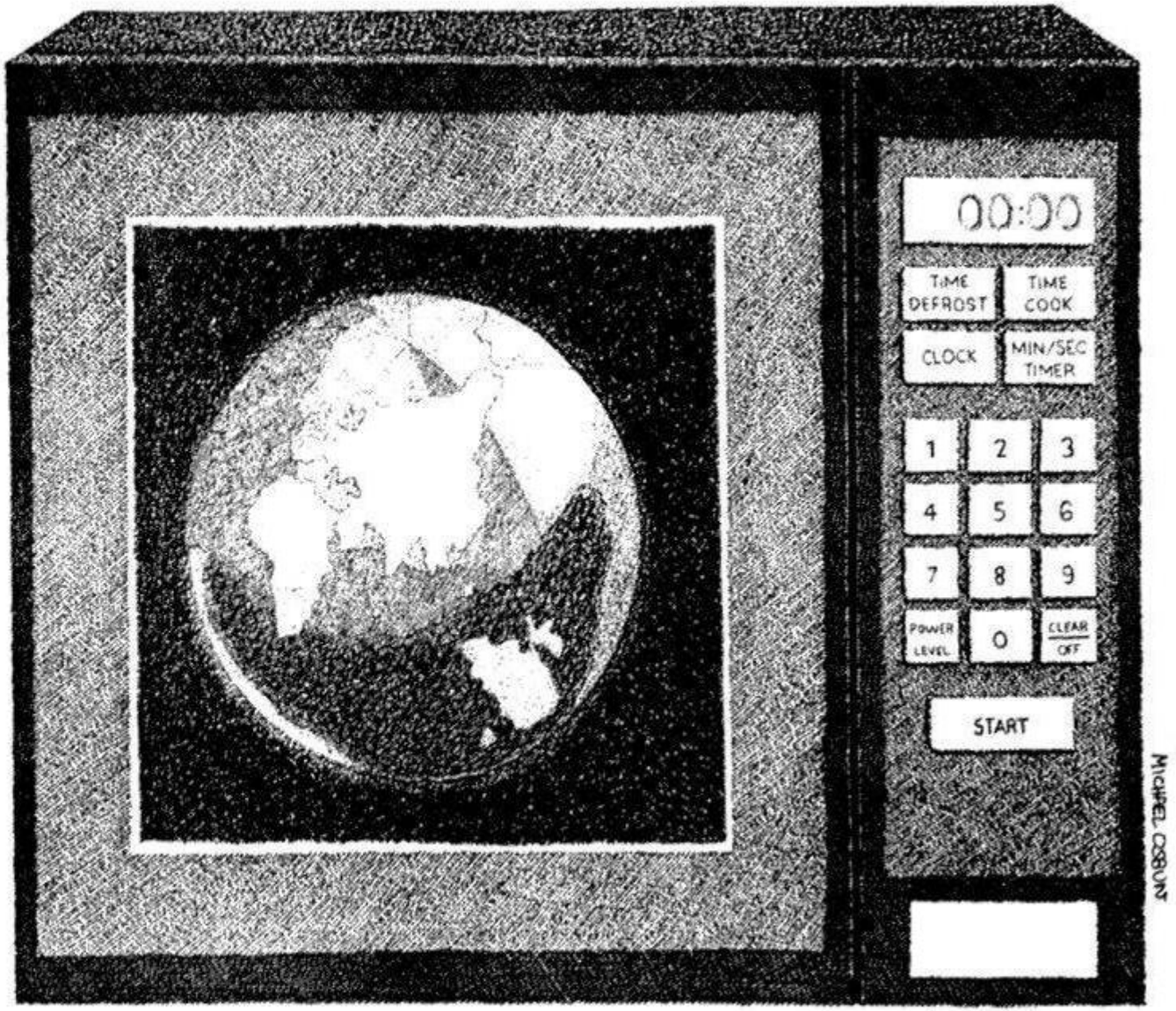
A different view of global warming

By RONALD J. PARISE



The real culprit in the global warming issue may not be the thermal trapping of atmospheric CO2 as is commonly accepted, but the dumping of waste heat into the environment. No one would dispute that putting heat into the atmosphere will cause the air temperature to rise. But this may be the sole cause of the problem. Therefore, efforts to reduce greenhouse gases will be futile.

The global warming issue has now been accepted by many, including the Bush White House. But unless the actual cause is identified and steps taken to correct the problem, there will be no positive effect on the environment.

All energy-consuming processes (power plants, automobiles, kitchen appliances, etc.) must give off waste heat to function properly. In the 1960s it became obvious that utilizing a river or lake to remove waste heat from a power plant was incrementally heating the body of water, adversely affecting the ecosystem.

The laws of physics dictate that no matter how much CO2 is in the atmosphere, approximately one-third of the energy that leaves the surface of the Earth will exit the atmosphere and go into deep space as infrared energy. This is the natural means by which the Earth cools daily from solar heating. And scientists know that without this blanket of CO2, nighttime temperatures would plummet well below freezing no matter what the season.

Unfortunately, environmentalists erroneously assume that more CO2 means more heating of the atmosphere. But the laws of physics also dictate that the one-third ratio will change very little no matter how much CO2 is put into the atmosphere, as long as there is enough oxygen (and the accompanying nitrogen) to sustain life on the planet. Therefore, the amount of CO2 put into the atmosphere is almost inconsequential, having little effect on global warming.

The greenhouse gas theory states that the atmospheric trapping of heat by increased levels of CO2, similar to the way glass traps solar energy in a greenhouse, is warming the Earth's environment. However, the one-third cooling to deep space cannot occur through window glass, causing the greenhouse to heat up. To sustain the greenhouse analogy with the natural deep space cooling that occurs in the atmosphere, one-third of the trapped solar energy would have to be removed continuously, perhaps by removing part of the building's side, to allow cool air in. Would the greenhouse still heat up in the winter? My research says no. Therefore, the greenhouse gas analogy that CO2 blanketing is similar to glass is wrong and the basic theory is flawed.

But the dumping of waste heat will definitely cause the atmosphere to heat up, no matter what the percentage of CO2 in the air. In fact, research may show that more CO2 in the air will help to ***cool*** the atmosphere from the heating caused by thermal dumping!

So, should the protection of the environment be calling for the reduction of CO2, or more efficient use of energy? There is a very distinct difference.

Theoretically, CO2 emissions could be cut to zero (100 percent utilization of solar and wind power), yet the same inefficient devices would still be heating the environment. Certainly clean operating vehicles reduce the amount of pollution in the air, but dumping waste heat into the environment will continue to heat the atmosphere.

Therefore, the notion that reducing CO2 emissions into the environment, say by agreeing to the Kyoto Treaty, is misguided. More efficient use of energy consuming devices is the answer to reducing global warming. The Earth's surface will still be cooled by deep space no matter how much CO2 is in the air, but the dumping of waste heat into our environment must be addressed to stop the global warming problem.

The Kyoto Treaty is bad policy and must be avoided.

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