

• OPINION • OPINION • OPINION • OPINION • OPINION •

What Christmas truly means to me

Growing up the Christmas season was always my favorite. To go downstairs early in the morning and see what Santa left me was always my incentive. The cookies and milk were always gone and so was the note my younger brother left. I was nine when I caught my parents downstairs.

They sat me down and told me that Santa Claus wasn't all there was to celebrate that day. My mom said that I should continue to be thankful for the things I already had and grateful for the things

KENYA A. SAMUELS
Editor

underneath the tree. My dad told me that Christmas wasn't all about competing with your friends to see who got the best presents, and being out of school for a couple of

weeks. In time I learned that the commercialization of the season has taken away its true meaning. The day after Thanksgiving is a prime example. The massive proportions of Christmas trees bought that day has reached massive numbers. The hoards of people going in and out of stores to start their holiday shopping, stopping at nothing to get the perfect gift is ridiculous. People haven't let their turkey digest and they are already worried about how to get the last "tickle me Elmo" for their children.

Many people think the celebration of the birth of Christ is the true meaning of the season. There are also some who say that He wasn't born Dec. 25. Then there are those who don't celebrate Christmas at all. Regardless, there is a day set aside for people to come together once again and reflect on the year.

The true meaning of the Christmas season to me is family. They are the ones who will continue to be by my side through everything I endeavor. Families are a celebration of life regardless of whose life it is.

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

THE BENNETT BANNER

The newspaper produced by and for the Phenomenal Women of Bennett College

EDITORS
KENYA A. SAMUELS Editor
NAIMA Q. BARBOUR News Editor

EDITORIAL STAFF
DEANNA HARRIS Features
ERISHA LIPFORD Briefings, KUDOS & Herstory
SAMANTHA MOREY President's Office
RUNGANO NYAJEKA Natural, Behavioral & Social Sciences
KRIISHAL A. PANTON Graphics Editor
JANISHA THOMAS Sports
MONYA TOMLINSON Humanities
MARIE A. SMITH Chief Photographer & Editorial Assistant
SHAYLA WEST Health Center
SHANTILEE OTEY Graphic Artist



SALES & MARKETING
NIKIA M. STEELE Sales & Marketing Director
SHAMILAH HARRIS Sales & Marketing Rep.
DARNITA HOWARD Circulation

PRODUCTION
AMBER LUGO Production Manager
AMBER M. TOWNSELL Production Assistant

ADVISER
DR. LONA D. COBB

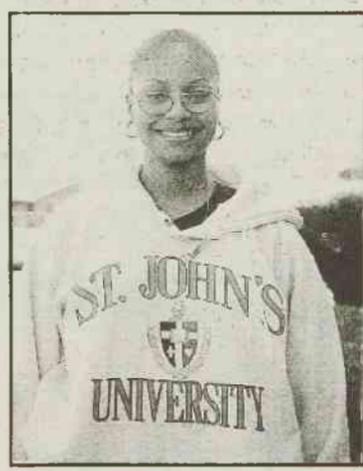
The Bennett Banner is a laboratory newspaper published twice a month during the academic year, except during months with College recognized holidays or College vacations. The newspaper is produced by and for students at Bennett College. The newspaper office is located in Shell Hall C-2.

STUDENT OPINION POLL:

Bellespeak

What is the true meaning of Christmas?

Photos by Marie Smith, Staff Photographer.



LAUREN MELTON
CLASS: SOPHOMORE
MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY
HOME: NEW YORK

Christmas is a time for thanking all my loved ones, and giving instead of receiving. Also to remember the birth of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



TRINA SEABROOKS-MATTHEWS
CLASS: SOPHOMORE
MAJOR: SOCIAL WORK
HOME: WASHINGTON, DC

Christmas is going home and spending time with all of the special people in my life.



BRANDI BRADSHAW
CLASS: SOPHOMORE
MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY
HOME: NEW YORK

Christmas over the years has gotten extremely over commercialized. Instead of celebrating the birth of Jesus, we celebrate and anticipate the materialistic objects we will receive.



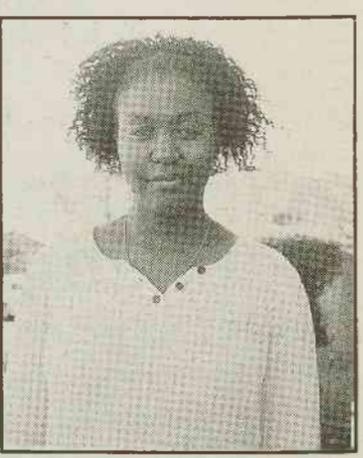
ASJADOLL HOWELL
CLASS: SOPHOMORE
MAJOR: BIOLOGY
HOME: MASS.

Christmas is a time of giving and remembering the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



RASHIDA MILLER
CLASS: SOPHOMORE
MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY
HOME: NORTH CAROLINA

Christmas is not about gifts, but about spending time with loved ones.



TANYA WAGSTAFFE
CLASS: SENIOR
MAJOR: ENGLISH
HOME: NEW YORK

Christmas is supposed to be a day of sharing and spreading love. However, it has become a commercial holiday where people are more concerned with the receiving than the giving. It's forced me to celebrate Kwanzaa.