

## Were Last Week's "Climate Strikes" Enough of a Wake-up Call on Climate Change?

We can thank Al Gore for educating us about global warming, but I wish a non-politician such as Carl Sagan had performed that service. I can't think to any other scientific research which became partisan in a similar way.

Remember CFCs and the ozone hole? It wasn't a partisan issue. The issue was addressed quickly in a bi-partisan manner.

It was meteorologists, not politicians, that taught us about El Nino and La Nina—the cyclical events in which changes in ocean temperature create weather patterns affecting our entire continent. No one has said El Nino is not real. It is accepted science — like climate change.

It's only because Al Gore introduced us to the "inconvenient truth" about climate change that his teachings were disputed and rejected as left-wing propaganda by those on the right. How sad, how unfortunate, and how deadly the consequences.

Last Friday I attended the "Climate Strike" event on the Colorado School of Mines campus and watched news coverage of bigger events around the world. I'm 72 now, and, yes, the climate will worsen before I die. But those under 40 and certainly those under 20 are seeing the early effects of global warming and worry that their world will be unlivable by the time they're my age. For them, it's a huge crisis.

Back in June, I attended my 50th reunion at M.I.T., during which there

was a Technology Day symposium on climate change. One of the speakers, Prof. Noelle Selin, told us that the global concentration of carbon dioxide was 325 parts per million when we graduated in 1969, but now it was 410 ppm. She made us think about those who graduated in 2019 (who she dubbed "the Class of 410 ppm") and speculated on the class that would be graduating at *their* 50th reunion. "Will it be the Class of 600 ppm or the Class of 700 ppm?" she asked. And what will life be like for them at *their* 50th reunion?

It was a sobering presentation. And you can be sure that it was even more sobering for the Class of 2019 and for M.I.T. students who have yet to graduate. I have posted a link for Prof. Selin's presentation at [www.GoldenREblog.com](http://www.GoldenREblog.com).

The impact on real estate — *and national security* — is apparent when you consider all the "climate refugees" who are likely to migrate from heavily impacted areas such as the Bahamas, Florida, Houston — and Syria, where drought, as much as civil war, contributed to the exodus of Syrians to Europe. Indeed, over a decade ago the U.S. Defense

### Student Debt Forgiveness

Some readers of last week's column got the impression that I supported the forgiveness of student debt. I still need to be convinced that it would be a good thing to do. The point of my column was merely to speculate on the market effect if that idea were to be implemented.

Department labeled climate change a threat to national security. You can understand why. I do.

The headline of my column on Jan. 14, 2014 was, "We May Have Already Passed the Tipping Point on Climate Change." That statement was based on the already dramatic reduction in summer sea ice in the Arctic Ocean, as documented by the Earth Policy Institute at Rutgers. I published their chart showing a correlation between the increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> from 300 to 400 ppm since the Industrial Revolution, and the 50% loss of summer sea ice in the Arctic during the late 20th Century and 2013.

The reason loss of sea ice creates a tipping point for our climate is that sea ice, being white, reflects sunlight, whereas open ocean, being dark, absorbs sunlight, causing more ice to melt and to melt faster. A warmer Arctic region in turn upsets weather patterns worldwide.

Almost six years have passed since I wrote that column, and now

the Arctic Ocean is open and navigable for part of the summer. We have learned the term "polar vortex" and experienced the effects of wilder than normal fluctuations of the jet stream. Warmer oceans in the tropics have caused stronger, slower hurricanes, causing 100-year floods to become frequent, as we have already seen in Houston. These effects were already happening back in 2012 with superstorm Sandy in New York and New Jersey and even here in Colorado with the heavy rains and flooding of Sept. 2013.

Unfortunately, we have a president who will never admit he was wrong, so he will never admit that climate change is real, that it is exacerbated by CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and that the only hope, if there is any this late in the game, of reducing the impacts of climate change is to drastically reduce the output of greenhouse gases like CO<sub>2</sub> and methane. Instead, inaction on climate change, and worse, may be this president's #1 legacy. How sad.

### Just Listed: Amazing North Golden Luxury Home

You will revel in the luxury found in this one-owner custom home at **301 Cliff Line Road**, one mile from downtown Golden high up on the west-facing slope of North Table Mountain. Its location



endows this home with panoramic mountain views from every window! You'll love the vaulted ceilings, custom woodwork, alder hardwoods, and 8-foot doors. The gourmet kitchen features slab granite countertops, Sub-Zero refrigerator, two full-size ovens and electric cooktop with gas available. The open floor plan is perfect for entertaining yet offers cozy spaces around multiple fireplaces. The 7,300-sq.-ft. home features 6 bedrooms with walk-in closets, 5 bathrooms and 2 master suites. The main-floor suite has a private door out to the large covered deck and hot tub. Adventure enthusiasts will love the heated, oversized 4-car garage with shop, 2nd washer and dryer and a 10-foot garage door for your RV. You can view a narrated video tour with drone video and get more info about this home at [www.MesaMeadowsHome.com](http://www.MesaMeadowsHome.com), or call listing agent **Kristi Brunel** at 303-525-2520 to request a showing.



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### Just Listed: 5 Bedroom Bi-Level in Southwest Denver



Just one block from Garfield Lake Park, this bargain-priced home at **1431 S. King Court** is located on a quiet cul-de-sac, ideally situated in the Mar Lee section of southwest Denver. With 5 bedrooms and 2 baths, this bi-level home offers the potential for added value with a little sweat equity. It is quite livable in its

present condition, with great "bones" and flow. On the upper level are 3 bedrooms, a full bath, eat-in kitchen and living room. On the lower level are 2 more bedrooms and another full bath plus a spacious family room. A new roof was installed in 2012 and windows were replaced in 2011. This home could be perfect for a first-time homebuyer or an investor looking for an easy, low-maintenance rental property. It is currently occupied by an excellent long-term tenant on a month-to-month lease who wants to stay. Call **Andrew Lesko** at 720-710-1000 for a private showing. More information and interior pictures can be found at [www.DenverHome.info](http://www.DenverHome.info).

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