



**Oops...**Just as the **Kyoto** treaty went into effect last month, promising higher energy costs linked with **carbon dioxide** curbs, major scientific journals published papers showing 20<sup>th</sup> century warming is **no big deal**. A paper in *Geophysical Research Letters* makes the case that prior claims of warmest temps in 1,000 years are nonsense; another, in *Nature*, finds that human climate influence is hard to distinguish from natural variability. The U.S. is not bound by Kyoto, but the administration and utilities might opt to regulate anyway. The **Federal budget** may be putting the squeeze on this year's version of a comprehensive **energy bill**. The measure could see a floor vote this month, but House leaders are said to be capping expenditures on **electric reliability** and several other areas—at half-billion dollars over 10 years, an amount possibly below the threshold of detection by congressional radar. **Once a crook...**New evidence shows **Enron** scams started years before the West Coast energy crisis. Within a month after startup of the botched **California** dereg plan, Enron used phony transmission schedules to drive up prices, a small Washington utility claims.