

We've Got Mail

■ LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

Global Warming Gets Cool Reception

Regarding Larry Aylward's column on Global Warming (Pin High, March), it is hard for me to believe the numbers of people who are now believers in global warming from the perspective that man is responsible. The Earth might be warming, but many believe that we mere humans are so powerful that we are mainly responsible for a degree or two of warmer-than-average temperatures compared to a relatively brief record of average temperatures where data was actually taken.

The Earth obviously went through a series of periods that were very warm/hot or very cold. What is normal or average? Consider the fossil records of dinosaurs in what are now cold climates of the world in a time where man didn't burn oil or coal for energy. There is oil in Alaska that is said to have come from tropical plants, biomass and subsequently fossil fuels. Obviously, the area that is now Alaska was much warmer than it is today.

Consider that we are a giant ball of rock and water. Earth, which rotates while it orbits around the sun roughly every 365 days, is not a precision object, and there are no man-made machines that ensure its accuracy revolving around the sun. The atomic clock must be reset every so often because the Earth is not precise in its orbit around the sun.

The sun is not precise, either. When you consider everything that happens in the universe without man's influence, it is amazing to me that the Earth doesn't fly off its gravitational orbit with the sun. It is even more amazing that the sun with all of its erratically burning gasses (solar flares and sun spots) doesn't just explode. With something as hot as the sun with a core that burns at an estimated, average 20-million degrees Celsius (a thermonuclear explosion generates brief temperatures approaching 300,000 degrees Celsius) most any solid becomes gaseous immediately.

Is the temperature of the sun always going to be consistently 20-million degrees C, or could it vary by a half degree or so? Why doesn't the sun explode or burn all of its gasses immediately like a tank of gasoline will when exposed to a match? To think that something this hot and massive can be controlled or affected by man is ludicrous to me.

If you blame man for burning fossil fuels as the cause for global warming, you might as well blame the Chinese for importing metal ore, concrete, rock

and natural resources for building so many new buildings and cars. All of this added weight on one part of the planet might just as easily be to blame for causing the Earth to tilt a little more in its rotation around the Sun, causing our proximity to the Sun to increase and resulting in warming temperatures.

I put more faith in a higher power than man when you consider the Earth, the sun and the universe as a whole and where it came from, why it exists and what lies in its future.

I enjoy your columns, but as humans, we seem to give ourselves way too much credit or blame. Our brief time on this planet is insignificant when you consider the bigger picture.

Steve Kammerer

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The problem with the global warming alarmists is that they ignore the role of the sun and history. When northern Ohio was producing all that shale, it was deep under water. The limestone of Indiana likewise formed below an ocean. That is global warming. The planet warmed and cooled naturally for 4 billion years before we got here.

The alarmists never mention that the sun is hotter than it has been in some time. I am for a cleaned-up planet, but I am not converting to the global warming religion.

Since you are going to broaden your knowledge on the subject, you should read Michael Crichton's novel "State of Fear." He is a much smarter guy than Big Al (Gore). Relax.

Joe Kosoglov, certified superintendent

Wolf Run Golf Club

Zionsville, Ind.

I like everything Larry Aylward wrote in his op-ed on global warming except the implication that global warming is due to hydrocarbons.

"The sixth-warmest year in Earth's recorded history" is not even a blip on the screen of Earth's history. As for me and most others I know, we agree that the weather does seem to be warming from an historical short view. But as to whether that is due to an environment careening out of control, a long-term trend or even a short-term trend, we just don't know.

These same scientists were declaring an ice age was on the way just a few decades ago.

(After all, much of North America was covered with ice at one time, and the polar regions have been quite mild in history with extensive forests.) There is still much debate among the scientists themselves as to what is going on. So my opinion is let's not help fuel a wildfire of fear by taking sides until we know what is really happening. We all just need to be responsible for what each of us can control.

Besides, I would love to retire in Fargo. Florida is getting congested.

Michael Stem, certified superintendent

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Can Job Satisfaction Be Found on Golf Courses?

"In Search of Greener Grass" (February *Golfdom Report*, p. 15A) is a great article and very pertinent to my situation. I left golf to be a grounds supervisor of a large corporate headquarters.

I have the same sense of ownership as a superintendent, but no golfers, no greens and no tees — just an immaculate tract of land with a lake, some forest, 1.5-inch turf and parking lots. I work 40 hours a week unless there's a snowstorm; then I'm paid time-and-a-half to plow. I get weekends and holidays off to spend with my family. And did I mention there are no golfers?

In my case, I was totally disenfranchised with the golf industry, having worked in it for 18 years with terrible hours and insufficient compensation. But like most, I was tricked into thinking that this was the way the world worked, and a better-paying superintendent job was just around the corner.

Then I got fired from my assistant superintendent job simply because I had been there too long, and I had to scramble. Through hard work, luck and perhaps a little divine intervention, I scored a job that I can retire from. It has excellent benefits, long-term stability and time for my family, which are things the golf course career could not provide me. So for me, the grass truly is greener.

Submitted at www.golfdom.com.

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