

Climate change pushes South America to become increasingly hot, dry and flammable



Diario El Universal, 09/27/2024

Synopsis: According to a study published by Nature magazine, South America has suffered the most intense heat wave in its history this year, combined with a severe drought and the massive spread of forest fires.

The study identifies three critical regions: "Maracaibo", which covers the border basin with Colombia;

"Amazon", which covers part of the northern Amazon basin, in the states of Roraima, Pará and the eastern part of Amazonas, an area considered the green lung of the planet; and "Gran Chaco", which covers most of the Chaco basin, the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso, and most of the Pantanal in Brazil, the largest tropical wetland in the world.

In these areas, changes in land use and crops and deforestation have been detected, disproportionately affecting vulnerable rural populations and indigenous minorities.

According to the research, black carbon from biomass burning impacts and melts snow deposits in the Andean mountain range, important sources of water for many rural communities in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru. In addition, these compound extremes amplify the damage to vegetation health by increasing tree mortality, slowing economic growth and harming the health and quality of life of animals and humans.

US military officials re-view security cooperation in Chile



Últimas Noticias, august, 28 2024

Synopsis: The head of the Southern Command, General Laura Richardson, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Charles Q. Brown, have met with representatives of the Chilean government, including the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed

Forces, in order to discuss bilateral cooperation in matters of security.

On the other hand, the exercises called "Southern Fenix" between Chile, the US and Argentina have begun.

As part of these exercises, the US Army's M142 HIMARS high mobility artillery rocket system, capable of attacking targets 300 kilometers away, arrived in Chile.

N.R. The US plan to form a multinational task force, with the participation of the fascist puppet governments of Chile and Argentina, to intervene militarily in Venezuela, continues to develop.

The hottest summer on record could lead to the warmest year ever measured



The Guardian, 09/07/2024

Synopsis: The European climate service Copernicus reported that the summer of 2024 was the hottest on Earth on record, with this year likely to end up

being the warmest ever measured by humanity.

The previous record was 2023, a consequence of human-caused climate change, with a temporary boost from El Niño.

Copernicus records go back to 1940, but American, British and Japanese records, starting in the mid-19th century, show the past decade has been the warmest since regular measurements have been taken and probably in about 120,000 years, according to some scientists.

The global average temperature between September 2023 and August 2024 was the highest on record for a 12-month period; it was 0.76 degrees Celsius above the 1991-2020 average and 1.64 degrees above the pre-industrial average of 1850-1900.

"What these sobering numbers indicate is that the climate crisis is tightening its grip on us," said Stefan Rahmstorf, a climate scientist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Research.

These are not just numbers in a record book, but weather events that hurt people, climate scientists said.

"All of this translates into more misery around the world," said University of Michigan environment dean and climate scientist Jonathan Overpeck.

While some of last year's record heat was driven by El Niño, that effect has disappeared and shows that the main driver is long-term, man-made climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, Buontempo said.

. Hurricane Helene kills at least 100 as it passes through the United States



swissinfo.ch, september 30, 2024

Synopsis: The death toll from Hurricane Helene has risen to at least 100, authorities announced Monday. Georgia was the state with the most damage from flooding, while North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper said Monday that hundreds of roads had been destroyed and many communities "wiped off the map."

"This is an unprecedented storm. The emotional and physical toll here is indescribable. Rivers continue to rise, so the danger has not ceased. The long-term reconstruction plan would have to take into account a reality of more extreme weather."

Scientists say climate change likely plays a role in the rapid intensification of hurricanes because there is more energy in warmer oceans for them to feed on. Helene made landfall Thursday afternoon near Tallahassee, Florida's capital, as a Category 4 hurricane - on a scale of 5 - with winds of 225 km/h.

Argentina questions Conmebol for banning flags in stadiums with claims over the Falkland Islands



iusport, september 26, 2024

Synopsis: In an open letter, Argentine Foreign Minister Diana Mondino complained to CONMEBOL about a recent arbitrary ban in the South American country on access to a football stadium with a flag alluding to the Malvinas Islands. "The Malvinas Islands are an indisputable part of our territory, and the desire and claim for sovereignty has never been, nor will it be, set aside. It is part of our Constitution. Sport has historically been a space for union and peaceful expression of the identities of its peoples. This decision also violates freedom of expression," said Mondino.

She criticized the president of the Argentine Football Association and vice president of CONMEBOL, Claudio Chiqui Tapia, for endorsing this measure.

Environmentalists criticize the Ecuadorian State for the lack of progress in stopping oil activity in Yasuní



RT august 28, 2024

Synopsis: The Ecuadorian government has announced the closure of the first well in the Block 43 oil field, an action that will cease extractive activity in the Yasuní National Park.

However, environmental organizations claim that there has been no real progress and are demanding that the Constitutional Court convene a hearing to address the issue.

We have discussed this issue with Juan Bay, president of the Waorani Nationality of Ecuador.

85% in Latin America: at least 196 environmental defenders were killed in 2023



laderasur.com, september 10, 2024

Synopsis: At least 196 land and environmental defenders were killed around the world last year while trying to protect the planet from extractive industries, according to a new report, "Silenced Voices: Violence against land and environmental defenders," by British human rights NGO Global Witness. 85% of these murders occurred in Latin America, mostly in Colombia, Mexico and Honduras, and particularly affected indigenous peoples, with Colombia identified as the most dangerous country in the world for such activists, with at least 79 murders recorded in 2023.

The total number of murders since Global Witness began reporting on environmental defenders in 2012 rose to 2,106 worldwide.

In our region, there is the Escazú Agreement, an environmental treaty that seeks to protect environmental defenders and allow access to environmental information, guaranteeing their participation in decision-making that affects the environment, and endorsed by 17 countries, while Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Peru refuse to sign it. But as always, all these agreements remain dead letters.

Likewise, the report points to mining and logging as the industries that cause the most deaths. 25 defenders were killed last year, a consequence of economic interests in a region with a high concentration of minerals essential for the energy transition and large forested areas.

Murder of peasant leader reported in Barinas, Venezuela

Últimas Noticias, september 23, 2024

Synopsis: The Small Farmers Movement (MPA) denounced the murder of peasant leader Iraidez Andrade Duque (43), an event that occurred in Pedraza, Barinas State, after several armed and hooded men kidnapped him in his residence located on the premises of the Las Mercedes ranch in said town.

The body was found with a gunshot to the head on a public road.

The deceased was part of the Conflict Resolution Table installed at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, and was also spokesman for the Los Sueños de Chávez communal council. The MPA issued a statement demanding justice "to end once and for all the

peasant assassination that to date has shed the blood of more than 350 peasants."

N.R. If this number of murders is true, Venezuela would be among the Latin American countries where more defenders of the land die at the hands of hitmen of large landowners. It is therefore necessary for the National Assembly to speak out on this shameful and deplorable situation.

Honduran environmentalist Juan López shot dead

Radio Fe Y Alegría, 09/16/2024

Synopsis: Juan López, a Honduran environmental rights defender and leader of the Committee for the Defense of Common and Public Goods of Tocoa, was shot to death.

The president of Honduras, Xiomara Castro de Zelaya, expressed her rejection of the murder of Juan López and ordered the authorities to investigate in order to clarify the crime and find those responsible.

He had been under precautionary measures from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for some time.

For its part, the Society of Jesus expressed its repudiation and highlighted who Juan López was, as well as the various threats he received, demanding that the Honduran government immediately take measures and guarantee the safety of the defenders of Aguan, as well as those who "fight for the cancellation of all mining exploitation contracts that damage the Montaña Botaderos Carlos Escaleras national park."

Forest fires in Brazil cause highest level of carbon emissions in two decades



Noticiasdelatierra.com, 09/30/2024

Synopsis: Forest fires in the Amazon region, particularly in the states of Amazonas and Mato Grosso do Sul (where most of the Pantanal wetlands are located), have resulted in the highest cumulative total carbon emissions in the 22 years covered by the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) fire emissions dataset, severely affecting air quality across the region, according to CAMS data.

Estimated total cumulative carbon emissions so far in 2024 have been above average, at around 183 megatonnes of carbon as of 19 September, while in Bolivia, fires have accumulated almost 76 megatonnes of carbon.

According to CAMS, high temperatures experienced in recent months, prolonged drought, low soil moisture and other climatic factors are likely to have contributed to increasing the scale of fire emissions, smoke and the impact on air quality. Smoke plumes extend from Ecuador to São Paulo, the report says.

Argentina: The highway between Córdoba and Carlos Paz is completely blocked due to smoke

Clarín, 09/02/2024

Synopsis: A voracious forest fire is taking place in Córdoba where at least 14 fire brigades are trying to control the flames, which forced the complete closure of the highway that links the provincial capital with Carlos Paz. Near the Córdoba-Rosario highway, near Oncativo, firefighters and the Rural Patrol are working to extinguish a fierce outbreak there.

There is concern since the weather conditions on Monday are not helping to control the flames: the temperature is expected to climb to 30 degrees and there is a strong wind (zonda style) that is causing the fire to spread faster than usual. Water-dropping planes and helicopters are participating in an operation that, for now, seems overwhelmed.

Bolivia registers 3.8 million hectares affected by forest fires

Urgente.bo, September 7, 2024

Synopsis: The Minister of Environment and Water, Alan Lisperguer, reported that Bolivia has registered 3.8 million hectares affected by forest fires, 2.3 million in grassland areas and 1.5 million in forests.

A significant percentage of these grassland areas correspond to private properties, small, medium and large producers."

The 72 active fire points are distributed; 64 in the department of Santa Cruz; 6 in the department Beni; 1 in the department Pando and 1 in the department La Paz. In addition to three protected areas, the Noel Kempff Mercado National Park, San Matías and Manuripi.

Wave of forest fires: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru and Colombia in a state of emergency



La Razón, 09/16/2024

Synopsis: South America is in the grip of an environmental catastrophe due to an unprecedented wave of forest fires.

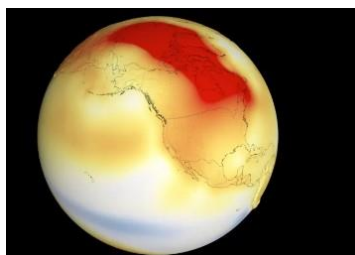
According to data from the Brazilian Institute for Space Research (Inpe), more than 350,000 fires have been recorded in the region since January, mainly in Brazil, Bolivia, Peru and Colombia, caused by drought, extreme heat and the actions of criminals.

In Brazil, 176,617 fires have occurred since the beginning of the year. The Amazon region is the most affected, with 3,502 active outbreaks in September. Despite efforts, authorities warn that the most serious drought since 1950, coupled with arson, has intensified the disaster.

Bolivia has recorded 63,537 fires so far this year, with the government declaring a national emergency, with more than 3.8 million hectares destroyed. There are also fears of species extinction in Chiquitania, a region close to the Amazon that is home to unique flora and fauna.

In Peru, since August alone, 87 forest fires have been reported in 16 regions, of which 49 are still active, and Colombia is facing active outbreaks in several regions, which have razed more than 5,000 hectares in the country.

FAO calls for action against La Niña threat in Latin America



IPS, 09/21/2024

Synopsis: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has called for urgent action to address the heavy rains expected in areas of South America (Colombia and Venezuela), Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua) and the Caribbean (Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic) for the rest of the year, as a result of the climatic phenomenon La Niña.

This will affect food production in our region, a serious issue in the current situation in which, according to FAO, in Latin America and the Caribbean, there are 41 million malnourished people and 19.7 million with high levels of acute food insecurity, including 1.6 million in an emergency situation in Haiti.

Climate change, marked by rising temperatures on the planet and in the region, drives the frequency and impact of extreme weather phenomena, such as those induced by La Niña and its opposite, El Niño, characterized by warm winds that alter cycles of rain and drought. The increased rainfall caused by La Niña may be beneficial for agriculture in some areas, but it can cause severe flooding, waterlogged soils, crop diseases and animal mortality.

For example, in Colombia, during La Niña in 2021-2023, more than two million hectares of crops and pastures and more than six million heads of livestock were affected, with damages and losses of about US\$2.15 billion.

Colombia and Peru help Ecuador fight extensive forest fire



CNN september 1, 2024

Synopsis: Colombia and Peru reported that they sent equipment and personnel to join Ecuador's efforts to extinguish forest fires that have affected more than 4,000 hectares of forested areas.

The Peruvian Air Force sent FAP C27J Spartan aircraft to drop more than 30,000 liters of water using the Guardian system on the fires, while Colombia provided a C-40 aircraft to transport 20 boxes of the Guardian Caylym system, three Bambi Bucket systems, a pool with the capacity to store 10,000 gallons, and military personnel trained and qualified in aerial firefighting operations.

Brazil suffers from unprecedented drought



Al Mayade, september 4, 2024

Synopsis: Brazil is experiencing an unprecedented drought for the first time across the country, according to the National Centre for Monitoring Natural Disasters (Cemaden), an organisation linked to the Ministry of Science and

Technology. More than a third of the national territory, equivalent to more than 3 million square kilometres, is suffering from drought.

It was explained that it is a "multifactorial drought". "We went from a warm Pacific (El Niño) to a warmer North Atlantic. There was no respite between the two events and this caused the drought situation to gradually worsen in each region until reaching a drought scenario throughout the country."

In August alone, the nation recorded 68,635 fire outbreaks, more than 80% of these outbreaks occurred in the Amazon and the Cerrado.

In the state of Amazonas, more than 300,000 people have been affected and several cities have problems with supplies and drinking water. In Manaus, the capital, the Rio Negro is falling by an average of 25 centimetres a day. The government has declared a state of emergency in all 62 municipalities.

National COE declares red alert in 15 provinces due to water shortage



Lexis.com.ec, september 20, 2024

Synopsis: Ecuador's National Emergency Operations Committee declared a red alert in 15 provinces of the country after the first day of nightly blackouts due to a water shortage, forest fires and droughts.

Before implementing energy rationing, the Government warned that Ecuador is facing "the worst drought in the last 61 years," which is reflected in the decrease in the flow of rivers, lakes and dams.

Colombia to request security summit with Venezuela and Mexico over Pegasus scandal



laiguana.tv, 09/23/2024

Synopsis: Recent journalistic findings indicate the payment of 11 million dollars by the Colombian Government to NSO Group, the company that creates Israeli spy software, with money allegedly linked to drug trafficking, which is why Colombia has announced its intention to convene a security summit with Venezuela and Mexico, to address the impact of this spy program, which has been linked to the surveillance of governments in the region, such as those of Gustavo Petro, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) and Nicolás Maduro.

Recently, the president of that country, Gustavo Petro, mentioned an investigation that mentions his hiring during the period of former president Iván Duque.

Colombian Senator Antonio Correa pointed out that the software was purchased with the purpose of spying on opponents, human rights defenders and journalists, especially during the 2021 national strike, where dozens of young neighborhood leaders disappeared, stressing that the interference was not limited to Colombia. Also in Mexico, after President López Obrador came to power, and in Venezuela, coinciding with attempts to overthrow the Venezuelan government.

The payment of 11 million dollars would not have been made through bank transfers, but through the transport of cash to Israel.

"What is at stake is the life of President Gustavo Petro and the stability of Colombian democracy," Correa said.

Court CHR condemns Chile for allowing the reduction of sentences for criminals of the dictatorship



RT, september 26, 2024

Synopsis: The Chilean State must compensate the victims of this case with several actions.

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) condemned Chile for allowing members of the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, who committed crimes against humanity, to receive reduced sentences through the so-called "semi-prescription."

The Court notes that the Chilean State acted with "impunity" and violated "the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection to the detriment of 49 victims and the right to personal integrity of 99 relatives" of persons who were disappeared and executed" during the dictatorship (1973-1990), by allowing "the substantial reduction of sentences" of those responsible for 44 victims of forced disappearance and another 5 victims of extrajudicial execution.

The Court also determined that Chile violated, between 2007 and 2010, the right to judicial guarantees, "by not allowing" the participation of relatives "in all stages of the process" that benefited the criminals, "particularly by not allowing them to intervene in the cassation stage before the Second Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice, instance in which the partial prescription was applied."

The UN criticizes the "militarization" in Mexico and Sheinbaum responds

RT, september 20, 2024

Synopsis: While the judicial reform project was being debated in the Chamber of Deputies, the Office in Mexico of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Amnesty International and other organizations argue that it could affect civil rights. The reform contemplates that the National Guard depends on the Ministry of Defense.

The president-elect of Mexico, Claudia Sheinbaum, rejected the criticisms against the constitutional reform, explaining that "They do not have to worry. Human rights will be respected and it is about the strength of an institution, it does not mean militarization, which means that there is a military command making decisions, and in this case it will be the supreme commander of the armed forces; it is a civil power."

How do we know climate change is real?



NASA

Synopsis: According to NASA, there is unequivocal evidence that the Earth is warming at an unprecedented rate, with human activity being the primary cause.

Previously, in the past 800,000 years, there have been eight cycles of ice ages and warmer periods, and the end of the last ice age, about 11,700 years ago, marked the beginning of the modern climate era and human civilization. Most of these climate changes are attributed to very small variations in the Earth's orbit that change the amount of solar energy our planet receives. The presented climate variation graph is based on scientific information from natural sources (such as ice cores, rocks, and tree rings) that show that the Earth's climate responds to changes in greenhouse gas levels, as well as from modern equipment (such as satellites and instruments).

All of this ancient evidence, or paleoclimate, reveals that current warming is occurring about 10 times faster than the average rate of warming after an ice age.

Carbon dioxide from human activities is increasing about 250 times faster than that from natural sources after the last Ice Age.

Compelling signs of rapidly developing climate change are:

- 1) Global temperature is rising,
- 2) The ocean is warming,
- 3) Ice sheets are shrinking,
- 4) Glaciers are disappearing,
- 5) Snow cover is decreasing,
- 6) Sea level is rising,
- 7) Arctic sea ice is declining,
- 8) Extreme events are increasing in frequency,
- 9) Ocean acidification is increasing.

"The White Guard," a documentary that gives voice to land defenders in Mexico



RCI september, 10 2024

Synopsis: The documentary, released in April, shows both the struggle of environmental activists to defend and preserve their lands, as well as the consequences of this, which translate into reprisals that can lead to death, as

revealed by the recent report by the NGO Global Witness, as well as the formation of criminal groups (precisely called "white guards") that are financed by large companies to repress and prevent protests in defense of lands and resources.

The documentary revolves around the lives of people like Roberto de la Rosa, a 72-year-old activist against the Salaverna mine, in Mazapil, in the state of Zacatecas; a displaced family in Chihuahua; a town that suffers threats and tremendous violence in the state of Oaxaca, which is fighting to protect its river; and the Rarámuri indigenous leader Julián Carrillo, murdered in October 2018, defender of the ancestral territories of her community in the Sierra Tarahumara.

The idea was born when they were investigating the issue of the 43 students killed in Ayotzinapa.

They found an area in Guerrero that had been abandoned due to fear of violence, and at the end of a road they saw a huge Canadian mining company, a hole in the mountain.

These are things that are known, it is nothing new, but it is surprising to see it. It is like stepping into a land of the dead, where you feel the violence, but you also find that the business continues. That is how they began to investigate the issue of Canadian companies.

The last thing the Head of the Southern Command said about Venezuela



La iguana TV, 08/28/2024

Synopsis: The head of the United States Southern Command, Laura Richardson, stated at the Fascist Conference of South American Defense in Chile, that now "democracy faces a general siege, treating Venezuela as a mere example of this difficulty", "Democracy and its fundamental values remain under attack globally, in Venezuela Nicolás Maduro continues to undermine the democratic will of the Venezuelan people".

The Venezuelan president "has helped the development of a migration crisis", and the instability of democracy in the Caribbean nation would be evident" she pointed out.

N.R. The military trip to the south to prepare the multinational military intervention in Venezuela, is already yielding the first results: the fascist senates of Chile and Argentina have requested the International Criminal Court to prosecute President Maduro.

Venezuelan scientists advance in stem cell treatments



El Universal 09/17/2024

Synopsis: The Minister of Science, Technology, Education and Health, Gabriela Jiménez, pointed out that with the Center for Regenerative Medicine and the Stem Cell Production Laboratory, it has been possible to provide free care to patients with various conditions, allowing the cultivation of preserved human cells to care for them.

"What we produce in the laboratory is accompanied by different types of cells, which will make dental pulp to recover the nerve through the mouth of the patients; cells that constitute cartilage, bone tissue and also for the epithelium," showing the case of three young Venezuelan athletes who received treatments with bone cells completely free of charge, while in other countries an equivalent intervention amounts to more than 20 thousand dollars.

IVIC director José Quintero reported that more than 120 patients with congenital diseases, bone regeneration, cartilage, etc., have been treated free of charge with stem cells. That experts are working to extend this service to more hospitals in Venezuela.

It will benefit more than 700 families: El Vigía already has the first solar farm



La Iguana.tv, 08/26/2024

Synopsis: In El Vigía, Bubuquí II sector of Mérida state, the first solar panel farm was installed, solar by orientation, which will serve three deep water wells simultaneously, two of 15 horsepower (HP) and one of three HP, as well as 15 hydropneumatic pumping systems to serve more than 3,500 inhabitants of the sector, capturing alternative energy

in accordance with the national electrical system.

In addition, the panel system will benefit a school and a local health center, so that the entire community has access to these basic services. More than eight thousand light bulbs were donated for 720 apartments and 80 solar lights were deployed in this community.

Venezuela: The first plant genetics laboratory of the IVIC Agricultural Biotechnology Center was inaugurated



La Iguana, 08/28/2024

Synopsis: This Wednesday, the first plant genetics laboratory of the Agricultural Biotechnology Center of the Venezuelan Institute of Scientific Research (IVIC) was inaugurated.

It is made up of young researchers in different multidisciplinary areas, and its lines of work are oriented to create plants that are more tolerant and resistant to diseases, adverse environmental conditions such as drought or high salinity, among others, associated with climate change, through the genetic improvement of plants for agricultural purposes, seeking technological independence, food security and sovereignty, to strengthen the scientific-peasant alliance.

The deputy director of IVIC, Dr. David Coll, pointed out to the head of state that this center "has five laboratories to carry out scientific research related to nutrition, health and animal reproduction, as well as culture media and the genetic improvement of plants."

Faced with the end of a tradition: Italians "in panic" over coffee prices



RT, september 15, 2024

Synopsis: Italy is facing growing concerns over the rising price of its iconic coffee, with the cost of espresso potentially rising by as much as two-thirds amid a global surge in prices for the popular brew.

In Italy, an espresso costs 1.20 euros on average and a cappuccino 1.50 euros. The price increase is due to rising inflation in coffee markets, exacerbated by climate change and disruptions in the global supply chain

New painless test could detect skin cancer in seconds

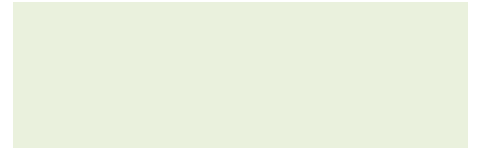


Diario El Universal, 09/17/2024

Synopsis: "Cancer capital of the world" due to its record rates of melanoma

and other forms of skin cancer, a new painless skin cancer screening test called the DermR Patch was developed, which takes just a few seconds to perform, using microneedles that are less than a millimetre long.

This methodology can distinguish which lesions could be potentially cancerous from non-cancerous ones. The author believes that his innovation could be useful for diagnosis in remote areas, where "we are faced with a shortage of specialised personnel, particularly doctors. That is why we believe that our solution is perfect, because it allows nurses and allied health professionals to do it."



The book produced by our Association "The Environment of Collapse", written by our directors Francisco Rafael Gauna and Carlos Enrique Dallmeier, is now available for sale.

In this story, the authors show off an exciting narrative of the adventures of a married couple and their semi-dysfunctional family, where the husband (Martinio) is a member of an environmental protection organization (SIA) and his wife (Amenapa) is an officer of a command opposite to her husband; they, through the use of communication juggling, serve as a backdrop to provide, in an entertaining way, relevant information on each of the topics covered in the work, such as climate change, narrating funny scenes, action, romance, conspiracy, among others, which will make your reading moments of pleasant enjoyment.

