

OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hot dog topic not an issue

Re: *Baby shouldn't have had hotdog, letter to the editor, May 24.*

The No. 1 cause of children choking, according to my first aid instructor, is peanut butter, not hotdogs.

Also, a 17-month old child usually has a relatively large set of teeth by that age and I'm sure he would have worn most of the hotdog.

I'm sure if you look hard enough, you might find something more significant to criticize besides a photo-op such as pollution, crime, global warming etc.

K. TURK
STOUFFVILLE

More efficient cars the answer

Not too many years ago and on more than one occasion, the media revealed the invention of gasoline carburetors, fuel injectors capable of providing mileage of up to 100 kilometres per litre.

Today, we anguish over fuel prices and accept the hopelessness of battling big oil companies and demanding our politicians protect Canadians, who are in the top 10 of world suppliers. We are caught in the web of free trade, thus denying us control over our own resources.

Solution? Canadian and American car-makers should get out of bed with the oil

barons and produce more efficient engines. Hybrid motors do exist at greater cost, but we need to cut the cost of fuel and pollution now.

HERB BELL
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Car parts makers should lower prices

We have a global warming problem and a major cause of this crisis is our use of motor vehicles.

What I don't understand is why it costs so much to maintain your vehicle when it come to emissions?

For instance, a valve for my 1993 Pontiac Bonneville costs \$400. This is a serious part when it comes to emissions.

Why does it cost so much?
I'm just trying to keep my car emissions-friendly.

Also, why do they sell products that say your car will pass if you use them. Why are we cheating the system?

Vehicles cause tons of damage to the environment, but everyone needs to drive and not everyone can afford a new car. I think auto parts makers need to step up and lower prices on these products so people can afford them.

SHAUN ALLAN
NEWMARKET



Debunking climate change myths in media

Despite explosive media coverage about global warming over the past year, most people still have only a very rudimentary knowledge of this complex issue.

Unfortunately, this lack of knowledge has led to persistent myths, which are slowing down real action that could prevent the worst damage from occurring to our economy and to our environment.

Most of us are just too busy to get to the bottom of climate science.

It's undeniably complicated and it's more than most people want to deal with in their daily lives. We all have to worry about our jobs, families and just getting through hectic days.

Global warming is scary and we hope someone does something about it or tells us what to do.

For some, however, doubting the science of global warming has taken on an almost religious zeal.

Those blessed with "knowledge" shake their heads sadly at people who are concerned about a warming planet and are trying to do something about it.

They pontificate about how the public has been misled by a few (usually European) academics who rely on "faulty" computer models, socialist biases or both.

Talking to these people is hard because they come armed with obscure-sounding references about things such as the "medieval warm period," "solar flares" and "hockey stick" graphs.

They seem so sure of themselves that the media still routinely feature these so-called global warming skeptics in opinion articles, TV interviews and, especially, on talk radio.

Media outlets love these guys (yes, they are mostly men and they tend to be the same, often paid, "experts" over and over again) because it stirs things up.

These guys specialize in arguing



David Suzuki

and confusing people, the same way tobacco industry lobbyists did and still do.

Having people argue on talk radio is that medium's bread and butter. And what better way to get people riled up than to have a self-proclaimed expert tell everyone global warming is a myth?

The problem is some people believe it.

Or, more often, it creates just enough doubt for people, includ-

ing politicians, to ignore the issue. And that's dangerous.

Many environmental organizations' websites correct some of the most common myths perpetuated by climate skeptics, but a new resource is the best I've seen yet.

New Scientist, the world's largest general interest science magazine, has a new feature called Climate change: A guide for the perplexed and it debunks 26 of the most common myths about global warming. Available in the latest print edition and free online at www.newscientist.com, the guide is an invaluable resource for separating fact from fiction.

New Scientist journalist Fred Pearce does an impressive job of sifting through the most common misconceptions about global warming, exploring everything from computer models and hockey stick graphs to ice core samples and various temperature readings.

He looks at what the best evidence indicates, as well as what

areas need further research. It's a fascinating piece of work.

And it's badly needed, too. Many governments are still stalling on taking substantial steps to reduce the heat-trapping emissions that are causing global warming.

As the scientific academies representing 13 nations recently wrote in a joint statement on climate protection: "The problem is not yet insoluble, but becomes more difficult with each passing day."

That's why it's so important to debunk these myths and move on. They're slowing us down at a time when delay makes the problem more and more costly and more and more difficult to fix.

If you want to help, read *New Scientist* and arm yourself with knowledge, then tell a friend or, even better, an elected leader and take down these myths once and for all.

Take the Suzuki challenge at www.david-suzuki.org

LETTERS POLICY

The Sun-Tribune welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The Sun-Tribune reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space. Letters to the Editor, The Sun-Tribune, Box 154, Stouffville, ON L4A 7Z5, jmason@yrmg.com

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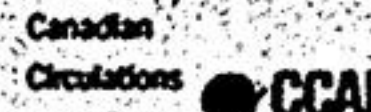
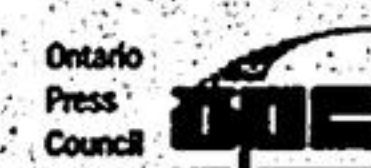
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