

10/2009

RE: Missing the Science

Dear Editor,

Lee Morris asks what he is missing in his criticism of climate science (Letters, 10-15-2009). Well a few science classes for one thing. But he makes up for it with an impressive ability for cramming a lot of misinformation into a small space. Since it is easier to create mischief than undo mischief, we will have to limit our discussion to his claim that global temperatures have cooled over the past decade.

One might come to that conclusion if one graphed only data from one set of measurements (HADCRUT3) and arbitrarily started in 1998 when there was a record El Nino in effect and continued plotting data only until the most recent La Nina cycles ended. But don't take my word for it- go to <http://www.woodfortrees.org/plot> and plot the data and see for yourself.

You will see that by plotting any of the data sets since 1990 or 1980 or even earlier, that these ocean dominated variations have occurred repeatedly over the past decades but the fluctuations are imprinted over the gradual increase in global temperatures that has continued since measurements began. One could have made the same claims of global cooling in 1994, 1985, or 1976 and one would have been just as wrong. The fact is that a 2009 survey by the University of Chicago found that 97% of US climate scientists agree that human caused warming is significant and cannot be physically explained without including the effects of radiative forcing from CO2 and other greenhouse gases.

John Donovan  
Eugene, OR