

Is Earth edging toward calamity?

CLIMATE CHANGE DATA IS HIGHLY UNRELIABLE

The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report has been released. This U.N. report evaluates various global risks associated with future climate change.

The evaluation process used in the Working Group II report relies upon global temperature projections obtained from low and high CO2 emissions climate model scenarios developed and addressed in its U.N. report released last year.

In the most recent report the former climate model was shown to exaggerate and projected increases in global temperatures based on CO2 levels assumed present in the atmosphere compared to actual observed global temperatures.

The climate model scenarios developed by the U.N. have other significant limitations beyond not being able to produce temperature projections that agree with measured global temperatures.

Climate model temperature projections have no probabilities attached to their computed outcomes, and the resulting temperature projection outcomes are considered to be simply "plausible and illustrative." Thus, comparisons of climate-model temperature outcomes to actually observed global temperatures is paramount to assessing whether these projections have validity.

Larry Hamlin
Dana Point
retired Southern California Edison vice president of power production, former state energy construction czar under Gov. Gray Davis (2001).

CONFRONT REAL CHALLENGES, INSTEAD

With all of the catastrophes that are now taking place, the headline, "Glacier melt could soak Newport" [Front Page, March 28], was ludicrous. How about doing an in-depth series



PAVEL RAHMAN, ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this May 31, 2009, file photo, water flows back as villagers dig earth to rebuild an embankment at Protap Nagar in Shatkhira, about 110 miles southwest of Dhaka, Bangladesh. U.N. experts say in a report issued March 31 Asia and the South Pacific faces rising risks from climate change that threaten food security, public health and social order.

on one of the present-day catastrophes that people are dealing with? The choices are many: the damaging effects of Obamacare; the emerging education and student privacy catastrophe that is Common Core; economic policies leading to record unemployment or how our national leaders have made us vulnerable through their naivete regarding military funding and illegal immigration policies.

If Orange County leaders want to work on mitigation plans, let's start by dealing with issues that are staring us in the face, rather than dubious ones that some believe might happen in the distant future.

When people introduce hysteria into a field that should be limited to sound scientific reasoning, negative ramifications are inevitable. Case in point: the measles outbreak fueled by parents who believe a thoroughly disproven theory linking the measles vaccine with autism.

Mary Litwinski
Dana Point

COUNTING THE COSTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Thank you for your expanding coverage of climate change issues. Threatening news is never easy to read, but if we greet these challenges with old-fashioned American determination and smarts, we will be leaders.

I am enthused to see our local governments taking action to face the changes ahead. I hope our local congressional representatives also take this opportunity to lead. We can debate the pace of climate change and how best to lead locally and around the world in mitigating the impacts, but let's keep moving forward.

If we hit a roadblock, go around and find a solution. Listening to those who want to mock and whine is not helpful. Fossil fuels are a wrong and short-sighted answer until producers address the CO2, water and contamination issues. Focus on the future and move forward.

Peggy Catron
Orange

The first sentence of the article, "Glacier melt could soak Newport" [Front Page, March 28], said that "Massive glaciers in Antarctica are losing ice much faster than expected, potentially accelerating the threat of rising seas to low-lying coastal cities such as Newport Beach."

Global warming, ocean acidification and crazy climate changes due to burning increasing amounts of fossil fuels are real. We should consider it a direct threat to our country and all its people, rich and poor. A carbon tax seems a very good solution to reverse the effects of carbon pollution.

This powerful solution will encourage innovation and investment in renewable energy and lower its cost, not to mention lessen carbon pollution. Higher prices on anything makes everyone look for cheaper ways to do things. It has already been done in British Columbia for five years, so we know this can be done.

John Castillo
Orange

U.S. influence wanes with nonengagement policy

Editorials and letters continue to dance around President Barack Obama's goal to reduce U.S. influence outside of our borders ["Advantage Putin," Opinion, March 30]. Obama's approaches to Russian President Vladimir Putin and China's aggressiveness are prime examples.

After events in the Ukraine last fall, it was just a matter of time before Putin put his military to work. The Sochi 2014 Olympics gave Putin extra time to plan and closely monitor U.S. intelligence. Obama appears naive, missing the opportunity to persuade the new Ukrainian administration to continue its march toward

equality in governance of all people in Ukraine.

Similarly, during the past several years, China has installed military posts on islands recognized as parts of other countries and asserted its control of air space and seas distant from its shores.

China now continues its long-range goals to expand its air, sea and land borders, while the Obama administration merely makes high-level social calls. It is left to the airlines, fishing fleets and allies to figure it out.

It is absurd to think that the National Security Agency, the Pentagon, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and others did not know



MIKHAIL KLIMENTYEV ZUMAPRESS.COM

Russian President Vladimir Putin holds a meeting with government ministers, March 26.

Putin's and China's actions were coming. It appears Obama has instructed these agencies to not interfere with his goal of non-engagement with

other countries when U.S. leadership could make a difference.

Kris Flaig
Cypress

Keeping our immigration obligations

The April 2 stories about Unitarian Universalist Church congregants delivering a petition to Congressman Ed Royce's office ["Church group latest to fast, target Royce for immigration reform," Local] and Roman Catholic "Bishops holding mass at the Mexican Border" [News] about illegal immigrants illustrate the recent direction Hispanic activists have taken. Events are designed to illicit sympathy.

Illegal immigration costs California billions of dollars yearly in welfare, education and health care benefits. The Huffington Post reports that

Mexico received more than \$20 billion in remittances during 2013 (money sent by foreign workers to their home country) from the U.S. Workers here illegally cause lower wages. The Heritage Foundation estimates that amnesty would cost the United States more than \$6 trillion in benefits.

The immigration system is not broken; it just needs to be enforced.

Betty Robinson
Tustin

Sometimes when people are living in dire situations in their country of origin, they make the difficult decision to immigrate to a foreign country in search of a better life. The inevitable result is that family and loved ones are left behind.

So why do I have an issue with many immigrants today? First, my great grandparents did not break the law in their new country by immigrating illegally. Second, they did not expect their new country to admit every generation of their families who were in Ireland and Finland to prevent "breaking up the family."

Our country has no moral obligation to "keep families united." Everyone who comes to this country has a moral obligation to follow proper legal protocols. Immigrants themselves choose to break up their own family when they cross the border from their own country into ours.

As for the scenario of parents illegally coming into the country and having children who are "legal" U.S. citizens, I

am for immigration reform and repealing this antiquated law. I am 100 percent for legal immigration and for enforcing the laws of our land. After all, without legal immigrants, the United States would not exist.

Casey J. Durham
Mission Viejo

WILDLIFE TRAGEDY

It's tragic that a wild animal behaving instinctively within its natural habitat loses its life because a negligent adult with small children did not heed the clear warning sign that was posted: "Warning: mountain lion country a risk" ["Officials kill aggressive mountain lion," Local, April 1]. Placing a child in a potentially harmful situation is sad for everyone.

Judy Onak
Orange

OBAMACARE

No special treatment for special interests

If we allow special-interest groups to carve out their own exemptions from Obamacare, the insurance principle of shared risk will be destroyed. Insurance only works when everyone pays a premium and risk is spread across broad classes of people.

In a standard insurance policy, older folks pay for young folks' prenatal care and hospital delivery. Young people pay for older folks' arthritis and dementia care. Men pay for women's gynecological needs and mammograms while women pay for prostate screenings etc. Non-smokers pay for smokers, while smokers pay for obesity treatments and diabetes care. Obese people pay for anorexia nervosa while patients with anorexia pay for drug-abuse treatment for addicts. The list goes on and on but the point is that a wide, shared risk pool is the most efficient and least expensive form of insurance. When insurance risk is spread across a large group of people, the costs for each individual go down.

If we allow religious groups to carve out their own exemptions, the basic concept of insurance could be disrupted. Christian institutions don't want to pay for employees' contraception and abortion services. Maybe they will also refuse to pay for prenatal screening or sterilization. And how about the Christian Scientists who oppose all medical care for any reason?

Jennifer Marks
Laguna Woods

NEW RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

New Rule: You don't get to criticize Obamacare for falling short of its goals after spending four years doing everything in your power to block enrollments.

Despite 50 attempts in Congress to repeal Obamacare, the rolling out of an advertising campaign to dissuade young citizens to enroll and the refusal among red state governments to create exchanges or expand Medicaid under the law, the Obamacare enrollment numbers are a positive achievement. They surged to the magic number of 7 million by Monday's deadline.

The combination of enrollments on the exchanges, enrollments outside exchanges, Medicaid expansion and young people joining their parents' plans is nearing 20 million people directly benefiting from Obamacare after only three months. In addition, senior citizens have thus far saved about \$9 billion in prescription costs, and every American is protected from pre-existing conditions and lifetime caps.

I'll grant that there are aspects of Obamacare that could be improved, and I'm encouraged to see Democrats in Congress inviting Republicans to join the effort and move forward instead of backward.

Tom Chapman
Huntington Beach

KEEP HEALTH CARE 'LOCAL'

Health is well-being, and is to a major degree, a personal responsibility. Medical care is a service to treat the absence of well-being. Today, we erroneously label medical care as "health care." It is pure folly for the federal government to control our medical system. History is replete with evidence of how government controls things.

Well-being is not a right. Some people are irresponsible and careless. Others, unfortunately, incur suffering and illness. The former are on their own. The latter our society will help – without government intrusion. The optimal way to help is as locally as possible and certainly not beyond the state level. Obamacare is a bad investment.

John Rette
Mission Viejo



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Thomas Sundoval, left, assists Jaime Sanchez, center, and his wife, Carmen Castro during a health care enrollment event at AltaMed Health Insurance Resource Center, March 31, in Los Angeles.

HOW TO SEND US A LETTER

Letters to the Editor reflect all points of view and are selected for clarity, substance and brevity (150 words). The sentiments expressed on any single issue are published in proportion to what is received, which changes daily. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number for verification. Letters may be edited and used in print or digital form. All letters become property of the Register. **E-mail:** letters@ocregister.com. **Mail:** Letters, The Register, P.O. Box 11626, Santa Ana, Calif. 92711-1626. **Fax:** 714-796-3657.

Commentary staff

BRIAN CALLE, Opinion page editor, 714-796-7823, bcalle@ocregister.com
MICHAEL C. TIPPING, deputy editor, 714-796-7784, mtipping@ocregister.com
JOSEPH PERKINS, assistant editor, 714-796-7786, jperkins@ocregister.com
BETTY TALBERT, letters editor, 714-796-3631, letters@ocregister.com

RORY COHEN, copy editor, 714-796-5049, rcohen@ocregister.com
SUSAN VARDON, Senior editor, 714-796-6838, svardon@ocregister.com
SCOTT KAUFMAN, editorial writer, 714-796-5025, skaufman@ocregister.com
ADAM SUMMERS, editorial writer, 714-796-2230, asummers@ocregister.com
TREVOR SMITH, editorial coordinator, 714-796-7989, trsmith@ocregister.com