where's baby?
Look before you lock.

Dear Editor:

I recently read that (LOCAL ORGANIZATION) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration are working to boost vehicular heatstroke education and prevention efforts around the country. I hope everyone in our community will take this opportunity to learn about how to prevent a child from dying of heatstroke in a hot vehicle.

Since a young child's body temperature may spike up to five times faster than an adult's would, heatstroke can happen quickly, and the consequences are tragic. In fact, a child dies nearly every 10 days from vehicular heatstroke. And even if the child survives the ordeal, they can suffer catastrophic and permanent injuries such as blindness or brain damage.

The signs of heatstroke can include red, hot and moist or dry skin; no sweating; dizziness; nausea; confusion; a strong, rapid pulse or a slow, weak pulse; or grouchy, erratic or unusual behavior.

If you see a child alone in a hot vehicle, call the police. If they are in distress due to heat, get them out as quickly as possible. Cool the child rapidly (not an ice bath but by spraying them with cool water or with a garden hose). Visit www.safercar.gov/heatstroke for more information, because kids in hot cars are a deadly combination.

Sincerely,
[NAME]
[HOMETOWN]