

Committee flashes warning light on warming of Earth's climate

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The predicted warming of Earth's climate in decades ahead from the carbon dioxide "greenhouse effect" is no cause to panic, says a National Research Council committee — but the warming is a cause for concern.

The committee, which is part of the research arm of the National Academy of Sciences, reported Thursday to Congress on the two-year study.

One author suggested mankind has a period of about 20 years in which to decide what action, if any, to take.

The committee said there is no doubt carbon dioxide concentrations in the air are increasing, primarily from burning coal, oil and gas. In the past 25 years, the concentration increased more than 7 percent.

Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere acts like glass in a greenhouse — allowing heat from the sun to reach Earth but inhibiting the return flow of that heat back into space.

As a result, the committee said it concludes that the planet will warm up as more carbon dioxide reaches the atmosphere. It said that a doubling of carbon

dioxide concentrations, most likely to occur after 2050, will probably increase surface air warming anywhere from 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit to 8 degrees.

The report said that such carbon dioxide increases don't effect the quality of the air for humans to breathe, but that environmental changes of this magnitude are of concern.

"Man-made emissions of greenhouse gases promise to impose a warming of unusual dimensions on a global climate that is already unusually warm,"

the report said. "We may get into trouble in ways that we have barely imagined."

The committee repeated the likely effects outlined in an earlier Environmental Protection Agency report — drastic changes to global weather patterns, changes in agriculture, rises in sea level with resultant coastal flooding, and an uneven impact on various parts of the world.

The committee is headed by William Nierenberg of the

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, Calif.

"We're flashing a yellow light but not a red light," said Roger Revelle, a committee member from the University of California at San Diego.

Scout awarded lifesaving medal

United Press International
IRVING — An Eagle Scout from Aubrey will receive the Boy Scouts of America's Lifesaving Award Monday for freeing a man trapped underwater in a pickup truck.

Gary Hedges, 18, will become the 13th Boy Scout to be awarded the Honor Medal for lifesaving this year. The ceremony will take place at the Aubrey Community Center about 10 miles north of Dallas.

Hedges, a student at Cooke County College in Gainesville, was fishing at Lake Lewisville near Dallas with his father and

younger sister last spring when a pickup truck plunged off a boat ramp and landed about 20 yards from shore.

Hedges swam to the truck, which was sinking in 20 feet of water. He unlocked the truck door and pulled the driver, J.M. Harris of Frisco, from the cab. Another fisherman towed them to shore in a boat.

Harris was treated at the scene for shock; however, he later died at a Dallas hospital.

The Boy Scouts said about 25 of the lifesaving medals are presented each year to scouts who perform heroic acts.

Ohio man seeks state help

United Press International
COLUMBUS, Ohio — Compensation for a man who spent nearly five years in prison for two rapes he didn't commit was approved Thursday by a state legislative committee.

The Ohio House Civil and Commercial Law Committee approved a bill entitling William Bernard Jackson to seek a "liberal" settlement.

"This man should be compensated for the embarrassment and humiliation he suffered as well as for the loss of freedom or having to stay in a penal institution for a crime he did not commit," Rep. Otto Beatty Jr. said.

Jackson was smiling, but not talkative after approval of the bill.

"He's worn out," said Beatty, who went to bat for Jackson last February following his release from prison.

Since his release, Jackson has been unemployed. He has received \$10,000 from an anonymous benefactor in Wisconsin and was recently charged with assault.


He has denied the charge.

Chemical linked to leadership

United Press International
 The officers of a college fraternity have something in common with dominant male vervet monkeys: Their elevated social status is reflected in the level of a key blood chemical that affects the brain, the October issue of Science Digest reports.

Dominant monkeys behave differently from subordinates. For example, they spend more time looking out for danger. Subordinates are more complacent.

UCLA Medical School researchers have found that dominant male vervet monkeys have almost twice as much serotonin in their blood as subordinates. Serotonin is one of many neurotransmitters — chemicals that carry messages between nerves.



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