

Happy Chanukah Song provides a belly laugh

Anyone listening to MIX 99.9 on the radio last Wednesday morning a little after 8 a.m. would have been privy to our household's contribution to ecumenical holiday good cheer.

The occasion was my wife Susan's brief fling with air waves fame. Having heard comic actor Adam Sandler's rather hilarious Chanukah Song the previous morning, she called in to inquire whether they planned to play the song again.

She soon found herself on the air explaining how she was one of a handful of Jews in her little town, and that it would be nice to hear Sandler's tune again in the interests of equal time.

This little ditty, for those who may not yet have heard it, is intended as a rather light-hearted source of solace for Jewish people who might be inclined to feel left out because they're the only ones on the street without a Christmas tree in their living rooms.

As Susan jokingly pointed out during her on air chat with the station's morning man Rob Christie, she is indeed an M.O.T. That stands for "Member of the Tribe", as in the Jewish people scattered all over the earth with a common descendancy to the happy lot which escaped enslavement in Egypt several thousand years back.

But she delights in gleaning the best of both worlds, decorating the house with the trappings of Christmas and Chanukah with the coming of December each year.

When she first heard Sandler's Chanukah offering the day before her radio debut, she was both understandably pleased and immensely amused. Not only was her side getting a little air play, but Sandler's comic inanity was enough to bring on a major belly laugh.

Sandler, he of the wacky temperament and 400-yard golf drive in the flick Happy Gilmore, sets out to offer a musical tribute to stars of the entertainment and sporting worlds who are fully, half, or even a little bit Jewish. The rhyming scheme often gets stretched beyond all levels of poetic licence.



From
Where
I Live

Bruce Stapley

As in, "The owner of the Seattle Super Sonic-ahs... Celebrates Chanukah."

After declaring in more off beat rhyme that James Caan, Kirk Douglas, the Fonz of Happy Days fame, Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock of Star Trek all light the menorah at Chanukah, he goes on to declare who isn't Jewish. "Some people think that Ebenezer Scrooge is. Well he's not, but guess who is - all Three Stooges!"

See what I mean about the rhyming scheme?

He gets your attention when he starts out a verse with, "O.J. Simpson," followed by a pregnant pause, after which he relieves the tension by saying reassuringly, "NOT a Jew." He then proceeds to complete the verse with, "But guess who is - Hall of Famer Rod Carew!", adding a "he converted" as a postscript regarding the Black American ex-baseball star.

"So many Jews are in show biz," he continues. "Tom Cruise isn't, but I heard his agent is!" And so on ad riotous infinitum.

He's not above hypothesizing with regards to the sum of various parts in the interest of aesthetics. "Paul Newman's half Jewish, Goldie Hawn is too. Put them together, what a fine looking Jew!"

The best, though, is left to the end. "So drink your gin and 'tonica', and smoke your 'marijuanaica', if you really really 'wanica', have a happy, happy, happy, happy Chanukah!"

It doesn't get much sillier than that. I guess that's why it hit such a resounding chord in our zany, two-faithed household.

Oh yes. And here's wishing all the non-Jews out there a Merry Christmas as well!

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH: YOUR COLLECTION WILL OCCUR ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27TH.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26TH: YOUR COLLECTION WILL OCCUR ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 29TH.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST: YOUR COLLECTION WILL OCCUR ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 2ND.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2ND: YOUR COLLECTION WILL OCCUR ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 3RD.

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