

The Conway Daily Sun

Time To Demand Facts, Hold Columnist Accountable

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May 17, 2016

Having been fortunate enough to avoid the column written by your resident storyteller, Tom McLaughlin, I have been able to enjoy learning more about the valley and the folks that live here. As a relative newcomer it is a helpful source.

However, I did read the letter written by Professor Michael Mann and, unfortunately, the responding column from Mr. Anecdote himself.

Of course “a Viking settlement,” the mini ice age and his other silly references absolutely prove him right. The professor and climate scientists worldwide are all part of a giant plan to take the higher economic ground.

More idiocy from climate deniers, most of whom are shills for the oil, coal and gas industries, and financed mainly by those two upstanding citizens, the Kochs.

The lead deniers, who are always on Fox News have been supported by the Kochs and not surprisingly the CATO institute. This is not an anecdotal remark and the facts are easily verified.

First, a few thing about the professor who McLaughlin thinks he bested. These are facts:

- Graduated from University of California, Berkeley, and Yale University and has earned a bachelor’s degree applied mathematics and physics, a master of science in physics, and a Ph.D. in geology and physics
- Mann was organizing committee chair for the National Academy of Sciences Frontiers of Science in 2003 and has received a number of honors and awards, including selection by Scientific American as one of the 50 leading visionaries in science and technology in 2002.
- In 2012, he was inducted as a fellow into the American Geophysical Union and was awarded the Hans Oeschger Medal of the European Geosciences Union.
- In 2013, he was elected a fellow of the American Meteorological Society, and awarded the status of distinguished professor in Penn State’s College of Earth and Mineral Sciences.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change presented Mann, along with all other “scientists that had contributed substantially to the preparation of IPCC reports,” with a

personalized certificate “for contributing to the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2007 to the IPCC,” celebrating the joint award of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize to the IPCC and to Al Gore.

After his attempts to denigrate the professor with the reference to the lawsuit and Nobel, all of which can be easily clarified by looking up the professor on Wikipedia, he then, as always, sees all this as another creation of the dreadful “left” and leaps over to bashing the Obama administration with a fact-free accusation referencing the book, “The Commanding Heights.” The evil left is creating an economy so they can control the country ... be afraid! “The Commanding Heights” is a book co-authored by Joseph Stanislaw, the co-founder and former president of Cambridge Energy Research Associates, an energy research consultancy that was acquired in 2004 by IHS Energy.

After writing a couple of letters to the editor, I simply decided to ignore the silly rants of this so called columnist.

I then read another reader reply that she “usually agrees” with his columns. Poor thing probably thinks he uses factual information.

This man is an fountain of vague, misleading and at times outright false information. To these folks who “want their country back” and label Barack Obama as the “worst president ever” I ask: Were you in a coma from 2001 until 2007?

Which country is that you want?

Is it the country that was in the midst of two unfunded wars, one based entirely on lies? The country sacrificing our young service members in the middle of a civil war we enabled? The country with a 9 percent unemployment rate that was bleeding jobs? The one with its leading automakers and thus all the industry suppliers on the verge of bankruptcy? The country with failing banks and more importantly, AIG — the company serves 98 percent of the Fortune 500 companies, 96 percent of Fortune 1000, and 90 percent of Fortune Global 500, and insures 40 percent of Forbes’ 400 Richest Americans — also about to go under and cause the biggest collapse since 1929? Maybe the country where the stock market plunged, along with the investments of so many planning their retirement?

Sure, let us blame President Obama and the “left” as this poor excuse for a journalist does every time he puts a pen to paper.

Let’s elect another guy who will cut the taxes of the top tier again and tell you it will create jobs.

People who think like this guy are a dime a dozen and, sure, they have the right to their opinion. However, as a so-called respectable publication, the paper has a right to demand facts from its columnist.

It is time to hold this man accountable for the nonsense he puts forth.

By the way, Tom, your whiney “stick it” column only makes you look that much smaller.