



FRIENDS OF SCIENCE SOCIETY

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## *FOS MEMBERSHIP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER*

*No. 15*

*“FOS is dedicated to providing the public with insight into Climate Change”*

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As mentioned in our last newsletter, **the Friends** were supporting professors Barry Cooper of the University of Calgary, and Tim Patterson of the Carleton University in their endeavours to hold a meeting of scientists. The scientists held a spectrum of opinion with respect to climate change. We viewed it as a beginning of a dialogue which could grow into a national debate as to the causes for our warming climate. The meeting was to be held in Ottawa on September 20, 2007. The University of Calgary in early September unexpectedly cancelled its support of the meeting which had to be subsequently postponed for an indefinite period.

**The Friends** organized a successful breakfast meeting on Friday September 14 which was sponsored by six well known business leaders. Dr. Ross McKittrick, associate Professor of Economics, University of Guelph, gave a presentation in which he argued for a carbon tax linked to real changes in atmospheric temperature. He explained why a carbon tax linked to mean observed atmospheric temperature changes should appeal to both sides of the global warming debate. There appeared to be general agreement among attendees that the idea was a logical response which would not gamble in advance as to which side of the debate was correct and that it warranted further investigation. For further information about Dr. McKittrick's proposal please consult our web page: [www.friendsofscience.org](http://www.friendsofscience.org)

Our members, specifically Albert Jacobs, Norman Kalmanovitch, John Leeson, and Ken Gregory continue to respond to numerous email enquiries concerning the science of climate change. The enquiries are often the result of people going to our web page which has recorded up to 100,000 hits a month. We continue to upgrade our web page under the careful supervision of our “web master” Len Maier, to make it more user friendly and pertinent. We have also recently issued a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of our DVD; “Climate Catastrophe Cancelled” with updated material and commentary. Copies are available upon request.

Some of our members have sent us donations over the last several months for which we are very appreciative. We are sometimes unable to provide a personal response with an appropriate expression of gratitude because of our lack of volunteers and administrative support. For this we apologize.

Our financial support is presently approaching an all time low. It is further complicated by the fact that contributions to the Friends of Science are not tax deductible. We are continuing however to canvass for additional funds under the guidance of Chuck Simpson with the hope that we can hire administrative help and a marketing consultant, upgrade our web page to first class status, sponsor more luncheons, and increase our presence through radio and TV advertisements. I cannot stress too strongly that any direct or indirect assistance our members can supply will be most helpful.

Douglas Leahey PhD  
President Friends of Science

## POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Dr. Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic addressed the recent UN Conference on Climate Change. He had two notable suggestions and one recommendation. There is also court action being sought in Dover, England which has the potential to profoundly affect global warming debate in that country.

Dr. Klaus suggestions and recommendation were as follows:

- The UN should organize two parallel IPCCs and publish two competing reports. To get rid of the one-sided monopoly is a *sine qua non* for an efficient and rational debate. Providing the same or comparable financial backing to both groups of scientists is a necessary starting point.

The countries should listen to one another, learn from mistakes and successes of others, but any country should be left alone to prepare its own plan to tackle this problem and decide what priority to assign to it among its other competing goals.

He recommended that we trust in the rationality of man and in the outcome of spontaneous evolution of human society, not in the virtues of political activism. Therefore, we should vote for adaptation, not for the attempts to mastermind the global climate.

- There are plans by the British government to introduce Gore's DVD: *An Inconvenient Truth* into all secondary schools in England. This plan is being challenged by a school governor from Dover who has asked for a judicial review of the government's actions. The challenge is based on a provision in the 1996 Education Act requiring that local education authorities "shall forbid...the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school."

There was an oral hearing into the matter on September 27, 2007 before a Mr. Justice Burton. He is due to deliver a ruling on the case next week, but yesterday, October 3, he said he would be saying that Gore's Oscar-winning film does promote 'partisan political views'. This means that teachers will have to warn pupils that there are other opinions on global warming and they should not necessarily accept the views of the film.

## SCIENCE NEWS

There are many recent items of interest from the scientific community amongst which the following items appear to be especially noteworthy.

- Last month, when Steve McIntyre, an expert statistical analyst, spotted a fundamental flaw in the method Hansen had used to calculate his figures, the Goddard Institute of Space Studies (GISS) was forced to publish a new graph, showing that the hottest year of the 20th

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century was not 1998, as generally accepted, but 1934. Of the 10 hottest years since 1880, four were in the 1930s, only three in the past decade. This in turn followed the latest satellite figures from the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration showing how global temperatures in recent years have flattened out at about 0.2 degrees below their 1998 level, and that this summer's figures have been lower than they were in 1983, despite a continuing rise in CO<sub>2</sub>.

- A key article of faith for the “warmists” is supposed to be an increase of extreme weather events such as droughts. But US researchers, led by Gemma Narisma (2007), have now shown that, far from becoming more frequent in recent decades, serious droughts have in fact become rarer than they were a century ago. In their paper they identified the 30 most “severe and persistent” drought episodes of the 20th century. Seven of these occurred before 1920, seven between 1921 and 1940 and eight between 1941 and 1960, dropping to five between 1961 and 1980. The last two decades of the century, when the world was supposedly heating up more than ever, saw just three. The worst drought affecting the developed world was the US Dust Bowl disaster of the mid-1930s.
- Reports in national and international press have projected that two-thirds of the world's polar bear populations will be lost within 50 years due to the loss of sea ice. In fact, according to a study being conducted by Dr. Mitch Taylor of Nunavut’s Department of the Environment (as reported by Northern News Services) polar bear populations along the Davis Strait are healthy and their numbers increasing. Canada has two thirds of the world's polar bears. Nunavut is home to 12 of Canada's 13 polar bear populations, totalling an estimated 14,780.

## Reference

Narisma, G.T., Foley, J.A., Licker, R. and Ramankutty, N. 2007. Abrupt changes in rainfall during the twentieth century. *Geophysical Research Letters* **34**: 10.1029/2006GL028628

## For your Christmas list:

This year two remarkable books were published, which we think should be in the hands of anyone who takes an interest in the latest developments in Climate Science. They are:

S. Fred Singer & Dennis T. Avery: "UNSTOPPABLE GLOBAL WARMING - every 1500 years" (2007, Rowman & Littlefield) ISBN-13: 978-0-7425-5117-6 (pbk)

And

Henrik Svensmark & Nigel Calder: "THE CHILLING STARS - A New Theory of Climate Change"(2007, in Canada: Penguin Books) ISBN-13: 978-1840468-15-1

Singer's is a compendium of arguments, fears, myths, methods; provides sources and a usable index while Svensmark traces the development of the solar/galactic/cosmic argument; also well sourced and indexed.