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Published: August 5th, 2009

Penn Jillette and Teller, from the [Penn & Teller: Bullshit!](#) TV show, calls in the latest episode organic food for “bullshit” (see video below). Penn and Teller’s main point why organic food is “bullshit” is simply because it “might mean you’re getting your food from giant corporations or China.”



But what Penn and Teller fail to mention is that the so called “Food Policy Analyst Expert”, Alex Avery, is paid by [the Hudson Institute](#). The

Hudson Institute is an American conservative, religious and free market think tank. Simply put, they are corporate lobbyists. And the prestigious-sounding Hudson Institute is funded by giant corporations such as Monsanto, the leading producer of genetically engineered (GE) food.

You should also don't forget that Penn and Teller are [members of the Cato Institute](#), which is another libertarian corporate think tank funded by such fine corporations as ExxonMobil. The Cato Institute is known for [spreading and funding anti-scientific climate denialism](#) and misinformation.

But this is not the first time Penn and Teller's "Bullshit!" show receives criticism, and especially not when they cover environmental topics. In season one, aired 2003, Penn and Teller claims that the global warming crisis was created by "hysterical hippies and environmentalists". Their biased and misinformed global warming episode has since then been criticized and debunked. [Logical Science](#) has listed and debunked the claims Penn and Teller made in the episode:

"In Episode 13, season 1 of Penn & Teller: Bullshit! they try to prove the global warming crisis, among other things, was created by the out of control imagination of hysterical hippies and environmentalists. This is why the episode is titled "Environmental Hysteria". We would just like to point out that Penn Jillette is a [research fellow](#) of the [ExxonMobil](#) and Industry funded CATO institute which has strong [minarchist](#) leanings. This gives Penn Jillette a conflict of interest when it comes to any topic that might require government regulation. During the show he puts Tobacco and Oil funded lobbyists against hippie college protesters. If a fair match was their intent they should have those lawyers up against any of the scientists on this massive [list](#). Granted the show was officially about "hysteria" and not science itself but that doesn't excuse them for grossly misrepresenting a very strong [scientific consensus](#) and providing facts that are demonstrably false. The following is a quoted, sourced, and time stamped point by point analysis of their show. It will focus on the facts presented by Penn & Teller's "experts"

Another debunked claim by Penn and Teller is that recycling paper would pollute more than making new paper. This is [a false claim](#):

"Recycling also helps prevent pollution. For example, recycling paper instead of making it from new material generates 74 percent less air pollution and uses 50 percent less water.

Simply put: Don't trust a magician!

Simon Leufstedt

Simon Leufstedt is the founder and editor of [Green Blog](#) – an environment blog with authors from around the world. He is also the admin of [Enviro Space](#) - a place to meet, discuss and interact with other people who share your interests and ideas.

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By Simon Leufstedt on August 5th, 2009

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But what Penn and Teller fail to [...]

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By Leah Karpus on August 4th, 2009

Don’t lose your good habits on vacation!

Photo credit: JoshuaDavisPhotography.COM

How can you be an eco-friendly traveller? Well, considering the immense amount of carbon emissions generated by air travel (hundreds of pounds of fuel per passenger), the term “eco-friendly traveller” may be a bit of an oxymoron. Still, when on vacation or on business abroad, the [...]

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By Dr Gideon Polya on August 4th, 2009

We are running out of time – so what can decent folk do in the face of greedy, corrupt, climate racist, climate genocidal, climate criminal intransigence?

The world must cut carbon emissions by 80% by 2020 to avert catastrophe, according to paleoclimate scientist Dr Dr Andrew Glikson (Australian National University) in an interview broadcast by Radio [...]

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[George Monbiot: The rich can relax. We just need the poor world to cut emissions. By 125%](#)

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By Simon Leufstedt on July 25th, 2009

George Monbiot, Europe’s leading green commentator, gives his rather negative opinion about the British and G8 climate strategy which he says “just doesn’t add up”. Monbiot argues that the British climate plan, which the G8 pretty much adopted as its own, is a “mockery” and that it is “very unlikely” to stop a two degrees [...]

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[**France must shut down nuclear plants due to heatwaves**](#)

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By Simon Leufstedt on July 25th, 2009

Photo credit: christian.senger

The Times Online are reporting that France have been forced to close down a third of its nuclear power stations this summer due to heatwaves: “France is being forced to import electricity from Britain to cope with a summer heatwave that has helped to put a third of its nuclear power stations [...]

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[**The New Generation of Hemp**](#)

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By Leah Karpus on July 20th, 2009

Photo credit: Uncleweed

The day has finally come for industrial hemp. Hemp products are reaching mainstream markets and becoming more and more popular. However, although hemp crops have been around for literally thousands of years, the benefits of this important crop are still being overshadowed by its controversial stigma as marijuana.

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By Dr Gideon Polya on July 20th, 2009

Photo credit: jurvetson

Top scientists and economists tell us that Carbon Trading (Emissions Trading Scheme, ETS) proposals are dangerous, fraudulent Ponzi schemes and that genuine, non-manipulatable, equitable Carbon Taxes are urgently required to help stop planet-threatening carbon burning. [1]. 16 million people die avoidably each year from deprivation (including 9.5 million infants) – and this global [...]

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[**Oz Environmentalist Professor Tim Flannery supports disastrous Australian Carbon Trading ETS**](#)

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By Dr Gideon Polya on July 15th, 2009

As evident from the failed G8 meeting at L’Aquila, Italy, the worst greenhouse gas polluters of the First World support cap-and-trade emissions trading scheme (ETS) approaches to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution despite contrary advice from top climate scientists and climate economists. In short, a Carbon Tax is the best way and Carbon Trading [...]

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[**Overpopulation is not the problem – overconsumption by the rich few is**](#)

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By Simon Leufstedt on July 14th, 2009

Photo credit: Hipnos

I often hear people saying that overpopulation is the main problem to our environmental and ecological problems. Some people even claim that it’s responsible for global warming. I also agreed with this idea before. But after reading more about the subject over the years I have changed my mind.

The rich countries [...]

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[James Lovelock: “I hope we are civilised when climate disaster strikes”](#)

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By Simon Leufstedt on July 13th, 2009


The Inter Press Service has an interesting interview with James Lovelock, known for proposing the Gaia hypothesis, about everything from the IPCC to geo-engineering and climate tipping points.

Lovelock has earlier said that he believes that climate change is now irreversible. He predicts that the major part of the humans, more than six billion people, will [...]


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