

## April 30, 2017 – CLIMATE CRAZIES

David Harsanyi writes on Bill Nye, fake scientist.

*Bill Nye has some detestable ideas about humanity. This shouldn't surprise anyone. Many environmental doomsdayers share his totalitarian impulses (Nye has toyed with the idea of criminalizing speech he dislikes) and soft spot for eugenics.*

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Nye: So, should we have policies that penalize people for having extra kids in the developed world?

Travis Rieder: I do think that we should at least consider it.

Nye: Well, 'at least consider it' is like 'Do it.'

Rieder: One of the things that we could do that's kind of least policy-ish is we could encourage our culture and our norms to change, right?

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Bret Stephens has left the WSJ and joined the NY Times. The last time that was done it was David Brooks. And boy did he go native! He used to write good stuff and we used to put it in *Pickings*. Now, he has become NY Times unreadable. We will hope the same thing does not happen to Stephens whose unrelenting dislike and dismissal of President Trump was said to lead to the change. Apparently the Journal wishes to cover Trump with less disdain than their initial coverage displayed. Bret Stephens' first column morphed from the certainties of the Hillary campaign to the certainties of the climate scolds.

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*There's a lesson here. We live in a world in which data convey authority. But authority has a way of descending to certitude, and certitude begets hubris. From Robert McNamara to Lehman Brothers to Stronger Together, cautionary tales abound.*

*We ought to know this by now, but we don't. Instead, we respond to the inherent uncertainties of data by adding more data without revisiting our assumptions, creating an impression of certainty that can be lulling, misleading and often dangerous. Ask Clinton.*

*With me so far? Good. Let's turn to climate change.*

Last October, the Pew Research Center [published](#) a survey on the politics of climate change. Among its findings: Just 36 percent of Americans care “a great deal” about the subject. Despite 30 years of efforts by scientists, politicians and activists to raise the alarm, nearly two-thirds of Americans are either indifferent to or only somewhat bothered by the prospect of planetary calamity.

Why? The science is settled. The threat is clear. Isn’t this one instance, at least, where 100 percent of the truth resides on one side of the argument?

Well, not entirely. As Andrew Revkin [wrote](#) last year about his storied career as an environmental reporter at The Times, “I saw a widening gap between what scientists had been learning about global warming and what advocates were claiming as they pushed ever harder to pass climate legislation.” The science was generally scrupulous. The boosters who claimed its authority weren’t. ...

The first Stephens column has created a sh-tstorm at the Times. [NeoNeocon posts](#). ... Which brings us to [an article](#) Bret Stephens wrote in his new venue, the NY Times. It was really a rather modest suggestion that people listen to both sides of the issue—not so much on AGW (which he himself seems to believe is true) as on whether we know enough to accurately predict the future of AGW and/or to fix the problems it may cause.

The Twitter storm this caused has been virulent. But if AGW (and intervention to halt or slow its effects) is your religion, then someone like Stephens becomes the AGW devil. Then this sort of response seems perfectly reasonable (if crass):

“You’re a s–thead. a crybaby lil f–kin weenie. a massive twat too,” tweeted Libby Watson, staff writer at Gizmodo.

“I’m gonna lose my mind,” seethed Eve Peyser, politics writer at Vice.

“The ideas ppl like @BretStephensNYT espouse are violently hateful & should not be given a platform by @NYTimes,” she said.

Not only has Stephens been excoriated, but that last sentiment—that he shouldn’t be at the Times—has drawn enough support to be expressed in a petition, that now has about 27,000 supporters, asking that he be fired. ...

... Adriana Heguy, a genomics scientist and professor of pathology at NYU, urged her colleagues to scrap their subscriptions, as well.

“Composing my letter to the editor today and canceling @nytimes,” she tweeted. “Balance’ means a VALID alternative opinion, not pseudoscience. I’m so sad.”

And Ed Driscoll spotted this at 'fake news' Rolling Stone.

... Jesse Berney, *Rolling Stone*: "literally go f\*\*\* yourself, new york times. go, eat, dog, d\*cks."  
(Note: This is from someone at a magazine proven to have published a spectacularly false story about a gang rape at the University of Virginia. — Ed. ...

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## The Federalist

### Bill Nye's View Of Humanity Is Repulsive

Bill Nye denies one of the most irrefutable facts of history: human ingenuity always overcomes demand.

by David Harsanyi

Bill Nye has some detestable ideas about humanity. This shouldn't surprise anyone. Many environmental doomsayers share his totalitarian impulses (Nye has toyed with the idea of criminalizing speech he dislikes) and soft spot for eugenics.

In his Netflix series, "Bill Nye Saves the World," the former children's television host supplies viewers with various trendy notions to adorn his ideological positions with the sheen of science. In the final episode, Nye and his guests contemplate a thorny "scientific" question: How the state can stop people from having "extra children."

Nye: So, should we have policies that penalize people for having extra kids in the developed world?

Travis Rieder: I do think that we should at least consider it.

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Rieder: One of the things that we could do that's kind of least policy-ish is we could encourage our culture and our norms to change, right?

All of this was pretty familiar to me, and not only because the panel sounded like a ChiCom planning meeting. The Nye segment, it turns out, was just a repetition of a 2016 NPR article on overpopulation featuring Rieder that I'd once written about.

"Should we have policies that penalize people for having extra kids in the developed world?" asked Reider and others who were pondering the "ethics of procreation." The article is titled "Should We Be Having Kids in the Age of Climate Change?" In it, Rieder, a philosopher with the Berman Institute of Bioethics at Johns Hopkins University, scaremongers a class of college students about The End of Days and the immorality of having children. "The room is quiet," NPR explains, "No one fidgets. Later, a few students say they had no idea the situation was so bad." It's not.

"Here's a provocative thought," Rieder says. "Maybe we should protect our kids by not having them." This is provocative in the way a stoner wondering why airplanes don't run on hemp is provocative. That's because the entire case for capping the number of children rests on assumptions entirely devoid of scientific or historical basis.

In 1798, Thomas Malthus wrote that “the power of population is indefinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man.” At that point, there were maybe a billion humans on the Earth, so we might forgive him for worrying. In 1800, the life expectancy of the average British citizen — then the leading light of the world — was [39 years of age](#). Most humans lived in pitiless poverty that is increasingly rare in most parts of the contemporary world.

Now, had Nye been around in the early nineteenth century, he’d almost surely be smearing anyone skeptical of the [miasmatic theory of disease](#). The problem is he lacks imagination, unable to understand that science is here to help humanity adapt and overcome, not to constrict it. Anyway, six-plus billion people later, [extreme poverty has fallen below 10 percent for the first time ever](#). Most of those gains have been made in the midst of the world’s largest population explosion.

As I’ve noted elsewhere, according to the World Bank, because of the spread of trade, technological advances, and plentiful fossil fuel, [not only are fewer people living in extreme poverty](#), but [fewer are hungry than ever](#); fewer [die in conflicts](#) over resources, and deaths due to extreme weather [have been dramatically declining for a century](#) (evidence The Science Guy [regularly ignores](#)). Over the past 40 years, our water and air has become cleaner, despite a huge spike in population growth. Some of the Earth’s richest people live in some of its [densest cities](#).

It’s worth remembering that not only was early progressivism steeped [in eugenics](#), but early ’70s abortion politics was played out in the shadow of Paul Ehrlich’s “population bomb” theory. Vice President Al Gore has already [broached the idea](#) of “fertility management.” “Frankly,” Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg [mentioned a few years ago](#), “I had thought that at the time Roe was decided, there was concern about population growth and particularly growth in populations that we don’t want to have too many of.”

You thought right. Today, abortion is used as a means of [exterminating a class of human deemed unworthy of life](#).

We live in a world where Ehrlich protégé John Holdren, who, like his mentor, made a career of offering memorably erroneous predictions ([not out of the ordinary for alarmists](#)), can become a science czar in the Obama administration. Holdren co-authored a book in late 1970s, called “Ecoscience: Population, Resources, Environment,” that waded into theoretical talk about mass sterilizations and forced abortions in an effort to save hundreds of millions from sure death. Nye is a fellow denier of one of the most irrefutable facts about mankind: human ingenuity overcomes demand.

Now, just because something hasn’t happened yet doesn’t mean it can’t happen in the future. But the evidence against Malthusianism is stronger now than it has ever been. Of course, not everything about human existence can be quantified. This is the point. Talking about humans as if they were a malady that needs to be cured is, at its core, immoral. And listening to a man who has [three residences](#) lecture potential parents about their responsibilities to Mother Earth is particularly galling.

Although many thousands of incredibly smart and talented people engage in real scientific inquiry and discovery, “science” is often used as a cudgel to browbeat people into accepting progressive policies. Just look at the coverage of the March for Science last week. The biggest clue that it was nothing more than another political event is that Nye was a keynote speaker.

"We are marching today to remind people everywhere, our lawmakers especially," [he told the crowd](#), "of the significance of science for our health and prosperity." Fortunately, our health and prosperity has blossomed, despite the work of Nye and his ideological ancestors.

NY Times

## Climate of Complete Certainty

by Bret Stephens

*This is [Bret Stephens's first column](#).*

*When someone is honestly 55 percent right, that's very good and there's no use wrangling. And if someone is 60 percent right, it's wonderful, it's great luck, and let him thank God.*

*But what's to be said about 75 percent right? Wise people say this is suspicious. Well, and what about 100 percent right? Whoever says he's 100 percent right is a fanatic, a thug, and the worst kind of rascal.*

— *An old Jew of Galicia*

In the final stretch of last year's presidential race, Hillary Clinton and her team thought they were, if not 100 percent right, then very close.

Right on the merits. Confident in their methods. Sure of their chances. When Bill Clinton suggested to his wife's advisers that, considering Brexit, they might be underestimating the strength of the populist tide, the campaign manager, Robby Mook, had a bulletproof answer: The data run counter to your anecdotes.

That detail comes from "Shattered," Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes's compulsively readable account of Clinton's 2016 train wreck. Mook belonged to a new breed of political technologists with little time for retail campaigning and limitless faith in the power of models and algorithms to minimize uncertainty and all but predict the future.

"Mook and his 'Moneyball' approach to politics rankled the old order of political operatives and consultants because it made some of their work obsolete," Allen and Parnes write about the campaign's final days. "The memo that one Hillary adviser had sent months earlier warning that they should add three or four points to Trump's poll position was a distant memory."

There's a lesson here. We live in a world in which data convey authority. But authority has a way of descending to certitude, and certitude begets hubris. From Robert McNamara to Lehman Brothers to Stronger Together, cautionary tales abound.

We ought to know this by now, but we don't. Instead, we respond to the inherent uncertainties of data by adding more data without revisiting our assumptions, creating an impression of certainty that can be lulling, misleading and often dangerous. Ask Clinton.

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Well, not entirely. As Andrew Revkin [wrote](#) last year about his storied career as an environmental reporter at The Times, “I saw a widening gap between what scientists had been learning about global warming and what advocates were claiming as they pushed ever harder to pass climate legislation.” The science was generally scrupulous. The boosters who claimed its authority weren’t.

Anyone who has read the [2014 report](#) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change knows that, while the modest (0.85 degrees Celsius, or about 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit) warming of the Northern Hemisphere since 1880 is indisputable, as is the human influence on that warming, much else that passes as accepted fact is really a matter of probabilities. That’s especially true of the sophisticated but fallible models and simulations by which scientists attempt to peer into the climate future. To say this isn’t to deny science. It’s to acknowledge it honestly.

By now I can almost hear the heads exploding. They shouldn’t, because there’s another lesson here — this one for anyone who wants to advance the cause of good climate policy. As Revkin wisely noted, hyperbole about climate “not only didn’t fit the science at the time but could even be counterproductive if the hope was to engage a distracted public.”

Let me put it another way. Claiming total certainty about the science traduces the spirit of science and creates openings for doubt whenever a climate claim proves wrong. Demanding abrupt and expensive changes in public policy raises fair questions about ideological intentions. Censoriously asserting one’s moral superiority and treating skeptics as imbeciles and deplorables wins few converts.

None of this is to deny climate change or the possible severity of its consequences. But ordinary citizens also have a right to be skeptical of an overweening scientism. They know — as all environmentalists should — that history is littered with the human wreckage of scientific errors married to political power.

I’ve taken the epigraph for this column from the Polish poet Czeslaw Milosz, who knew something about the evils of certitude. Perhaps if there had been less certitude and more second-guessing in Clinton’s campaign, she’d be president. Perhaps if there were less certitude about our climate future, more Americans would be interested in having a reasoned conversation about it.

## Neo-Neocon

### AGW: when a scientific theory becomes a religion...

...then those with an opposing view become apostates.

That's especially true if the topic is one with very high stakes, such as AGW (anthropogenic global warming). Think about it this way: if a person is—(a) convinced that AGW has been proven beyond any doubt (b) threatens life as we know it all over the globe; and (c) can be halted and/or decreased by measures we understand and can control if only we had the will to implement them—then it follows that anyone who disagrees is a person who is endangering life on earth.

Science, of course, is *not* a religion, and the history of science is littered with theories that have been considered proven and then are disproven. So scientists must remain skeptical and open to any evidence that would challenge their theories and their findings. That's difficult enough to do when the topic is an abstract one with few practical applications. But when a topic is highly politicized (as with AGW), the difficulty increases exponentially and the public also becomes very much involved.

Which brings us to [an article](#) Bret Stephens wrote in his new venue, the *NY Times*. It was really a rather modest suggestion that people listen to both sides of the issue—not so much on AGW (which he himself seems to believe is true) as on whether we know enough to accurately predict the future of AGW and/or to fix the problems it may cause.

The Twitter storm this caused has been virulent. But if AGW (and intervention to halt or slow its effects) is your religion, then someone like Stephens becomes the AGW devil. Then this sort of response seems perfectly reasonable (if crass):

“You’re a s–thead. a crybaby lil f–kin weenie. a massive twat too,” tweeted Libby Watson, staff writer at Gizmodo.

“I’m gonna lose my mind,” seethed Eve Peyser, politics writer at Vice.

“The ideas ppl like @BretStephensNYT espouse are violently hateful & should not be given a platform by @NYTimes,” she said.

Not only has Stephens been excoriated, but that last sentiment—that he shouldn't be at the *Times*—has drawn enough support to be expressed in a petition, that now has about 27,000 supporters, asking that he be fired. It's especially ironic, not only because Stephens just arrived there but also because the main thrust of his column was to ask people to listen to opposing voices. And although Stephens is voicing only the mildest of opposition to current AGW thought, his voice is intolerable to many people who like their echo chambers particularly echo-y:

“Censoriously asserting one’s moral superiority and treating skeptics as imbeciles and deplorables wins few converts,” [Stephens wrote]. “None of this is to deny climate change or the possible severity of its consequences. But ordinary citizens also have a right to be skeptical of an overweening scientism. They know — as all environmentalists should — that history is littered with the human wreckage of scientific errors married to political power.”

But social media users didn't care, with some — including several scientists — going so far as to order a subscription boycott of the *Times* on Friday.

"Each and every one of us should fully boycott the NY Times — don't link to them, don't click on their links. Their actions are inexcusable," wrote one Twitter user. "You cannot be an ostensible paper-of-record and allow a science denier to spread propaganda."

Adriana Heguy, a genomics scientist and professor of pathology at NYU, urged her colleagues to scrap their subscriptions, as well.

"Composing my letter to the editor today and canceling @nytimes," she tweeted. "'Balance' means a VALID alternative opinion, not pseudoscience. I'm so sad."

There's room for plenty of sadness to go around. I certainly feel it, although I'm used to it, and I'm used to the sentiments expressed there.

The left has always had aspects of a religion, although many on the left don't believe in religion. Or maybe because they don't. Human beings apparently have a need to believe, whether they believe it or not.

## InstaPundit

### **JOURNOS RESPOND HARSHLY, PROFANELY TO BRET STEPHENS' FIRST NEW YORK TIMES COLUMN:**

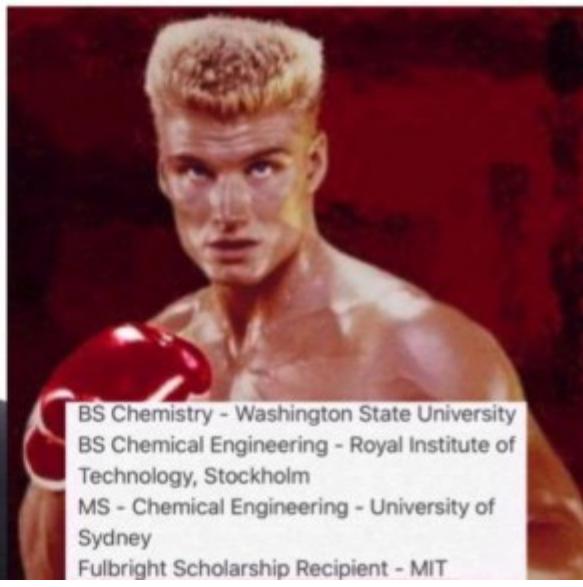
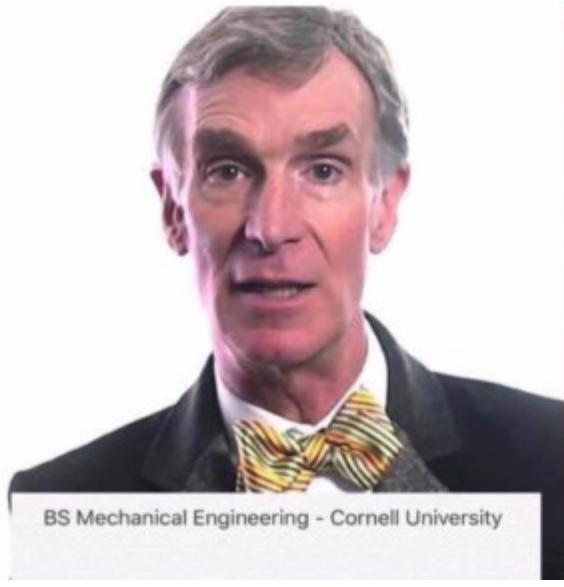
Even an appeal to recognized authority (in Stephens' questionable opinion) like former *Times* writer Revkin couldn't save the columnist — or the Times — from the intense and often profane wrath of journalists, many of whom, if they had the power, would clearly relish the opportunity to cooperate in censoring any and all climate-change skepticism. Some examples (HT Twitchy; profanity cleansed but still recognizable):

Jesse Berney, *Rolling Stone*: "literally go f\*\*\* yourself, new york times. go, eat, dog, d\*cks." (Note: This is from someone at a magazine proven to have published a spectacularly false story about a gang rape at the University of Virginia. — Ed.

A still deeply hungover and mescaline-soaked Hunter S. Thompson just rolled over in his grave. You younger readers might not believe this, but there was actually a time when *Rolling Stone* paid considerable lip service to questioning authority and that '60s notion of "doing your own thing." But then, as they [say](#) at David Horowitz's *Front Page Website*, sooner or later, inside every liberal — or leftwing institution — is a totalitarian screaming to get out.

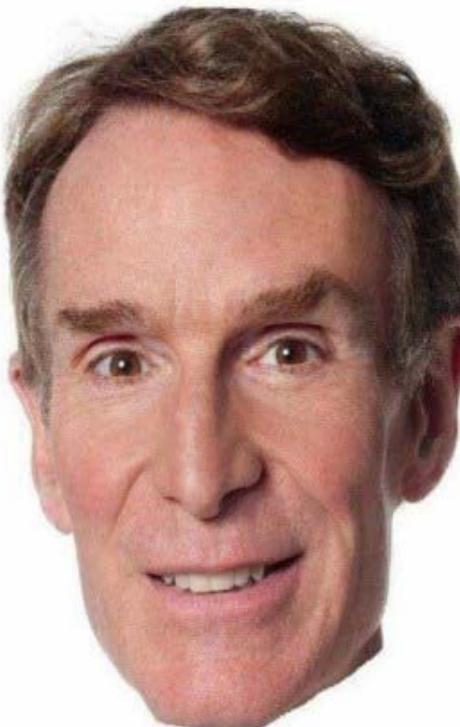
UPDATE: "If you're wondering why certain speakers need protection from violence at colleges, just look at reax on Twitter [to one NYT column.](#)"

That moment you find out that Dolph Lundgren is exponentially more qualified to be called a scientist than Bill Nye is. 😬



**Hi I'm Bill Nye, a TV Actor with a Bachelor's degree in engineering. Allow me to use the nostalgia of me as a star of a children's show to present myself as a credible expert on science.**

**wow hey look science supports my political agenda, fancy that hahaha wow**



**Identifies as  
a woman**



**Identifies as  
a cat**



**Identifies as  
a six-year old**



**Identifies as  
a scientist**





# WHO WORE IT BEST?



**DEMOCRAT PARTY THEN**



**DEMOCRAT PARTY NOW**



THE PATRIOT POST

**KIM JONG UN HAS PEOPLE  
KILLED AT THE DROP OF A HAT,**

*More Crazy Stuff*  
**YET CURIOUSLY, ALLOWS  
HIS BARBER TO LIVE.**

If Democrats thought for  
one minute that illegals  
were voting Republican,  
you'd see the Border  
Wall from Space!

LIAM NEESON IS  
**OVERBOOKED**

THEY PICKED THE  
WRONG PASSENGER