
**THE CRUSADE TO DENY
GLOBAL WARMING**

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JAMES HOGGAN

with RICHARD LITTLEMORE

CLIMATE COVER-UP

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In thanks and as a tribute to ROSS GELBSPAN,
whose early scoops and dedicated journalism exposed the
climate change denial campaign and inspired this book.

that Solomon brings up on the lecture circuit or in the radio and television interviews I have seen since. He just sits proudly as they introduce him as the author of a newspaper series and a book about eminent climate change deniers. And I doubt that he was bringing it up in New York, where he too was appearing as one of the guest speakers at the "2nd International Conference on Climate Change."

I CAN COME up with no reasonable explanation for why the *National Post* and the *Calgary Herald* would allow this kind of material to continue to appear in their pages without taking some care to assure that readers were being fairly informed.

That isn't to say that the standard of journalism in Canada or elsewhere is uniformly low. Many of the stories within this book have emerged because of the diligence—and sometimes the courage—of great reporters. I am extremely proud of the DeSmogBlog team, especially Richard Littlemore and Kevin Grandia. And there are legions of reporters who, regardless of the standard that prevails in the media generally and at certain outlets specifically, do exemplary work. You can hardly find a better example than George Monbiot, *Guardian* columnist and author of the excellent 2007 climate change solutions book *Heat*. Monbiot broke one of the all-time-great climate disinformation stories—first in the *Guardian* and later in his book.

Monbiot, who had long since accepted the scientific consensus that he should be worrying about climate change, had stumbled in 2005 upon one of those striking pieces of information that would cause any reasonable person to have second thoughts. David Bellamy, at one time something of a giant in the U.K. environmental movement, had written a highly skeptical piece in the reputable *New Scientist* magazine in which he included this piece of information: "555 of all the 625 glaciers under observation by the World Glacier Monitoring Service in Zurich have been growing since 1980."

Giving a thought to Bellamy's reputation, Monbiot wrote in a May 10, 2005, *Guardian* column headlined "Junk Science," "[Bellamy] is a scientist, formerly a senior lecturer at the University of Durham. He knows, in other words, that you cannot credibly cite data unless it is well-sourced. Could it be that one of the main lines of evidence of the impacts of global warming—the retreat of the world's glaciers—was wrong?" Bugged by the numbers, Monbiot looked around for corroboration and, when he couldn't find it, picked up the phone and called the World Glacier Monitoring Service, where he encountered a helpful, well-informed individual who was familiar with the Bellamy story. Monbiot explained in the *Guardian* column how the monitoring service handled his query: "I don't think the response would have been published in *Nature*, but it had the scientific virtue of clarity. 'This is complete bullshit.'"

Now Monbiot was completely intrigued, and he set off on a sleuthing extravaganza, following every possible lead to try to find the source of this erroneous story. He found a variation of the figures in print: the libertarian Lyndon Larouche's publication *21st Century Science and Technology* had carried an earlier story stating that "55% of all the 625 glaciers under observation" by the World Glacier Monitoring Service were declining—suggesting that Bellamy had a source but rendered the reference badly. Monbiot also found similar references and variations littered around the Internet echo chamber—at JunkScience.com, where it can still be found; at the National Centre for Public Policy; at the industry-funded denier site GlobalWarming.org; and (this was the oldest link) at Dr. S. Fred Singer's Science and Environmental Policy Project Web site, sepp.org.

Monbiot stayed on the case. Singer had cited an old *Science* article from 1989, so Monbiot checked copies of the journal from the whole year. Nothing. Next, an associate phoned Singer directly and asked him the origin of the piece. Singer lashed out, saying that Monbiot "has been smoking something or other,"