



opinion

Climate change is not a hoax

The effects on our planet and how we can save it

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Over the past month natural disasters have been happening all the time. From wildfires to hurricanes, they just seem to keep coming. The explanation behind it all? Honestly, probably a mix of a few things, but one major factor is climate change.

Climate change is real. I am just going to start off with that. It is not “fake news” or a lie the government has made up.

It is a real issue, with scientific evidence, that affects this entire planet. So what exactly is climate change?

Oddly enough, I do remember learning about climate change back in my middle school science class, but since that was so long ago I did some fact checking with NASA’s website.

According to NASA, climate change is caused by the “greenhouse effect.”

So basically the planet is one big greenhouse surrounded in greenhouse gases.

When the sunlight hits the earth it warms the surface then bounces back into space, but a lot of the heat from the sunlight is kept in by the greenhouse gases to warm the earth.

The greenhouse gases in the air however, have been increasing

making for a stronger greenhouse effect, which makes the planet warmer, which is essentially climate change.

Climate change has always been happening, but it has gotten much worse in recent years.

According to NASA, the carbon dioxide levels have skyrocketed by almost 100 parts per million since just 1950.

Due to the increase in carbon dioxide levels, the global temperature as a whole keeps rising, most significantly in the past 35 years, so climate change is definitely happening.

There is proof of climate change in action around us all the time.

Most of us have seen those pictures of the sad polar bears on a tiny ice cube of a glacier.

The reason we are seeing these kinds of pictures more and more frequently because the ice sheets, glaciers and snow are all melting.

Climate change is not only affecting the tundra, it is also affecting our oceans.

According to NASA, our oceans’ acidity have increased by about 30 percent because of the increase in carbon dioxide.

The carbon dioxide gets absorbed into the ocean and that number is on the rise as well.

The acidity is hurting animals in the water and their homes. Coral reefs are consistently dying

throughout the oceans from acidification as well as bleaching from the rise in water temperature.

The oceans are getting warmer and while you probably have not noticed it by jumping in the water, the recent spike in hurricane activity should definitely provide that information for you.

Hurricanes are fueled by large amounts of warm water, so the warmer the water, the stronger the hurricane.

It is why we have seen so many very powerful hurricanes in the past month, the ocean keeps getting warmer.

Those hurricanes do not just impact the places they hit either, they impact us too.

In the indirect way of worrying about the people we care about and humanity as a whole, but also in a direct way.

Hurricanes can cause storms in other parts of the U.S. in fact, we got storms here in Ashland from Hurricane Irma.

All of the current natural disasters that have been happening line up perfectly with climate change.

While it obviously is not the only factor, it is a pretty big one.

The global temperature is hotter so the water and air is hotter.

When the water is warmer there are worse hurricanes, when the air is warmer there are more droughts and wildfires.

Our planet is dying.

Whether you believe in climate change or not, we need to take care of this planet.

It is our home. It is our future children’s home.

Why would we treat it like it is garbage?

Our planet is not in good shape and some things are inevitably going to happen because of climate change and the state of the planet.

However, there are some effects of climate change that we can avoid and steps we can take to make this world a better place to live.

According to NASA two of the biggest steps to take in response to climate change is “mitigation and adaptation.”

Mitigation is the idea that we need to reduce the greenhouse gases in the air and adaptation is just as it sounds: we must adapt to the things that are already happening because of climate change.

So how can we help?

Be more eco friendly.

I am not saying you have to go become a “tree hugger,” but you should definitely take some simple steps to make the planet a little better.

We do only live here after all.

Cut down on the usage of fossil fuels to the best of your ability, try to drive fuel efficient cars, use renewable energy sources when you can and use wind, water, and solar

power if possible.

If nothing else, start off with the things we learned in elementary school: reduce, reuse and recycle.

While all of these things are great and do make a small impact, it will take more than just a few people deciding to recycle their water bottles rather than throw them away.

Climate change is truly a global issue.

It is something that we, as a global unit, need to face together.

The Paris Agreement, sometimes known as the Paris Climate Accord, sets up an excellent way to make a global impact on the issue of climate change.

However, since climate change is unfortunately a controversial and political issue, not everyone agrees and our president is in the works of withdrawing from the agreement.

Due to the terms of the agreement the United States cannot legally withdraw from the agreement until 2020.

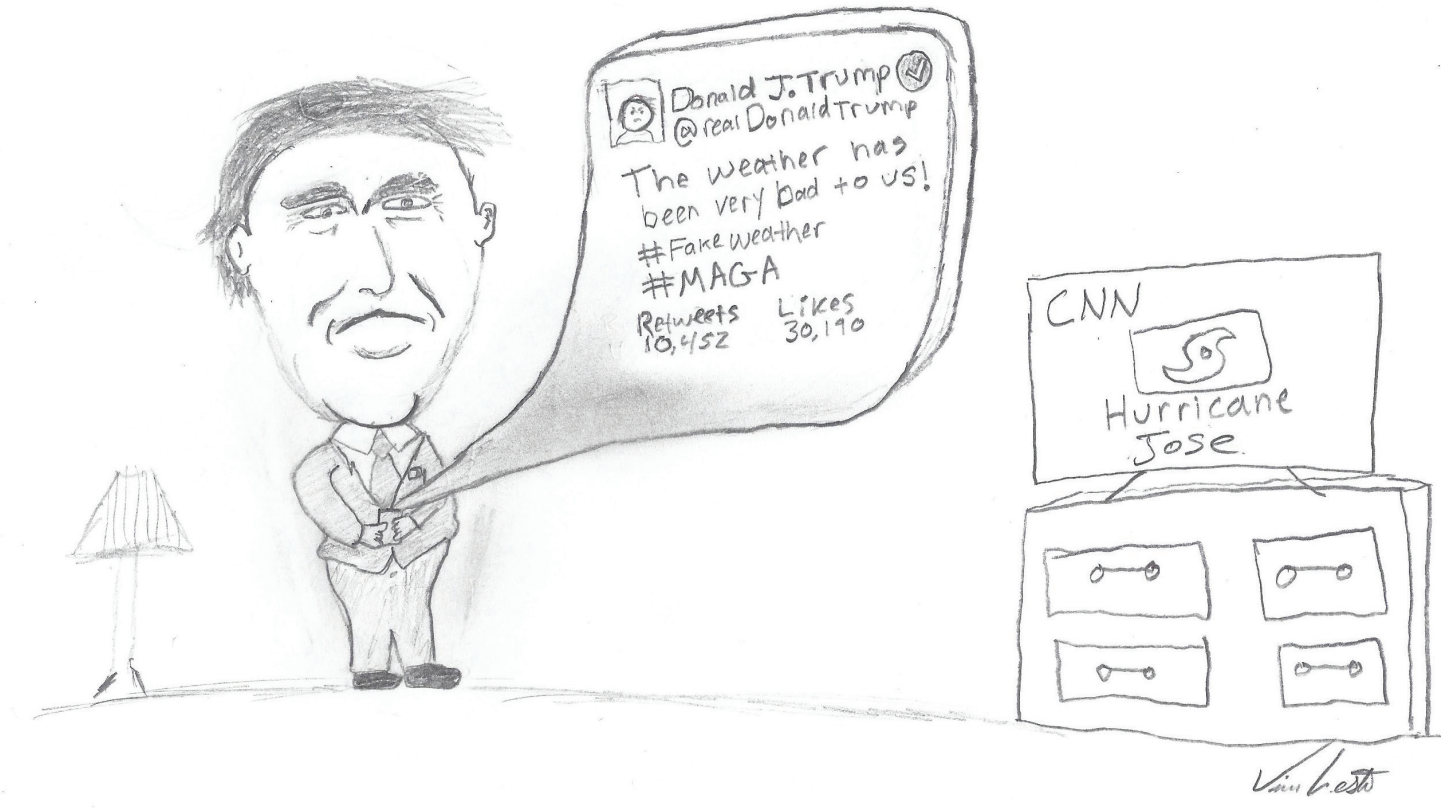
While not much will change President Trump’s mind, literally ever, it is still important to make it known how important it is to be a part of the Paris Agreement.

We have to make it know how important it is to try to limit the effects climate change is and will continue having on our planet.

Climate change is not a hoax.

If we do not start taking action, it will just keep getting worse.

Editorial cartoon



CARTOON SUBMITTED BY VINCE LESTER

The Collegian

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