



Straight Talk

by Muriel Sluyter

Suntans in January, Then & Now

28 January, 2003

Greetings, Gentle Reader,

When I was in high school, my family moved to a small town north of Denver. During lunch hour, we walked to Main Street and wandered around, as children love to do.

The most serious problems schools had were children running in the halls, chewing gum and talking in class.

To illustrate, I left my over-boots on the floor beside my locker until the last day of school. That's where everyone put them, since no one would take boots they didn't own. I knew I should take them home, but there was no snow and I was short on good sense and long on irresponsibility.

On the last day of school, my boots — and only mine — still lay on the hall floor.

But I digress.

The most memorable thing about that January was we acquired suntans from walking downtown without jackets. We did not wear jackets to walk home after school; it was too warm. In fact, the lilacs budded out.

Sadly, after several weeks of warmth, it turned cold again, and both we and the lilacs froze.

We were in a drought. Cities began a policy of permitting citizens to water their grass on an odd-even day system. Sound familiar?

We Westerners have dealt with several-year droughts repeatedly.

Now "professionals" blame everything on global warming, including droughts, and insist that America is the cause, that we are reaping the consequences of our irresponsible use of resources.

But in years with a heavy snow pack, those professionals warn us of spring runoff. They constantly show that the sky is falling, because, unless they threaten us, we ignore them, giving them a strong sense of their true irrelevancy.

The solution? Let's examine the past.

Volcanos caused great hardship during America's early days. In 1783, the volcano Skaptur and the fissure Laki erupted on Iceland, while in Japan, Asama blew its top.

According to Benjamin Franklin, "There existed a

constant fog all over Europe and parts of North America." He said there were early frosts and a viciously cold winter.

Temperatures around the world dropped, causing widespread starvation.

The 1816 eruption of Tambora on the Indonesian island of Sumbawa blew out 25 cubic miles of volcanic stuff, causing darkness 300 miles away. The eruption lasted four months, again lowering the world's temperature, causing an estimated 82,000 people to die of starvation.

In New England, it snowed from June 6 through 11, and frosted for months, causing that to be known as "the year without a summer." America and England suffered severe food shortages, as crops rotted in the fields.

In the real world, volcanos can actually chill the world so severely that food can't grow. Yet politically motivated "professionals," using two widely divergent computer models, threaten us tirelessly with global warming, trying to browbeat us into accepting the Kyoto Accords. Those accords are designed to cripple America's economy so we will no longer be "too loud, too full of (our)selves and so much happier than Europeans ... as the world's only superpower (America) can do what it likes without having to ask permission," according to Tony Parsons.

Satellite world temperature measurements disagree with conclusions of global warming enthusiasts, so let's not pull our economy down to a third world level, simply to appease other nations with a lobster mentality, which is "If you try to crawl out of your self-inflicted economic depression, I will drag you back."

Americans have fed many millions of the world's people for years. Let's keep it up, January suntans or no.