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Global temperatures and the global warming “debate” GORDON AUBRECHT, Ohio State at Marion — Many ordinary citizens listen to pronouncements on talk radio casting doubt on anthropogenic global warming. Some op-ed columnists likewise cast doubts, and are read by credulous citizens. For example, on 8 March 2009, the Boston Globe published a column by Jeff Jacoby, “Where’s global warming?” According to Jacoby, “But it isn’t such hints of a planetary warming trend that have been piling up in profusion lately. Just the opposite.” He goes on to write, “the science of climate change is not nearly as important as the religion of climate change,” and blamed Al Gore for getting his mistaken views accepted. George Will at the Washington Post also expressed denial. As a result, 44% of U.S. voters, according to the January 19 2009 Rasmussen Report, blame long-term planetary trends for global warming, not human beings. Is there global cooling, as skeptics claim? We examine the temperature record.

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