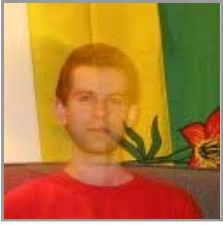


Abandoned Stuff by Saskboy

News, Insights, and Humour



Saskboy@hotmail.com



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{ 2009 05 24 }

Directory Humour

I have a few links piling up, which I don't seem to have time to write up properly, so here they are improperly. Enjoy!

Have you [phoned a computer lately](#)? Give it a try, they are about as useful as the humans working for your telephone company's Directory Assistance.

==

Are [Global Warming \(Climate Change\) Deniers on the cusp](#) of becoming as relevant as flat earthers? Let's hope so, for all our sakes.

==

This [Liberal Party website photo reminded me](#) of one that Robert McClelland or someone did of a party website search, and I parodied it with a close retaliation of a search of the federal NDP website. It was something like searching for "competent leadership" and no results were returned.

==

Does anyone buy [salvage from the federal government](#) using this website?

==

[Canada needs high speed rail](#), to connect our major cities in case it becomes infeasible for most people to fly. That likelihood is high because oil shortages could make flying for only the very rich to use.

==

[Sarah Haskins is maybe the funniest Web star](#) there is.

MoS on UofR Alumnus
Flew Solo From Sask. to
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Saskboy on The Thing
About Leaving Home...
jeff on The Thing About
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==

Check out [Laughter Yoga for an easy exercise](#) that gives you ripped abs, and a beautiful face.

==

The [best ever Calvin and Hobbes cartoons](#) according to this collection.

==

[Mess up your mind with these illusions](#), including the breaking ball.

==

A [goose that is “whiffing”](#) and upside down in flight. — Hat tip to [Neatorama](#)

==

Cat Yodelling:



www.flickr.com



More of
computer_saskboy's
photos

~More Notes From the
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~Democratic Space 2008 Election
~Inside The Queensway - Kady
O.
~Slashdot - Technology and News
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{ 12 }

Comments

- [Jennifer Brooks](#) | 24-May-09 at 7:57 pm | [Permalink](#)

lol ;) Thanks for the interesting assortment of links ... I especially appreciated the one re: the US rail link - now if only Canada would join the rest of the modern world and seriously consider (read: fund) this as a major transportation mode *sigh*
- [saskboy1](#) | 24-May-09 at 8:55 pm | [Permalink](#)

You're welcome Jennifer.

I don't expect either the Cons or the Libs to fund the rails outside of Ontario, and even there not enough.

==

And I have more about this coming tomorrow
<http://www.abandonedstuff.com/2009/05/13/determine-uraniums-future-in-saskatchewan/>
- [Ell Jay](#) | 24-May-09 at 10:41 pm | [Permalink](#)

"Global Warming Deniers"? Anthropogenic global warming is as factual as the Holocaust now? B'nai Brith might like a word with you if you keep saying that. Calling anthropogenic global warming a "proven fact" demonstrates not only an incomplete understanding of climate, but of the scientific process itself. May I suggest the search keyword "Younger Dryas"?
- [Saskboy](#) | 25-May-09 at 1:21 am | [Permalink](#)

Whether something happened (in the past), or is yet to happen, both can be facts, the points aren't mutually exclusive as you suggest.

<http://omniclimate.wordpress.com/category/younger-dryas/>

I think his conclusions are not very complete, and I disagree with his response since it's against the sensible act of reducing pollution.

Climate Reform Against People is happening in response to our pollution. Don't wait until the CRAP hits the fan, to do something about it.



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SaskBlogs 2.0

The fact that whomever's conclusions are incomplete is the exact point I'm trying to make. Causes of both the beginning and end of the Younger Dryas event, which each saw far more dramatic temperature shifts across a large part of the globe, remain a mystery. The entire period lasted longer than any of our reliable climate data, but humankind has the sheer hubris to declare that it understands how climate works?

As well, for many people, it is a FACT that being cold is the sole reason they "catch a cold." Is this scientifically "true"? I'm not suggesting that events in the future are not facts; I am stating that things that are not true are untrue. The only device science has with which to determine the cause of something is the experiment. I have yet to see a study that does anything beyond correlate a spurious temperature increase with an increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide. Far more tenuous is the causal link between human activity and global temperature increase. As my grade 8 science teacher assured me, correlation does not equal causation— if it did, then I have a rock in my backyard that keeps it free of alligators.

Nobody called out NASA when they released "climate data" last fall that was merely a duplicate of the previous month, with the Chicken-Little-esque announcement that "October is way warmer than average!" I also find any news about our dangerously warm climate to be as scarce this year as a thermometer reading 20C.

"Climate Reform Against People," eh? I'm waiting for the day a defense lawyer attempts to excuse murder by explaining how many tons of carbon dioxide his client prevented from being released over the next 20 years. Perhaps we should applaud states with a death penalty for their program to permanently reduce individuals' carbon footprints. (Forgive my bitter satire, I actually believe nothing is more valuable than human life... which is where my philosophy diverges from those at PETA).

"Climate" itself is an average value. Average values can be expected to fluctuate over the years, as evidenced by the recent hue and cry that "current trends are merely delaying the inevitable warming. Repent, sinners!"

Let's not forget that no one of sound mind ever seriously endorsed a "Flat Earth" theory; even the earliest Greek mariners understood what happened as a ship disappeared over the horizon. To call



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— — — — —

skeptics of anthropogenic global warming basically “insane” is an ad hominem argument of those without logic to stand on. Furthermore, as I alluded to previously, the use of the word “Denier” equates skepticism of anthropogenic global warming with anti-Semitism, an analogy that is quite frankly disgusting.

6. [Saskboy](#) | 25-May-09 at 10:31 pm | [Permalink](#)

Not really disgusting as a comparison though, is it? The Holocaust was designed to wipe out entire portions of our population. The policies to further climate change are designed (yes designed) to ignore evidence that pollution causes harm (in particular to our climate) and will cause millions to die rapidly in a potentially avoidable event over several years. It's only “potentially” avoidable, because in the vast reaches of time we will have to adapt to a natural climate crisis if we survive long enough as a civilization to witness that.

Because we don't FULLY understand how climate works, what makes it sensible to pump gigatons of carbon into the atmosphere that would not normally be there? Reproducible tests confirm that CO(2) is a green house gas - go to a green house, fill it with more CO(2) and see it get hotter faster than an identical green house with standard atmosphere. Now explain why it's safe to run this experiment on a global scale when we don't know for sure how much of an impact it will have on a planetary green house? The only, only, ONLY reason we argue that it's safe is because it scares the living poop out of most people to consider that we've signed our death warrants long ago by driving Model Ts. And so to fix the problem, we might actually have to change our technology or lifestyles — scary stuff.

7. [Ell Jay](#) | 26-May-09 at 11:41 am | [Permalink](#)

First off, do you really believe the intentional and deliberate slaughter—SLAUGHTER— of over six million people is comparable to what is, if we are generous in accepting the claims of the Church of Suzuki, at worst criminal negligence? I want to make sure I understand you perfectly: you say it is “not disgusting” to compare the release of CO2 with genocide. We had better carry a plant around with us any time we feel like breathing. “Millions will die rapidly?” Is this science, or Revelations? Let me know how installing CFLs in my home (which I did years before it was fashionable, mind you) is going to prevent the locusts and fire-breathing prophets in

the Holy Land. Where, too, are these policies “designed to further climate change”? I’m not sure there’s any Bond-villain politicians sitting around saying “I agree with this report published by the publicists at the David Suzuki Foundation, so I’m going to emit as much CO₂ as I can in order to keep people from skiing at Whistler.”

I’m not saying it’s sensible to pollute, or to overload on CO₂ either (which is not, strictly speaking, a pollutant). You know what reproducible tests also confirm is a much more effective greenhouse gas than CO₂? Water vapour. Until recently, climate modellers didn’t even consider clouds in their computer equations. High school physics was a long time ago, but I seem to remember the term “specific heat”, and the fact that warm water is going to stay that way for a long time, and vice versa. Perhaps we should be installing dehumidifiers in new buildings?

Furthermore, I never once suggested it would be safe to turn the Earth into an experiment: the point I tried to make is that this is IMPOSSIBLE. If it were possible to control every factor affecting climate, why not just make it how you want it? Nevermind that a greenhouse is a gross, gross, GROSS oversimplification of the systems that affect intercontinental climate. How many greenhouses have you found that have weather systems, and that contain large bodies of water, and are only partially insulated at any one time?

The only, only, ONLY reason anybody listens to climate-change fanatics like Mr. Gore or Mr. Suzuki is that their entire position relies on people having the “living poop” scared out of them. Owning “green” technology is the new status symbol of our era— on both a personal and international scale. When developing nations can not afford the carbon credits it would take to get their industrial feet under them, they will cease to be “developing” and will remain undeveloped. Will third-world poverty kill millions of people rapidly enough?

Going back now, what is this “event” you speak of? Did you think “The Day After Tomorrow” was a documentary? Did you know sea levels were several metres lower c. 500 BCE? What caused that? I don’t know— do you?

The biggest environmental problem facing the Earth today is destruction of natural habitat. When people equate my 20 minutes of automobile travel with slashing and burning of an acre of rainforest, I start to see the disconnect with reality. I am in full support of any measures to reduce personal

consumption, a philosophy I espouse in my daily life. In the same vein, I applaud the economy of arguments in your responses, as it cuts down on the amount of electricity required to both write and read them.

8. [Saskboy](#) | 26-May-09 at 11:59 am | [Permalink](#)

Is intentional destruction of people less evil if spread over time? I'd say not, but we can agree to disagree if you like.

The only reason I simplify down to a greenhouse is because everyone can get their head around that and its limited variables. To get more complicated is fine for scientists who make testing their life's work, but for most people they don't have the time in the day to consider every variable that could affect climate on Earth. That's why it's important to have an example they can see, where if pollution is increased, then so too is temperature. If it doesn't scale to the globe, I'll eat my hat (assuming I'm wearing a hamburger).

"I never once suggested it would be safe to turn the Earth into an experiment: the point I tried to make is that this is IMPOSSIBLE. If it were possible to control every factor affecting climate, why not just make it how you want it?"

You don't have to control EVERY variable to run an experiment. And I didn't say it was a well conducted one, but it IS an experiment, you must admit. We are adding pollutants of all types, CO(2) and additional water vapour, to test our hypothesis that civilization is better with every sort of technological process. We've never run an experiment, so far, that has destroyed our ability to live in any region of the Earth (tailing ponds, and deforested locations aside).

I think you're assuming I equate using a car with burning rainforest. I don't, but you must see that both are harmful to furthering life for civilization as it is imagined. Being against both (and I'm not against driving) does not mean someone is against them equally.

9. [Ell Jay](#) | 26-May-09 at 9:03 pm | [Permalink](#)

I'm almost certain that propagating oversimplified ideas to perpetuate common ignorance is an irresonsible method of education. CO2 (which is not a pollutant) in a greenhouse does not scale to the globe, so I hope your hat-burger is delicious. The sad part is, the scientists whose life work is

supposed to be testing are also taking the shortcut with the greenhouse analogy, and then scaring the people who don't understand. The one thing that's more widely understood than over-simple metaphors is fear, and the popular "climate change experts" are handing out fear by the truckload. In the late 1970s, the fear-mongers were convinced that a global cooling trend was imminent; I suppose an altered message was able to bring the spotlight (and funding) back to them.

I will not admit that is an experiment because it is manifestly not an experiment. In scientific terms, an experiment has all pertinent variable controlled for so that cause can be established. At best, a naturally occurring situation may be described as a quasi-experiment, but any causal relationships inferred should not hold as "fact" when subjected to scientific rigor; to that point, true experimental results often do not hold up as fact in the face of scientific rigor. Something I think we can both agree on, however, is that the concept of anthropogenic (there's that word again) climate change has moved far, far, FAR beyond the purview of science. If correlation equalled causation, then pro basketball players are tall BECAUSE of the shoes they wear.

I do apologize for making unfounded assumptions about your beliefs— I overstepped the bounds of a discussion with you and extended discussion to some of the most militant environmentalists. However, your belief that humankind is somehow "destroying our ability to live in any region of the Earth" strikes me as a little bit, well, magical. Early hominids made out very well in the forests and plains of Africa during the last Ice Age, and another glaciation is actually a relatively likely result of open water at the poles. Contrary to popular belief, glaciers form because of an overwhelming amount of precipitation (snow); rather than forming because it is cold, it is actually cold because the snow a) is already cold and b) reflects up to ~90% of incoming solar radiation. Hopefully that last point illustrates the danger of explaining climatic phenomena in childish simple terms; if not, I have heard adults earnestly believe that thunder occurs when clouds bump together(!). Recently, the sun did a poor job adhering to its supposed 11-year cycle, and managed to put out much less energy than anticipated. At the same time, global warming trends virtually disappeared or reversed. Is it not conceivable that the sun, the sole source of energy input into a complex but ultimately closed global system, could be the primary factor in explaining climate variation? We agree, again, that less cars

and less consumption are good things. The sticking point, however, is that human pride and arrogance is so great that we believe we are responsible for every change or catastrophe that ever occurs, and we underestimate the resiliency and adaptability of the Earth's natural systems. In a thousand years, the idea of a "biodiversity crisis" may be a mythical concept... but the real "Inconvenient Truth" seems to be that my brand of optimism, as opposed to "millions of people are going to die in the next several years," "there won't be a single spot of arable land left," isn't what the general populace is interested in buying.

10. [Saskboy](#) | 26-May-09 at 10:45 pm | [Permalink](#)

It's possible that it's not human caused climate change that is going on around us the last decades, but in context of pollution levels (and yes, CO(2) is a pollutant) I find it most reasonable to assume that our significant actions can have a negative effect. That's because if your theory is wrong and we are having a global negative effect, doesn't it seem like man slaughter AT BEST, and mass murder at worst?

I see we're both competing for 'longest comment awards', but on I go.

CO(2) is a pollutant for the simple reason that it's a waste gas, unintentionally scattered through the atmosphere using technology. Something can be naturally occurring, and still be a pollutant if it pollutes (befouls, soils, modifies) an otherwise natural location. We don't release additional water vapour, CO, CO(2), and other pollutants intentionally, but we can't claim that they aren't harmful (pollution) just because we don't mean harm in the actions that create pollution levels above a natural baseline.

"we underestimate the resiliency and adaptability of the Earth's natural systems."

I don't. I do however see that many species aren't making it, right now. Of course this has happened before, but those animals and plants still don't have a second chance. If we trigger the wrong sort of die off, we won't get a second chance either because I don't think a higher primate is as resilient as 99% of the lifeforms that can exist more reliably on just a little sunlight or heat from an ocean vent. Remember we take 9 months to reproduce, and minimum ~14 years to raise the next generation to an age where they can have young. If human populations are decimated, we'll take a lot longer to recover than

our competition who can do the same in a year or less.

I think the population isn't receptive at all to doomer theory, and a very tiny minority of people realize that there's a potential crisis looming.

<http://www.abandonedstuff.com/2009/02/25/doomer/>

11. [Saskboy](#) | 26-May-09 at 10:48 pm | [Permalink](#)

"In the late 1970s, the fear-mongers were convinced that a global cooling trend was imminent;"

Yeah, and for parts of the world, climate change will probably mean cooling for them. Different name, same thing. In the next century we'll see which of us predicted the near-future correctly. I hope you're right, but I also hope you (and our countrypeople) are prepared for my predictions because it's better to be the Ant than the Grasshopper.

12. [Tim](#) | 28-May-09 at 6:56 pm | [Permalink](#)

Whew! Made it through all those comments!
Thanks for the link, Saskboy.

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