

Dear Dr. Michael Blanpied, USGS,

As you may recall, in mid-March 2017 we exchanged emails about QuakeWatch.net, earthquake forecasting, and an upcoming paper to be published in a journal, which you agreed to read, once published. It was pleasant to have you reach out to us in a constructive way and agree to spend a few minutes of your time in the near future. It was apparent that you did not remember us, but we had previously exchanged emails and spoke in a public NECEP meeting on earthquake forecasting back in August/September 2016. It was a short interaction and I would never expect you to remember based on that. I was pleased with both of those interactions, until the results of an FOIA request came in.

It would appear you have been somewhat disingenuous. Three weeks before our interactions last summer you were emailing with Dr. Love about 1) me, 2) some of my more-insane followers who SHOULD have been ignored, and 3) the journal in which I expressly told you I was going to publish- "a silly (I think) compendium of vanity papers on bizarre Earth theories, that appear to have no independent peer review..." those were your words to Dr. Love. You remember that email, right?

A) NCGT wasn't my first choice, but they the only ones who would even send twitter-based forecasts to reviewers.* I will not be publishing papers with them going forward due to 1) my understanding of your utter distaste for their journal (and apparently, the fact that publishing there means nothing- thanks for leaving that out, by the way, and wasting my time), 2) the fact that they just went commercial, and are no longer open source and free to everyone -a sticking point for me, and 3) every last reviewer on their board is indeed from the IEVPC, as well as the editor, and one of them is so against everything in plate tectonics that it makes publishing difficult anyway.

As for your 5 minute analysis of our 2015 paper, "I would also be tempted to challenge their assertion that relevant data only go back to 1976, as we certainly have orbital and sunspot information, as well as earthquake information, going back over a century." ...is that your final answer? Where can I find this robust level of data on the SOLAR POLAR MAGNETIC FIELDS before 1976? Yes we have orbital data... but it's not like the fields peak every March and September when we hit S/N max is it? Heliographic position modulates, weakly, the sine wave. That's it, and to suggest that the SPF are otherwise guided is a display of ignorance. The causality is astounding, or did you not understand the math in the paper? If you want to challenge the stats (from an Ohio State Professor, Statistics) or the possibility of the earthquake relationship, fine... if you want to go on the sun, you better know what you are talking about with me.

B) Moving on, you advise Love to deflect and calmly/quickly address some of the craziest people on the internet... and yet not one word is advised about how to respond to me. I had sent Love and others in the USGS polite emails begging for help or advice or to point me in the right direction. I was ignored, and beyond that, Love was emailing people saying I hadn't actually predicted anything. Random people asking about me get a false-facts response, and advice from you about dealing with them... but I can't get a response in asking for help when I've got a stats professor and NASA scientists at my back? That's insane, and blatantly disregarding something potentially of value to the USGS.

Then we fast-forward to our interactions in the summer. You had been emailing about me just one month earlier and you acted like you didn't know me and never heard of me. You did the same this March.

Meanwhile, you had been discussing us and the journal, and had been driving some of Love's more frustrating behavior the entire time.

Are you playing some kind of game? What in the world would possess you to act this way? And why, when I essentially was asking each of you about NCGT, would you not tell me that it would be meaningless in your eyes? You sentenced me to wasting my time, and you did it intentionally, knowing what I wanted and that it was never going to happen. Combine this with the email to Dr. Love, and the resulting emails from him that contained false facts about my forecasting (including to a reporter who axed a story because of what Love said, and to an investor who never spoke to me again), and we're looking at cowardly dishonor at best, and tortuous interference at worst.

This is a quote from the "Final Response" email from my FOIA request: "We reasonably foresee that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one or more of the nine exemptions to the FOIA's general rule of disclosure; therefore, portion of the documents are protected from release... The exempted information will not be released and has been redacted from the enclosed documents." Geez, they let that email of yours go... what haven't I seen yet?

We ALL fear lunatics on the internet- some of my followers scare the bejesus out of me- but the way I have been treated by the USGS is absurd, when I was only asking for help, and the damage it has done to my and my business' reputation are off the charts. If I was to send you the paper would you actually read it? It is tough for me to believe you'd take it seriously at all. Which means, again, that you wasted my time.

C) When the grunt, who 300,000 other grunts says found something, pulls a diamond out of the dirt, you don't ignore it, or have that same grunt try to polish the thing into a shiny ring. Not if you want good results. It is also not advisable to tell people that the grunt didn't find anything, and that his search party is a "silly" joke, especially when that can get back to those silly little grunts.

One thing is certain: It would have been easier to just help us out. I am not a lone wolf and these efforts are entirely public, so I have to share this with everyone. I apologize if anyone made Love or anyone else apprehensive, but be an adult, it's the internet, and it was cowardly to use that as an excuse to ignore me- as though I control people's free will in the world.

I wish you the best, but honestly, you should hope there is not even one shred of merit in what I or any of us is doing, because when thousands of people are analyzing it and practicing and spending good time in earnest attempting to improve it, it won't matter what degrees we have- that is the power of numbers. Everyone will know what roles you and Love played in the refusal to come to a call for help, your disrespect for NCGT, its editor, the IEVPC, and myself, Dr. U-yen and Dr. Holloman as authors of that paper. Most importantly, they will know how you played some sort of twisted game with me where you pretended not to know me, talked behind my back, guided Jeffrey Love as a shield to take all the blame from our group, and then sent me off to publish in NCGT knowing you were not going to take it seriously.

The Observing the Frontier conference is this weekend, everything is coming out publicly, and it will be clear why even middle school students are forecasting seismicity using a simple set of rules.

Eyes on the horizon, that's a tsunami coming.



Ben Davidson, on behalf of 300,000 SuspiciousObservers

SpaceWeatherNews.com - QuakeWatch.net - SuspiciousObservers.org - MagneticReversal.org - ObservatoryProject.com

*Everyone else said twitter is a joke, each of the top 10 relevant journals in the USA said it was not even "something they would look at" (most using that exact pitiful grammar). I have +18,000 followers, many who retweet everything I do, so there is no hiding or deleting or cheating, twitter posts cannot be edited and twitter timestamps are as reliable as USGS earthquake timestamps. But alas, I can't MAKE them review it.

**Just in case you only care about the kind of chops you can prove, I got 1490 on the SATs (back when it was out of 1600), I got into all 4 ivy league schools to which I applied but couldn't turn down scholarships, I have a JD, earned a position under Justice Pfeifer of the Supreme Court of Ohio in 2009, and was the lead diligence analyst on numerous \$10-75M deals with a Columbus equity firm - people with that kind of money only care about results. I have never taken a day off since starting this new research- more than 1500 straight days of seeing every quake, every storm, every sunspot, every plasma filament, every coronal hole, every volcano... and I'm not an idiot. Isn't it possible I saw something... but lack the skills to overcome the hurdles of your specific industry? Hey, I'm only 32... maybe I should go back to school and get a geology degree... would that be what it takes? What WOULD it take to have a request for help acknowledged?