Is It Safe To Play Yet?

THE WHOLE TRUTH FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE from National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to harm the Green Space Industry (NORAHG)
Going to Extreme Lengths to Purge Household Toxins

- CHEMOPHOBIA PANIC can — and historically has — led to POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS OUTCOMES and UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES.

- Environmental-terrorists assume that chemicals cause cancer unless you can prove that they don’t.

- Kids are going to spend a life-time being exposed to chemicals — auto exhaust, chlorine, perfume, smoke, soot, soap — they will be fine — parents should just calm down.

- Over the last several years, the level of FEAR, MIS-INFORMATION, and MEDIA HYPE surrounding the use of SAFE CHEMICALS in every-day household products has swelled to a level which must be addressed in detail before this situation gets even further out of hand.

- It is NOT POSSIBLE to prove that a chemical does not cause cancer.
• Obsessing over every item in the home that isn’t « natural » or contains compounds too difficult to pronounce is a waste of time and energy.

• PSEUDO-SCIENCE and FEAR OF PERCEIVED ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS among the public has led to CHEMOPHOBIA.

• Studies may note that chemicals have been detected in people’s bodies, and yet, they FAIL TO IDENTIFY ANY DEFINITIVE ILL EFFECTS.

• The groups with a vested interest in keeping you afraid are NOT A CREDIBLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

• The notion that we are constantly are being bathed in toxins, and that all accumulate in our bodies and do some kind of harm is FAR CICAL.

• The reason that miniscule amounts of chemicals can be measured in our bodies is due to BETTER ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES — not a wholesale poisoning of the public.

• There are certainly real risks in the home, and these should be taken seriously — cleaning products, electrical plugs, medications, and stairs.

• When parents become OBSESSED WITH THE MINUTE RISKS, they often dismiss the REAL ONES.
Is It Safe to Play Yet?

March 15th, 2012

American Council on Science and Health

Responding to The New York Times

Selected and adapted excerpts

American Council on Science and Health (ACSH) is a consumer education–public health organization.

Dr. Elizabeth M. Whelan is President of the American Council on Science and Health (ACSH) and a member of its Board of Trustees. She founded ACSH in 1978. Whelan is a graduate of Connecticut College. She has a Masters’ Degree in Public Health from the Yale School of Medicine, a Master of Science from the Harvard School of Public Health, and a Doctor of Science from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Josh Bloom is the Associate Director of the American Council on Science and Health (ACSH). Bloom is an organic chemist, and has worked in the pharmaceutical industry for about twenty years.

Dr. Gilbert L. Ross is the Executive Director and Medical Director of the American Council on Science and Health (ACSH). He received his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Cornell University’s School of Arts and Sciences in 1968, and received his M.D. from the N.Y.U. School of Medicine in 1972.
Do They Make Hazmat Onesies?

« Is It Safe to Play Yet? » asks a New York Times feature on the increasing paranoia of a certain demographic of parents when it comes to the perceived threat of « household toxins ».

A photo image of a toddler in a TINY HAZMAT SUIT illustrates numerous anecdotes of concerned mothers and fathers, who all but dismantle their homes in an effort to purge the nursery and beyond of anything remotely chemical.

The NOTORIOUSLY ALARMIST Environmental Working Group is mentioned throughout the New York Times feature.

The feature itself is exhausting, suggesting the all-consuming vigilance that a growing number of parents experience.

But of course, eliminating all « chemicals » is a task doomed to failure.

The SCARE PIECE’s catalogue of toxic substance data-bases and suspect products VERGES ON THE ABSURD.

And, in between long paragraphs of reporting from the CULTURE OF TOXIC SCARES, Times writer Michael Tortorello is not unaware of this absurdity —

So the world is a toxic cesspool and it’s poisoning our children.

What to do about it?
Do They Make Hazmat Onesies?  
(continued)

Tortorello then launches into the recommended ARSENAL OF TOXIC SCARE RESOURCES, which, he acknowledges, could lead you to « scrutinizing Japanese lab studies on prenatal rats ».

As Dr. Elizabeth M. Whelan observes —

*When parents become OBSESSED WITH THESE MINUTE RISKS, they often dismiss the REAL ONES.*

And Dr. Gilbert L. Ross adds —

*These are very likely the same parents who aren’t vaccinating their kids.*

There are certainly real risks in the home, and these should be taken seriously.

For instance, covering electrical plugs, installing gates at the top and bottom of stairs, and locking cabinets that contain cleaning products or medications are all important precautions parents should take.

But obsessing over every item in the home that isn’t « natural » or contains compounds too difficult to pronounce is a waste of time and energy.
Many things in life make me crazy.
It doesn't take much, as anyone that knows me will confirm.

So, it is no surprise that the feature article in last week’s Times called « Is It Safe to Play Yet? » did the job.

But it happened before the end of second sentence.

And that takes something special.

Things certainly have changed since I was a kid.

People had a slightly different idea of the meaning of the word « safe ».

Biking to school ( no helmet ) through a Superfund toxic waste site with a bottle of Jack Daniels in one hand and boa constrictor wrapped around your neck seemed perfectly fine.
Who knew?

Perhaps we are much safer now.

But also much less sane.

The Times article first described the efforts made by a pregnant woman to prevent her baby from being exposed to any chemical.

So, she tossed out pretty much everything in the house, including her makeup, shampoo and detergents.

She was even worried that the plastic stickers decorating the nursery were toxic and irritating to the lungs, because they were made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

Except it’s all wrong.

A little fact check ...

Vinyl chloride is a toxic, irritating gas used to make PVC.

I know this.

I got a whiff of it a few times during my career — most unpleasant.

But vinyl chloride and polyvinyl chloride are NOT EVEN REMOTELY THE SAME, except for the names.
PVC is a white powder that can be made into all kinds of plastics, including your plumbing, vinyl siding, and a good deal of your car. PVC has been in use since the 1950s.

It is impossible to avoid, which is fine, since it is harmless.

Naturally, the more the woman read, the scarier every label got, leading her to the internet, which, in turn led her to the web site of the Environmental Working Group (EWG) — a very vocal and extremely activist organization, that appears to be against all physical matter on earth.

I don’t know what their charter says, but I suspect it looks something like this —

1. Assume that chemicals cause cancer unless you can prove that they don’t.

2. It is NOT POSSIBLE to prove that a chemical doesn’t cause cancer.

3. See #1.

And this woman is not alone.

People who apparently listen to too many TV celebrities are flocking to sites like healthychild.org, and healthystuff.org, to ensure that their babies are exposed to absolutely nothing that sounds threatening.
Some of the big no–nos these days are rubber ducks, perfume, plastic and steel (!) utensils, pajamas and frying pans.

Even cribs are now dangerous ...

Untreated, «formaldehyde-free» wood cribs hand–made by the Amish are the latest rage.

Sorry guys, but the amount of formaldehyde coming out of a normal crib, if any, would be so miniscule that it could never be measured.

And even if a smidgen of formaldehyde somehow made it into your body, it is gone in 5 minutes.

Some environmental changes have been real success stories, like removing lead from gasoline.

That was a real risk.

But this notion that we are constantly are being bathed in toxins, and that all accumulate in our bodies and do some kind of harm is FARCICAL.

The reason that miniscule amounts of chemicals can be measured in our bodies is due to BETTER ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES — not a wholesale poisoning of the American public.
The Land of the Free, and the Home of the Neurotic (continued)

My current favorite fad is the obsession with «green» non-toxic detergent made from baking soda and vinegar.

When the two are mixed another chemical is formed called sodium acetate.

Is that dangerous?

No.

But it doesn’t clean anything either.

And if you’re tempted to make some, consider the experiment below (not recommended):

1. Take a half-full bottle of vinegar
2. Pour in a bunch of baking soda
3. Close bottle and shake thoroughly, making sure you hold it really close to your face
4. Retrieve your head from the tree above you 😊

Your kids are going to spend a life-time being exposed to chemicals: auto exhaust, smoke, soot, chlorine, soap, perfume.

They will be fine.

Just calm down.

The groups with a vested interest in keeping you afraid are NOT A CREDIBLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION.
The WISDOM of REAL Experts

Elizabeth M. Whelan and
American Council on Science and Health

Scared to Death
How Chemophobia Threatens Public Health

January 18th, 2011
Jon Entine
American Council for Science and Health

The American Council on Science and Health (ACSH) is pleased to announce the release of a new book and companion-friendly, abbreviated position paper, SCARED TO DEATH: HOW CHEMOPHOBIA THREATENS PUBLIC HEALTH.

The book is authored by Jon Entine, a scholar with the American Enterprise Institute and highly regarded science journalist.

In response to the growing level of CHEMOPHOBIA — the irrational fear of chemicals — among the American public, ACSH compiled this resource book and position to educate legislators, industry, media, consumers and parents on the actual risks of chemical exposure and use in everyday products.

According to Dr. Elizabeth M. Whelan, President of American Council on Science and Health —

Over the last several years, the level of FEAR, MIS-INFORMATION, and MEDIA HYPE surrounding the use of SAFE CHEMICALS in every-day household products has swelled to a level which we feel must be addressed in detail before this situation gets even further out of hand.
According to Dr. Elizabeth M. Whelan —

**PSEUDO-SCIENCE** and **FEAR OF PERCEIVED ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS** among the public has led to what we call **CHEMOPHOBIA**.

Keeping in mind that exposure does not necessarily equate to risk, activists and some in the media have led Americans to believe that chemicals are not to be trusted in our environment — even those with fifty or more years record of safe use.

This kind of panic can — and historically has — led to **PO-TENTIALLY DANGEROUS OUTCOMES** and **UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES**.

A perfect example of this over-hyped media misconception is the recent release of Environmental Health Perspectives on pregnant women.

The study merely notes that chemicals have been detected in women’s bodies.

Yet, it **FAILS TO IDENTIFY ANY DEFINITIVE ILL EFFECTS**.
CHILDREN Are NOT At Risk

Anti–Pesticide PROHIBITION Leads to DISMAL and DANGEROUS GARBAGE DUMP Playing Surfaces for CHILDREN
It requires wisdom
to understand wisdom

The music is nothing
if the audience is deaf
We are living in the 9/11 Era of Anti Pesticide Terrorism where at least ONE SUBVERSIVE ACT OF TERROR is Perpetrated EVERY SINGLE DAY by enviro lunatics.

We are living in the DARK AGE OF ANTI PESTICIDE TERRORISM where sound science is trumped by FAKE SCIENTISTS, JUNK SCIENCE and UNVERIFIABLE SECRET EVIDENCE through FABRICATION, INNUENDO, and INTERNET RUMOUR — scientific research PROVES that pest control products CAUSE NO HARM and can be USED SAFELY.

NORAHG is the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to harm the Green space industry.

NORAHG morally represents the VAST SILENT MAJORITY of people associated with turf and ornamental plant maintenance who are OPPOSED to Anti Pesticide PROHIBITION and the CLOSURE of green spaces under the RIDICULOUS PRETEXT of somehow « saving » the environment.

NORAHG is a NATIONAL NON PROFIT NON PARTISAN organization that does not accept money from corporations or governments or trade associations, and represents NO VESTED INTERESTS WHATSOEVER.

NORAHG is dedicated to reporting the work of RESPECTED and HIGHLY RATED EXPERTS who promote ENVIRONMENTAL REALISM and PESTICIDE TRUTHS.

Anti Pesticide HUJE are enviro lunatics and lawn haters who particularly DESPISE the golf industry — they are Hateful Underhanded Jokes as Environmentalists who have been WRONG FOR OVER 50 YEARS.

There is NO RE COURSE but LITIGATION against Anti Pesticide HUJE.

Another RE COURSE is to SEEK the CANCELLATION of GOVERNMENT GRANTS and RE VO CATION of the TAX EXEMPT STATUS of Anti Pesticide Organizations.

HUJE should Get OFF Our grass, and they should Roast In Hell.

NORAHG manages the Library of Force Of Nature Reports and References, which is a VAST ARCHIVE of REPORTS, MEDIA REFERENCES, AUDIO CLIPS, and VIDEOS on ALL Anti Pesticide Terrorist Acts of Subversion.

The purpose of this ARCHIVE is to provide information that will lead to a SUCCESSFUL LITIGATION AGAINST Anti–Pesticide Organizations.

All names, statements, activities, and affiliations have been ARCHIVED for the intention of eventual CRIMINAL CHARGES.

When CRIMINAL CHARGES for FRAUD and CONSPIRACY are laid, legal experts say that the ARCHIVE is sufficient to lead to a SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION !

NORAHG also produces FORCE OF NATURE, reports that present THE WHOLE TRUTH FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE about environmental issues, including anti pesticide terrorism.

FORCE OF NATURE is a series of reports destined for the green space industry, the environmental terrorist movement, governments, and the media, nationwide across Canada, the United States, and overseas.

FORCE OF NATURE is committed to SOUND SCIENCE, as well as ground breaking original reporting that informs, entertains, and creates real change.

The Force Of Nature Series of Reports — Agriculture • ALBERTA Conspiracy • Bee Colony Collapse Disorder • Bee Colony Collapse Disorder • Benefits of the Turfgrass Industry • Beyond Pesticides • Books That Screwed Up the World • BRITISH COLUMBIA Conspiracy • Canadian Cancer Society • Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment • CARNAGE and Consequences of Lunatic Terrorist Prohibition • Controversial Prohibitions • Culprits of the Prohibition Conspiracy • Daffodils, Toxic Pesticide Treated Flowers Soaked Formaldehyde • Dating Services for Enviro Maniacs • David Suzuki Foundation • DDT and Our World of Politicized Science • Death and Illness (Alleged) • Departure Letters • Ecojustice Canada • Energy Sector • Environmental Terrorists UNMASKED • Environmental Terrorist Organizations • Enviro PROFIT • Environmental Defence • FAILURE of IPM, Pesticide Manufacturers, Prohibition, Trade Associations • Famous Quotations About Enviro Lunatics • Fertilizer TERROR • Food and Farming • Get Off Our grass • Global Warming, The Scam of Our Lifetime • Glyphosate Herbicide • Golf Industry • Green Alternatives • Green Party • Halloween Terror • Happy Holidays • Health Canada • Health Concerns with Pest Control Products • Heroes Speaking Out Against Environmental Terror • History of Environmental Terror in Canada • History of the Turfgrass Industry • Letters to the Editor • LIARS and Lying Sacks of (Enviro Maniac) Cwap • Mock Advertisements • Mock Speeches • Myth BUSTING • NATIONAL Prohibition • NEW BRUNSWICK Conspiracy • NO Prohibition Exception for AGRICULTURE Industry • NO Prohibition Exception for GOLF Industry • NOVA SCOTIA Conspiracy • North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) • ONTARIO Conspiracy, Haven For Environmental Terrorists • Ontario College of Family Physicians • Organic Golf Courses • Organic Maintenance • Organizations of the Prohibition Conspiracy •
The information presented in FORCE OF NATURE has been developed for the education and entertainment of the reader by providing a sequence of events WITH COMMENTARY, striving for accuracy in history, politics, and science.

FORCE OF NATURE is TOTALLY INDEPENDENT and provides NO guarantee regarding accuracy or completeness. In no event shall FORCE OF NATURE be liable for any incidental or consequential damages, lost profits, or any indirect damages.

NORAHG also produces A LOOK AT, a series of reports providing TECHNICAL INFORMATION on issues such as Career Management, Golf Course Maintenance, Green Alternatives, Summer Stress, Turfgrass Pests, and Turfgrass Species.

Finally, NORAHG frequently responds to anti pesticide activists in LETTERS TO THE EDITOR in newspapers across Canada and around the world.

All information, excerpts, and pictures contained in FORCE OF NATURE, A LOOK AT, and LETTERS TO THE EDITOR were retrieved from the Internet, and may be considered in the public domain.

Mr. Gathercole is now retired, although his name continues to appear as founder.

Here is a brief summary of Mr. Gathercole's career —

Fields of study — Horticulture/Agriculture, Mathematics, Physics

Alma mater — McGill University • University of Guelph • the first person ever to obtain university degrees and contribute to both the professional lawn care and golf maintenance industries

Expertise in — environmental issues and anti pesticide terrorism • turf and ornamental maintenance and troubleshooting • history of the industry • sales and distribution of seeds, chemicals, fertilizers, and equipment • fertilizer manufacturing and distribution

Notable activities — worked in virtually all aspects of the green space industry, including golf, professional lawn care, distribution, environmental compliance, government negotiations, public affairs, and workplace safety • supervisor, consultant, and, programer for the successful execution of hundreds of thousands of management operations in the golf and urban landscape, as well as millions of pest control applications • advisor, instructor, and trainer for thousands of turf and ornamental managers and technicians • pesticide certification instructor for thousands of industry workers • founder of the modern professional lawn care industry • prolific writer for industry publications and e-newsletters • first to confirm the invasion of European Chafer insect in both the Montreal region and the Vancouver / Fraser Valley region • with Dr. Peter Dernoeden, confirmed the presence of Take All Patch as a disease of turf in Eastern Canada • with Dr. David Shetlar, confirmed the presence of Kentucky Bluegrass Scale as an insect pest in South Western Ontario, and later, in the Montreal and Vancouver regions

Special contributions — creator of the exception status that has allowed the golf industry to avoid being subjected to anti pesticide prohibition • creator of the signs that are now used for posting after application • co-founder of annual winter convention for Quebec golf course superintendents • the major influence in the decision by Canadian Cancer Society to stop selling for profit pesticide treated daffodils • the only true reliable witness of the events of anti pesticide prohibition in the town of Hudson, Quebec • retired founder of FORCE OF NATURE and A LOOK AT reports

Notable award — the very first man of the year for contributions leading to the successful founding of Quebec professional lawn care industry, which served as a beach-head against anti pesticide activists in the 1980s and 1990s

Legacy — Mr. Gathercole and his colleagues ... designed and implemented strategies that reined anti pesticide activists to provide peace and prosperity for the entire modern green space industry across Canada • orchestrated legal action against anti pesticide activists in the town of Hudson, Quebec • launched the largest founding professional lawn care business in Canada • quadrupled the business revenues of one of the largest suppliers in Canada

Mr. Gathercole is now retired, although his name continues to appear as founder of FORCE OF NATURE and A LOOK AT reports.

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