

Global warming is the most significant computer-generated weather forecast of them all. It predicts dire consequences for mankind, but what proof do we really have it exists?

Weather data — whether it be good, bad or indifferent — is based on historical information. If the past two hurricane seasons are any indication of weather prediction models, then I doubt seriously that I will be seeing the ocean lapping at my doorstep anytime soon.

Did you ever hear of the Dust Bowl and the Depression of the 1930s? Seems the hottest recorded temperatures occurred during that time instead of the past couple of decades, contrary to widespread reporting. That statistical error by NASA has been discovered recently, but it has been buried by the press since it contradicts the data used to hype the current hysteria model.

I'm happy that our more well-heeled celebrities can run out to buy hybrid cars and pave their rooftops with solar panels to offset their gluttonous consumption of energy in their mansions and their private jets, which tends to overshadow the emissions from us middle-class minions. I've been driving four-cylinder automobiles for more than 30 years. Don't preach to me.

Thank goodness our profession grows grass. Did you know that 1 acre of turf sequesters a ton of carbon per year? Now go figure your golf course's carbon footprint. Of course, you must add the emissions from turf equipment. But I'm looking forward to the day we have solar-powered fairway mowers as the world races toward a carbon-neutral existence. People, we are a carbon-based life form. The Earth is always changing.

So much for the global gas bags, what about your local weather person? Ever since the hurricane seasons from hell in 2004 and 2005, every rain event has been transformed into the storm of the century, and any weather condition forecasted is cause for alarm. Just check it out.

TV stations now have sinister names for their weather shows — Early "Warning" Weather, "Severe" Storm Center, not just The Weather Center. With the Super Duper HD Viper Doppler Radar, which sounds like a military weapons system, we can view a thun-

Storm Stories: Forecasts of Fear

BY JOEL JACKSON



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derstorm and check instantaneously for any smidgen of rotation, which we all know by now is code for "possible tornadic activity."

I swear the weather folks seem ecstatic if stormy weather is approaching. They move to center stage, and we get multiple updates throughout the night on the movement of a routine thunderstorm. It's as if none of us have ever dealt with thunder and lightning and high winds. If people don't know by now to come in out of the rain, making every afternoon storm out to be a life-and-death situation won't help. It becomes too much like the boy who cried wolf.

The mundane has become murderous on the nightly weathercast: A sunny day means danger from UV rays, so put on extra protection against skin cancer. A windy day means rip currents at the beach. A dry-windy day means upgrading the wildfire index. Rain means flooding and treacherous traffic conditions. A calm day means the air quality (smog) index will go up. Hot and humid forecasts include warnings for people to drink lots of water and limit outdoor activity, and those with respiratory ailments should hunker down indoors.

It's ironic that the famous quote by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself," should become a cautionary warning about our daily weather forecasts.

Constant negativity breeds cynicism and desensitizes people to legitimate threats and warnings.

Common sense is the best defense while living with the natural elements we have no control over. So put on your sunscreen and go outside and play golf. And if you hear the storm siren, come in out of the rain and head for the high ground.

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