

Playing with corn husk masks is a serious matter, says chief

As a Mohawk Chief, representing one member of the Six Nations, I am writing to you to display my sympathy to the Brantford Expositor for its ignorance of our first nations culture, especially in regards to your caption "Husky Mask."

My sympathy is extended to you because your paper lacks the knowledge and understanding of a very unique and very old culture. But what appears more obvious is the fact that you, as an informer for people, did not take the time to learn and understand.

The significance of the corn husk mask develops from an event which concerned our people. The event was the dis-

appearance of our people whenever they neared a certain undeveloped stream. A Spirit appeared before our people and instructed them how to utilize the corn husk mask to frighten the creature, which was harming the people. Our people abided by the Spirit's words and the creature disappeared.

Therefore, the corn husk mask is a symbol of great respect and admiration. Those wearing or abusing it must dedicate time to a special society representing the medicine of the corn husk mask.

If your paper was informed of the significance and power which the corn husk mask represents

and of the Six Nation's religious beliefs, then such articles as the one you produced would not occur.

I am sure the Indonesians as well as the President of the Brant County Historical Society would have appreciated the correct interpretation of the corn husk mask.

Hopefully, people will start to take the time to learn and understand. It does not hurt.

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Editor's note: The Expositor has learned, and wishes to apologize for giving offence.