

Buses do little to control sprawl

Re BRT works well furl GO steeds buses
Letter, Dec. 26.

GO Transit's pick of bus rapid transit (BRT) over light rail transit (LRT) technology will only perpetuate the green house-gas-contributing sprawl that characterizes Toronto.

There is scant evidence that BRT will attract walkable, people-friendly commercial and residential development near stations. A bus is, and to day's busway is tomorrow's congested highway. Seattle has an extensive bus lane network, including a bus tunnel, and its suburban development impact has been nil.

In contrast, LRT systems even in car-loving Texas have attracted transit-oriented development because trains are attractive and permanent. The phenomenally successful DART system in Dallas brought in more than \$900 million U.S. in development through 2001.

The sprawl reduction, driver attraction and pollution-reducing benefits of LRT may well exceed the higher capital costs. A study performed by the Victoria Transport Policy Institute found that LRT would deliver \$742 million in net benefits, after subtracting for construction costs, compared with \$316 mil-

Disposable needles are safer

Re Scared for the future
Dec. 22.

It's sad to learn that we still have acupuncture practitioners in Toronto using unsafe needles on patients. However, acupuncture with or without regulation its Ontario is still relatively safer than other invasive medical treatments, based on studies. These include recent studies published in the *British Medical Journal*, one of them based oft 32,000 treatments, which revealed no serious side effects. But we would advise the public to use common sense. Do not accept any treatment given by acupuncture practitioners not using disposable needles.

Dr. Palden Carson
President of the World
Tung's
Acupuncture Association
Toronto

Looking after disabled children

Re *Latimer has suffered enough*
Letter, Dec. 21.

It was interesting to note that Andrea Vincent believes Robert Latimer "had the courage to end the life of his daughter" while in another part of the paper I read

Pale imitation Of multiculturalism

Re 'Met-ry Christmas' left et bad feeling
Letter, Dec. 27.

While writing her letter, Alexandra Shand perhaps inadvertently highlighted a crucial point in the controversy involving the simple phrase "Merry Christmas."

Shared ended her letter with the sentence, "It would be great to see your paper try to display holiday wishes to more than the white Anglo-Saxon grout."

It may be helpful to note that Christianity, like Islam, is a cross-cultural religion and is not restricted to European nations. In fact, the GTA boasts one of the highest concentrations of Chinese Christians outside of their home nations. It is simplistic, and an outright affront to many Christians, to describe Christianity in this manner.

What Shared has shoran is not uncommon in Canada. While we trumpet our belief in multi-very few of us actually reach out beyond our overt communities. Instead, we make generalizations and assumptions about others, despite the proximity offered by Canadian society. True multiculturalism is when we accept each other without disguise and can celebrate all our festivals without

What's the role of Credit Suisse?

Re *Canadian grotty buys Bruce Power*
Dec. 24.

Earlier this fall, Credit Suisse (Premier Ernie Eves, recent) Was hired by the British government to advise it on how to handle bankrupt British Energy. Nom we arc advised that British government's rescue of British Energy was conditional on the sale of Bruce Power. V did it take three months for the conditions to be common knowledge?

Curious, isn't it? Credit Suisse flags the stocks of energy producers while providing advice on handling these same companies to governments around the globe. How much will this advice cost Ontario electricity consumers taxpayers? Or is that the surprise? Maybe Eves could give his friends at Credit Suisse a call and then let us know.

Janet L. Seabrook, Mississauga
Mississauga

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Dec. 2•I.

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