

Strange Tales and Emails: Said, Wegman, Sharabati, Rigsby (2008)

John R. Mashey, JohnMashey (at) yahoo (period) com

05/26/11 (replaces 05/23/11)

The “Wegman Report” by Edward J. Wegman, David W. Scott, Yasmin H. Said (2006), for Congress has been a key prop of climate anti-science, first promoted to Congress by Representatives Joe Barton and Ed Whitfield as “independent, impartial, expert” work by a team of “eminent statisticians.” **It was none of those.**

Canadian Blogger “Deep Climate” (DC) first unearthed plagiarism, then found that a Barton staffer provided much of the source material to the Wegman team. I later published an extensive (250-page) analysis of the numerous problems.

The Wegman Report claimed two missions: #1 evaluate statistical issues of the “hockey stick” temperature graph, and #2 assess potential peer review issues in climate science. For #1, the team might have been able to do a peer-review-grade statistical analysis, but in 91 pages managed not to do so. For #2, they made an excursion into social network analysis (SNA), a discipline of which they knew little and used poorly, to make baseless claims of potential wrongdoing. There was much skepticism about its use in the (non-peer-reviewed) report. Said, Wegman and two students (Sharabati, Rigsby) augmented the SNA material and in July 2007 sent it to a respected Elsevier statistics journal, *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis*, which published the article in 2008.

Last Fall, USA Today published several stories by Dan Vergano on plagiarism in the Wegman Report and 2008 paper, confirmed by 3 plagiarism experts. Last week, Vergano wrote about the 2008 paper’s retraction, a serious problem, especially for Federally-funded work. He also highlighted a serious breach of peer review. The article had been sent by Wegman to Editor-in-Chief Stanley Azen, a long-time close friend and colleague, who did only a cursory personal review, without relevant SNA expertise. He accepted it with no revision in 6 days, quite unusual treatment, especially of a poor article trying to cast doubts on the quality of peer review in climate science, with no evidence of wrongdoing.

As a result, much has been written, sometimes confused. **This report offers annotated versions of the emails from Wegman to Elsevier and from Azen to Elsevier and other editors**, plus other supporting information.

Strange tales have been told and the details may surprise many. Wegman’s email can be summarized:

It was student Denise Reeves’s fault, not his, but really no one’s. Via a short course she was the most knowledgeable. The WR was mostly forgotten until Climategate showed misconduct, making them “targets for the pro anthropogenic warming crowd.” It has been a bad year. “Anthropogenic warming folks have a lot to lose,” have scrutinized their work. “Attacks are political...disingenuous.” He has long been a CSDA supporter, “close friend and colleague” of Azen. Do not retract, just accept errata sheet giving the missing citations, of which they “innocently were unaware.”

Azen accepted the last above as an option, but evidently Elsevier did not and the retraction has been scheduled.

05/26/11 – fixes a few typos in original 05/23/11, adds quote on p.7, clarification at end of **B.3**, augments fn6.

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1 Introduction

USA Today recently published Dan Vergano's stories, "**Climate study gets pulled after charges of plagiarism**" and "**Retracted climate critics' study panned by expert**,"¹ which the reader should review. They continued his plagiarism stories last Fall.² Blogger Deep Climate (DC), originally exposed the plagiarism, summarized the findings.³ Vergano's pieces were also informed by my "Strange Scholarship in the Wegman Report," (SSWR),⁴ to which unlabeled page numbers here refer.

¹ www.usatoday.com/weather/climate/globalwarming/2011-05-15-climate-study-plagiarism-Wegman_n.htm "Vergano wrote" here means this or following.

content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2011/05/retracted-climate-critics-study-panned-by-expert-/1 includes text too long for print version above

² content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2010/10/wegman-plagiarism-investigation-/1

www.usatoday.com/weather/climate/globalwarming/2010-11-21-climate-report-questioned_N.htm 3 experts: "shocking," "inappropriate," "obvious"

www.usatoday.com/weather/climate/globalwarming/2010-11-22-plagiarism_N.htm

content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2010/11/wegman-report-round-up/1

³ deepclimate.org/2011/05/15/retraction-of-said-wegman-et-al-2008-part-1

deepclimate.org/2011/05/16/retraction-of-said-wegman-et-al-2008-part-2

⁴PDF @ deepclimate.org/2010/09/26/strange-scholarship-wegman-report

As one story source (and a subject of Wegman email),⁵ for comment I was sent some (public-by-VA-law) documents, from which this report derives.

Publisher Elsevier has responsibly approached 2 difficult problems. The first was a set of plagiarism complaints against Said, Wegman, Sharabati and Rigsby (2008) in *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis* (CSDA), much of which derived from Wegman, Scott, Said (2006), the "Wegman Report" (WR) for Congress. The, second, more unusual problem was an obvious breach of peer review process,⁶ trickier to handle than common plagiarism. Wegman's long connections with CSDA and close friendship with CSDA Editor-in-Chief Stanley Azen surely have amplified awkwardness.

Said (2008) is confirmed to be retracted, but background context may be helpful in calibrating the following claim. Vergano wrote:

"Neither Dr. Wegman nor Dr. Said has ever engaged in plagiarism," says their attorney, Milton Johns, by e-mail.

The reader might consult Appendix **B.1** and Vergano's earlier stories, in which 3 academic misconduct experts confirmed plagiarism in the WR.

Wegman's response to Elsevier might be summarized by paragraph:

①-④ *It is student Denise Reeves's fault,⁷ not his but really no one's. She took a short course on the topic so she was the most knowledgeable.*

⑤ *WR was mostly forgotten until Climategate showed misconduct, making them "targets for the pro anthropogenic warming crowd."*

⑥ *It has been a bad year, "anthropogenic warming folks have a lot to lose," have scrutinized their work. "Attacks are political...disingenuous."*

⑦ *He has long been a CSDA supporter and close friend of Azen.*

⑧ *Do not retract, just accept an errata sheet giving the missing citations, of which they "innocently were unaware."*

Azen accepted this as an option, but evidently Elsevier did not.

⁵ Wegman mentions those who have used "a fine tooth comb" on the WR.

DC and I are the two most obvious people, although we are not the only ones.

⁶ It is easy to miss plagiarism, but SNA experts quickly see problems. See SSWR p.149: Azen skipped review on 3 papers, 2 of which were resampling techniques (bootstrap, jackknife) on which he has often published, per Google Scholar.

⁷ She disagrees, says that GMU has no problem with her, easily true.

§2 shows the original document sent from Wegman to Elsevier 03/16/11, forwarded to Vergano by Azen About 05/09/11.

§3 is an OCR'd version of §2, corrected as needed.

Email text is shown in the left column, with emboldening mine, and coded (① ② ...) to connect with my commentary in the right column. Email addresses and others' names are mostly redacted.

§4 shows Elsevier forwarding §3 to Azen and other editors, 03/16/11, followed by Azen's response 03/22/11, also forwarded to Vergano.

§5 shows the July 2007 emails between Wegman and Azen, obtained by Vergano last year, plus Azen-Vergano discussions 05/09/11.

§6 Summarizes this odd tale, which answers some questions, raises more.

Appendices:

B1 chronicles other alleged plagiarisms starting in 1996.⁸

B2 discusses information from recently-available Vergano FOIA requests, which shed light on other comments from Wegman.

B3 The new information ties Wegman, Coffey, Spencer and GMI even closer together than previously found. GMI has long been tightly-aligned to the Republican party and Spencer was the key staffer for Joe Barton. Go-between Coffey displayed strong political views.⁹ *Wegman claims disingenuous political attacks, but much evidence shows the WR as a manufactured political document.*

As in SSWR, opinions are *Italicized*, **emboldening** in quotes is mine, surnames alone are normally used for brevity, no disrespect intended.

Glossary and some key people (SSWR p.7)

AGW	Anthropogenic Global Warming
AR4	IPCC 4th Assessment Report (2007)
CSDA	<i>Computational Statistics and Data Analysis</i>
DC	Deep Climate (Canadian blogger)
GMI	George C. Marshall Institute (think tank)
GMU	George Mason University
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MM	Steven McIntyre and Ross McKittrick
NAS	National Academy of Sciences
NSWC	Naval Surface Warfare Center
SNA	Social Network Analysis, study of human networks
SSWR	"Strange Scholarship in the Wegman Report" (2010)
WR	Wegman Report (2006)

Stanley Azen, USC, Editor-in-Chief of CSDA.

Joseph Barton (R-TX), **Ed Whitfield** (R-KY), US Representatives

Jerry Coffey, recruited Wegman to do WR, p. 91. He expressed strong disdain for AGW, praised books by Fred Singer, Pat Michaels, etc.

Mark Herlong, GMI Program Director in 2005

Steven McIntyre, retired mining consultant, Ontario, Canada

Ross McKittrick, Prof. Economics, U of Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Pat Michaels, was U VA, now CATO, taught at GMU Summer 2010

Fred Singer, SEPP (a one-person thinktank), 20-year ally of GMI

Peter Spencer, Barton Congressional staffer, main contact with Wegman

Contributors to WR and related work in 2006 (Wegman, associates)

Edward J. Wegman, GMU

David W. Scott, Rice University, minimal role, p.187

Yasmin H. Said, Johns Hopkins University (2005-2006,) then at GMU

An unknown 4th person, who later dropped out

Contributions were acknowledged from 2 Wegman students:

John T. Rigsby III, Naval Surface Weapons Center, MS 2005

Denise M. Reeves, MITRE, PhD 2009

Walid Sharabati, PhD, 2008. Unmentioned in the WR, he contributed much of the response to Rep. Stupak in 2006.

⁸ These start in 1996 and include Wegman and students.

⁹ www.rpvnetwork.org/profile/DrJerryLCoffey, including interest in Tea Party, which of course did not exist in 2005, but is indicative of viewpoint.

2 03/16/11 Wegman → Elsevier, original

Vergano sent Azen FOIA'd emails that showed lack of real peer review. Vergano got the following FAX from Azen, *although it is unclear why he thought this relevant to the peer review problem*. This revealed helpful new information on Reeves' previously-unclear role in creating 5 pages of text incorporated into the WR, but leaves 30 more remaining to be attributed to specific other people. Reeves had nothing to do with them.

It also shed more light on Wegman's approach to plagiarism and general worldview. It resolved a few other puzzles, while revealing new ones. *Wegman's tale sometimes contradicts academic norms and even itself. It also illustrates some odd usage of (vulnerable) grad students. Misleading comments and contradictions with earlier testimony or other facts may be obvious to dedicated students of this affair. For anyone else, §3 expands §2 with detailed annotations and references. Wegman's words speak for themselves well enough, but many others tell more of the story.*

Dear ELSEVIER

① I am most happy to explain what had happened. Let me say at the outset that we would never knowingly publish plagiarized material. The explanation is somewhat long, but here goes. In September of 2005, we were asked to testify in the U.S. Congress on the mathematical correctness of certain methodology used by climate scientists in reconstructing temperature curves going back one thousand years. This curve is commonly known as the "hockey stick" and was published in a pair of papers by Michael Mann, Ralph Bradley, and Malcolm Hughes in 1998 and 1999. In preparing for this testimony, our team, myself, Yasmin Said and David Scott, reviewed several hundred papers and spoke with a number of individuals in climate science on both sides of the anthropogenic global warming issue. During the course of our investigation, we became more and more convinced that there was significant manipulation of the peer review process within the pro-anthropogenic global warming community. In May of 2005, John T. Rigsby had finished a masters thesis with me on what he called clustering by allegiance. His work was my first contact with social network analysis. Because of our suspicions about manipulation of peer review, we decided it would be interesting to look at the so-called ego-centered coauthorship network of Michael Mann, the principal author of the hockey stick papers. We used John Rigsby's allegiance methodology on the Mann network and identified the block model for Michael Mann, which is Figure 1 in our article. This block model was used in our testimony, but is, of course, de-identified in the article. In preparing the testimony which introduced the concept of social networks to the Congressmen and staffers, we thought it would be useful to provide some boilerplate background on social networks for the Congressmen and their staffers.

② At the time, I had two PhD students working with me, Denise Reeves and later Walid Sharabati. Denise worked (and still works) for Mitre Corporation. Her company sent her to take a short course on social network analysis from Kathleen Carley, a professor at Carnegie-Mellon University. Dr. Carley is an internationally recognized expert on social network analysis. When Denise returned from her short course at Carnegie-Mellon, I took her to be the most knowledgeable among us about social network analysis, so I ask her to write up a short description that we could include in our testimony. She provided that within a few days, which, of course, I took to be her original work. Neither Yasmin, Walid Sharabati, John Rigsby nor I did know that she had basically copied and pasted this into her MS Word file. We included her boilerplate in our Congressional testimony and acknowledged Denise's contribution in that testimony.

③ Walid in the meantime was working on his PhD dissertation in the area of social networks (Denise also was working on her dissertation, but had moved to work on support vector machines), and thinking that the page and 1/2 Denise had given me was original work that had not been formally published, I gave it as reading material to Walid as background along with a number of other references. Walid included it as background material in his dissertation with only minor amendments.

- ④ Back to Congress, Yasmin and I did a pre-brief with the Democratic staffers several days before the actual testimony. The Democrats were, of course, much interested pursuing the Climate Change issue and were very unhappy about the implications of the block model analysis of Michael Mann's coauthorship network. They made the assumption that we had invented social network analysis and made a strong effort to have us remove that section from our written testimony. Fortunately, the National Academy of Science had issued a report on network science in 2005 funded by the US Army, which we were able to show the Democratic staffers so the testimony went in unchanged. They did ask us if we had done this analysis for anyone else and we said that we had not at the time. I later had Walid do the same type of analysis for my coauthorship network which appears as Figure 2 in the article. Because the appearance of the networks was so distinct we experimented with a number of other authors, which ultimately was the driver for our article. Walid was working on his dissertation at the same time, so I ask him to assemble the material in the Introduction, Section 1. His dissertation was in process, but not yet completed. He provided the writeup in Section 1, the section in question. That writeup was based on the material that Denise had provided originally. Of course at this stage, none of us had any idea that she had copied and pasted that material. Section 2 is based on John Rigsby's masters thesis and was provided by him. The remainder of the article was written by Yasmin and me and was, in fact, motivated by the questions the Democratic staffers had asked us.
- ⑤ The testimony had proven to be very effective in terms of clarifying the technical errors made in the Mann, Bradley, and Hughes papers. The hockey stick graph was featured prominently in the 2001 IPCC report (Third Assessment Report), but was all but dropped in the 2007 IPCC report (Fourth Assessment Report). The report was all but forgotten until the so-called Climategate emails were made public in November of 2009. Those emails did reveal that there was manipulation of the peer review process by the paleoclimate people including Mann, Bradley and Hughes and our 2006 social network analysis had identified 7 of the people most closely associated with peer review manipulation in the Climategate emails. This fact has made Dr. Salk and me targets for the pro anthropogenic global warming crowd and they began going through our work with a fine tooth comb. It was not until March of 2010 that we became aware of the fact that the social network description provided by Denise and included both in our testimony and later in the CSDA article was not her original work, but had been cobbled together from the variety of sources. The anthropogenic global warming folks have been particularly aggressive in try to discredit us and anything that has a negative impact on their climate change agenda, including our testimony and our CSDA article that includes, but not identified, Michael Mann's coauthorship network.
- ⑥ We have had research misconduct charges filed against us, freedom of information act requests made, and had our computers seized as evidence and, of course, they have made you aware of the alleged plagiarism. In short the last year has been a professional and personal nightmare for us. Let me assure you that we have acted in good faith and that we have had our work scrutinized to a degree that is well beyond what might normally be expected. Obviously we have nothing to gain because we would never be funded for work in climate change, but the anthropogenic global warming folks have a lot to lose when their credibility is challenged. We do not claim to originate the ideas in section 1 of the article, but provided them as background for the readers of CSDA who might be less familiar with those concepts. The attacks on us are political in nature and consequently disingenuous.
- ⑦ Please note that I have been a long-time supporter of Elsevier/North Holland efforts including first as an associate editor of CSDA and a long history of being on the editorial advisory board for CSDA. I have edited special issues of CSDA. I have also contributed to and edited volumes in the Handbook on Statistics series. I have counted Stan as a close friend and colleague over the many years.
- ⑧ I would propose that rather than withdrawing our article, that we be allowed to provide an errata sheet for publication in which we will provide the appropriate citations that we innocently were unaware of when the article was first submitted. I look forward to hearing from you. By the way, I have not regularly used the ewegman@gru.edu account since 2005. I did not receive your original email for this reason and it was Yasmin that forwarded your email to me.

Sincerely,
Ed Wegman

3 03/16/11 Wegman → Elsevier, annotated

“From: Edward Wegman [mailto:WEGMAN]
 > Sent 16 March 2011 19:19
 >To: ELSEVIER; SAZEN
 >Cc **WEGMAN, SAID** ①
 > Subject Re: FW: CSDA 52(2008), 2177-2184

Dear (ELSEVIER)

- ① I am most happy to explain what had happened. **Let me say at the outset that we would never knowingly publish plagiarized (sic) material.** ② The explanation is somewhat long, but here goes. In September of 2005, we were asked to testify in the U.S. Congress on the **mathematical correctness of certain methodology used by climate scientists** ③ in reconstructing temperature curves going back one thousand years. This curve is commonly known as the “hockey stick” and was published in a pair of papers by Michael Mann, **Ralph Bradley**, ④ and Malcolm Hughes in 1998 and 1999. In preparing for this testimony our **team, myself, Yasmin Said and David Scott, reviewed several hundred papers** ⑤ and **spoke with a number of individuals in climate science on both sides** ⑥ of the anthropogenic global warming issue.

During the course of our investigation, we became more and more convinced that there was significant manipulation of the peer review process within the pro-anthropogenic global warming community. ⑦ In May of 2005, John T. Rigsby had finished a masters thesis with me on what he called clustering by allegiance.”

“**His work was my first contact with social network analysis. Because of our suspicions about manipulation of peer review,** ⑦ we decided it would be interesting to look at the **so-called ego-centered coauthorship network of Michael Mann, the principal author of the hockey stick papers.** ⑧ We used John Rigsby's allegiance methodology on the Mann network and identified the block model for Michael Mann, which is Figure 1 in our article. This block model was used in our testimony, but is, of course, **de-identified in the article.** ⑨ In preparing the testimony which introduced the concept of social networks to the Congressmen and staffers, we thought it would be useful to **provide some boilerplate background** ⑩ on social networks for the Congressmen and their staffers.”

Commentary:

- ① Non-university email addresses.
 - ② See Vergano USA Today stories and **B.1. One may have doubts.**
 - ③ This is not quite accurate, p.26 (quoting WR p.7).
 - ④ The correct name is Raymond Bradley, not Ralph Bradley.
 - ⑤ Key Said talk, found by DC, later deleted at GMU, p.92 slide 6: k
 “Reviewed some **127** technical papers related to paleoclimate reconstruction.”
How many did Scott review? How many did Wegman?
 - ⑥ Wegman testimony and later reply to Stupak, pp. 50-51:
 “[**BAR2006a**, p.36]
 MR. STUPAK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dr. Wegman, in your report you criticized Dr. Mann for not obtaining any feedback or review from mainstream statisticians. **In compiling your report, did you obtain any feedback or review from paleoclimatologists?**
 DR. WEGMAN. **No, of course not, but we weren't addressing paleoclimate issues.** We were addressing—
 DR. WEGMAN. **To say that I didn't contact any climate people is not entirely accurate.** We have—
 MR. STUPAK. But they weren't used in compiling your report--that was the question--correct?
 DR. WEGMAN. **Well, I am not sure how to answer that.** I certainly—
 MR. STUPAK. **Well, yes or no is probably the best way. Did you have any paleoclimatologists** when you compiled your report?
 DR. WEGMAN. Not on our team, but that doesn't mean I didn't talk to any.”
 [**WEG2006c**, p.7] says:
 —Ans: **I spoke with no one in paleoclimate studies. To the best of my knowledge neither have my colleagues.**”
- Much of the WR covered paleoclimate. *These are not consistent answers. The WR's command of the science was poor. Zero is “a number,” I guess.*
- ⑦ Discrediting climate peer review seemed a goal from the beginning, not a research outcome, pp.25-26. *Why else would they start with suspicion?* SSWR Meme-b ① tags peer review claims, see **B.3** for likely origin. Rigsby's work used some SNA terminology, but was really about computer networking, p.144.
 - ⑧ This is mis-use of social network analysis, pp. 185-186. Expert Garry Robins comments on the mis-use of ego-nets, p.151.
 - ⑨ *The de-identification claim is misleading*, p.150. The same block model figure is easily found in the cited WR p.40.
 - ⑩ The text is hardly a useful tutorial for Congress, pp.118-128.

- ② “At the time, I had two PhD students working with me, Denise Reeves and later Walid Sharabati. **Denise worked (and still works) for Mitre Corporation.** ① Her company sent her to take a short course on social network analysis from **Kathleen Carley** ②, a professor at Carnegie-Mellon University. Dr. Carley is an internationally recognized expert on social network analysis. When Denise returned from her short course at Carnegie-Mellon, **I took her to be the most knowledgeable among us on social network analysis** ③, and I asked her to write up a short description we could include in our summary. She provided that within a few days, **which I of course took to be her original work.** ④ Neither Yasmin, Walid Sharabati, John Rigsby nor I did know that she had basically copied and pasted this into her MS Word file. We included her boilerplate in our Congressional testimony and acknowledged Denise’s contribution in that testimony.”
- ③ “Walid in the meantime was working on his PhD dissertation in the area of social networks. **(Denise also was working on her dissertation, but had moved to work on support vector machines** ⑤) **and thinking that the page and ½ Denise had given me was original work** ⑥ that had not been formally published, I gave it as reading material to Walid as background material along with a number of other references. **Walid included it as background material in his dissertation with only minor amendments.**” ⑦

- ① The WR showed Reeves as affiliated with MITRE and Rigsby with NSWC (Naval Surface Warfare Center). *If their work was done as GMU students, why were their other affiliations given instead?*¹⁰
- ② Wegman recognizes Kathleen Carley as an expert¹¹, the sort of person who should have been asked to review (or write!) WR or Said (2008). Her opinion of the paper was similar to that of Robins and the second expert I asked last year, who recently sent an aptly concise email quote: “Too bad you can only retract papers when it turns out they were plagiarized, when they should be retracted for not having any coherent or sensible argument!” This is sad, but has much truth. I wish I’d written it myself.
- ③⑦ SNA consumed about 13/91 WR pages to promote 1 of 2 key memes. For an important topic, usually one seeks an expert for the team, not a grad student who has taken a short course. Wegman may be correct in calling Reeves the most knowledgeable of his group on SNA, *but this seems strange*. Rigsby’s 2005 MS involved this same topic.¹² *If Reeves was the expert, why did Wegman and Said feel qualified to supervise an SNA PhD?* Sharabati’s committee included Robert Axtell and Maksim Tsvetovat (PhD under Carley, at GMU 2005-). *Both seem more qualified in SNA.*
- ④⑥ If everyone else thought it was original work¹³, why did they re-use it in Said (2008), Sharabati PhD (2008) and Rezazad PhD (2009), with no acknowledgement of Reeves?¹⁴ Did neither Wegman nor Said notice? The SNA introduction was about 5 pages of text in the WR, of which some came from Reeves, but may have been edited further. Said (2008), Sharabati(2008) and Rezazad(2009) used shorter extracts, pp.118-128. It is difficult for text to be both original work and standard “boiler plate.”
- ⑤ Their “most knowledgeable”; person was not doing an SNA dissertation.

¹⁰ The WR was repeatedly claimed as expert. Said was one year post-PhD. Rigsby had just finished his MS and Reeves later got her PhD in 2009. *Perhaps identifying the latter two as GMU students might have raised concerns.*

¹¹ She obviously is. www.casos.cs.cmu.edu/bios/carley/KCvita2011_V14_web.pdf www.casos.cs.cmu.edu/events/summer_institute/2005 *likeliest short course.*

¹² SSWR discusses seeming unfamiliarity with (human) SNA, as opposed to the underlying mathematical techniques, pp.144-145.

¹³ Authors are commonly held responsible for effort to make sure. *Using nearly 5 pages of text with zero citations is at best scholarly incompetence.*

¹⁴ Said, Sharabati and Rigsby (but not Reeves) have often been coauthors of Wegman’s, pp.75- Said, Sharabati and Hadi Rezazad (but not Reeves) all got “Best departmental dissertation of year” awards. *This may all be coincidence.*

④ “Back to Congress, Yasmin and I did a pre-brief with the Democratic staffers several days before the actual testimony. The Democrats were, of course, much interested pursuing the Climate Change Issue and were very unhappy about the implications of the block model analysis of Michael Mann's coauthorship network. **They made the assumption that we had invented social network analysis**① and made a strong effort to have us remove that section from our written testimony. Fortunately, the National Academy of Science had issued a report on network science in 2005 funded by the US Army, which we were able to show the Democratic staffers so the testimony went in unchanged. **They did ask us If we had done this analysis for anyone else and we said that we had not at the time. I later had Walid do the same type of analysis for my coauthorship network which appears as Figure 2 in the article.**② Because the appearance of the networks was so distinct we experimented with a number of other authors, which ultimately was the driver for our article. Waid was working on his dissertation at the same time. **so I ask him to assemble the material in the Introduction, Section 1.**③ His dissertation was in process, but not yet completed. He provided the writeup In Section 1, the section in question. **That writeup was based on the material that Denise had provided originally.**④ Of course at this stage none of us had any idea that she had copied and pasted that material. Section 2 Is based on John Rigsby's masters thesis and was provided by him. **The remainder of the article was written by Yasmin and me and was, in fact motivated by the questions the Democratic staffers had asked us.**”⑤

- ① *Would the Democrats agree?* Wegman's team certainly did not invent SNA, *but may well have invented mis-uses and perhaps new terms for old ideas, from lack of familiarity*, pp.144-147, 151.
- ② Sharabati's analysis appears in the Wegman response to Stupak, no later than 08/02/06, about 2 weeks later, p.54, 145.
- ③ Did Wegman ask Sharabati to include Reeves' original work without crediting Reeves? Did neither Wegman nor Said notice his dissertation?
- ④ “Based on” might be more precisely described as “extracted from.” See discussion of “statues” and “states.” Someone fixed this in Said (2008), but not in the Sharabati and Rezazad PhDs, pp.118-128, columns 1 and 2.
- ⑤ Said (2008) extols the likely superiority of the Wegman-style network over the Mann network, in a section written by Said and Wegman. *Was this article created as a “peer-reviewed” version of the WR material?*

Vergano wrote: “Some readers have asked about a response from the former student, Denise Reeves, mentioned in the article. Here are her comments on the story from an email:

I was Dr. Wegman's graduate student when I provided him with the overview of social network analysis, at his request. My draft overview was later incorporated by Dr. Wegman and his coauthors into the 2006 report. I was not an author of the report.

The format of the 2006 report involved a limited amount of citations.¹⁵
The social network material that I provided to Dr. Wegman followed the format of the report. (emphasis hers)

Adding that she has met with a George Mason University misconduct committee, Reeves concluded, “My academic integrity is not being questioned.”

She took a course via MITRE, used the material as GMU student, not on MITRE's time, but got acknowledged by the authors as MITRE, *which perhaps looked better. From the data so far, she seems a minor player.*¹⁶
PhD students can be vulnerable. Still, this complaint is a year old and none of those involved with the WR creation have said very much, yet.

¹⁵ Only 40 of the 80 WR references were cited, pp.165-186, Many were irrelevant, or even bizarre, while zero were given for the key SNA topic. She may have been asked to minimize citations, *but that was a strange request to make in academe.*

¹⁶ SSWR coded her green or orange (ambiguous), not red (strongly involved), p.7.

⑤ “The testimony has proven to be very effective In terms of clarifying the technical errors made in the Mann, Bradley, and Hughes papers. ① The hockey stick graph was featured prominently in the 2001 IPCC Report (Third Assessment Report), but was all but dropped in the 2007 IPCC report (Fourth Assessment Report). **The report was all but forgotten** ② until the so-called Climategate emails were made public in November of 2009. **Those email did reveal that there was manipulation of the peer review process by the paleoclimate people including Mann, Bradley and Hughes** ③ and our 2008 social network analysis had identified 7 of the people most closely associated with peer review manipulation In the Climategate emails. **This fact has made Dr. Said and me targets for the pro anthropogenic global warming crowd** ④ and they **began going through our work with a fine-tooth comb.** ⑤ It was not until March of 2010 that we became aware of the fact that the social network description provided by Denise and included both in our testimony and later in the CSDA article was not her original work but had been cobbled together from the variety of sources. ⑥ The anthropogenic global warming folks have been particularly aggressive to try to discredit us and anything that has a negative impact on their climate change agenda, including our testimony and our CSDA article that includes, but not identified. Michael Mann's coauthorship network.” ⑦

① SSWR enumerates a plethora of errors in the WR, which simply reiterated MM's statistics, covered somewhat pp.134-143, later in much more depth by DC.¹⁷ The WR re-used McIntyre's code, hardly an independent verification. It employed unreal statistical parameters and a 1% cherry-pick of data show the most positive hockey sticks. It is yet unknown whether this was merely statistical incompetence or purposeful.

② The WR has hardly forgotten, but has been a staple of a long PR campaign, including at least 10 books and many references in letters to Parliament, p.24.¹⁸ VA AG Cuccinelli 's CID relies heavily on it.¹⁹ Wegman and Said have continued the campaign through 2010 see ⑥ ⑤.

③ Climategate has been investigated multiple times by credible groups and the scientists exonerated every time. Wegman and Said claim Climategate meaningful and rely on stolen cherry-picked, misinterpreted emails.²⁰

④ The “pro-anthropogenic warming crowd” seems to be the US NAS, other national academies and most relevant science societies.²¹

⑤ Wegman must surely include DC²² and me²³ in this “crowd,” although we are not the only people who have studied the WR.

⑥ *This claim raises more questions than it answers.* If they knew in March 2010, why did they not report this to GMU, CSDA and Congress then? The GMU chronology indicated Wegman surprise in August 2010. *Perhaps Wegman knew about the plagiarism other than by GMU inquiry.*

⑦ This repeats the misleading claim of ① ⑨.

¹⁷ deepclimate.org/2010/11/16/replication-and-due-diligence-wegman-style

¹⁸ Of 6 that rely on the WR, 3 s call out peer review topic shared with Said(2008).

¹⁹ voices.washingtonpost.com/virginiapolitics/New%20Mann%20CID.PDF, p.18.

²⁰ SSWR p.81, and deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/strange-scholarship-a-6-6.pdf, an Appendix to appear in an SSWR update.

²¹ Like most scientifically-literate people who have studied this, I wish AGW were all wrong, but I accept basic physics and am happy to agree with the NAS.

²² Wegman derides DC's website (“crackpot conspiracy theories”), p.13 of: www.desmogblog.com/gmu-still-paralyzed-wegman-and-rapp-still-paranoid This chronicles the slow, strange handling of the complaints within GMU.

²³ Wegman writes “there is a lot of speculation and conspiracy theory in John Mashey's analysis which is simply not true.” *So, refute it and I will fix real errors.* content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2010/11/wegman-report-round-up/1

⑥ “We have had research misconduct charges filed against us, freedom of information act requests made, and had our computers seized as evidence and, of course, they have made you aware of the alleged plagiarism. In short the last year has been a professional and personal nightmare for us. **Let me assure you that we have acted in good faith**^① and that we have had **our work scrutinized to a degree that is well beyond what might normally be expected. Obviously we have nothing to gain because we would never be funded for work in climate change,**^② **but the anthropogenic global warming folks have a lot to lose when their credibility is challenged.**^③ We do not claim to originate the ideas in section 1 of the article. but provided them as background for the readers of CSDA who might be less familiar with those concepts. **The attacks on us are political in nature**^④ **and consequently disingenuous.**”^⑤

⑦ “Please note I have been a long-time supporter of Elsevier/North Holland efforts including first as an associate editor of CSDA and a long history of being on the editorial advisory board for CSDA. I have edited special issues of CSDA. I have also contributed to and edited volumes in the Handbook on Statistics series. **I have counted Stan as a close friend and colleague over the many years.**”^⑥

⑧ **I would propose that rather than withdrawing our article, that we be allowed to provide an errata sheet for publication in which we will provide the appropriate citations that we innocently were unaware of when the article was first submitted.** ^⑦ I look forward to hearing from you. By the way, **I have not regularly used the ewegman@gmue.edu account since 2005.**
^⑧ I did not receive your original email for this reason and it was Yasmin that forwarded your email to me.

Sincerely,
Ed Wegman”

*The reader might pause here and reflect on the information so far.
Does Wegman’s email make much sense?
How would the reader expect Elsevier and the Editors to respond?
That appears on the next page.*

- ① *Is the reader assured? At least GMU has been doing something.*
- ② Funding can be indirect, not all payment is financial, pp.85-86. The WR got much less early scrutiny than it needed, pp.49-60.
- ③ Of the people (DC and I) who have done the most work on investigating the WR for evidence of academic fraud and error, neither are climate scientists. We have gotten great help from various non-climate academics who care very much about the truth-seeking “brand” of academe.
- ④ The reader may assess the hundreds of pages of extensively-documented analyses of the WR. Wegman has yet to provide any substantive refutation, but writes of conspiracy theories, crackpottery, political attacks.
- ⑤ Wegman and Said have run a 5-year campaign against climate science and scientists, pp.63-65, 80-82. It was later found that Wegman gave an invited talk 08/04/10 at the JSM2010 conference. Said organized an odd session with analyses of hockey stick, Climategate, Wegman Report, paleoclimate, by people with no obvious expertise, mostly GMU students, including her sister. It was canceled at last minute.²⁴
- ⑥ Does this nullify plagiarism? Does it make sense that there was no communication between Wegman and Azen for so long?
- ⑦ *The Granovetter(1973) insertion is plausibly a false citation inserted amidst text from Wikipedia, p.119. Would a student be permitted to erase plagiarism with a few errata? Would scholarly journals accept Wikipedia citation as evidence of expertise? Done in proper scholarly style, every separate cyan string of words in left column needs quotes and attribution. Imagine this for the text on p.121. The result is absurd. Wegman appears not to understand or care about GMU’s own rules on plagiarism.*
- ⑧ As do many others, academics often use several email accounts, of which one is officially public to easy allow contact. But why would Wegman have essentially stopped using his GMU email since 2005, even when citing his GMU affiliation for official business?²⁵ *Why 2005? That is when this whole WR effort started, which might be coincidence, but it certainly makes it more difficult for FOIAs to find emails.*

²⁴ deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/strange-scholarship-a-6-6.pdf

²⁵ *Perhaps GMU graduates VA Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli and Wesley Russell may investigate the Wegman case, where **actual** misconduct has been shown. but perhaps, not, since the Cuccinelli CID relies heavily on the WR, including the material shared between it and Said(2008).*
voices.washingtonpost.com/virginiapolitics/New%20Mann%20CID.PDF, p.18.

4 03/16/11 Elsevier → Editors, 03/22/11 Azen reply

“From: (ELSEVIER)

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 12:06 pm

Subject: FW: CSDA 52(2008) , 2177-2184

To: EDITORS

> Dear all,

>

> We have now received E Wegman's response.

>

> I look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions for next

> steps!”

“From AZEN

Sent Tuesday, March 22, 2011 4:36 pm

To "XXXX(ELSEVIER)

Cc EDITORS

Bcc OTHER

Subject Re: FW: CSDA 52(2008),2177-2184

ELSEVIER, I read through Ed Wegman's response a number of times, My general thought is that this is a very complicated story, given all of the groups and individuals involved in this story including the two students, Densie and Walid , as well as the **United States Congress and National Academy of Science.**① In addition, the fact that they (Wegman and Said) had **research misconduct charges filed against them, and their computers seized, etc. also makes things much more complex**② than the typical misconduct events that we've dealt with in the past.

So, I have two thoughts. **The first thought**③ **is to have Ed's response reviewed by an expert (e.g," lawyer, or ethics person) at Elsevier**, with the goal of helping Elsevier make the appropriate decision as to whether additional "punishment" (e.g., withdrawing the paper) is needed. **The 2nd thought**④ is that we agree that proper "punishment" has already occurred, **and we go forward with Ed's recommendation of providing an errata sheet for publication in CSDA.**

It would be helpful to also hear from EDITORS about their thoughts and recommendations, Much appreciated.
Stan”

Wegman had long been an Advisor to CSDA, listed in February 2010 issue (completed 10/26/10) and gone in March (completed 11/19/10). The reason for this timing is unclear, although of course in early October, the first Vergano article appeared and at least one complaint had gone to Elsevier. *Maybe this is coincidence.* Still, Wegman gave no explanation to Elsevier until March 2010. Wegman says he and Azen have been close friends and colleagues for years. *Did they never communicate?*

① What do NAS or Congress have to do with assessment of plagiarism?

② Why do other misconduct charges, computer seizures complexify this case? GMU has not yet given an inquiry report to Bradley, but Elsevier and CSDA have clear policies on plagiarism. Journals protect integrity of the scholarly literature and their own reputations.

③ Azen's 2nd **thought** was rejected in favor of retraction, whose primary purpose is the removal of unsubstantiated claims from the scientific literature, whereas “punishment” is secondary. Substantial plagiarism of basic material is strong evidence that neither authors nor reviewer knew the field very well, casting serious doubts on any conclusions' credibility.

According to Wegman, Reeves used text from the books and Wikipedia, the others thought it was her original work, but they included her text without acknowledgment. *Many would label that as several cases of plagiarism.* She says she was instructed to minimize citations, *incompetent instruction for a report supposed to be authoritative.*²⁶ *Of course, her text may have been further edited by Wegman or Said.*

So far, 4 other Wegman students were involved in alleged plagiarism: Said, al-Shammeri, Rigsby, Sharabati, Rezazad, not counting anyone in the 1996 GMU TR, **B.1.** *If 2nd thought had been accepted, would Errata have even mentioned her or any of this strange tale?*

The CSDA article tried to cast doubts on the credibility of climate peer review via Mann's network. SSWR questioned the 6-day peer review process at CSDA for this particular article. As Vergano discovered in Fall 2010, that process was actually rather cursory, shown next.

²⁶ **B.1** shows frequent sloppy scholarship, not just in Said(2008). *The reader can decide if the frequency means “does not know or does not care about the rules.”*

5 05/09/11 Vergano-Azen interactions

Vergano sent Azen the two emails from FOIA requests of Nov 2010, and as reply, Azen sent back the emails shown earlier in §2-§4.

07/08/07 Wegman → Azen

“July 8, 2007 ①

Professor Stan Azen

Editor CSDA

Dear Stan:

Yasmin Said and I along with student colleagues are submitting a manuscript entitled “Social Network Analysis of Author-Coauthor Relationships”. This was motivated in part by our experience with Congressional Testimony last summer. We introduce the idea of allegiance as a way of clustering these networks. We apply these methods to the coauthor social networks of some prominent scholars and distinguish several fundamentally different modes of co-authorship relations. We also speculate on how these might affect peer review.

We think this is an interesting and provocative paper. We hope you like it.

Cheers,

Ed Wegman”

07/13/07 Azen → Wegman

“Show details 7/13/07

Title: Social Networks of Author-Coauthor Relationships

Computational Statistics and Data Analysis

Dear Ed:

I personally reviewed your very interesting (and unique) manuscript. I think the paper is very interesting, and I could not identify any errors. ②

So, I am pleased to inform you and your colleagues that your paper “Social Networks of Author-Coauthor Relationships” has been accepted for publication in Computational Statistics and Data Analysis.

Your paper will now be forwarded to the Publisher who will contact you soon with full details.

Thank you for submitting your work to this journal.

With kind regards,

Stanley P. Azen

Co-Editor

Computational Statistics and Data Analysis”

① This date seems clear. Wegman was the Corresponding (not Lead) Author for a paper written by him and his students, extolling the likely superiority of his network structure, but not obviously identified as his.²⁷ By contrast, Mann’s network was trivially findable, given:

“Wegman et al. (2006) undertook a social network analysis of a segment of the paleoclimate research community.” Said (2008, p.2180)

② Azen has no history of publishing SNA research, but the paper had basic scholarship flaws recognizable to critical readers without such experience, p.148. *Quick reviews by expert Editor are sometimes fine. This is odd.*

CSDA had not generally published SNA research and 6-day turnaround was unusual, p.149.²⁸ The right reply was “Not for this journal, send to *Social Networks*.” *This article received special treatment.*

This FOIA material could have been published long ago, but it seemed fair to give Elsevier and CSDA chances to follow their own procedures, which they certainly did, in awkward circumstances.

Even top people make mistakes. Azen is USC’s Assistant Dean of Research Integrity.²⁹ It also seemed fair to give him a chance to volunteer a forthright explanation for the breach of peer review and apologize for publishing a low-quality, baseless attack on another discipline’s quality of peer review. That would have been painful, *but I think many would have respected such handling.* But as Vergano wrote:

‘**Azen says he must have overseen** an earlier, more extensive review of the paper involving outside reviewers. **But he says he has no records** of this earlier review, because his records were destroyed in an office move. **“I would never have done just a personal review,”** he says.’

This does not seem a convincing response, given the emails at left.

²⁷ Those most familiar with this affair could find this with effort, *but it might have raised questions had Wegman’s network been easily identifiable to most readers.*

²⁸ I had assumed that 1-2 of the Associate Editors had recommended acceptance, although I could find none that mentioned SNA expertise. I thought Azen, with no SNA background, had then just agreed. I was surprised he was the only reviewer.

²⁹ www.usc.edu/programs/pibbs/site/faculty/azen_s.htm

6 GW, but never AGW- new evidence

The Wegman email adds more evidence for this issue in SSWR, pp.61-62.

“The WR and Wegman testimony accepted post-1850AD Global Warming (GW), but managed to evade ever admitting that much is due to humans (AGW). This is strange, given how often it appears in references and Important Papers Wegman obviously did not even understand the simplest physics of the Greenhouse Effect or else took great pains to ever avoid admitting it. People with technical PhDs have to work very hard to “not know, not be sure” about basic physics accepted by every relevant science society and taught these days in high school...”

Climate anti-science wants to obscure the blade (the modern temperature rise), but the attack on the hockey stick was an attempt to cause confusion by discrediting the exact shape of the staff, the paleoclimate section, p.16. Had Wegman testified to Congress that he did not accept the “A” in AGW, his credibility would have been destroyed.. **The Wegman email supports SSWR’s idea that he still does not accept AGW and did not in 2005.**

Wegman was recruited via Jerry Coffey, who called AGW a “Gore global warming boondoggle,” lauded anti-AGW books by Michaels, Singer, etc. Wegman’s annotated email §3 shows:

⑤ “This fact has made Dr. Said and me targets for the **pro anthropogenic global warming crowd** ④”

“The **anthropogenic global warming folks** have been particularly aggressive to try to discredit us and anything that has a negative impact on their **climate change agenda**, including our testimony and our CSDA article that includes, but not identified. Michael Mann's coauthorship network.” ⑦

⑥ “the **anthropogenic global warming folks** have a lot to lose when their credibility is challenged. ③”

The attacks on us are political in nature ④ and consequently disingenuous. ⑤

All this was part of an explanation for the existence of obvious cut-and-paste plagiarism. In 2006, Wegman managed to evade specific direct questions about acceptance of the “A” in AGW. *Perhaps, at some future time, someone can ask him the precise questions, under oath.*

7 Incompetence and choice of team

Besides the vast plagiarism and poor scholarship, the WR showed:

- Poor knowledge of science. See Memes and Themes, pp.10-12, occurrences indexed on p.8.
- Obvious unfamiliarity with SNA and poor usage, pp. pp.143-151.
- Lack of credible statistical analysis, pp.pp.134-145, later dissected by DC, finding McIntyre’s code that they simply reran and cherry-picked.³⁰
- While being promoted as “expert,” by “eminent” statisticians, with “no axe to grind,” “non-political,” p.24.

The new revelation of Reeves’ role raises another question. Reeves was labeled as most SNA-knowledgeable, seemingly by virtue of a short course. *Why was the SNA part of the WR (13 pages and one of the 2 key thrusts) being done by such a group of SNA-inexperienced junior people?*

Wegman is a well-known senior academic, with large social networks, who has long emphasized interdisciplinary activities, pp.73-83.

Could he not easily find experts willing to write SNA material for a high-profile Congressional Report? ³¹ How hard would to have been to email Kathleen Carley and ask if she were interested or knew somebody who was? One of her PhD students (Tsvetovat) had joined GMU then.

Scott only wrote 3 of the pages and seemed generally uninvolved. Rather than selecting an expert team, Wegman seems to have gathered his grad students to do the WR, as best they could, even labeling Reeves the most SNA-knowledgeable. Then, the “review” process was absurd, pp.49-60, ignored comments from the more qualified reviewers and certainly included no SNA experts.

It is almost as though Wegman selected a team that could be guaranteed to safely produce the “right” answers with a facade of scholarly appearance, pp.25-32. That is certainly the appearance.

³⁰ deepclimate.org/2010/11/16/replication-and-due-diligence-wegman-style

³¹ I easily found two strong SNA researchers kindly willing to review Said(2008) to help a stranger with no official role. Many academics, even truly eminent ones, are quite often graciously helpful with legitimate inquiries. Thanks to you all!

8 Conclusions

The new data gives more insight into the origin and spread of the 5 pages of plagiarized SNA material in the WR.

Wegman's words speak for themselves regarding his worldview.

Academe has a "brand" for seeking truth and expunging error, even if it takes years. Most academics work to protect that brand, not just for their own institutions but for academe as whole, and many unnamed academics have contributed to this effort since early 2010. Some non-academics try to help, as we too care about this brand, since many human institutions do not seem constructed to seek better approximations of truth and publish it.

Wegman denies all plagiarism allegations, despite expert commentary and numerous pages of side-by-side comparisons. The poor quality of SNA research needs more expertise to see, but the experts independently generated strong, similar criticisms. This was not just a plagiarism problem. The work was deemed poor by experts, unsurprising when the work was done by junior people with little familiarity with the field.

Some people seem to claim that plagiarism does not change the conclusions of the WR or Said(2008). Plagiarism per se does not invalidate the conclusions, but the conclusions are wrong for numerous other reasons, massively documented. Of course, the same people generally dismiss all that as trivia. In scholarly publishing, serious near-verbatim plagiarism is often a tipoff of other problems, especially when non-experts plagiarize work of others to simulate knowledge. Sometimes, as in this case, DC's discovery of a few plagiarized pages led him and others to problems that grew beyond anything anticipated.³²

³² The original Watergate break-in occurred in 1972, had no obvious connection at the time with Richard Nixon. It took 2 years and much investigation before Nixon resigned. While cringing at the idea of yet another "gate," I would suggest that the process of seeing an odd incident, investigating and finding more and more, is common to Watergate and this Wegman affair. They are the opposite of Climategate, where a PR campaign started with a crime (stealing email), was amplified in the press, and then was repeatedly found baseless every time anyone credible examined it carefully. Debunked claims are still repeated, endlessly.

Peer review is imperfect, but bypassing it is worse, especially under the circumstances that finally became public after 4 years. Peer review is merely the first hurdle towards acceptance within science, necessary, but hardly sufficient. The scientists in the Climategate emails complained about bad peer review at *Climate Research* and they were exactly right to do.³³ Disciplines have to protect their credibility and the integrity of the scientific record by criticizing lax journals and editors.

Vergano wrote:

"Neither Dr. Wegman nor Dr. Said has ever engaged in plagiarism," says their attorney, Milton Johns, by e-mail.'

The reader who still believes that need only consult **B.1**, follow some links at look at the side-by-side comparisons, which show not just the 35 pages of the WR, but articles, presentations and PhD dissertations, with more examples to come. *This seems a widespread issue.*

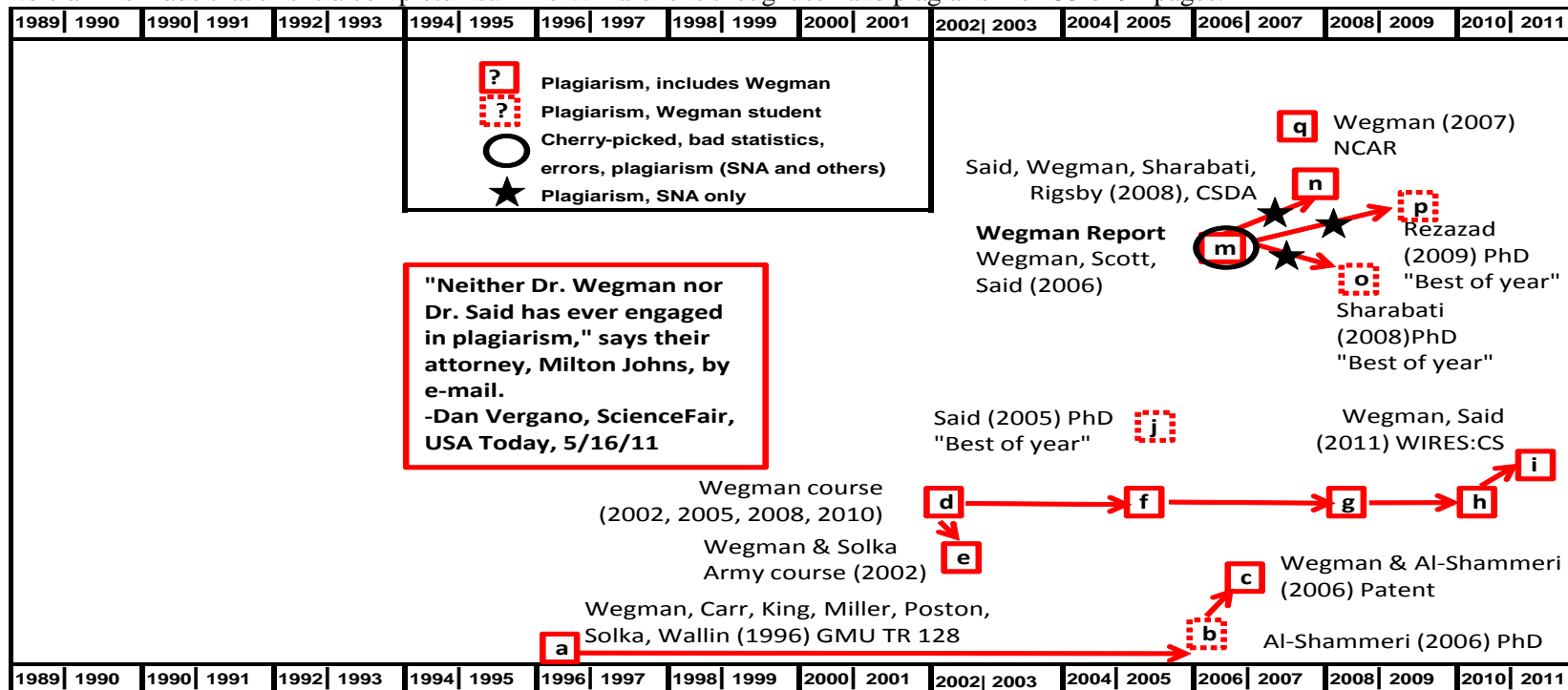
In any case, Elsevier has my sympathies for the complexity of this case compared to more typical plagiarism cases, given the breach of peer review uncovered. But Elsevier has scheduled the retraction, a serious outcome in academe, given the likely consequences, especially with Federal funding.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to DC for comments and finding the plagiarism in Said(2008), to Ted Kirkpatrick for much help, and to Eli X. Rabett and several anonymous reviewers for comments.

³³ From 1990 to 1996, *CR* published zero papers from authors including Sallie Baliunas, Robert Balling, John Christy, Robert Davis, David Douglass, Vincent Gray, Sherwood Idso, PJ Knappenberger, Ross McKittrick, Pat Michaels, Eric Posmentier, Arthur Robinson, Willie Soon, and Gerd-Rainer Weber. Most of these names are quite familiar to those who study climate anti-science. Chris de Freitas became an editor, and accepted 14 papers from members of this group from 1997 to 2003. After the problem became clear in mid-2003. Hans von Storch and other editors resigned in protest. No more papers from these people were accepted by de Freitas for *CR*. He handled only a few more papers and then departed. Not every 1997-2003 paper seems problematic, but some clearly were. A detailed analysis has been done, but its writeup was interrupted by this report. The analysis of their social network is likely to be interesting, and some has already been done, as most of these people are described in: www.desmogblog.com/crescendo-climategate-cacophony.

B.1 Chronology of striking similarities

No claim is made that this is a complete list. The WR alone is thought to have plagiarism on 35 of 91 pages.



Summary sources, generally include links to earlier sources of first identification

a, b, c	deepclimate.org/2010/12/02/wegman-et-al-miscellany
d, e, f, g, h, i	deepclimate.org/2011/03/26/wegman-and-said-2011-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour
	deepclimate.org/2011/05/15/wegman-and-said-2011-part-2
j, o, p	deepclimate.org/2010/09/15/wegman-report-update-part-2-gmu-dissertation-review
m, n	deepclimate.org/2010/07/29/wegman-report-update-part-1-more-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour
m, n, o, p, q	deepclimate.org/2010/09/26/strange-scholarship-wegman-report
m	deepclimate.org/2010/11/16/replication-and-due-diligence-wegman-style
q	deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/09/strange-scholarship-v1-02.pdf

B.2 Extracts from Vergano FOIA, November 2010

README.pdf:

"The materials in this USB are being provided in compliance with the Virginia FOIA. Many of the documents are published research papers that are copyrighted by their respective publishers. All other documents are copyrighted by Edward J. Wegman and Yasmin H. Said or by their respective authors. All rights are reserved. **These documents may not be forwarded to a third party.**^① Also included in this USB is the George Mason University policy document 4007 on academic misconduct. This policy requires confidentiality for all parties including complainants, in this case Professor Raymond Bradley. **This confidentiality requirement was violated by Professor Bradley.**"^②

Background Material Povid (sic) by Peter Spencer (directory)

README.pdf

"Note concerning materials supplied by Peter Spence.(sic) **This folder contains all of the materials supplied by Peter Spencer.**^③ The remaining materials **we developed.**^④ Although Dr. Said's presentation seemed to imply that we were being coached by the Republicans by being given only their selected materials to look at, this was not true. What is true was that we were contacted frequently to advise them of the status of our report, and consequently we felt some pressure to complete the so-called Wegman Report faster than we might like. Ed Wegman"

Of the 14 files, 13 are listed, pp.165-168. Most existed in 2005, and *'d papers were labeled Important in WR, but uncited #78 was the key.

#12* Burger, Cubasch (2005)

#24* Esper, et al (2002)

#33 Jones, Mann (2004)

#41* Mann, Gille, Bradley, et al (2000)

#42* Mann, Jones (2003)

#43* Mann, et al (2005)

#47* Moberg, et al (2005)

#48* Osborn, Briffa (2006)

#49* Rutherford, et al (2005)

#54* von Storch, Zorita, et al (2004)

#59* Wunsch (2006)

#65 IPCC (2001) TAR, Ch 2, Observed Climate Variability and Change

#78 McIntyre, McKittrick (2005) (the 66-page raw PPT; see next page)

--- IPCC WG1 Fourth Assessment Report, Second-Order Draft,

7 March 2006, Chapter 6: Paleoclimate.^⑤

① FOIA requests do not work that way, although GMU refused my FOIA request for the same material, as a non-VA resident.

② Bradley violated no confidentiality requirement. GMU VP Roger Stough neither asked for confidentiality nor even mentioned Policy 4007. Wegman himself revealed the problem on Facebook in August.³⁴

③ Yasmin Said wrote, p.91, slide 5:

"Peter Spencer began sending us a daunting amount of material for us to review over the next 9 months."

On the other hand, Vergano wrote:³⁵

"Wegman says that Said's presentation description is "not true"

④ *Does "developed" include getting help, possibly from GMI, others in VA or DC or from McIntyre or McKittrick?*

The WR Bibliography has 80 references, 40 uncited, pp.165-186. It includes much grey-literature and the bizarre reference #52, written by a tabloid author for a fringe-magazine p.180.

Did Wegman's team "develop" that reference themselves?

Of the 14 files Wegman ascribes to Spencer, 10 were included in the 17 labeled Important (grey there). The other 7 below include 5 obvious papers and 2 irrelevancies, but **WR's Important Papers seem mostly selected by a Barton staffer, an unusual way to do real science.**³⁶ *Did Spencer get help in making these selections?*

#37* Mann, Bradley, Hughes (1998)

#38* Mann, Bradley, Hughes (1999)

#44* McIntyre, McKittrick (2003)

#45* McIntyre, McKittrick (2005a)

#46* McIntyre, McKittrick (2005b)

#36* Mann dissertation (irrelevant)

#59* Wunsch (2002) (irrelevant)

⑤ The WR properly could not cite this, but repeatedly ignored or contradicted it, despite its strong relevance, given progress in paleoclimate reconstructions since the 2001 IPCC, p.170.

³⁴ www.desmogblog.com/gmu-still-paralyzed-wegman-and-rapp-still-paranoid p. 29 and 33.

³⁵ content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2010/11/wegman-report-round-up/1

³⁶ He later attended 2 Heartland Institute conferences, at their expense. www.desmogblog.com/crescendo-climategate-cacophony p.156. update: www.legistorm.com/trip/list/by/traveler/id/8305/name/Peter_L_Spencer_Jr_.html

B.3 History of McIntyre and McKittrick (2005) in WR

The FOIA materials resolved questions about the WR's vague, never-cited, but extremely important reference, labeled MM05x in SSWR:

“McIntyre, Stephen and McKittrick, Ross (2005) —The Hockey Stick Debate: Lessons in Disclosure and Due Diligence, September 7, 2005.

SSWR assumed this to be the 42-page annotated presentation still there:

www.marshall.org/pdf/materials/316.pdf³⁷

SSWR pp.185-186 argued that MM05x was the key source for the WR, as so many elements were re-used. The talk for GMI was 05/11/05, so the September 7 date was puzzling, but it seemed that Spencer had given the file to Wegman about that time. From the FOIA evidence above, the SSWR identification was close, but not quite precise. The new information adds evidence of a closer relationship among Spencer, GMI, Coffey, Wegman and perhaps MM.

At its website, GMI either:

- converts a Powerpoint (PPT) presentation directly to PDF or
- creates an article to incorporate the talk's graphics, but summarizes the verbal commentary as well, as done in the “316” file above.

It generally does not post raw PPT files.³⁸ The raw 66-page PPT (M_M.May11.ppt) originated with MM and GMI certainly had a copy. Spencer sent the PPT (not PDF) to Wegman. *How did Spencer get it?*

The FOIA and PDF Document Properties reveal more. A plausible chronology emerges, which clarifies long-puzzling dates and confusing differences among PDF versions.³⁹

³⁷ File sometimes disappear. The reader may be assured this one is archived.

³⁸ In checking many files, I found none, but I could have missed some.

³⁹ The Internet Archive gives the history, from 02/22/06 – 11/27/08:

web.archive.org/20060115000000/www.marshall.org/pdf/materials/316.pdf

During this time, this file (PDF₁) remained unchanged:

replay.web.archive.org/20060222093812/www.marshall.org/pdf/materials/316.pdf

The PDF₁ could have been posted on the website any day from 08/30/05 to 02/22/06. The Internet Archive only records file after they have existed a while. The direct inspiration for the SNA effort seems to be pp.33-37.

05/11/05 PPT: MM spoke for GMI in Washington.

08/30/05 PPT→PDF₁, created by GMI's Mark Herlong @ 8PM. This date is shown by the PDF Properties. The PPT file does not show a fixed date, but rather one set automatically.

09/01/05 Coffey contacted Wegman, SSWR p.91, slide 3:

“Dr. ... Wegman was approached by Dr. Jerry Coffey on 1 September 2005... After the initial contact, Dr. Wegman received materials and a visit from Congressional Staffer Peter Spencer.”

09/xx/05 Spencer sent PPT and other files to Wegman.

09/07/05 This is the date ascribed in the WR. The puzzle is now finally explainable, if on that day, Wegman's team converted the PPT to (inferred) PDF₂, thus fixing PDF₂ date at 09/07/05.

06/17/09 10:57AM, Mark Herlong created PDF₃, the 42-page annotation. Although unprovable without further data the following seems plausible: *At 8PM (a rush job?), Herlong made PDF₁ to give to Coffey for the meeting with Wegman, to feel him out. As per SSWR pp.25-26, it seems unlikely that Barton would accept anyone likely to give unwanted answers.*

Spencer acted quickly. His copy of the raw PPT must have come from MM or Herlong (or possibly other GMI allies, as MM sometimes shared things with Fred Singer, etc). He sent that to Wegman sometime after 09/01/05, but probably no later than 09/07/05. It is unclear whether Spencer and Coffey communicated directly or via GMI, but tight coordination seems clear. At least MM, Herlong, Spencer and Wegman all had the PPT, not just a copy of PDF₁. Maybe others did, too, but coincidence seems odd.

PPT p.10 shows the old MWP/LIA graph from IPCC 1990, but ascribes it to IPCC 1995, fixed in the WR and PDF₃. Other comparisons are useful:

WR page	PPT/PDF ₁ page	SSWR discussion page
33 (10 graphs)	18 (4 graphs)	134-135 ⁴⁰
34	10	137
46	32-36	153-156 (key part of SNA origin)

The SNA graphs (WR pp.38-45) *seem created to motivate WR p.46, whose content was quite unlikely to have been created by paleoclimate novices.*

⁴⁰ deepclimate.org/2010/11/16/replication-and-due-diligence-wegman-style is DC's definitive analysis, showing the bad statistics and cherry-picking, although the former requires more knowledge of statistics. The latter is obvious.