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## Global warming: true and false

"Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that the climate is changing." This and similar statements are made repeatedly by members of the Obama administration and others. Is it true?

While the statement is usually interpreted to mean "global warming is real," the claim is two-fold:

- 1) A global warming trend exists.
- 2) Human beings are the main cause.

The first of the two claims is correct,

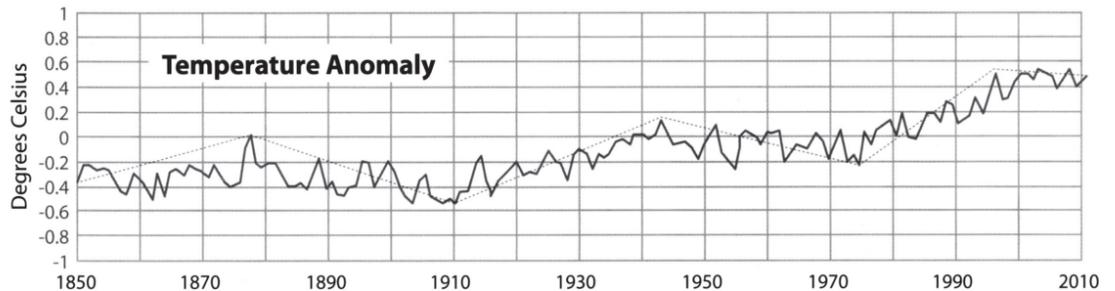
but barely, according to Dr. Terry Hughes, who worked for 35 years at the Department of Earth Sciences and the Climate Change Institute at University of Maine. He says the warming increase has been less than one degree (0.8) over the past 160 years. (See chart below.)

In addition, Hughes believes global warming is good for the environment because of increased carbon dioxide. "Researchers want to keep federal funding for climate change alive, and politicians want to earn environmentalist votes, and

both predict global pandemonium to that end," he said.

John Cook, who runs the popular website **SkepticalScience.com**, produced one of the key papers used to defend the popular statement. But a review of his findings reveals that Cook is actually able to demonstrate that only a handful of scientists verifiably endorse the view that Earth is warming up and human emissions of greenhouse gasses are the main cause. Rather, Cook created categories that deliberately misrepresent the findings.

forbes.com, 1/6/15; thecollegefix.com, 1/8/15



Reprinted from May 2015 *afa Journal*

## When the Sahara was green

By Dr. Elsa Kirsten Peters

(Planet Rock Doc, Washington State University)

As schoolchildren know, dinosaurs lived in a much warmer world. Back in the era of T. Rex and Stegosaurus, dinos flourished all over the globe beside truly balmy seas.

Fantasize with me for a moment about going back in time to those days, when we could swim in the surf all year round and our December heating bills would simply evaporate in the warm breezes.

Earth's climate, clearly, has changed from what it was in the dinosaur era.

Recently a famous dino hunter came across evidence of much more modern climate change. Paul Sereno of the University of Chicago is a geologist who is expert at finding and unearthing dinosaur bones all around the world. (If you know an 8-year old, ask about Sereno and you'll learn he's the cream of the crop in the realm of dinosaur discovery.)

In recent years Sereno has made a specialty of hunting dino fossils in the Sahara. And by chance, his crew stumbled across dozens and dozens of human skeletons in loose sands, lying above the dinosaur-rich solid rock below the dunes.

The serendipitous find led Sereno to unearth the bones of people who once lived in what's now the barren desert of Africa. The bones tell a story of early Stone Age humans from cultures of different times. They reflect two distinct burial styles and are associated with pots having quite different patterns. In other words, there are twin pieces of human history wrapped up in this one special spot in what's now an empty desert.

Here's the climate connection: The human bones are accompanied by bones of animals, including crocodiles, hippos, turtles, clams, and various fish. The great supply of water made evident by these bones has led to the nickname, "Green Sahara" for the time of the Stone Age peoples.

Both archeological evidence and radiocarbon dating show the age of the younger culture as 6,000 years ago and the older ones as 9,000 years ago. Just before that earlier time, Earth's climate had warmed up from the bitter cold of the Ice Age — the frigid period in which Canada, the upper Great Plains, the Midwest, and New England were all under thick glacial ice.

In Africa temperatures didn't climb much when the Ice Age ended, but weather patterns shifted. The Sahara suddenly got rain each year — lots and lots of rain. The humans Sereno found were buried in what was then a small peninsula, jutting into a local lake in which the crocs, clams, and fish lived. It was, clearly, a good spot, one used by people for literally thousands of years during that wet period.

As a geologist I'm happy to report the people of the Green Sahara knew the value of rocks. They made stone tools out of an unusual volcanic rock found about 100 miles away, either traveling there to bring it back or trading with other people for the valuable material. We know they made stone tools from that rock beside the lake because of abundant rock flakes in the loose sands.

Sereno's work shows the Stone Age dead were

buried with care. A woman reaches out her arms to two small children in one gravesite. Other individuals were buried with pots and even flowers.

But then the whole scene changed. The wet winds shifted, and by 3,500 years ago, the Green Sahara literally dried up. It was a climate upheaval more massive than anyone alive at the time could have understood. In short, the Sahara lurched back to its previous status as a desert. The water-loving creatures and the people of the area were soon replaced by arid sands.

In each chapter of Earth history, Mother Nature makes it obvious she likes a climate story with a truly vigorous plot. That's not to our liking, but such is the clear record geologists and archeologists have learned to read from all over the world. •

## Global warming

By David Whitehead

Any global warming is minimal and can be explained by variations in natural weather patterns. It's a scam to bring power and wealth to those pushing the agenda. If a person is for cleaner air and cleaner water, why not simply make that the agenda? The level of alarm being raised is to frighten people into drastic measures. •

BEFORE GIVING SOMEONE A PIECE OF  
YOUR MIND, MAKE SURE YOU CAN  
SPARE IT!

## Bottle found by two 'scavengers'

By Mariann Cooper

One spring day in April, while our great-grandson, Dominic Dault (left), and a friend, Caden Holt (right),



were visiting, they decided to drift down Norris Creek on our kayaks and pick junk out of the creek. They weren't gone long before they came back all excited!

They found that one of the bottles in the bank of the creek had a piece of paper folded up inside. When they opened it, they discovered there was a message inside that read:

"Evelyn Marie Pouch, Katzenbach, Thorp. September 10, 1951."

They brought it back to Grandpa and he took pictures of them with the bottle and the note.

The Pouch family has been in Fruitport many years and it would be fun to get some background on this interesting find.

Dominic's uncle Shane, who knows about wine bottles, doesn't think that the bottle with the note is that old. If you have information about this note, call FAN at 865-3134 or email fruitportareanews@frontier.com.