



Re: OT: interesting global warming quote found elsewhere

born, estimating his risk on Gaussian models.

Most of the senior suits in charge of the trading desks grew up in an era when they had no clue at all what they were doing other than seat of the pants and crude calculations. That is why major banks can be broken by a single rogue trader who understands how to beat the back office checks and balances (usually someone who has worked in both roles).

Yup, people tend to not believe in catastrophes.

Speak for yourself. Catastrophes can and do happen. Tormenting a farming computer model to extremes I once had my crops trampled by a herd of unicorns. I was trying to break it and took it into uncharted territory.

I didn't say they don't happen. I said that people tend to not expect them.

Consider the space shuttles. Both the SRB seals and the external tank insulations were known, continuous hazards. But successive flights accumulated confidence, when they should have accumulated terror. Again, a failure of experience.

I grew up in New Orleans, and it was common knowledge that a storm that took Katrina's path would fill the lake and dump it onto the entire city. What did they do? Eat, drink, and be merry.

That was in the 80's so I am pretty sure that the better models have included very low probability high damage events for at least that long. Some of them were very humorous scenarios (to make the point that no-one knew what the real ones would be or pretended to be able to enumerate them all – rusts mutating that would take down wheat monoculture was/is a real worry).

In your wilful ignorance in the next breath you will deny that there is any possibility of an AGW induced catastrophe. Do you see the contradiction?

I don't deny any possibility. I suggest that there is a good chance that the models are crap, that AGW isn't happening, and that the "science" is bad. The fact that skepticism isn't allowed over this issue is a red flag that the "science" is twisted.

Seriously, think about who, in the AGW debate, is denying possibilities.

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But yes, I really doubt that a little warming, if it is happening, manmade or otherwise, will cause some "tipping point" catastrophe. All sorts of real-life problems, from kidney stones to jellyfish to beach erosion, is being blamed on AGW, and it's silly.

But a little more CO2 will make a lot of plants happy. We were close to running out.

John

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