

Re: OT -- attacking science and fighting back

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- *From:* "SBC Yahoo" <atilla.the.hun@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 13 Oct 2006 15:41:22 GMT
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"Petra" <petrasrcf@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:1160703709.271946.199380@xx>

SBC Yahoo wrote:

In science, only the truth matters.

Well SBC Yahoo I couldn't agree with you more, have you seen any truth lately?

That's a partial yes/no thing. The truth is "out there", but where "out there" might be I'm not sure. I see a definite division between those that go "out there" and those that don't go "out there." Those that venture "out there" say they've seen it and they know what it looks like, whereas those who haven't been "out there" say they've read about it and they too know without having to see it. I'm not sure if this is a clear division between geologists and others or not, but it's puzzling for sure.

I'm in the group that likes to go "out there", touch it and see if it agrees with the papers people have written as sometimes it's darn interesting, because once "out there" you know that whomever wrote some of those papers had no idea at all that what they said was so far off the mark that it couldn't possibly be anywhere near "the truth."

As for those on Capital Hill, well I'm sure they have differences of opinions too. Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey who sits on the Science Committee, (whom I've known for ten years) sent me a nice letter just last week commending me on my proactive stance on earthquake safety issues in California. It's good we can agree on that one.

So SBC, what's your uptake, is going "out there" a good thing or unnecessary?

Petra

Earthquake preparedness, in California, must be something like the "duck and cover" we went through during the Cuban Missile Crisis. As school kids, we were told in the event of a nuclear explosion (attack), we were to get under our desks (duck) and place our hands over our heads (cover). A lot of good that would have done, huh? I think the best EQ prep is to move to the Midwest. They don't have EQ's, but the weather is terrible and well, it can be a bit boring. In the event of a EQ, I have 3 days of food (I will switch to my beer and pretzel diet), plenty of home security to keep the scavengers away (more firearms than the National Guard) and a vehicle large enough to live in, in the event the other dwelling falls to the ground.

As for truth, nothing can be more elusive, sometimes. In politics, it is virtually non existent (except for those rare occasions where it is blurted out uncontrollably). Finding the truth can also be a adventure, but unless one searches, one will not find. As for being "out there", I believe that geologists would be out there more than others, because (most that I know anyway), geologists spend a fair amount of time in the field looking for clues as to the origin of a particular formation, or how it was mineralized, or if it might be a reservoir for liquid gold, etc., etc.. For myself, lately, the truth has been elusive. A good hypothesis, I might come across, but proving it can be maddening, at times. Fortunately there is good scotch, which stimulates the brain cells, and allows the process to continue.

As for "going out there", nothing ventured, nothing gained – so it must be good to "go out there".