

Media Think World of Science and Health Will End on Inauguration Day 2017



By Alex Berezow — January 19, 2017



Credit: Shutterstock [1]

Before Election Day 2016, I wrote an [article](#) [2] reminding everyone that no matter what happens, America will be #1 in science. President Obama shares my optimism. In his final press conference, the outgoing President [said](#) [3], "At my core, I think we're going to be OK."

However, a substantial number of Americans, goaded on by a sensationalist press and the hyperpartisan echo chamber of social media, strongly disagree. One could be forgiven for thinking that America is diving head first into a new Dark Age... or worse.

Consider this headline from the *Washington Post*, which is possibly the most oxymoronic headline ever written by an outlet other than *The Onion*:



Speaking of Science

David Gelernter, fiercely anti-intellectual computer scientist, is being eyed for Trump's science adviser

Dr. David Gelernter is a Yale computer science professor. How can one of the nation's most important newspapers casually smear a computer scientist as "fiercely anti-intellectual"? Because [he thinks there are too many liberals in academia and is suspicious of anthropogenic climate change](#)

[4].

Nature also got in a jab:



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Four ways Trump could unravel Obama's science legacy

Though mostly speculative, the [article](#) [5] itself was fairly balanced and full of informative infographics. Yet, the headline writers apparently just couldn't help themselves.

Motherboard took a cheap shot at Health and Human Services Secretary nominee Tom Price:



MOTHERBOARD

Watch Machines Discoveries Space Futures

Trump's Pick for Health Secretary Doesn't Believe in Basic Science

18 January 2017 // 06:55 PM GMT

Tom Price is a medical doctor, but [Motherboard](#) [6] isn't impressed by the most important qualification for that job. Instead, they dismiss him because he, too, is skeptical of anthropogenic climate change. Of course, climate policy doesn't fall under the purview of HHS, so his views on it are irrelevant. One of President Obama's advisors was a UFO believer (ahem, John Podesta), yet since he wasn't being asked to run NASA, it didn't matter.

The most over-the-top [headline](#) [7] goes to *TIME*, perhaps only because *Newsweek's* Kurt Eichenwald hasn't published anything since last Friday.

IDEAS THE ENVIRONMENT

Donald Trump's EPA Pick Imperils Science —And Earth

Well, there you have it. The Earth will end on January 20, 2017.

Sorry.

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[1] <https://www.shutterstock.com/image-vector/weeping-woman-emotions-grief-pop-art-334061756>

[2] <http://www.acsh.org/news/2016/11/08/whoever-wins-election-day-2016-american-science-still-1-world-10415>

[3] <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/president-obama-faces-white-house-press-corps-one-last-time-n708391>

[4] https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2017/01/18/david-gelernter-fiercely-anti-intellectual-computer-scientist-is-being-eyed-for-trumps-science-adviser/?utm_term=.b4af99f35a22

[5] <http://www.nature.com/news/four-ways-trump-could-unravel-obama-s-science-legacy-1.21327>

[6] http://motherboard.vice.com/en_uk/read/trumps-pick-for-health-secretary-doesnt-believe-in-basic-science

[7] <http://time.com/4635162/scott-pruitt-science-denial/>