CRC CAPITAL RESEARCH CENTER

Green Watch

Through a Glass, Greenly

On environmental issues, the news media systematically distort reality

By Julia A. Seymour *et al.*

Summary: *In 2015, much of the news media promoted the beliefs of "green" activists, with little regard or outright disdain for legitimate science and for the views of opponents of environmental extremism. From the Kitzhaber scandal ... to the claim that Warming skeptics are akin to Nazis ... to the literal cheers by reporters for a Paris Treaty that benefits the privileged and hurts the poor... here is a sampling of media bias on the environment.*

Most TV news takes a sensationalist, anti-science approach to the Global Warming issue.

Editor's note: How bad is news media bias on environmental issues? So bad, it's hard to imagine how it could be worse. It seems that a typical reporter for a major newspaper or TV network lacks the scientific knowledge and reasoning ability of a smart fifth-grader. To illustrate that point, we asked our colleagues at the Media Research Center, a watchdog group that exposes media bias, to provide *Green Watch* with examples, adapted from MRC publications in 2015, of "green" distortion in news and commentary. *–SJA*

Networks silent about 'green' nature of Kitzhaber corruption scandal

By Julia A. Seymour

February 20, 2015

[For the results of our investigation of the Kitzhaber environmental scandal, see the November, December, and January issues of *Green Watch*.]

It's the job of a reporter to answer all the basic questions in a news story. Telling the who, what, when, where, why is foundational. Yet the broadcast network news media omitted key details from reports on the ethics scandal that led to Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber's resignation.

ABC, NBC and CBS admitted Kitzhaber and his live-in fiancée, Cylvia Hayes, are both under federal investigation because of "allegations" she "used their relationship to benefit her energy consulting business." In fact, Cylvia Hayes has a very specific kind of energy consultancy: a green one.

But the only mention of "green," in any of the network reports was Hayes' admission she once took money from a man who wanted a green card marriage. By ignoring what Hayes does for a living, the networks shielded the green movement they have so often promoted in broadcasts.

The networks repeatedly omitted "green" or "clean" from their descriptions of Hayes role in the ethics scandal choosing ambiguous terms like "energy business" and saying "new questions have surfaced about whether his first lady Cylvia Hayes tried to leverage their relationship to make money from firms hoping to do business with the state."

Al Roker wishes 'Global Warming' term had never been used

By P.J. Gladnick

February 26, 2015

In the midst of freezing weather and record snowstorms in the eastern United States, NBC's Al Roker wishes the term "Global Warming" had never been used. Too bad, Al. As the Great Lakes are

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mostly frozen over due to the extreme cold, you are stuck with a term devised by liberals about twenty years ago to describe what they confidently predicted would happen at the time. Now that Global Warming laughably did not pan out, suddenly liberals and Al Roker are regretting that terminology and are now using the all-inclusive "Climate Change" instead.

Roker expressed his "Global Warming" regret several days ago as he was being interviewed by Larry King about the deep freeze conditions hitting most of the country. Here is Roker who has a degree in communications, not meteorology, moaning about how he wishes "Climate Change" had been used rather than the easily mocked "Global Warming" which laughably didn't happen after Larry King brought up the now taboo term:

> LARRY KING: This is Global Warming even though it's freezing?
>
> AL ROKER: That's why I don't like the phrase "Global Warming." I like "Climate Change" 'cause that was the greatest disservice was calling it "Global Warming." It should have been "Climate Change."

Poor Al. The weather hasn't cooperated with the predictions of the Global Warming Alarmists and now they just wish you would forget they had ever used that term over and over and over again. The preferred term is now "Climate Change" which can mean anything. Did it rain a lot? Climate Change! Was there a drought? Climate Change! Did the Great Lakes freeze over? Climate Change! And, oh, please forget we ever mentioned Global Warming.

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MSNBC, Post, other media still link snowfall to Global Warming
By Joseph Rossell
March 6, 2015

Throughout the harsh winter of 2015, news media and TV talk shows continued to connect Global Warming and "manmade climate change" to blizzards and snowstorms, in spite of scientific disagreement.

Leading up to the latest snowstorm, the media doubled down on the assertion they have made that even winter weather can be blamed on climate change.

Washington Post environmental blogger/reporter Chris Mooney claimed on March 3 that global warming could have changed atmospheric circulation. "And this is precisely what some researchers have proposed as the reason why we're getting these crazy winters," Mooney said in a story that also attacked Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla. The Post had already labeled Inhofe a "national embarrassment" for his skeptical views about global warming and Mooney repeated it.

The same day, The Weather Channel said that a "backyard filled with snow doesn't disprove climate change," nor did winter weather discredit the claim by NOAA and NASA that 2014 was the hottest year on record. "The reverse is true," the article claimed. In reality, NASA and NOAA's own data disproved their claim that 2014 was the hottest year on record.

[*Editor's note:* NASA and NOAA ultimately retracted their claim that 2014 was the hottest year on record, admitting that 2005 or 1998 was probably hotter. The original claim was reported thousands of times and cited by President Obama and countless other politicians and activists. The retraction received virtually no media coverage. *–SJA*]

Weather isn't climate. That's what climate alarmists say until it becomes convenient to their argument, of course. It wasn't that long ago the media warned global warming would mean "the end of snow." These days the cold and snowy winds have prompted a chorus of snow is "evidence" of climate change claims.

MSNBC host Ed Schultz was one of those voices. On *The Ed Show* March 2, he declared, "Every day we are getting new evidence of the effects of manmade climate change. Today, the Northeast, Plains and lower Midwest are digging out from another round of snow and freezing rain."

MSNBC hosts and guests in particular have repeatedly stressed that climate change has contributed to this winter. After a blizzard struck Buffalo, New York, "Science Guy" Bill Nye (who is not a climate scientist) argued that climate change worsened the storm during MSNBC's *The Cycle* November 20, 2014. "It's very reasonable that it's climate change. Everybody, when Lake Erie's warmer, more water evaporates into the air and snows more. I don't make the rules, people," Nye said.

At least five different shows on MSNBC January 26, mentioned that climate change may have been a contributing factor to a blizzard that slammed the Northeast.

In a February 16, interview discussing recent winter storms, Nye pushed MSNBC anchor Joy Reid to connect everything to "climate change." He said on *The Reid Report* that his "dream" was "that you all, you and the news business would just say the word climate change. Just like, 'It could be climate change.' 'It's a possible connection to climate change.' 'Is this evidence of climate change?' Could you just toss that in now and then?"

Other networks and media personalities have made the same claims. On February 23, NBC News' *Today* weather and feature anchor Al Roker told TV host Larry King that climate change was contributing to extreme weather across the country, including recent "brutal temperatures" and snowfall. King asked Roker, "Is this [winter weather] all part of climate change?" Roker responded, "I think it is."

Actors and actresses discussed the relationship between winter weather and

climate change on February 17, on ABC's *The View*. Co-host Rosie Perez claimed that "the scientists are saying that climate change is real and part of the reason why we have so much more rain and snowfall is because what happens is when the temperatures changed in the oceans, the evaporation increases, and so you have all this condensation just held up into the sky."

View guest and *General Hospital* actor Ryan Paevey then said the seeming contradiction between having "one of the warmest winters on record" and the "polar vortex" in parts of the country "might be some indication that climate change is real."

But some scientists dispute the media's claims. Climate scientist Patrick J. Michaels and environmental scientist Chip Knappenberger of the Cato Institute summarized the findings from a peer-reviewed study they published on temperature and snowfall. They said their results showed that "the temperature/snowfall relationship along the entire Atlantic coast of the U.S. is negative—on average, the warmer it is, the less it snows."

As for the severe cold, even the *Washington Post*'s Capital Weather Gang acknowledged in an article February 20, 2014, that five "preeminent climate scientists (John Wallace, Isaac Held, David Thompson, Kevin Trenberth, and John Walsh)" had published a letter in *Science* magazine contradicting a link between climate change and "bone-chilling cold." "It's an interesting idea, but alternative observational analyses and simulations with climate models have not confirmed the hypothesis, and we do not view the theoretical arguments underlying it as compelling," the scientists said. They also noted they all agreed "that human induced-induced global warming is happening."

Networks cue up Obama: Has climate change impacted your family?
By Scott Whitlock
April 8, 2015

All three networks on April 8 featured Barack Obama to attack climate "deniers" and lament how global warming has personally "impacted" his family. NBC, ABC and CBS offered almost no skepticism.

Typical was *Today* medical contributor Dr. Natalie Azar. She wondered, "What do you say to the people who deny that climate change is real and that it's impacting our health?" After Obama insisted that the number of "deniers" is going down, Azar simply agreed, "yeah, it's true."

On ABC's *Good Morning America*, Dr. Richard Besser asked in a concerned tone: "Do you worry that the environment, the climate has impacted on your own daughter?" The President implied Global Warming may have been connected to Malia Obama's asthma.*

On *CBS This Morning*, Dr. Jon LaPook echoed, "You have two daughters, who are teenagers. Are you thinking long-term because of them? . . . Is that somehow part of the equation?" The networks used their medical editors to talk to the President and all three sat in front of the same backdrop of medical equipment. This is all part of an Obama effort to shift the public away from thinking of climate change as a problem for polar bears and towards their own health.

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* As usual, the President's knowledge of science is, to say the least, limited. According to the U.S. government's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, "The exact cause of asthma isn't known. Researchers think some genetic and environmental factors interact to cause asthma, most often early in life. These factors include: an inherited tendency to develop allergies, called atopy; parents who have asthma; certain respiratory infections during childhood; and contact with some airborne allergens or exposure to some viral infections in infancy or in early childhood when the immune system is developing. . . . One theory researchers have for what causes asthma is . . . that our Western lifestyle—with its emphasis on hygiene and sanitation—has resulted in changes in our living conditions and an overall decline in infections in early childhood." Seriously: One likely cause of asthma is that our society is too *clean*. *–SJA*

LaPook explained how the White House strategy worked, attacking Republican Senator James Inhofe: "Well, he's having this multi-pronged attack and I think it's probably cause he realizes that it's unlikely that you're going to have any kind of climate change legislation go through Congress. I mean Senator Inhofe threw a snowball down as evidence that climate—climate change isn't even happening."

[*Editor's note:* As in LaPook's comment, Sen. Inhofe has been widely ridiculed by the Left for holding a snowball on the floor of the Senate while arguing against Global Warming beliefs. Warming true-believers suggest that his doing so exposes his ignorance—that is, his failure to understand that the weather on a particular day neither proves nor disproves Global Warming/climate change theory. But, of course, Inhofe was ridiculing precisely that misunderstanding, i.e., the Left's tendency to cite every warm spell, every dry spell, and even every cold spell (see above), as evidence that they are correct on Warming. *–SJA*]

118 drought stories, not a drop of concern for environmentalist role
By Julia A. Seymour
May 20, 2015

California Gov. Jerry Brown has repeatedly blamed Global Warming/climate change for his state's four-year drought. In April 2015, Brown said of the four-year dry spell, "Climate change is not a hoax, we're dealing with it and it's damn serious." President Barack Obama has made similar comments.

That's despite the fact that though scientists—even those who otherwise back Global Warming theory—are divided on the subject (blaming Warming for the drought). Even the alarmist *New York Times* admitted there is no "definitive evidence that it is causing California's problems." The U.K. newspaper *The Guardian* reported: "Peer-reviewed studies are divided on whether the drought can be blamed on climate change."

Blaming climate change for the drought fits into one of the media's favorite nar-

ratives, in which human activity causes bad weather.

It doesn't fit the narrative to hold environmentalists accountable for their role in worsening the effects of the drought.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, tens of billions of gallons of water has been lost thanks to regulations and poor water management in California. The *Journal* noted that "environmental regulations require that about 4.4 million acre-feet of water—enough to sustain 4.4 million families and irrigate one million acres of farmland—be diverted to ecological purposes."

Much of this was to save a tiny endangered fish, the Delta smelt. Only six of them were found during the most recent survey of the fish. "Even in dry years, hundreds of thousands of acre feet of runoff are flushed into San Francisco Bay to protect fish in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta" in California, according to the *Journal*.

California could have improved its situation by increasing reservoirs, building desalination plants, and prioritizing people's water needs over fish. Presidential candidate and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina declared that, "With different policies over the last 20 years, all of this could be avoided." The *Journal* also said, "Increased surface storage would give regulators more latitude to conserve water during heavy stormflows and would have allowed the state to stockpile larger reserves during the 15 years that preceded the last drought. Yet no major water infrastructure project has been completed in California since the 1960s."

ABC, CBS and NBC evening news shows, which aired 188 drought stories over a year and a half, completely ignored environmental regulations that worsened the crisis by sending massive quantities of water out to sea. Typically, NBC's Al Roker complained on September 20, 2014 about the "lack of groundwater regulation" that he said "left poor communities vulnerable." ABC News boosted Brown's claims about Global Warming on its newscasts, while NBC and CBS both cited the "record drought in California" as evidence of Warming. NBC's Miguel Almaguer insisted that, "from droughts to floods, our planet is changing."

[*Editor's note:* Interestingly, a link between Warming and drought in California, if it were ever proven, might actually *dis*prove Global Warming theory. As noted in a December 2014 report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), computer models of Global Warming show *increased* winter rains. *–SJA*]

Meteorologist Anthony Watts noted that "California has had far worse droughts before 'global warming' was a glimmer in a scientists' eye, and these were driven by changes in weather patterns that happened long before CO2 became an issue."

With 38 million people living in an area that used to be a desert, California is an oasis that requires seemingly limitless supplies of water. Creating livable cities and massive agriculture in a desert took a triumph of human will and engineering, but some scientists say it was constructed during a wet period, a far wetter period than was typical of California.

CBS admitted this possibility in a March 6, 2014 story featuring scientist Lynn Ingram, who noted that, looking back several thousand years, there were signs of droughts lasting more than a decade and sometimes longer than a century. CBS correspondent Ben Tracy noted "evidence of these so-called mega-droughts" in the San Francisco Bay. "Scientists say their research shows the 20th century was actually one of the wettest centuries in the past 1,300 years. During that time, we built massive dams and rerouted rivers. We used abundant water to build major cities and create a $45 billion agriculture industry in a place that used to be a desert," Tracy said.

Those droughts were not caused by exhaust from the tailpipes of SUVs.

Charlie Rose on climate change: 'Do we have too many scientific deniers?'
By Geoffrey Dickens
May 26, 2015

On the May 25 Charlie Rose show, the host couldn't get through a interview with astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson without asking about climate change and what to do about all those "scientific deniers?"

When the host of StarTalk Radio stressed the importance of understanding science so people can "vote intelligently" on the issues the PBS host mentioned "climate change" and asked: "Do we have too many scientific deniers in our country or do we give too much prominence to those who want to look the other way on science?" This prompted Tyson to launch into an attack on journalists who give "equal column space to all sides," including "the Earth is flat" people.

Here's part of the exchange:

> NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON: So if the people understand what science is and how it works and why it works, then you can vote intelligently on issues that involve scientific principles—
>
> CHARLIE ROSE: And things like climate change.
>
> TYSON: —on issues. And then you can know who is not telling the truth and who is, you can analyze it.
>
> ROSE: Okay, but the question is—are we, I mean do we have too many scientific deniers in our country or do we give too much prominence to those who want to look the other way on science?
>
> TYSON: Yes, there are some of those. And dare I implicate some elements of journalism in this, because there's your journalistic ethos—not to tell you what your ethos is—but as I understand it and it's been told to me, the journalist's obligation when writing a story is to give equal column space to all sides. Or half to one of each side. And if someone says the Earth is round and someone says the Earth is flat, at some point you're going to make a judgment, "the Earth is flat" people, is just flat out wrong. I will not be giving them the attention. We're wasting time and I'm not doing a service to—in my role of informing the public. . . . [A]t some point, invest your brain energy to recognize

when something is fringe. And report it that way.

[*Editor's note:* The "flat earth" insult cited by Tyson is itself based on a falsehood—a tale by a writer of fantasy stories that some scientists and academics spread fraudulently to discredit religious people. For more information, google my blog post "The Flat Earth is a myth. So's that story about people who believed in a Flat Earth." –*SJA*]

NY Times op-ed: Conservative 'deniers' will cause next Holocaust

By Spencer Raley

September 14, 2015

In a *New York Times* op-ed, Yale professor Timothy Snyder suggested that Global Warming/climate change, and "denial" that it's both catastrophic and man-made, will cause the next Holocaust.

The atrocities committed by Nazi Germany were "a war on resources," he suggested, and this war will be repeated by countries dealing with the effects of climate change. Further, Germany's quest for domination was "premised on the denial of science." Hitler's alternative to science, Snyder argued, was the idea of Lebensraum.

> Germany needed an Eastern European empire because only conquest, and not agricultural technology, offered the hope of feeding the German people. In Hitler's "Second Book," which was composed in 1928 and not published until after his death, he insisted that hunger would outstrip crop improvements and that all "the scientific methods of land management" had already failed. No conceivable improvement would allow Germans to be fed "from their own land and territory," he claimed. Hitler specifically—and wrongly—denied that irrigation, hybrids, and fertilizers could change the relationship between people and land.

Of course, this comparison by Prof. Snyder is directed toward those who are skeptical regarding the extent and cause of climate change and the effect climate change is having on the environment. "By polluting the atmosphere with greenhouse gases, the United States has done more than any other nation to bring about the next ecological panic," he wrote, "yet it is the only country where climate science is still resisted by certain political and business elites. These deniers tend to present the empirical findings of scientists as a conspiracy and question the validity of science—an intellectual stance that is uncomfortably close to Hitler's."

Liberal proponents of the phenomena seek to "settle" the issue so they can paint any who disagree with them as a coalition of radicals who refuse to acknowledge basic science.

[*Editor's note:* Interestingly, Hitler's views in this regard are Malthusian, derived, it seems, from the views of English cleric and scholar Thomas Malthus—and Malthusianism is a core belief not of conservatives, but of leftists. Indeed, one of its most prominent proponents over the past few decades is John Holdren, currently the science advisor to President Obama. –*SJA*]

Salon: Climate deniers are worse than Holocaust deniers

By Michael McKinney

October 14, 2015

The "mainstream media" came under attack on October 13 at the online magazine *Salon*, where Paul Rosenberg raged against the Associated Press for refusing to use the term 'climate denier' after activists on the Left demanded that. However, when the AP admitted that "denier" sounded too much like a Holocaust denier, Rosenberg became unhinged. "This is, quite simply, wrong. Wrong, wrong, wrong, wrong, wrong."

Rosenberg claimed that "denier" was the more scientific term, because "skeptic" or "doubter" gave "an undeserved air of legitimacy to something that is simply not legitimate." Attacking the AP's decision on vernacular, he suggested the news service use "denialist," another term popular among Progressives. [*Editor's note:* A "Progressive" is a leftist who rejects liberal/libertarian values such as freedom of speech and freedom of religion. –*SJA*]

The Holocaust denier comparison is fair, Rosenberg suggested, because—

> [I]t's conceivable that global warming could cost twice as many lives, or more, the equivalent of a Holocaust every decade from 2030 on. And global warming denial is a contributing cause to all those millions of deaths. This is what the best available science is telling us. But AP says we shouldn't use the term "denier", because it has a "pejorative ring." Which begs the question: isn't a pejorative ring precisely what's called for? Isn't it both morally necessary and empirically accurate? The problem isn't that "denier" has a "pejorative ring," it's that it's not nearly pejorative enough. "Climate holocaust co-conspirator" would be more apt. AP's "climate doubter" stylebook decision is a telling example of how the media itself is sleepwalking into this oncoming endless holocaust, by failing to assimilate important scientific information, critically reflect on the role it is playing, and change accordingly.

Scorched earth: Networks' evening shows spend 15 minutes hyping climate change agenda, summit

By Curtis Houck

November 30, 2015

Seeking to boost President Barack Obama and backers of the Paris climate change summit, the "big three" networks of ABC, CBS, and NBC devoted on Monday night (November 30) over 15 minutes of airtime across six segments touting the summit—plus a Discovery Channel documentary on climate change, a hashtag campaign, and a tale of climate scientists in the Arctic Circle, to name a few examples.

Leading the way toward the 15-minute-and-14-second total (not counting "Coming up..." teases) was the *CBS Evening News*, which started with the topic on its Monday broadcast and included anchor Scott Pelley cheering "the unprecedented global summit meeting," along with a friendly poll by CBS to back the position of the climate change activists. Prior to the first report from correspondent Margaret

Brennan in Paris, Pelley declared:

> In Paris today, President Obama warned that the world is fast approaching the hour when it will be too late to save the planet from climate change. . . . [H]e told 151 heads of state and government that a deal to cut carbon emissions would be an act of defiance against terror. In our new CBS News/*New York Times* poll, 66 percent of Americans said the U.S. should join an international treaty to reduce emissions. When asked whether it's more important to protect the environment or stimulate the economy, 54 percent chose the environment, 34 percent the economy.

After summarizing the President's day at the summit, Brennan noted that "any agreement won't be legally binding and it doesn't require congressional approval, but Republicans have threatened to withhold funding for a deal."

The full-court press on the CBS newscast continued with China-based correspondent Seth Doane covering the visibly-disturbing amounts of smog in the capital of the world's biggest polluter.* It ended with Pelley going to senior foreign correspondent Mark Phillips, who profiled climatologists in Svalbard, Norway as they charted "a worrying trend that's happening now" with trapped methane gas said to be now be leaking from the world's frozen tundras into the atmosphere. He offered no opposing viewpoint.

NBC Nightly News deployed a nearly-identical strategy with two reports adding up to five minutes and 26 seconds harping on the summit and an upcoming Discovery documentary by filmmaker Louie Psihoyos on a "mass extinction" due to climate change. Senior White House correspondent Chris Jansing offered a fawning assessment of the summit: "There's never been anything like it. A hundred and fifty world leaders under one roof, in high-stakes talks targeting climate change." Jansing gushed that the summit "is a show of defiance following the recent terror attacks here [Paris]," with an appearance by Britain's Prince Charles as "some royal persuasion," plus "Bill Gates announcing a multi-billion dollar clean energy project."

After a commercial break, correspondent Cynthia McFadden promoted an upcoming documentary arguing that the largest mass extinction is underway due to humans causing a boost in "carbon emissions, the destruction of forests, and the over-hunting." She ended her segment by touting an "educational campaign," complete with hashtag, backed by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, about the "crisis . . . humans have caused and humans must fix."

ABC's World News Tonight offered the least amount of coverage with one report (totaling two minutes and 34 seconds) from chief White House correspondent Jonathan Karl in Paris. Introducing the report, anchor David Muir hailed the gathering as an "unprecedented climate change summit."

Evening news shows ignore radicalism, crimes surrounding U.N. Climate Summit in Paris

By Erin Aitcheson and Julia Seymour

December 16, 2015

In recent weeks, thousands of negotiators from 196 governments met in Paris "for a major conference on climate change" attempting to reach an agreement for every country to lower its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, emissions climate alarmists say will cause catastrophic climate change.

That conference was dubbed COP21 (as it was the 21st gathering of the Conference of Parties to an earlier Global Warming agreement). It began on November 30, and wrapped up with the announcement of a non-binding agreement on December 12.

The broadcast networks covered the conference at the beginning and again at the end. At first, they hyped President Barack Obama's participation and the resilience of the city of Paris in the wake of devastating terrorist attacks. They concluded by praising the results as "historic," "monumental," and a "turning point" on climate.

In Paris, Obama claimed "there's no greater threat to our planet than climate change" and argued that holding the conference in Paris was a "powerful rebuke to the terrorists." [*Editor's note:* In fact, the opposite was true. Al Qaeda under Osama bin Laden had, as one of its top priorities, the creation of an international effort to mitigate the supposed effects of Global Warming, with a mechanism to provide reparations for poor, socialist countries that were said to be harmed by the rapacious, Warming-causing capitalist countries. The Paris Treaty, rather than being a "rebuke," gave the terrorists what they wanted. *–SJA*]

The *CBS Evening News* admitted the agreement wouldn't "end global warming," while Bloomberg News reported (but tried to downplay) the estimate of the International Energy Agency that it would cost $16.5 trillion to meet the pledges made in Paris. That estimate, by the way, didn't even take into account the costs to consumers in the way of higher energy prices or slower economic growth. But throughout the summit, none of the three evening news programs asked or estimated what price the world would pay if it followed through on promises made in Paris.

The price tag wasn't the only thing missing from the network coverage of the climate summit. The networks avoided showing the behavior during the summit of the most radical climate activists, focusing almost entirely on the government negotiations. The evening shows failed to mention eco-activists' many criminal acts, including vandalism in Paris and other cities and the hacking of conference officials by "Anonymous."

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* Carbon dioxide, the main "greenhouse gas" targeted by the Paris summiteers, is invisible and harmless to humans. The visible pollution in China has nothing to do with carbon dioxide, which is exhaled by humans and other animals, makes up a miniscule 1/2500th of the atmosphere, and is absolutely necessary for the existence of life as we know it—but those facts don't stop reporters from citing the haze in Beijing as a reason to support the cause of Global Warming activism. *–SJA*

Protesters had to be physically removed from the COP21 "Solutions" exhibit in Paris' Grand Palais. One protester there claimed fracking was "killing our people in the name of a false solution for climate justice." Groups of activists calling for "climate justice" staged actions throughout the conference in Paris and other cities. People from all over the world participated in the Climate Games, a global call for climate civil disobedience. Participants in those Climate Games stormed a Volkswagen showroom and international bank office in Brussels, Belgium, dressed as animals and vegetables and trashed the places with leaves and trash saying they were "nature defending itself." Ten people were arrested for dumping molasses on marble floors in the Louvre to protest oil companies' sponsorship of the museum. A group entered a VW dealership and opened canisters of what appeared to be gas, filling the building. A team of activists calling themselves Brandalism, secretly made keys for locked advertising poster boxes throughout Paris, and broke into them to hang satirical ads attacking companies and climate skeptics ahead of the summit. Its website brags about its 600 "ad takeovers" for the U.N. climate talks.

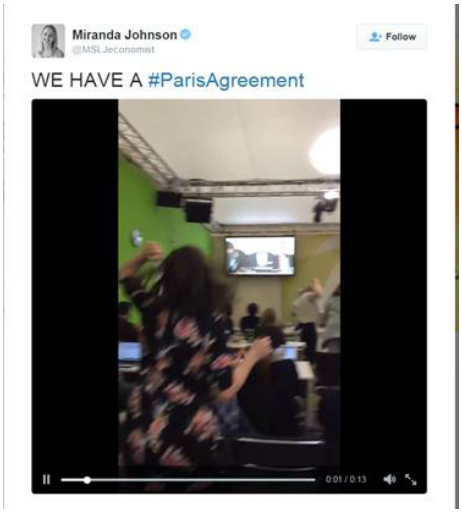
On November 29, *NBC Nightly News* did mention a protest march which was attempted illegally. It had been cancelled by French authorities because of the state of emergency in Paris. *Nightly News* covered those illegal protests sympathetically, saying "it all started peacefully" and understating the violence of the protesters, in which hundreds were arrested. Overall, though, there was hardly any mention of criminal, outrageous, or weird behavior by the protesters.

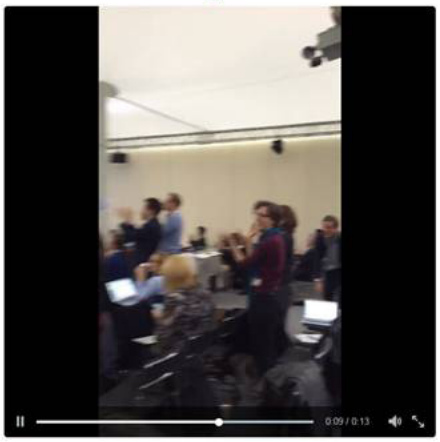
Shocked to find bias going on here
By Steven J. Allen
January 15, 2016

And now for 2015's best (worst?) demonstration of media bias on environmental issues:

As politicians completed their work on the Paris Treaty, Miranda Johnson, environment correspondent for the London-based *The Economist* (one of the world's top newsmagazines), likened the air of excitement in the pressroom to that among spectators at a classic soccer game.

When the Treaty was finalized, Johnson celebrated by posting cellphone video showing the jubilation among her fellow journalists.





For the rest of our lives, whenever we need to cite an example of journalistic ineptitude, ignorance, extremism, and general kookery... well, we'll always have Paris.

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GreenNotes

In his 1976 debate with **President Gerald Ford**, **Jimmy Carter** emphasized the importance of imposing "strict conservation measures," promoting "solar power," and enacting other policies to deal with the fact that the world's oil would soon be gone. Carter said that "we need to have a realization that we've got about 35 years worth of oil left in the whole world. We are going to run out of oil." The year of Carter's deadline, 2011, came and went, and, today, we are left with at least 250 years' worth of oil—effectively enough to last forever, given that humans are likely to discover several new forms of energy in that time. Leftists claim that we have 53 years of oil left, but they arrive at that figure using essentially the same junk-science calculation of "proven reserves"/"peak oil" that Carter used in 1976. They love the illusion that the oil supply is strictly limited because it gives them an excuse to funnel taxpayers' and consumers' money into the pockets of so-called "sustainable" industries like solar and wind that, in turn, provide them with money and political support.

The **Islamic State**, known as ISIS, has a fortune with which to conduct its effort to bring about a worldwide theocracy, with money from ransom, the illicit trade in antiquities, raids on banks, and the collection of taxes. One key source of revenue is, of course, oil. You might be wondering why the Obama administration didn't bomb and destroy ISIS oil wells and tankers. The answer, from **Mike Morrell**, former deputy director/acting director of the **CIA**, was, in part, to prevent "environmental damage": "Prior to [the ISIS attack in] **Paris** . . . there seemed to have been a judgment that, look, we don't want to destroy these oil tankers because infrastructure that's going to be necessary to support the people when ISIS isn't there anymore, and it's going to create environmental damage. And we didn't go after oil wells—actually hitting oil wells that ISIS controls—because we didn't want to do environmental damage and we didn't want to destroy that infrastructure, right."

In this context, it's important to remember the Nuclear Winter hoax. In the late 1980s, scientists/political activists promoted the theory that, in the case of a nuclear war, the earth would be plunged into an Ice Age that might wipe out humanity. Therefore, it was reasoned, it would be foolish for the U.S. to retaliate against a **Soviet** attack, because the retaliation itself would kill us all. Needless to say, the Soviets and their supporters in the scientific community and the media fervently promoted the theory. But the theory was discredited at the end of the first **Gulf War**, when retreating Iraqi troops set **Kuwaiti** oil wells on fire, and the climatic effects predicted by Nuclear Winter theory did not occur. It was a valuable lesson in what happens when you mix science, which does not have political opinions, with political activism.

The **U.K.**'s ***Daily Mail*** reported in January that "webbed feet, cat's eyes, and gills . . . are just some [of the features] that humans could evolve to have to deal with a 'water world' due to global warming."

The ***Washington Times*** reported that the **Obama administration**'s **Environmental Protection Agency** has spent some $200,000 buying body armor, while the ***Daily Signal*** notes millions in EPA spending (uncovered by the organization **Open the Books**) on "guns, ammo, body armor, camouflage equipment, unmanned aircraft, amphibious assault ships, radar and night-vision gear, and other military-style weaponry and surveillance activities." The **Heritage Foundation**'s **Paul Larkin**, a former special agent in charge with the EPA criminal enforcement program, said that administrative agencies have an incentive to create their own police forces because, for example, it gives them the opportunity to bring criminal charges against someone who refuses to cooperate in a civil settlement.

Out of the seven presidential candidates given the best chance of winning a major-party nomination, *Green Watch*'s informal survey of Global Warming experts ranks **Ted Cruz** as the most knowledgeable on Warming-related issues. He is followed by **Trump**, **Rubio**, **Christie**, **Bush**, **Sanders**, and the least knowledgeable, **Clinton**. (This is being written prior to the first actual voting in the 2016 presidential campaign, in the **Iowa** caucus.) Cruz faces strong opposition in Iowa due to his call for an end to the so-called Renewable Fuels Standard (about which, see *Green Watch* July 2015). Some 40 percent of Iowa corn goes into ethanol. The ***Wall Street Journal*** reported that "The state's biggest ethanol trade groups are [conducting] a multi-million-dollar campaign to stop Mr. Cruz from becoming the first presidential candidate in either party to win the state while opposing the standard since it was enacted." Still, even Cruz's position has, as they say, evolved. He once supported an immediate end to the RFS, but now favors a five-year phaseout.

In contrast, the Obama administration is increasing the amount of ethanol to be mixed into gasoline, which raises gas prices, damages vehicle engines, hurts the environment, and makes food more expensive, especially for the world's poorest people.

Campaigning in **Nevada** in January, Hillary Clinton mocked Republicans for refusing to accept "climate change" (i.e., catastrophic man-made global warming) as absolute fact. "You can look out the window in **Las Vegas** and see snow and realize it's real," she declared. According to the ***Free Beacon***, the temperature that day in Las Vegas hit a high of 55 degrees Fahrenheit with a low of 42. Meanwhile, **Mike Eisner**, the **New Whig Party** candidate for president, has called for making gasoline gluten-free.