

Editor's Mail

Readers object to columnist's depiction of holiday

Dear Editor;

Re: "Cultural co-existence lets cardmakers spread holiday mirth," by Bruce Stapley, Dec. 26 issue.

As educators, we are cognizant of the need to respect the beliefs and practices of the various religions that constitute our multi-cultural society.

And, indeed, we recognize the need to "compromise and share," giving equal opportunity for the expression of diverse faiths.

However, we strongly object to the dilution and commercialization of significant religious festivals in an effort to "culturally co-exist."

In his article, Bruce Stapley referred more than once to the "dear" traditions of his "Christian-Scots heritage," and expressed his appreciation for

the abilities of cardmakers and friends to successfully "mix" such Christian traditions with his wife's Jewish traditions.

Apparently, though, Mr. Stapley has forgotten that "the chubby guy in the red suit," and "the Christmas tree ... laden with ornaments and lights" really have nothing to do with Christian significance of Christmas.

Christmas is about the advent of Christ, believed by Christians to be God incarnate, come to redeem the world. It would seem, then, that Mr. Stapley hasn't compromised his beliefs if his beliefs are in the likes of Santa Claus.

But if he espouses the Christian religion and its traditions, as he claims to, then what has become of the celebration of Christ's birth that is the foun-

ation of this holiday season for Christians?

Mr. Stapley is not the sole source of our discontent concerning the watering down of religious traditions, particularly Christian ones.

In an effort to be "less offensive" to people of other faiths,

Christians have allowed (compromised, in Mr. Stapley's words) Christmas to be reduced to jolly old Santa Claus, "whooshing down the chimney," delivering presents under an ornamented tree. One only has to attend a "holiday concert" (we'll ignore the irony in such a

label, considering the root of the word holiday) in a public school, or shop in a local mall to see that this is so.

Now, more than ever, there is a need for Christians to share the story of the birth of Christ, since we have "made light of the trappings" and indeed "compromised our beliefs."

Paula and Blair Pike
Stouffville

Santa, Diane made Christmas bright

Dear Editor;

Many thanks to Santa, Dianne Peak and the Stouffville Progress Club for your Christmas gifts and visit.

Thank you also to the Lions club for the lovely bus trip to see the lights and to Parkview Home for the Aged for the yummy refreshments.

The tenants of 325 Elm Road want you to know how much we appreciate your kindness.

Florence Pearce,
Stouffville

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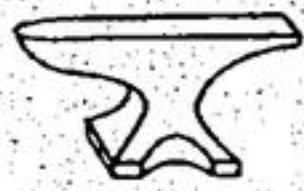
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