

'Consensus' destroyed by an inconvenient cooling

COLUMN: GREGORY J. RUMMO

Remember the great scare over Y2K, when some of the most brilliant minds of our generation arrived at a "consensus" that predicted the end of the world at midnight on Dec. 31, 1999?



GREG RUMMO
New Jersey columnist

In a similar vein we have the economic crisis of 2008 — a grand mal version of the Bernie Madoff-Ponzi Scheme that duped some of the best minds of the finance world. The consensus of a majority of leading economists and bankers that included the Treasury secretary and the chairman of the Federal Reserve was that the economy was sound only months before the world imploded.

Consensus is a dangerous thing, especially when the facts are flimsy, the data is subject to interpretation, there's an underlying political agenda, people can be frightened like lemmings into supporting a cause involving gov-

ernment funding, there's a religious, cult-like component, and a complicit and largely ignorant gaggle of mainstream journalists is all-too willing to cooperate in the cause-celebre.

I am speaking about anthropogenic (human-caused) carbon dioxide-induced global warming — or should I say what used to be called "global warming" until the data that poured in over the last two years showing that the earth has cooled drastically has made its hysterical proponents employ the classic bait-and-switch use of the term "climate change." Now any meteorological anomaly — including colder than expected weather or blizzards in places where it's not supposed to snow — can serve as "evidence" for Apocalypse Now.

It's simply a matter of time before coastlines are swallowed up by ever rising seas, littered with the carcasses of dead polar bears bobbing on the surface or so Al Gore would have us believe. But as more evidence to the contrary has steadily been mounting, contradicting the prophecies of rising ocean levels, it is becoming evident that what Al Gore calls "an inconvenient truth," is simply

a convenient lie.

David Deming, a geophysist and adjunct scholar at the National Center for Policy Analysis and an associate professor of arts and sciences at the University of Oklahoma, writing in the Washington Times on Dec. 10, stated, "...The last two years of global cooling have nearly erased 30 years of temperature increases. To the extent that global warming ever existed, it is now officially over. This year began with a severe spell of winter weather in China. Observers characterized it as the largest natural disaster to hit China in decades. By the end of January, blizzards and cold temperatures had killed 60 people and caused millions to lose electric service. Nearly a million buildings were damaged and airports had to close. Hong Kong had the second-longest cold spell since 1885. A temperature of 33.6 degrees Fahrenheit was barely higher than the record low of 32 degrees F set in 1893. Other countries in Asia also experienced record cold..."

But not even colder than nor-

mal weather can disuade the "climate-change" fear mongers. After Nature published the results of a computer model showing that nearly the entire Antarctic continent had not cooled over the past 50 years, as the real-world observational data showed, but had warmed instead, Christopher Monckton, chief policy adviser for the Science & Public Policy Institute, commented that the analysis in the "warming Antarctic" paper, "depends not on actual temperature measurements, nor on other observations from the real world, which unequivocally show that Antarctica has been cooling for half a century, but on statistical 'interpolation' of made-up data between the rather sparse observations from Antarctic research stations."

But the point may be moot. Fred S. Singer, president and founder of Science and Environment Policy Project, explains, "Not long ago we learned that a cooling Antarctica was 'consistent with' greenhouse warming and thus the skeptics were wrong. So a warming

Antarctica and a cooling Antarctica are both 'consistent with' model projections of global warming. Our foray into the tortured logic of 'consistent with' in climate science raises the perennial question, what observations of the climate system would be inconsistent with the model predictions?"

Deroy Murdock, a columnist with the Scripps Howard News Service, explained in December that the year 2008 was the coldest since 1997. With the winter of 2008-2009 barely under way, Murdock listed among other meteorological phenomena: an 8-inch snowstorm in New Orleans, a half-inch of snow in Malibu, three inches in Las Vegas and snow across southern Brazil. He also cited temperature data showing that last summer was the third-coldest on record for Anchorage, Alaska, causing a 13.5 percent expansion of Arctic sea ice-an area about the size of the state of Texas.

Murdock asked Dr. Martin Hertzberg, a physical chemist and retired Navy meteorologist, "So, is this all just propaganda concocted by Chevron-funded, right-wing, flat-Earthers?"

Hertzberg's answer was interesting. "As a scientist and life-long liberal Democrat, I find the constant regurgitation of the anecdotal, fear-mongering clap-trap about human-caused global warming to be a disservice to science."

Murdock quotes from a letter written to British members of Parliament last October from Imperial College of London astrophysicist and long range forecaster Piers Corbyn: "Global Warming is over; and Global Warming Theory has failed. There is no evidence that CO2 drives world temperatures or any consequent climate change.... According to official data in every year since 1998, world temperatures have been colder than that year, yet CO2 has been rising rapidly."

He adds, "That evening, as the House of Commons debated legislation on so-called 'global warming,' October snow fell in London for the first time since 1922."

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Letters

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celebrating.

With a stroke of his pen dipped in the blood of the innocents, President Obama recently killed more human life than 10 George Bush terms by restoring funding to international abortion programs as if we had money to give.

Mr. Obama, it is quickly becoming apparent, is unqualified for the job of president. It is somewhat comical watching him and his supporters learn the difference between organizing a community and running a country. They are dangerously clueless. I despair at the ignorance that got him elected and what this will ultimately mean even for the people who voted for him.

As a financial adviser for 24 years, I can say with some certainty that his economic policies will fail and America will suffer greatly for it. You cannot repair the failed forced lending policies of a Democrat-controlled legislature since 2006 by Barney Frank, Chris Dodd and even then-Senator Obama through Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac with even more extreme debt. Their scheme, essentially, was to force banks to loan money to low credit score district constituents. If it worked they would be praised. If the scheme failed, as it did, they could blame president Bush to an ignorant electorate and here we are.

Tax cuts to unleash the creative force of capitalism coupled with careful investment and austerity are the only way out. Even John Kennedy knew that. My hope was that not one Republican would vote for the bill. Senators Spector, Collins, and Snowe are traitors sadly. Even so, this bloated lipstick wearing pig being scared down the throats of Americans will still pass and Democrats will have ownership of its success or likely failure.

America, properly chastened in two miserable years will vote back in real conservatives and the second coming of the Reagan revolution will blossom. Think about how you must run your own finances and you will easily see the folly of the giddy left. Ignorance, for a short while however, can be bliss.

Nicholas Miserendino
Lafayette

Grateful for help

Editor:
Once again a kind, blessed good samaritan sent a generous gift to my home mailbox. Dear blessed soul, your kind thoughts and prayers, as well as your gift, are greatly appreciated. Once again we will make it through the end of the month with your selfless assistance. We will rest much warmer tonight because of your help. May God bless you now and forever. You have restored our faith in humanity in many ways.

Ellen M. Pooley
Newton

How to submit letters

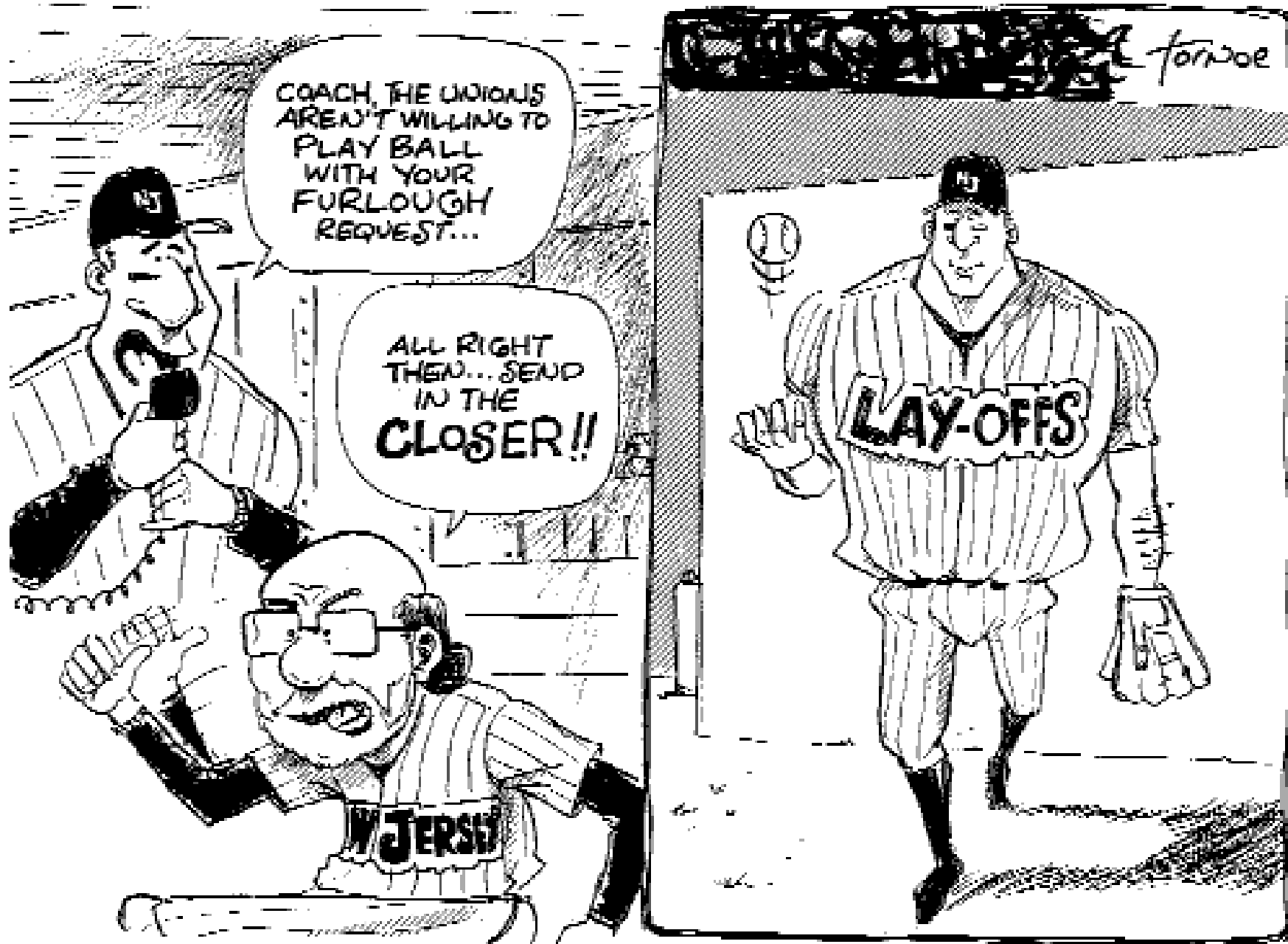
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WEEKEND GALLERY



What business schools should be teaching these days

By DALE McFEATTERS
Scripps Howard News Service

In the recessionary times of failing firms and factory closings, business schools are faced with this dilemma: What do you teach when there is no business?

The Wall Street Journal addressed this question in "Recession 101: Courses for a Crisis," which told how business schools are revamping their curriculums to focus on weathering a downturn: We would say the business schools are a little late to that party, but no matter.

Stanford and Harvard jointly offer "Leading Change and Organizational Renewal," a course that can't possibly be as snooze-inducing as its title. Over at NYU, they're offering "Raising

Leadership IQ" — talk about being late to the party.

Anat Lechner, the professor who designed that course, told the Journal it can combat unprecedented uncertainty and prevent leaders from "freaking out" in the downturn. Personally, I want whoever is running my 401(k) to be freaking out. I am.

While these courses, I'm sure, offer a broad vision of the wreckage-littered business landscape, I'm thinking the schools should be offering courses of a more practical nature in the current business environment. I'm happy to help out with a few suggestions.

Mock Bankruptcy Court: Taught by graduates of Lehman Brothers and required of all seniors. Required reading: Chapter 7

and Chapter 13. Students will prepare bankruptcy filings and learn to defend them with a straight face before an actual judge. Prerequisite: Asset concealment.

Congressional Testimony 101 and 102: Business leaders are regularly summoned to testify before Congress. Students will learn to patiently and impassively sit through abuse from clods with half their smarts until the moment is right to ask for \$20 billion for your company from the taxpayers.

Required reading: "Defending the Corporate Jet."

Basic Immigration Law: Illegal aliens make good employees. They work hard and don't expect much in the way of pay. Not everybody, principally the U.S. government, thinks hiring them

is a good idea. How to keep your illegal aliens happy and out of sight. You'll learn such tested techniques as: "Who? Them? Oh, that's the community-college Spanish Club. We let them use our chicken-processing plan for their meetings."

Ponzi Schemes for Fun and Profit: These investment instruments have been unfairly tarnished just because some investors get completely wiped out.

But a good Ponzi is unrivaled as a quick way to build personal wealth — yours. As with all business matters, timing is everything, and our instructors, who because of unresolved legal questions must tele-teach from overseas, will have you going out the back door as the SEC is coming in

the front. Meets in Room 1B of the Madoff Building.

Getaway Destinations: Strongly recommended for students who took Ponzi Schemes. Students will use the Internet and legal reference works to research destinations that have opaque banking laws and no extradition treaties. North Korea and Somalia are not as bad as people make out, and there's a lot to be said for Burkina Faso. Really.

Because of certain financial exigencies, all course work must be paid for in advance.

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