaciers are shrinking due to global warming. According to the American Meteorological Society's September 2006 journal, Himalayan glaciers actually are growing.

♦ One of the most preposterous claims Gore makes in the movie is that sea levels will rise 20 to 40 feet in the near future due to the melting of glaciers in Greenland and of Antarctic



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ice. A United Nations climate report suggests, however, that sea level, at most, will rise 17 inches in the next century. Other scientists say it will be much less than that.

Gore claims that global warming is creating more frequent and severe hurricanes, but internationally respected hurricane experts Chris Landsea and William Gray say that is not true.

Gore says African deserts are expanding. However, the *New Scientist* reported in 2002 that "Africa's deserts are in spectacular retreat ... making farming viable again in what were some of the most arid parts of Africa."

Gore also has claimed that the Antarctic ice sheet is melting because of global warming, but *Nature* magazine in 2002 reported that, in total, the Antarctic has been in a major cooling trend for decades.

Because many grade school teachers have taken to showing the Gore film in class, I would ask that if you know an earth science teacher,

please clip and send this column. They need to know that the movie they are showing as scientific fact is more science fiction and that it is doing a terrible disservice to our children.

I also would like to recommend the following Web site for excellent and update information on the subject: www.ice-cap.us.

One more thing: The high temperature in New York City on the day of the event was a most pleasant 85 degrees with evening temperatures dropping into the 70s.

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