

OPINION/LETTERS



Ad Seems to Claim That Rats May Be Bureaucrats

as based energy conservation; any-
 ns thing that makes us more efficient
 ill is all to the good and saves not
 re only natural resources but also
 o. money. But don't expect such ef-
 15 ferts to have a noticeable influ-
 at ence on sea ice, glaciers or the
 ve ongoing rise of sea levels.

il And don't count on a hydrogen
 se economy to help us reduce the use
 of fossil fuels. On the contrary,
 15 producing hydrogen requires
 at prodigious amounts of energy
 's from fossil fuels or nuclear re-
 y actors, making it costly as well.

So if human activities do lead to
 a slight warming of the climate in
 this century, it makes more sense
 to adapt and enjoy the warmer
 winters than bankrupt our econ-
 omy and damage the economic
 system of the world.

The writer is emeritus profes-
 sor of environmental sciences at
 the University of Virginia and a
 former director of the U.S. Weath-
 er Satellite Service. He contrib-
 uted this comment to the Inter-
 national Herald Tribune.

EDITOR

'Mad Cow' Disease

The report "'Mad Cow' Dis-
 eases and Sheep?" (Aug. 31):

needs clarification. Prions
 are normal proteins present
 in the human body whose
 role is unknown. It is an
 agent (PrPres or PrPsc) that has
 been shown to be an infectious agent, but
 not of this.

There is no proof that bovine
 spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or "mad
 cow" disease is caused by abnormal pri-
 ons transmitted to man — or any
 other animal — as a variant of
 Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease or any other

by John Collinge and his
 colleagues at the Prion Unit of Britain's
 Medical Research Council, cited in the
 report, as is the statistical
 fact that a maximum of 136,000 to

half a million cases of (human) vCJD will
 occur eventually in Britain.

The search for the cause of CJD, trans-
 missible spongiform encephalopathy, BSE
 and prion diseases has been going on for
 nearly four decades without success. The
 incubation periods for these diseases are
 unknown and there is no therapy.

The Nobel Prize has been awarded twice
 for the same product, the slow-virus (D.
 Carleton Gajdusek) cum prion (Stanley
 Prusiner), whose physiological, infective
 or any role is unproven to this day.

There are, however, lots of circumstan-
 tial evidence and many theories and sup-
 positions, which one hopes will eventually
 resolve these issues.

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 Philadelphia.

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 neuropathology, Jefferson Medical Col-
 lege of the Thomas Jefferson University.

In a Kosovo City Park,
 A Small Ray of Hope

By Rand Engel

PRISTINA, Kosovo — At the
 groundbreaking ceremony for
 the restoration of the Gjlane city
 park, Bernard Kouchner, the head
 of the United Nations mission
 here, said, "This is the happiest
 day of my life in Kosovo." Dr.
 Kouchner was moved by a gleam
 of hope from Gjlane. In a highly
 visible project, Albanians and
 Serbs were to work together.

The ceremony included Hugo
 Ortega, 23, an Australian volun-
 teer aid worker, who doggedly put

up the park. Good, he said, that will be
 better protection than the peace-
 keeping force KFOR can provide.

We met with Shaban Musliu,
 the Gjlane area spokesman and
 chief of staff for the KPC. We said
 that we hoped to have Serbian
 participation in the park project.
 Good, he said, we want to work
 with minorities, as long as they
 were not individuals involved in
 the ethnic cleansing. This was not
 going as we expected. Would he
 meet with the Serbian spokesper-
 son? Of course, Mr. Musliu said.

MEANWHILE

We interviewed prospective
 workers at a U.S. KFOR station
 near the Serbian neighborhood.
 Few came. No Serb showed up for
 the first few days of work. That
 part of the project seemed over.
 Mr. Ortega could concentrate on
 the park itself, a major project
 with 100 workers.

Then Major Michael Foley
 found three Serbs who wanted to
 work. We admired their bravery
 and feared for their safety. Mr.
 Ortega held two meetings with the
 Albanian workers. He said that in
 Gjlane, in this park, these workers
 would help decide the future. Mr.
 Musliu said that the KPC supported
 a mixed-ethnicity work crew.
 The workers had the opportu-
 nity to express their feelings and
 ask questions. One former KLA
 member had lost family during the
 ethnic cleansing terror campaign.
 He nevertheless wanted a future
 without hatred. Another veteran,
 whose father and brother were
 killed, said that he was willing to
 plant a tree with a Serb.

People said there would be
 trouble if they recognized a crim-
 inal. When Mr. Ortega said the
 first three Serbian workers were
 women the tension dissolved; in
 that moment, the workers realized
 they could make this first step.
 During the women's first days on
 the crew, Albanian workers often
 asked them, sometimes in Ser-
 bian, if they were all right, or if
 they needed water or food.

It is possible there will be set-
 backs. We are nevertheless moved
 by the courage of these people.
 Small steps are being taken in
 Kosovo, despite the fear and hatred
 that continue to haunt so many.

We expected the mixed work
 crew idea to fall apart rapidly
 when it bumped into reality. We
 met the Serbian spokesman in
 Gjlane to discuss participation of
 Serbian workers. Yes, he said, he
 wanted that. We said that the work
 force would include a crew from
 the Kosovo Protection Corps, vet-
 erans of the Kosovo Liberation
 Army that had fought against Ser-

The writer, the Kosovo coord-
 inator for Balkan Sunflowers,
 contributed this comment to the
 International Herald Tribune.