Ms. Holcomb

Imagine Prep Surprise

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The Vancouver Sun

#1 – 200 Granville Street

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Dear Ms. Lakritz

I am writing to you in regards to your article “Opinion: There are many reasons to ban Halloween: Where should I start?” published in the Vancouver Sun in October of 2015. You claim this article is a response to a letter your read in another newspaper and felt the need to respond to. The letter in question suggested moving Halloween to the Saturday closest to the 31st. In response, you suggested an all-out ban on the holiday. Well, Ms. Lakritz, there are many reasons why your arguments simply don’t withstand. Where should *I* start?

The original letter from the Calgary Herald stated many well-thought reasons for moving Halloween to a Saturday. It would be less stressful for parents and provide more opportunity for children to recover from the excitement before returning to school. Your response? That a Saturday celebration would overload the police department with the “cost in time and manpower.” But I have to ask, what is happening in your town on Halloween that requires that much police attention? You mention teens egging, vandalizing, and causing “usual Halloween havoc,” but if the havoc is so “usual,” wouldn’t the police have taken this into account in their yearly budget and weekly scheduling? I would also like to point out how boldly you are stereotyping teenagers. When I was a teenager, my primary concern on Halloween was visiting as many houses as possible. The whole goal was to get free candy, not to antagonize my neighbors with silly shenanigans.

Since you feel that a Saturday Halloween is “the worst possible idea,” you instead propose a ban on the entire holiday. After all, that would end all of those tiresome debates about costumes and candy. What a great idea! Since there are no more children dressed as jailbirds, there will be no more need for prisons. Those kids won’t think that being a prisoner is an acceptable profession. I certainly look forward to that future! You then claim that with no Halloween there will be no more advice from experts to hand out healthy alternatives to candy such as celery and toothbrushes. You even say that people who do these things deserve to be vandalized. Basically, you are saying that vandalism is one of the major issues with Halloween and then encouraging it for rather trivial things, like trying to end cavities or childhood obesity. In fact, I would argue that parents who have children with special dietary needs would probably be grateful for something other than candy just because it means their child can participate in the holiday.

Speaking of participating, you seem to be under the impression that adults are taking over Halloween, “co-opting it for themselves.” I have to say, I’m curious about how one can co-opt a holiday. Isn’t the point of a holiday to celebrate with friends and family. Who cares if adults are out and dressed as coke cans? Not only is their decision, but a lot of parents like dressing up with their children. One new trend is to have family costumes where every-one coordinates. One of the highlights of my childhood was Halloween. All of my cousins and aunts and uncles would come over to get ready. Everyone would dress up, even adults. I used to love seeing what creative disguises or clever costumes everyone had come up with. Even as an adult, I enjoy the escape-reality aspect of dressing up on Halloween. It isn’t pointless, as you say. Rather, it is an opportunity to showcase creativity, ingenuity, and, perhaps, true identity. How many other days of the year can I dress as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ without being stared down? I have to say, while Trix may be for kids, Halloween is for everyone.

I will concede that trick-or-treating is a nuisance. I do not, however, agree that you have to leave or be sentenced to house arrest with an incessantly ringing doorbell driving you towards insanity. There are many solutions to your problematic little trick-or-treaters. Leave a bowl of candy for people to take. If you are concerned with people taking it all, leave an empty bowl with a note. I promise, no one will know! If neither of these suit your fancy, try simply unplugging your doorbell and leaving a sign. This prevents you from having to feign interest in drooling toddlers dressed as pumpkins or listening to shouts of “trick-or-treat” from over-ealous six-year-olds. If you are so set on being an old curmudgeon, then be one, but don’t attempt to take away the traditions and memories from others who enjoy the holiday and all it has to offer.

Regards,

Ms. Holcomb

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