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Was the press to blame?

No one is certain whether the paparazzi that swarmed Princess Diana and Dodi Al Fayed's Mercedes the night of the deadly crash caused the crash directly, but they are the one's that are being blamed. Indeed the car did speed to avoid photographers and just hours after the crash the French police rounded up seven of the photographers for questioning. Someone should've questioned the driver of the Mercedes about the amount of liquor that he had consumed that night before he drove under the influence (It has been reported that the driver also had traces of prescription drugs in his system).

Paquita Herring

The Italian word "paparazzi" means "buzzing insects. Photographers that stalked Diana were far more than annoying insects but they certainly were not murderers. I don't agree that the bounty hunters should've photographed that tragic scene (just as they did Enis Cosby, Bill Cosby's son and Nicole Brown Simpson, O.J. Simpson's ex-wife).

One thing is for certain, Princess Diana's death has caused many intrusive photographers to feel guilty. And maybe the public—which now feels chastised by the loss of a princess—will feel less aroused by the falsehoods of tabloid news which real news eradicates.

The opinion expressed in this column is that of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Bennett Banner staff.



THE BENNETT BANNER

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Student Opinion Poll:

Bellespeak

What is your opinion about Davidson County in North Carolina not adopting Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a legal holiday?

Photos by Camisha Gentry. Davidson County remains one of the only six counties in the state that has not declared Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a holiday. The Davidson County Board of Commissions voted unanimously Aug. 26 against creating a holiday for county employees, stating that economics not race was the reason they voted against the holiday.



LAQUITTA MEDLEY
FRESHWOMAN
MAJOR: NURSING/
ALLIED HEALTH
HOME STATE: NORTH CAROLINA

Martin Luther King Jr. accomplished a lot of great things during his lifetime. It would be such a shame not to celebrate his birthday.



AISHA SHAMSIDDEN
FRESHWOMAN
MAJOR: COMPUTER SCI.
HOME STATE: NEW YORK

This is a pitiful form of disrespect toward Martin Luther King Jr., his struggles and the African-American community. If the birthdays of white men are noted and celebrated, why can't a black man's birthday?



SHALAI DAVIS
SOPHOMORE
MAJOR: BIOLOGY
HOME STATE: MARYLAND

I am outraged that this man [MLK] dedicated his life for the equality of everyone, by means of peace. He should be commended and recognized for his never-ending loyalty concerning the unity of all people.



LATASHA GRESHAM
SOPHOMORE
MAJOR: DIETETICS
HOME STATE: MARYLAND

I am very angry because this man [MLK] not only stood for the civil rights of black people but all people. This lack of recognition [of his birthday] shows how racism exists in America, unless black people continue to fight for our rights.



SANNYU N. McDONALD
SOPHOMORE
MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY
HOME STATE: CONNECTICUT

I consider the Davidson County's refusal a slap in the face considering the amount of black people that live there, move there, or go to school there. It is immature, disrespectful, and inconsiderate.



CRYSTAL COX
FRESHWOMAN
MAJOR: ELEM. ED.
HOME STATE: TEXAS

People should wake up and stop living in the past. If it is so difficult for them to recognize King's birthday, than they should go on with their regular tasks. Those of us who wish to celebrate or honor King, should do so.