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'Sciencey nonsense'

In 'The Sound of Science' (Opinion Section, Jan. 6), Timothy Caulfield encourages scientists to speak out about bogus "sciencey nonsense."

Then, in 'A Clean Slate' (Pursuits Section) in the same edition of The Globe and Mail, we read that "Clear quartz is known as the master healer. It draws out negative energy and balances your body, your chakras and your immune system."

I have investigated the physical properties of quartz and other types of crystals for more than 40 years. None "draw out negative energy and balance your body." While quartz crystals are beautiful and have many applications (quartz is used to make accurate timepieces and optical devices, for example), they do not have magical healing powers.

My thanks to Mr. Caulfield for the push to speak out.

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