

September 3, 2014

Kevin Williamson writes on a Florida program that grants \$5,700 tax credits to parents who send their children to private schools. Of course the teacher's union is suing to halt the program.

... This isn't about religion; it's about protecting the narrow financial interests of a monopolistic public-sector cartel that produces a whole lot of six-figure salaries, \$28-an-hour baby-sitters, and \$90,000-a-year shop teachers. You think it's not about the money? Consider that Florida uses a similar system to provide pre-kindergarten education to 140,000 low-income children, about 40 percent of whom are in religiously affiliated schools. Florida offers college scholarships, too, which students are free to use at religious institutions. (Three of Florida's historically black colleges are Christian schools — shall we revoke their students' federal aid?) Nobody is filing any lawsuits about college scholarships — the union goons are not looking out for anything but their own selfish interests.

Which would be more or less fine, if they didn't stink quite so much when it comes to educating children.

We know they do a terrible job. The data show that they do a terrible job. And, most significant, they know that they do a terrible job, too: That's why they do not want families to be allowed to choose. Given a choice, 70,000 low-income Florida families are saying "No" to the monopoly. If more families are allowed to choose, more are going to tell the cartel to pound sand, thus putting its members at a higher risk of being forced to work for market wages.

And let's remember who these families and children are: 100 percent low-income, 75 percent minority, 60 percent single-parent families, heavily immigrant black and brown families earning on average about half of the median income.

Underpaid, you might say.

Ricochet writes on a subversive conspiracy to provide good education. It comes from Hillsdale College.

I've been reluctant to write about Hillsdale's conspiracy to educate our K-12 children, for fear of betraying one of the most effective schemes to restore the Republic ever devised by the Vast Right-Wing Conspiracy.

*But, since public education is a perpetual topic of debate here among the center-right (see [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)), I thought readers might like to know about my kids' public charter school, which teaches a classical curriculum provided by Hillsdale College. Yes, that Hillsdale. The Hillsdale of Ricochet's own Paul Rahe, the online courses on *The Constitution and The Great Books*, *Imprimis*, and the most excellent Hillsdale Dialogue interviews by Hugh Hewitt of President Larry Arnn and other members of the faculty.*

When my daughter began her career at The Vanguard School as a freshman, we didn't even know the curriculum was provided by Hillsdale. We only knew that Vanguard was the top-performing high school in Colorado as measured by standardized test scores, college attendance by graduates, and scholarship earnings of its graduates. Vanguard's first graduating class of 22 students earned over two million dollars in scholarships.

We were also unaware that the school appears to be a job-placement program for Hillsdale graduates, who have been, uniformly, some of the best teachers (and most decent people) from whom my daughter has ever had the privilege of learning. And since she's been educated in charter schools since 3rd grade, that's saying something.

What does \$6,000 per pupil of tax funding (roughly the going rate in Colorado) buy you? Allow me to share just a sampling of the freshman reading list (see a complete listing for all grades [here](#)): ...

Roger Simon says patriotism is not the last refuge of scoundrels, it is global warming.

Samuel Johnson had it wrong when he famously said that "patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels!"

"Global warming is the last refuge of scoundrels!"

(Or "climate change" or "extreme weather" or "bad storms" or whatever the euphemism du jour happens to be.)

Of course, the good doctor can be excused, opining as he did in the late 18th century, long before Al Gore emerged from a massage parlor to warn of us of impending ecological doom if we didn't mend our ways (and start some lucrative carbon offset funds that would net him millions, or is it billions, before they disappeared in a haze of corruption somewhere in the bowels of a Beijing bank, so help me Al Jazeera).

But never fear — climate change is back, this time on the back of our president, who has emerged not from a massage parlor but from the golf course — where else? — to guide us into the promised land of clean energy. According to — where else? — the New York Times: ...

Jonathan Tobin has good news for polar bears and bad news for algore.

*That some of Al Gore's global warming predictions turned out to be bogus is no longer much of a surprise. As far back as seven years ago, a British court ruled that Gore's Oscar-winning environmentalist documentary film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, contained several errors and exaggerations that illustrated the alarmist spirit that motivated the filmmaker. But the news about nature contradicting another one of the former vice president's predictions should not so much encourage skeptics about global warming theories as inspire both sides in this controversy to lower their voices and to be a little less sanguine about computer models, whether they predict warming or cooling.*

The report in yesterday's Daily Mail concerns the extent of the ice cap covering the Arctic. Gore had warned in 2007 while accepting the Nobel Peace Prize that within seven years the ice cap would vanish in summer. However, satellite photographs confirm that not only has the ice not vanished, in the last two years it has increased somewhere between 43 and 62 percent since 2012. It turns out that in that time some 1.715 million square kilometers of the Arctic are now covered by ice that were water during the 2012 presidential campaign.

Does this mean that global warming is a myth? Not necessarily. Scientists say 2012 was a year of “freak weather” and that the cooling since then is a regression to the mean rather than a complete reversal of past warming trends that some say remain in place in the long term. But since the evidence shows that the ice cap is larger than at any point since 2006, it’s certainly worth noting. ...

Here's the [Daily Mail](#) article.

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This was the highest level recorded on that date since 2006 (see graph, right), and represents an increase of 1.71 million square kilometres over the past two years – an impressive 43 per cent.

Other figures from the Danish Meteorological Institute suggest that the growth has been even more dramatic. Using a different measure, the area with at least 30 per cent ice cover, these reveal a 63 per cent rise – from 2.7 million to 4.4 million square kilometres.

The satellite images published here are taken from a further authoritative source, the University of Illinois’s Cryosphere project.

They show that as well as becoming more extensive, the ice has grown more concentrated, with the purple areas – denoting regions where the ice pack is most dense – increasing markedly.

Crucially, the ice is also thicker, and therefore more resilient to future melting. Professor Andrew Shepherd, of Leeds University, an expert in climate satellite monitoring, said yesterday: ‘It is clear from the measurements we have collected that the Arctic sea ice has experienced a significant recovery in thickness over the past year.

‘It seems that an unusually cool summer in 2013 allowed more ice to survive through to last winter. This means that the Arctic sea ice pack is thicker and stronger than usual, and this should be taken into account when making predictions of its future extent.’ ...

National Review

[Teachers Hate Poor Kids](#)

In Florida, union goons line up to beat down poor minority families

by Kevin D. Williamson

Alberto Carvalho, the highly regarded Miami-Dade schools superintendent, jokes that he wants to be the most “underpaid” public servant in the country. *Underpaid?* Public-school types keep using that word; I do not think that it means what they think it means.

I don't really want to beat up on Carvalho, who seems to be a pretty good guy doing some pretty good things. But bottom lines matter. Under the leadership of the district's ("underpaid") \$320,000-a-year superintendent, who has a \$4 *billion* budget at his disposal, a fifth of Miami's tenth-graders still read so poorly that, in the bland words of the education bureaucracy: "Performance at this level indicates an inadequate level of success with the challenging content of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for reading." Carvalho blames this on "diversity," the fact that many Miami students are learning English. Reasonable enough. But 54 percent of Miami-Dade's tenth-graders get Florida's lowest rating for math, and *multiplicación de fracciones* is what it is in any language.

For this, Carvalho has been celebrated, feted, and splendidly compensated. Even conservative education reformers have good things to say about him — as they probably should. He was Florida superintendent of the year for 2014, he was national superintendent of the year for 2014, his district won the prestigious Broad prize in 2012 as the most improved urban school district, and he is said to have recently turned down a job in the Obama administration. But *good by comparison* isn't the same as *good*: His district includes a high school in which the dropout rate is 55.2 percent — a school with the words "stellar" and "leadership" in its name, two words that, like "underpaid," apparently mean something else in Miami.

You know what Miami is by Florida standards?

Above average.

According to NPR, more than half of Florida's *college-bound* graduates in 2011 "couldn't read, write or solve math problems well enough" for college, and required remedial education. In that crowd, Carvalho stands tall, indeed: Best of the worst.

That being the case, some Florida families are looking for the exits, especially those in low-income areas where the schools tend to be even worse than average. For the moment, Florida accommodates them, offering a \$5,272 tax credit to help parents send their children to schools of their own choosing, including private and religious schools. Yesterday, the teachers' unions and the Florida School Board Association filed a lawsuit to stop the program, and to cruelly strip 70,000 low-income families of the ability to choose their children's schools, on religious grounds.

The religious argument is bunkum. The First Amendment prohibits the establishment of a federal church; the Netherlands, one of the most secular countries on Earth, directly funds education in religious schools, and nobody would mistake it for a country with an established church. (The Dutch Reformed Church was disestablished in 1798.) But the union goons are always happy to resort to bigotry and the tools of bigotry, and also are suing under Florida's Blaine amendment, an atavistic vestige of 19th century anti-Catholic fervor and anti-immigrant sentiment that forbids aid to "sectarian" schools. Thus are Florida teachers deploying the Ku Klux Klan's favorite legal innovation against families who are poor and disproportionately immigrant. The more things change . . .

The Blaine case against the tax credit is pretty weak, too: The program is designed, rather baroquely, to forefend just such a challenge: The money goes from business donors, which are compensated with a tax credit, to a nonprofit that in effect writes a two-party check to each family and the school of its choice, which must be endorsed by the beneficiary. The money never hits the treasury, so there is no state expenditure.

In fact, there is the opposite of a state expenditure. The scholarships are only \$5,272, far less than Florida taxpayers spend each year on a child in one of their (sort of terrible, if we're going to look at the data) government monopoly schools. The tax-credit program on net saves Florida taxpayers tens of millions of dollars.

On the same day the Florida lawsuit was filed, New Hampshire's supreme court upheld that state's similar school-choice program.

This isn't about religion; it's about protecting the narrow financial interests of a monopolistic public-sector cartel that produces a whole lot of six-figure salaries, \$28-an-hour baby-sitters, and \$90,000-a-year shop teachers. You think it's not about the money? Consider that Florida uses a similar system to provide pre-kindergarten education to 140,000 low-income children, about 40 percent of whom are in religiously affiliated schools. Florida offers college scholarships, too, which students are free to use at religious institutions. (Three of Florida's historically black colleges are Christian schools — shall we revoke their students' federal aid?) Nobody is filing any lawsuits about college scholarships — the union goons are not looking out for anything but their own selfish interests.

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Ricochet

[The Hillsdale Conspiracy](#)

by Western Chauvinist

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What does \$6,000 per pupil of tax funding (roughly the going rate in Colorado) buy you? Allow me to share just a sampling of the freshman reading list (see a complete listing for all grades [here](#)):

History — Grade 9:

- Aristotle, *Politics*.
- Herodotus, *Histories*.
- *The Holy Bible*, American Standard Version
- Livy, *Stories of Rome*.
- Plato, *The Republic*, et al.
- Tacitus, *Annals*.
- Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian Wars*.

English — Grade 9:

- Cicero, *Selected Works*.
- *The Holy Bible*, American Standard Version.
- Homer, *The Iliad*.
- Homer, *The Odyssey*.
- Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*.
- Sophocles, *Three Theban Plays*.
- Golding, *Lord of the Flies*.

Freshman students are placed in math according to test scores (Algebra I and II, Geometry, Advanced Math, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Statistics, and AP courses are offered) and are expected to complete one year of Latin and at least three years of a modern foreign language (Latin, Spanish, or German). Vanguard students are also required to complete one semester each of Music History and Art History.

To say the Vanguard system produces well-rounded American citizens is to understate the case. Every day starts with the Pledge of Allegiance. In junior high, where my other daughter started 7th grade this year, the Pledge is followed by a recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution. At Friday assemblies, the students sing the Star Spangled Banner.

As with all the charter schools in our experience, character education plays a central role. At Vanguard, the principal and vice-principal rotate through each grade-level monthly, lecturing on the virtues. Bullying, provocative clothing, and bad behavior are not tolerated. Open-door policies remain in each and every classroom, with seating provided for parents and guests in the

back of the room. The faculty have nothing to hide and that's what they model for, and expect from, their students.

I'm guessing not 1% of public school students in America receive the education my daughters are getting from their Hillsdale-model school. And that's a damn shame for the 99%. This is the argument for school choice. Public education can save Western Civilization, if Hillsdale is providing the content.

Roger L. Simon [Climate Change to the Rescue?](#)



Samuel Johnson had it wrong when he famously said that “patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels!”

“*Global warming* is the last refuge of scoundrels!”

(Or “climate change” or “extreme weather” or “bad storms” or whatever the euphemism *du jour* happens to be.)

Of course, the good doctor can be excused, opining as he did in the late 18th century, long before Al of Gore emerged from a massage parlor to warn of us of impending ecological doom if we didn't mend our ways (and start some lucrative carbon offset funds that would net him millions, or is it billions, before they disappeared in a haze of corruption somewhere in the bowels of a Beijing bank, so help me Al Jazeera).

But never fear — climate change is back, this time *on* the back of our president, who has emerged not from a massage parlor but from the golf course — where else? — to guide us into the promised land of clean energy. According to — where else? — the [New York Times](#):

The Obama administration is working to forge a sweeping international climate change agreement to compel nations to cut their planet-warming fossil fuel emissions, but without ratification from Congress.

Without ratification from Congress? No way! They wouldn't do something like that, would they? This is a democratic republic. We have a Constitution. (Okay, kidding.)

And what's wrong with cooking all this up on a golf course anyway, even if the sport is a bit iffy on the eco front? What's a little extra water in Rancho Mirage between friends and [future property owners](#)? And perhaps all those conversations with Alonzo Mourning on the back nine have been about "[ARCUS sea ice predictions](#)" and the latest on "[solar wind fluid](#)" and not about whether Kobe can come back this year or whether he'll end up on the JV (oops, bad reference). The president is informed, I say. He knows his science. Didn't you see those great chemistry and physics grades he got at Occidental and Columbia? Oh, wait...

In reality, he probably doesn't know much of anything about climate science except what people with agendas tell him — and most of them got it second hand. It's all received wisdom of the dullest sort and most of it dated. Obama is about as educated on climate science, in the final analysis, as Nancy Pelosi is about Hamas.

And let's be blunt: As of now, climate change may be the biggest single ripoff in the history of the world. It wasn't bad enough it was a desecration of science to rival Lysenko, this time promulgated not on Stalin's say-so but by the United Nations, the aforementioned Mr. Gore and a supposed 97% of scientists in the field (who turned out not be in the field or even in agreement). It's grand theft of cosmic proportions, robbing most particularly those who can afford it least, the wretched of the Earth supposedly loved by liberals, the very poor whose energy bills will skyrocket if Obama gets his way with his latest self-aggrandizing pronouncement.

My guess is this time he won't. It's too absurd and the posturing too extreme (but you never know). Mostly, I'm sure he sees the "climate crisis" as a distraction from the countless failures of his administration, not to mention the current global collapse, and yet another sop to his base that makes Lenin's "useful idiots" seem like the Caltech chess team.

Contentions

[Good News for Polar Bears. Bad News for Al Gore.](#)

by Jonathan S. Tobin

That some of Al Gore's global warming predictions turned out to be bogus is no longer much of a surprise. As far back as seven years ago, [a British court ruled](#) that Gore's Oscar-winning environmentalist documentary film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, contained several errors and exaggerations that illustrated the alarmist spirit that motivated the filmmaker. But the news [about nature contradicting another one of the former vice president's predictions](#) should not so much encourage skeptics about global warming theories as inspire both sides in this controversy to lower their voices and to be a little less sanguine about computer models, whether they predict warming or cooling.

The report in yesterday's *Daily Mail* concerns the extent of the ice cap covering the Arctic. Gore had warned in 2007 while accepting the Nobel Peace Prize that within seven years the ice cap would vanish in summer. However, satellite photographs confirm that not only has the ice not vanished, in the last two years it has increased somewhere between 43 and 62 percent since 2012. It turns out that in that time some 1.715 million square kilometers of the Arctic are now covered by ice that were water during the 2012 presidential campaign.

Does this mean that global warming is a myth? Not necessarily. Scientists say 2012 was a year of "freak weather" and that the cooling since then is a regression to the mean rather than a complete reversal of past warming trends that some say remain in place in the long term. But since the evidence shows that the ice cap is larger than at any point since 2006, it's certainly worth noting.

It may be that the global cooling in terms of overall average temperatures that has been going on since 1997 is a mere blip in the long run that will constitute a pause before a period of severe warming. [That's the assertion of some climate scientists](#) and they might be right when they assert that the climate is being influenced more by man-made activity than in the past.

But let's also remember that most of the same scientists pooh-pooing cooling trends, whether since 2012 or 1997, didn't predict the decline in temperatures or the growth of the ice pack. Nor did their computer models, which continue to be used to back up claims of dire environmental damage due to warming in the near and long-term future.

Yet instead of some of the ups and downs of actual climate activity—as opposed to the projected doomsday scenarios that are treated by liberals as being not theory but certain truth—inducing some caution, if not humility on the part of those making alarmist predictions, most seem inclined to double down on their assertions.

What these cooling trends indicate is that the factors influencing climate may be a bit more complex than the simple equation between carbon emissions and rising temperatures that popular culture now treats as revealed truth.

Time will tell who has been telling the truth and who has been hyping predictions of doom in order to advance certain ideological agendas that benefit from hysterical predictions. Given the damaging economic cost of some of the anti-warming measures recommended by the Gore crowd, it is understandable that some people might be prepared to treat the entire theory as a lie. But it could be that in order to get us to believe that the world is warming a bit, we've been told that it is melting.

If so, it could be that for all of the honors and wealth that has been showered on Gore as a result of his alarmist shtick, he and others like him may have done more harm than good to the environmentalist cause. That's especially true at a time when President Obama is seeking to rally support for a new climate change treaty that he doesn't plan to submit for approval to a skeptical U.S. Senate.

In the meantime, the polar bears—the poster children of global warming whom our impressionable children were endlessly told would soon be swimming for their lives in an Arctic denuded of ice—seem to be doing just fine in their expanded frozen empire. We should all toast their good health and learn from this episode to take further pronouncements from Gore and his ilk or anyone else making climate predictions with a truckload of salt.

Daily Mail, UK

Myth of arctic meltdown

Stunning satellite images show summer ice cap is thicker and covers 1.7million square kilometres MORE than 2 years ago...despite Al Gore's prediction it would be ICE-FREE by now

by David Rose

The speech by former US Vice-President Al Gore was apocalyptic. 'The North Polar ice cap is falling off a cliff,' he said. 'It could be completely gone in summer in as little as seven years. Seven years from now.'

Those comments came in 2007 as Mr Gore accepted the Nobel Peace Prize for his campaigning on climate change.

But seven years after his warning, The Mail on Sunday can reveal that, far from vanishing, the Arctic ice cap has expanded for the second year in succession – with a surge, depending on how you measure it, of between 43 and 63 per cent since 2012.

To put it another way, an area the size of Alaska, America's biggest state, was open water two years ago, but is again now covered by ice.

The most widely used measurements of Arctic ice extent are the daily satellite readings issued by the US National Snow and Ice Data Center, which is co-funded by Nasa. These reveal that – while the long-term trend still shows a decline – last Monday, August 25, the area of the Arctic Ocean with at least 15 per cent ice cover was 5.62 million square kilometres.

This was the highest level recorded on that date since 2006 (see graph, right), and represents an increase of 1.71 million square kilometres over the past two years – an impressive 43 per cent.

Other figures from the Danish Meteorological Institute suggest that the growth has been even more dramatic. Using a different measure, the area with at least 30 per cent ice cover, these reveal a 63 per cent rise – from 2.7 million to 4.4 million square kilometres.

The satellite images published here are taken from a further authoritative source, the University of Illinois's Cryosphere project.

They show that as well as becoming more extensive, the ice has grown more concentrated, with the purple areas – denoting regions where the ice pack is most dense – increasing markedly.

Crucially, the ice is also thicker, and therefore more resilient to future melting. Professor Andrew Shepherd, of Leeds University, an expert in climate satellite monitoring, said yesterday: 'It is clear from the measurements we have collected that the Arctic sea ice has experienced a significant recovery in thickness over the past year.'

'It seems that an unusually cool summer in 2013 allowed more ice to survive through to last winter. This means that the Arctic sea ice pack is thicker and stronger than usual, and this should be taken into account when making predictions of its future extent.'

Yet for years, many have been claiming that the Arctic is in an 'irrevocable death spiral', with imminent ice-free summers bound to trigger further disasters. These include gigantic releases of methane into the atmosphere from frozen Arctic deposits, and accelerated global warming caused by the fact that heat from the sun will no longer be reflected back by the ice into space.

Judith Curry, professor of earth and atmospheric sciences at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, said last night: 'The Arctic sea ice spiral of death seems to have reversed.'

Those who just a few years ago were warning of ice-free summers by 2014 included US Secretary of State John Kerry, who made the same bogus prediction in 2009, while Mr Gore has repeated it numerous times – notably in a speech to world leaders at the UN climate conference in Copenhagen in 2009, in an effort to persuade them to agree a new emissions treaty.

Mr Gore – whose office yesterday failed to respond to a request for comment – insisted then: 'There is a 75 per cent chance that the entire polar ice cap during some of the summer months could be completely ice-free within five to seven years.'

Misleading as such forecasts are, some people continue to make them. Only last month, while giving evidence to a House of Lords Select Committee inquiry on the Arctic, Cambridge University's Professor Peter Wadhams claimed that although the Arctic is not ice-free this year, it will be by September 2015.

Asked about this yesterday, he said: 'I still think that it is very likely that by mid-September 2015, the ice area will be less than one million square kilometres – the official designation of ice-free, implying only a fringe of floes around the coastlines. That is where the trend is taking us.'

For that prediction to come true it would require by far the fastest loss of ice in history. It would also fly in the face of a report last year by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which stated with 'medium confidence' that ice levels would 'likely' fall below one million square kilometres by 2050.

Politicians such as Al Gore have often insisted that climate science is 'settled' and have accused those who question their forecasts of being climate change 'deniers'.

However, while few scientists doubt that carbon-dioxide emissions cause global warming, and that this has caused Arctic ice to decline, there remains much uncertainty about the speed of melting and how much of it is due to human activity. But outside the scientific community, the more pessimistic views have attracted most attention. For example, Prof Wadhams's forecasts have been cited widely by newspapers and the BBC. But many reject them.

Yesterday Dr Ed Hawkins, who leads an Arctic ice research team at Reading University, said: 'Peter Wadhams's views are quite extreme compared to the views of many other climate scientists, and also compared to what the IPCC report says.'

Dr Hawkins warned against reading too much into ice increase over the past two years on the grounds that 2012 was an 'extreme low', triggered by freak weather.

'I'm uncomfortable with the idea of people saying the ice has bounced back,' he said.

However, Dr Hawkins added that the decline seen in recent years was not caused only by global warming. It was, he said, intensified by 'natural variability' – shifts in factors such as the temperature of the oceans. This, he said, has happened before, such as in the 1920s and 1930s, when 'there was likely some sea ice retreat'.

Dr Hawkins said: 'There is undoubtedly some natural variability on top of the long-term downwards trend caused by the overall warming. This variability has probably contributed somewhat to the post-2000 steep declining trend, although the human-caused component still dominates.'

Like many scientists, Dr Hawkins said these natural processes may be cyclical. If and when they go into reverse, they will cool, not warm, the Arctic, in which case, he said, 'a decade with no declining trend' in ice cover would be 'entirely plausible'.

Peer-reviewed research suggests that at least until 2005, natural variability was responsible for half the ice decline. But exactly how big its influence is remains an open question – and as both Dr Hawkins and Prof Curry agreed, establishing this is critical to making predictions about the Arctic's future.

Prof Curry said: 'I suspect that the portion of the decline in the sea ice attributable to natural variability could be even larger than half.'

'I think the natural variability component of Arctic sea ice extent is in the process of bottoming out, with a reversal to start within the next decade. And when it does, the reversal period could last for several decades.'

This led her to believe that the IPCC forecast, like Al Gore's, was too pessimistic.

'Ice-free in 2050 is a possible scenario, but I don't think it is a likely scenario,' she concluded.

GOOD NEWS FOR POLAR BEARS...

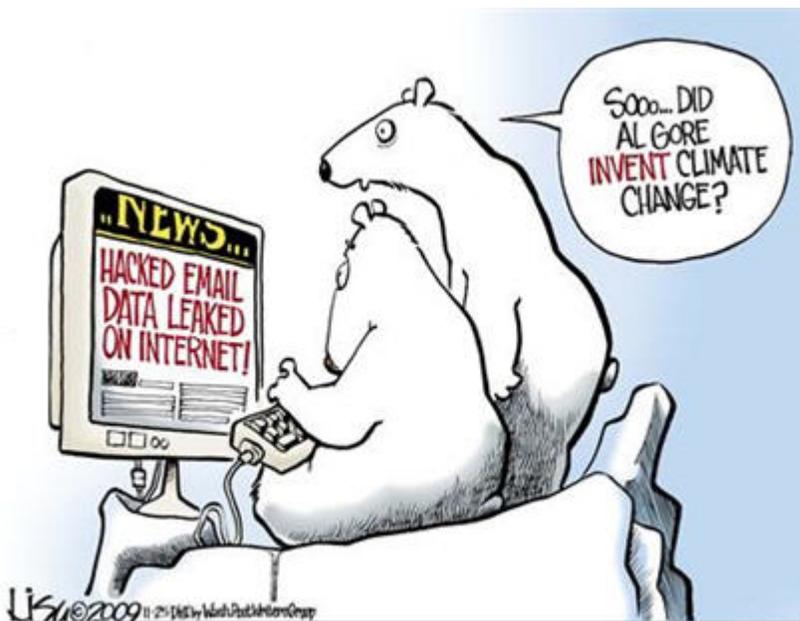
The apparent recovery in Arctic ice looks like good news for polar bears.

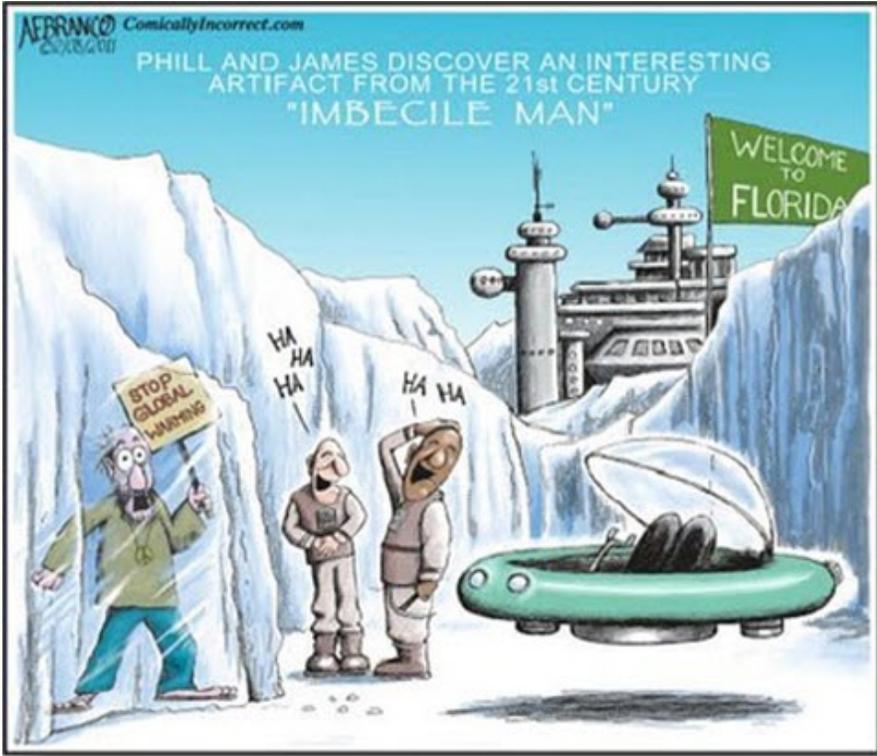
If there is more ice at the end of the summer, they can hunt seals more easily. Yet even when the ice reached a low point in 2012, there was no scientific evidence that bear numbers were declining, with their estimated total of 20,000 to 25,000 thought to be higher than in the 1970s, when hunting was first banned.

In many Arctic regions, say scientists, they are in robust health and breeding successfully.

Computer model predictions of decline caused by ice melt have also failed to come true. In 2004, researchers claimed Hudson Bay bear numbers would fall from 900 to fewer than 700 by 2011. In fact, they have risen to over 1,000.

However, the main international bear science body, the Polar Bear Specialist Group, admits it has no reliable data from almost half of the Arctic, so cannot say whether numbers are falling or rising.





DEAR AL GORE

Effective immediately, please remove my name from the membership list of the Church of the Sacred Global Warming.



Tonight's new word: Hillionaire

A person who is worth Millions but
claims to be dead broke.