

June 24, 2015

Christopher Booker in Telegraph, UK starts off our day of the Pope.

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One of these was the peculiar way in which Europe's politicians, with full support from the US, had set out to unite their continent under a form of supra-national government unlike anything the world had seen before. The other was the way those same politicians fell for the idea not just that human activities were disastrously changing Earth's climate, but that by taking the most drastic measures they could somehow change it back again.

Although for quite a time these two belief systems seemed to carry all before them, each was essentially based on a fantasy view of the world; and it is in the nature of trying to act out a fantasy that it must eventually overreach itself, to the point where it collides unpleasantly with reality. ...

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John Hinderaker thinks someone should tell the Pope how environmentalism crushes the poor.

... It is easy for Pope Francis, Tom Steyer, Barack Obama and others who don't have to worry about money to say that government policy should make electricity and gasoline more expensive so that other Americans—the poor and middle class—can't afford to consume so much energy. But if you aren't wealthy, government-mandated increases in energy costs mean very real cuts in the rest of your budget—a budget that goes almost entirely for food, clothing, shelter and health care. These are the necessities that millions of Americans have to forgo because of arrogant liberal policies.

We can't un-elect the Pope—although perhaps we can educate him—but for God's sake let's not vote for any more Democrats who care more about discredited global warming theories than about the well-being of poor and middle-class Americans.

Robert Tracinski wants to know how thick the Pope's bubble is.

I have started Laudato Si, Pope Francis's newly release papal encyclical on global warming, and it's something of a slog. As one of my colleagues put it, popes never seem to use one word when 500 will do.

*I feel somewhat free to take things slowly when analyzing these documents. There's something about an institution that's been around for 2,000-odd years that makes you feel less beholden to the 24-hour news cycle (or the 5-minute news cycle of the Twitter era). But I'm ready to make one preliminary observation, which stands out with particular clarity in the early sections of *Laudato Si*.*

These are the sections in which Francis lays out what he sees as the facts about a global environmental crisis, and it is a series of blatantly one-sided errors and exaggerations, including many which have been well-discussed and refuted, even in the New York Times.

For example, we're told that the earth is "laid waste" and that "the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life." This, at a time when agricultural production across the world is higher than it has ever been, surely not a sign of "sickness in the soil." Francis uncritically repeats scary stories about mass extinction, in which "each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost for ever," even though this is based on misleading projections that have been debunked.

The centerpiece of the encyclical, of course, is the papal endorsement of the global warming hysteria. ...

The Editors of the Manchester Union-Leader have thoughts.

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... Capitalism is the greatest antidote for poverty that humanity has ever created. Free-market capitalism creates the "financial activities" that allow the poor to replace subsistence farming with more lucrative work, and it funds the social services that aid the needy.

Rising standards of living created by free-market capitalism also lead to better environmental protections than in more repressive and less developed nations.

Pope Francis' mistaken foray into economic theory shows, once again, the pitfalls of basing complex policy prescriptions on simple moral impulses.

John Hinderaker catches another one. We live in an age where we have a stupid president and a stupid pope.

Pope Francis is rapidly convincing me that he is not just a leftist, but a dope. Speaking to a group of young people in Turin, he departed from his script and launched into a rambling denunciation of, among others, arms manufacturers:

"It makes me think of ... people, managers, businessmen who call themselves Christian and they manufacture weapons. That leads to a bit a distrust, doesn't it?" he said to applause.

He also criticized those who invest in weapons industries, saying “duplicity is the currency of today ... they say one thing and do another.”

We are a long way from “Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition.” Pope Francis then went on a tour of world history that included this gem:

“The great powers had the pictures of the railway lines that brought the trains to the concentration camps like Auschwitz to kill Jews, Christians, homosexuals, everybody. Why didn’t they bomb (the railway lines)?”

With what? Oh yeah, that would be bombs. Dropped out of bombers. Manufactured by...whom?

Pope Francis needs to pull out of his recent tailspin before he becomes an international laughingstock.

Roger Simon closes with his comments about Hillary jumping on the PopeMobile. *There’s no stopping Hillary Clinton when it comes to either outright lies or distortions of truth. At 2PM on June 19, Our Lady of Chappaqua jumped on Pope Francis’ climate bandwagon with the following tweet...*

.@Pontifex is right—climate change is a moral crisis that disproportionately harms the neediest among us. We need leadership, not denial. -H

— Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton) June 19, 2015

Say what? The neediest suffer most from climate change? What horse hockey. The poor suffer most from restrictions on their energy based on Climate Mythology that raises their bills. That’s how they suffer most.

As for the Pope’s sadly morally narcissistic encyclical, where else but the indispensable Watts Up With That climate blog do you find the proper rejoinder? There, Dr. Tim Ball asks Is the Catholic Church Burned by the Sun Again, reminding us that we’ve all heard this song before: ...

The cartoonists are on the PopeMobile too.

Telegraph, UK

[The Pope joins the EU in a sad world of make-believe](#)

There are two great acts of political make-believe in our time, so all-pervasive that it is hard for us to grasp just how much effect they are having on our lives

by Christopher Booker



Pope Francis greets the crowd as he arrives for a general audience at St Peter's square at the Vatican.

What has a [Papal Encyclical calling on the world to end its use of fossil fuels](#) and to pray to God for the success of the global “climate summit” in December got in common with [the Greek euro crisis](#), the ominous rift between the West and Russia, and the shambles Europe is making over the desperation of African and Syrian refugees to find safety this side of the Mediterranean? They are all different aspects of the two greatest acts of political make-believe of our time, so all-pervasive that it is hard for us to grasp just how much effect they are having on all our lives.

When future historians come to look back on our age, few things will puzzle them more than the extent to which our politics became so dominated and bedevilled by two belief-systems, each based on an obsessive attempt to force into being an immensely complicated political construct which defied economic, psychological and scientific reality.

One of these was the peculiar way in which Europe’s politicians, with full support from the US, had set out to unite their continent under a form of supra-national government unlike anything the world had seen before. The other was the way those same politicians fell for the idea not just that human activities were disastrously changing Earth’s climate, but that by taking the most drastic measures they could somehow change it back again.

Although for quite a time these two belief systems seemed to carry all before them, each was essentially based on a fantasy view of the world; and it is in the nature of trying to act out a fantasy that it must eventually overreach itself, to the point where it collides unpleasantly with reality.

The essence of the “European” fantasy was not just that it could gradually weld all Europe together in “ever closer union” by overriding and eliminating the kind of nationalism which had led to wars; but that it could continually expand its own “empire”. We now see in all directions how that sense of national interest cannot be eliminated.

We see it in the desperation of the Greeks to escape from the trap created by forcing them, through corruption and dishonesty, into the euro. We see it in how [the EU's reckless bid to absorb Ukraine into its empire aroused that sense of Russian nationalism](#) which drove the Crimeans into voting to rejoin the country where they felt they belonged. We see it in the sense of national self-interest which makes it impossible for EU countries to agree on how to deal with that flood of refugees from across the sea.

The attempt to create a Europe at one with itself, living prosperously and happily under a new kind of unelected government, has led it to become such a sad, unhappy, divided place, economically in decline compared with the outside world, ruled by a strange form of government it no longer trusts, respects or understands.

Similarly, the last desperate throw by the EU and the US to achieve a world agreement next December to “halt climate change” is not going to succeed, not just because the “science” on which it is based is so increasingly questionable, but because the emerging powers of the East, led by India and China, are simply not prepared to go along with it. If the West wishes to commit economic suicide, so be it. In their own national interest, they are not willing to follow.

In fact, what we are seeing here is a geopolitical shift of huge proportions. [So lost is the West in its bubbles of self-deceiving fantasy that the hegemony it so long exercised over the rest of the world is passing to the world outside it](#), to India and China, even, in its own way, to Russia, still a nuclear power which can prevent us pushing too hard in our support for a bankrupt Ukrainian dictatorship, and which also still supplies Europe with a third of the gas it needs to continue functioning.

How forlorn in light of all this looks that would-be well-meaning 300-page document in which the Pope, under the spell of his chief scientific adviser, a fanatical German climate activist called Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, calls for an end to use of the very fossil fuels which keep the Vatican's own lights on. In asking us to pray for that global climate treaty, Pope Francis solemnly trots out all those familiar complaints about “melting polar ice caps”, “rising sea levels”, unprecedented droughts, “extreme weather events” and the rest of that greenie litany which has no basis in honest science whatever.

The outside world is no longer listening to this claptrap. But it is not just the world outside the West which is beginning to call the shots. Reality itself is now knocking loudly at the door.

Spring flowers saw nature back to 'normal'



Hawthorn blossoms light up the Somerset Levels, this year staying in flower even longer than usual

A final tailpiece, now that the hedges of our Somerset countryside are studded with creamy elderflowers, [on what for many has been this year's wondrous spring and early summer](#).

Having observed the flowering times of our hedgerow shrubs for many decades, I have noted before how, when the blossoming of the blackthorn, hawthorn ("May") and elder all moved forward, sometimes spectacularly so, we were told that this was clear evidence of "global warming". But although this year, as last, they still came into flower slightly earlier than their "traditional" dates (in the second halves of April, May and June respectively), they stayed in flower even longer than usual.

Although the frozen firework displays of the hawthorn appeared in mid-May, they lingered on well into June. But It can't have been rising temperatures at work here, since 2015 has scarcely brought us continuous heat waves.

Perhaps they have just been enjoying all the extra plant food supplied by rising levels of that dreadful, "polluting" CO2 [the Pope wants to ban](#).

Power Line

[Someone Tell the Pope: Environmentalism Crushes the Poor](#)

by John Hinderaker

Yesterday the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity released a [report](#) that documents how the Obama administration's war on coal (and on cheap energy generally) has hurt poor and middle-class Americans. While I can't vouch for the calculations, the report is an impressive piece of work, based on energy consumption and price data from the U.S. Department of

Energy’s Energy Information Administration, along with data from the Census Bureau and the Congressional Budget Office.

Energy costs consume a substantial portion of the budgets of lower-income Americans. This simple chart tells the story: while energy costs account for only 7% of expenditures by those who earn over \$50,000 per year, those making less than \$30,000 pay an astonishing 23% of their after-tax income for energy. Click to enlarge:

Estimated U.S. household energy costs by pre-tax income category

Pre-Tax Annual Income:	<\$30K	\$30- <\$50K	<\$50K	≥\$50K	Average
Residential energy \$	\$1,712	\$1,990	\$1,834	\$2,644	\$2,256
Electric \$	\$1,187	\$1,406	\$1,282	\$1,818	\$1,561
Other* \$	\$526	\$584	\$553	\$826	\$695
Gasoline \$	\$1,729	\$2,569	\$2,059	\$3,447	\$2,781
Total energy \$	\$3,441	\$4,559	\$3,893	\$6,091	\$5,037
Energy % of after-tax income	23%	14%	17%	7%	9%

*Other includes natural gas, heating oil, LPG, and wood.

Moreover, residential electrical costs continue to rise relentlessly, even though fracking has made plentiful sources of cheap natural gas available. This is because the Obama administration has declared war on coal, and is doing its best to drive coal-fired power plants out of existence.

Needlessly rising energy costs are no problem if you are a Democratic Party plutocrat—a government-subsidized “green” energy magnate like Tom Steyer, a Hollywood actor or a Wall Street hedge fund manager—but they cause real hardship for the poor and the middle class. The CCCE report documents hardship resulting from the Obama administration’s anti-cheap-energy policies that will be shocking to many:

To meet rising energy costs, in 2011:

- * 24 percent went without food for at least one day
- * 37 percent went without medical or dental care
- * 34 percent did not fill a prescription or took less than the full dose
- * 33 percent used their kitchen stove or oven to provide heat
- * 19 percent had someone become sick because their home was too cold
- * 6 percent were evicted from their home or apartment

It is easy for Pope Francis, Tom Steyer, Barack Obama and others who don’t have to worry about money to say that government policy should make electricity and gasoline more expensive so that other Americans—the poor and middle class—can’t afford to consume so much energy. But if you aren’t wealthy, government-mandated increases in energy costs mean very real cuts in the rest of your budget—a budget that goes almost entirely for food, clothing, shelter

and health care. These are the necessities that millions of Americans have to forgo because of arrogant liberal policies.

We can't un-elect the Pope—although perhaps we can educate him—but for God's sake let's not vote for any more Democrats who care more about discredited global warming theories than about the well-being of poor and middle-class Americans.

The Federalist

How Thick Is Pope Francis's Bubble?

by Robert Tracinski

I have started [Laudato Si](#), Pope Francis's newly release papal encyclical on global warming, and it's something of a slog. As one of my colleagues put it, popes never seem to use one word when 500 will do.

I feel somewhat free to take things slowly when analyzing these documents. There's something about an institution that's been around for 2,000-odd years that makes you feel less beholden to the 24-hour news cycle (or the 5-minute news cycle of the Twitter era). But I'm ready to make one preliminary observation, which stands out with particular clarity in the early sections of *Laudato Si*.

These are the sections in which Francis lays out what he sees as the facts about a global environmental crisis, and it is a series of blatantly one-sided errors and exaggerations, including many which have been well-discussed and refuted, even [in the New York Times](#).

For example, we're told that the earth is "laid waste" and that "the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life." This, at a time when agricultural production across the world is higher than it has ever been, surely not a sign of "sickness in the soil." Francis uncritically repeats scary stories about mass extinction, in which "each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost for ever," even though this is based on misleading projections that have been [debunked](#).

The centerpiece of the encyclical, of course, is the papal endorsement of the global warming hysteria.

"A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. In recent decades this warming has been accompanied by a constant rise in the sea level and, it would appear, by an increase of extreme weather events."

Except that, despite attempts to [fudge the data](#), temperatures are not rising, sea levels are [not rising](#), and there is [no increase](#) in "extreme weather events."

He then tacks on a grab bag of other uncritically repeated slogans, such as the [myth](#) that the Amazon rainforest is the "lungs of our planet," or that a "throwaway culture" is causing us to run out of landfills. In fact, we have [centuries' worth of room left](#) to put our trash, but here is how Francis describes the situation. "The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. In many parts of the planet, the elderly lament that once beautiful landscapes are now covered with rubbish."

But the real giveaway of the ideology behind all of this is the Francis's reference to "depletion of natural resources," the idea that "the exploitation of the planet has already exceeded acceptable limits." All of this is true, he says, "if present trends continue"—which, as we [have seen](#), is a crucial wrong premise that has led many people astray before him.

As far as Francis is concerned, it might as well be 1971 and Paul Ehrlich is still a visionary

Yet as far as Francis is concerned, it might as well be 1971 and the thoroughly discredited doomsayer Paul Ehrlich is still a visionary. Of course, the pope doesn't embrace quite the same solutions as Ehrlich, a tireless advocate of population control. Instead, Francis argues, "to blame population growth instead of extreme and selective consumerism on the part of some, is one way of refusing to face the issues." So the problem isn't that there are too many of us, it's that we're too well off.

All of these errors are perfectly predictable, since Francis is just repeating what he has heard from mainstream environmentalists and international green activists. The problem is that those are apparently the *only* people he is listening to. There is vigorous debate on all of these issues, and it is easy to find serious alternative views and counterarguments, ranging from skeptics who don't think catastrophic global warming is happening, to those like Bjorn Lomborg, who think it is happening but that other problems are easier to fix and a far higher priority.

The real problem with the pope's encyclical is how he closes himself off to these arguments, poisoning the well by attributing them to "obstructionist attitudes," which "range from denial of the problem to indifference, nonchalant resignation, or blind confidence in technical solutions." Notice that "reasoned disagreement" or "scientific skepticism" aren't offered as possibilities. Even worse, he indulges in a kind of anti-business conspiracy theory: "The failure of global summits on the environment make it plain that our politics are subject to technology and finance." So Wall Street and Big Oil are the only forces holding us back.

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Pope Francis has sealed himself off in an ideological bubble that is harder and more impenetrable than the Popemobile. He refuses to recognize that there are alternative ideas outside the leftist orthodoxy on capitalism and the environment. The result is a sense that I've never quite gotten before from a papal encyclical: the sense of the pope as a narrow ideologue, captive to a relatively recent political fad.

This is a real shame because the Vatican and the papacy are supposed to operate on a longer time scale, less affected by the political fads of the moment, or even of the century. After all, the Catholic Church is a 2,000-year-old institution with a timeless spiritual remit. It's what usually makes the popes so interesting to contend with, even for an atheist who frequently disagrees with them.

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My recollection of John Paul II is that he was never very philosophically precise, but he operated within a framework of religious thought that could seem cloyingly closed off in some respects but also intriguingly different from the narrow, utilitarian Pragmatism of most modern thinkers. It is a more ancient way of thinking and arguing that is interesting simply by being outside our normal political discussion. Benedict was quite different. He was my favorite pope to read because he is

a serious, precise philosopher capable of weighing big ideas, even if he always put a thumb on the intellectual scales for faith.

This is what makes popes seem like larger, more interesting figures than we normally encounter in our political debate, and it's part of what gives them moral and intellectual importance, a sense that we ought to listen to them and respond.

In the case of Francis's *Laudato Si*, unfortunately, the contrast to previous popes makes the figure trapped inside his self-constructed ideological Popemobile seem that much smaller.

Manchester Union-Leader - Editorial

[The green Pope: Francis wanders into deep waters](#)

Pope Francis leapt last week into the rising waters of climate change hysteria, where his exclamations showed that he was in over his head.

In an encyclical released Thursday, he called for swift action to cool the planet. For good measure, he criticized capitalism.

"Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it," he said.

"Regrettably, many efforts to seek concrete solutions to the environmental crisis have proved ineffective, not only because of powerful opposition but also because of a more general lack of interest."

Another reason for the failure of these efforts is that they tend to be economic catastrophes that don't work. The Bible calls for us to care for God's creatures, which would logically include caring for the planet. But that does not then compel us to support any effort to achieve that goal, no matter how costly or ineffective it might be. In fact, that same moral obligation would require us to take great care to get the policy right.

Pope Francis failed to do that when he urged that we reject capitalism and embrace environmentalism to protect the poor, who "have no other financial activities or resources which can enable them to adapt to climate change or to face natural disasters, and their access to social services and protection is very limited."

Capitalism is the greatest antidote for poverty that humanity has ever created. Free-market capitalism creates the "financial activities" that allow the poor to replace subsistence farming with more lucrative work, and it funds the social services that aid the needy.

Rising standards of living created by free-market capitalism also lead to better environmental protections than in more repressive and less developed nations.

Pope Francis' mistaken foray into economic theory shows, once again, the pitfalls of basing complex policy prescriptions on simple moral impulses.

Power Line

The Pope Steps In It Again

by John Hinderaker

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“It makes me think of ... people, managers, businessmen who call themselves Christian and they manufacture weapons. That leads to a bit a distrust, doesn't it?” he said to applause.

He also criticized those who invest in weapons industries, saying “duplicity is the currency of today ... they say one thing and do another.”

We are a long way from “Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition.” Pope Francis then went on a tour of world history that included this gem:

“The great powers had the pictures of the railway lines that brought the trains to the concentration camps like Auschwitz to kill Jews, Christians, homosexuals, everybody. Why didn't they bomb (the railway lines)?”

With what? Oh yeah, that would be bombs. Dropped out of bombers. Manufactured by...whom?

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Roger L. Simon

Hillary Jumps on Pope's Climate Bandwagon

There's no stopping Hillary Clinton when it comes to either outright lies or distortions of truth. At 2PM on June 19, Our Lady of Chappaqua jumped on Pope Francis' climate bandwagon with the following tweet...

.[@Pontifex](#) is right—climate change is a moral crisis that disproportionately harms the neediest among us. We need leadership, not denial. -H

— Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton) [June 19, 2015](#)

Say what? The *neediest* suffer most from climate change? What horse hockey. The poor suffer most from restrictions on their energy based on Climate Mythology that raises their bills. That's how they suffer most.

As for the Pope's sadly morally narcissistic encyclical, where else but the indispensable Watts Up With That climate blog do you find the proper rejoinder? There, Dr. Tim Ball asks [Is the Catholic Church Burned by the Sun Again](#), reminding us that we've all heard this song before:

Spanish-born American Philosopher George Santayana famously said, “*Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.*” The recent Papal Encyclical announced the Catholic Church’s decision to join the scientific claims that humans are causing global warming and denounce climate scientists who oppose the claim. It came almost exactly 400 years after Galileo was denounced to the [Roman Inquisition](#) in the spring of 1615. The Catholic Church only acknowledged the errors of their actions, their last and most negative brush with science, when they [forgave Galileo in 1992](#). Pope John Paul said labeling Galileo a heretic and confining him to life imprisonment was an error. It only took 377 years for the Church to catch up with reality. No doubt Galileo is delighted, assuming he made it to heaven.

Galileo supported the Copernican heliocentric view that put the Sun at the center of our Solar system. This contradicted the Church belief in the Ptolemaic geocentric view with the Earth at the center. He also challenged the Ptolemaic view that everything beyond the moon was perfect. Through his telescope, Galileo made and recorded the first observation of sunspots in 1610. It was heresy to claim the existence of these blemishes. Later, the sunspots became an important part of the research to determine natural causes of climate change.

Now history repeats itself because the latest conflict between science and the Church involves the Sun, or more accurately, exclusion of consideration of the Sun as the primary cause of climate change. The Vatican released the [full Encyclical](#) on Thursday, 18 June 2015.

Ball goes on and pretty much [eviscerates](#) the Pope’s “science.” Oh, well. Maybe Hillary should have referenced “Here Comes the Sun” in her debut (or was it second debut) speech the other day rather than that mangled version of “Yesterday.” But speaking of Our Lady of Chappaqua, in her great concern for the neediest, she seems to be having [memory lapses](#) lately. Let’s hope they’re temporary. But she’d better brush up on her science before the press asks her something serious about climate change – not that they ever do. They’re not very up on it themselves. (I mean, if Al Gore got a D in geology, why should they bother? It’s all a game, *n’est-ce pas?*)

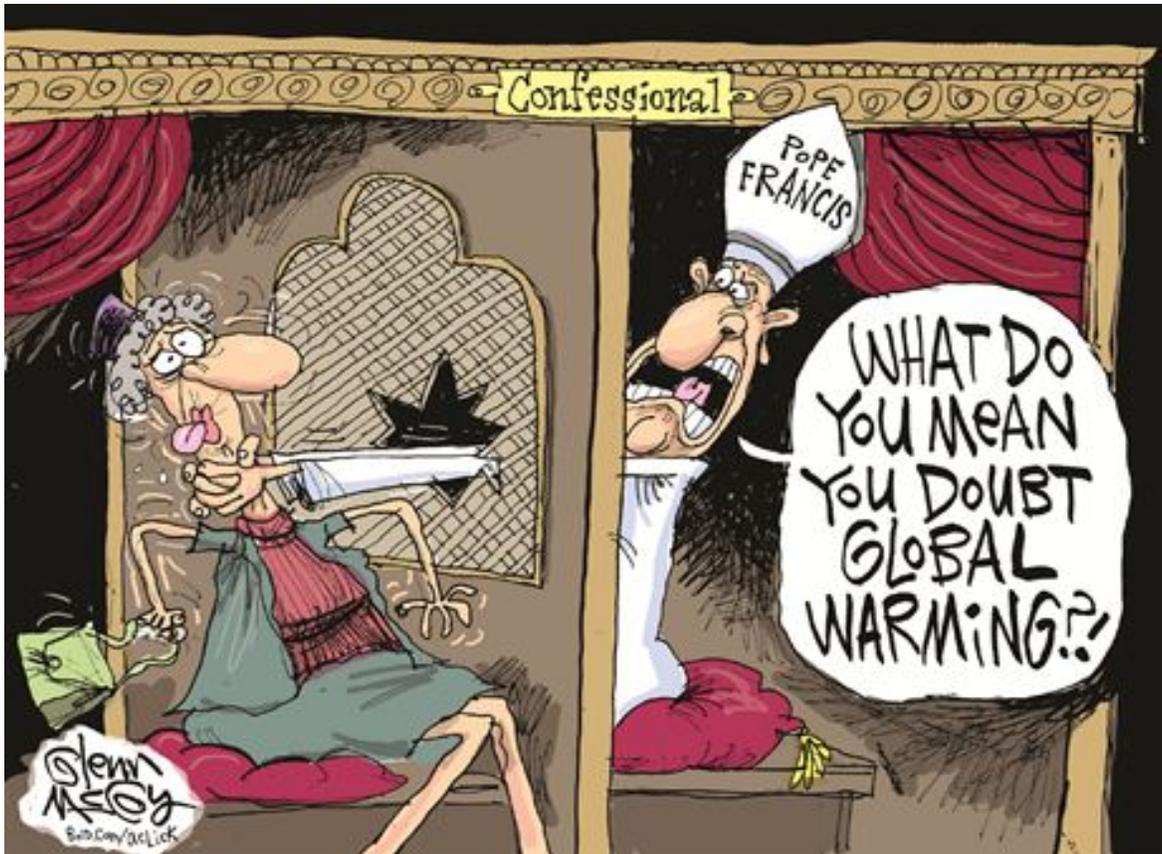
But, as they say, it’s all in the details. And speaking of that, take a look at Hillary’s tweet. The supposedly tech-challenged Clinton, who never realized you could have two email address on one cellphone, was Twitter-savvy enough to know that you put that little dot (.) in front of your tweet so it will show to everyone and not get buried in a dialogue.

Hmmm... well, we’ll give her pass on that one. Doubtless Her Majesty doesn’t tweet for herself. She’s not Michael Moore, after all. She has staff for that.



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GLOBAL WARMING IS A RELIGION.



IF YOU'RE NOT A BELIEVER THEY CALL YOU A DENIER!



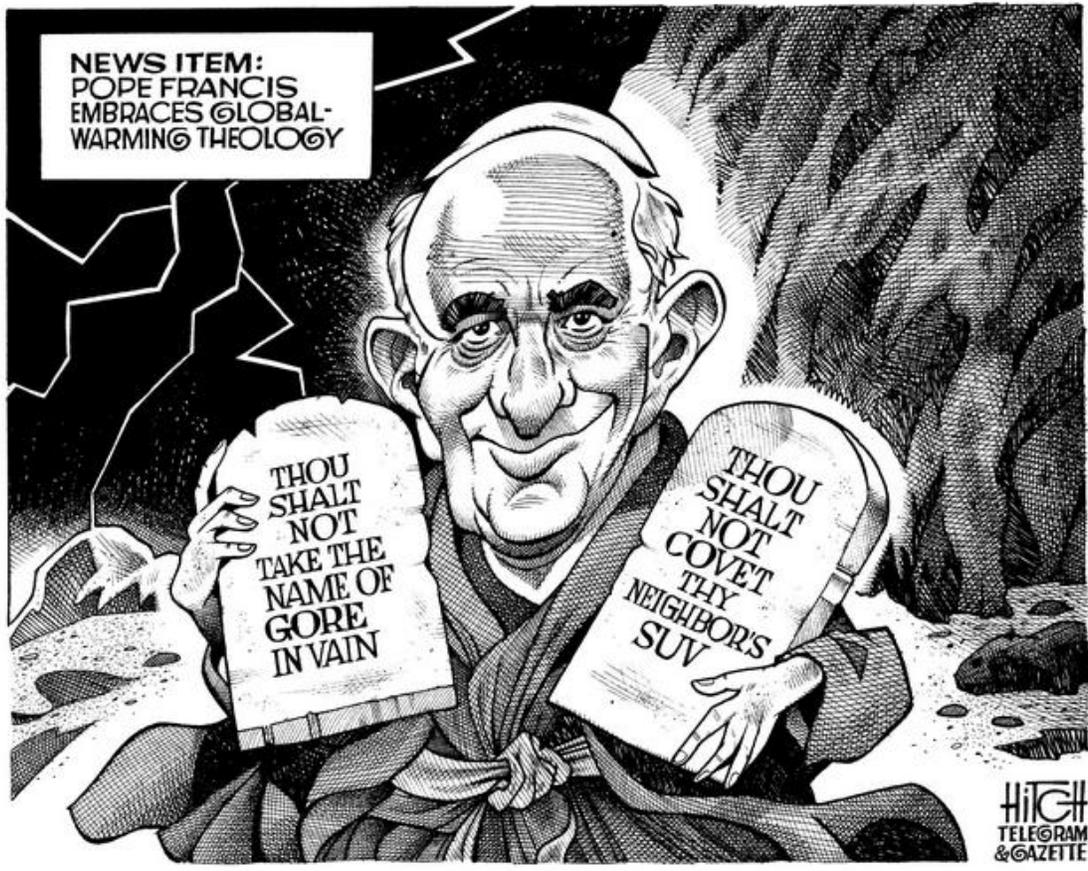
YOU'RE BEING A LITTLE OVER THE TOP.



DENIERS, REPENT.

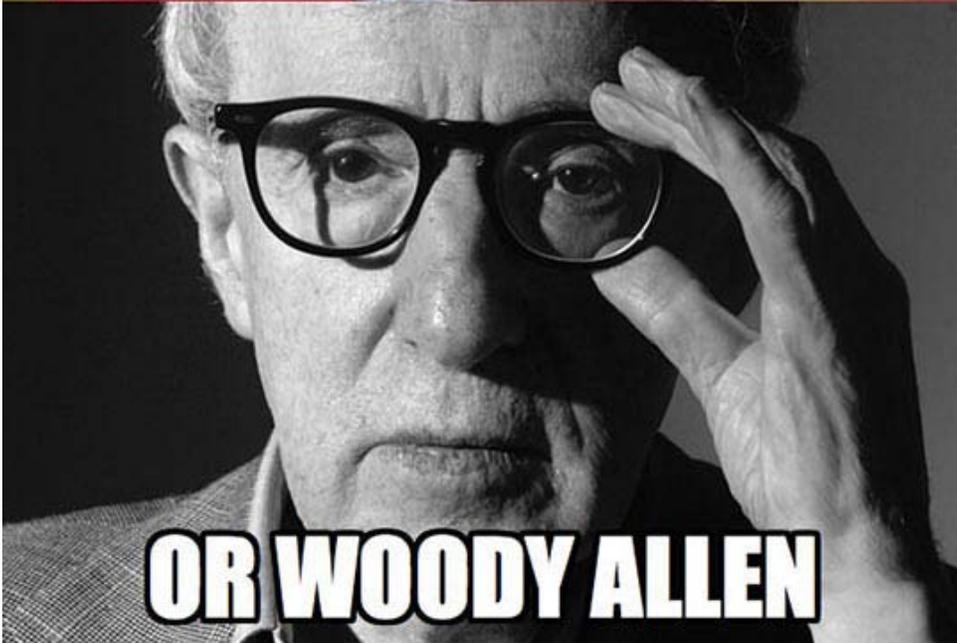


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EMBRACES GLOBAL-
WARMING THEOLOGY

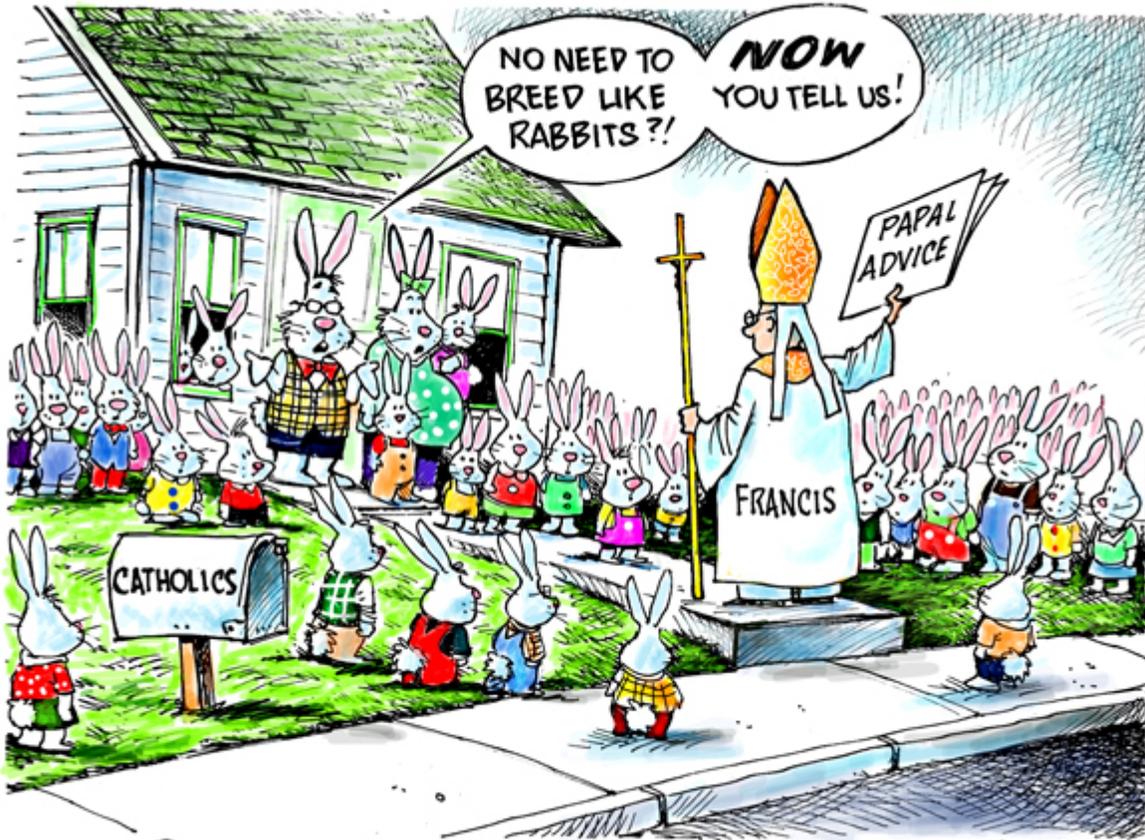


HIGH
TELEGRAM
& GAZETTE

NOT SURE IF NEW POPE



OR WOODY ALLEN



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