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What are we really celebrating during Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving is the official kickoff of the holiday season. But do we really take time to reflect on the history of this American tradition?

Our children are still taught, in some schools, that the first thanksgiving dinner was held by the new settlers as a peace offering feast with the Native Americans when in actuality, the pilgrims were not faring well during their first winter in this foreign land.

RUNGANO NYAJEKA
Managing Editor

They were starving and unable to farm the new land, or gather food. Native Americans in the area, aware of these settlers and the difficulties they were encounter-

ing, extended their food and welcome to these pilgrims.

Technically the Native Americans were the givers and the pilgrims were the receivers. With that in mind, the fictitious story taught in many schools not only is an inaccurate account of history, but it also does not capture the true reason why 300 years later Americans observe a holiday of giving thanks.

We should no longer celebrate the tradition of commemorating pilgrims that took and did not give to the people they later conquered. The proper observance of holiday will make proper values popular.

As we get together with family and friends to give thanks for all that the year has brought and whatever may be in store in the new year, we should take time to reflect on the history of this tradition. With the obligations of the society, it is necessary to take time to celebrate with loved ones and feasts and parties.

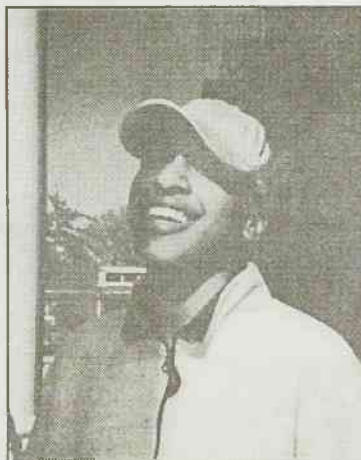
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STUDENT OPINION POLL:

Bellespeak

Do you think today's celebration of Thanksgiving really captures the true meaning of the holiday?

Photos by Marie Smith, Chief Photographer



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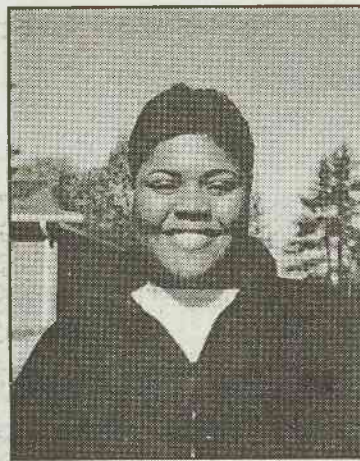
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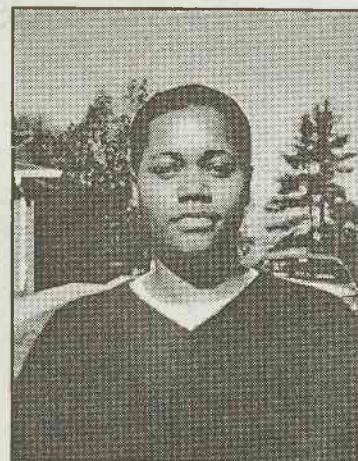
The majority of people that pray over Thanksgiving dinner don't know the struggle that cultures have gone through to attain power over this holiday. Most people worry about the fulfillment of their stomachs and their minds.



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I don't believe that the history of Thanksgiving is celebrated. When we think of Thanksgiving, we think of eating. No one really talks about the history [of Thanksgiving]

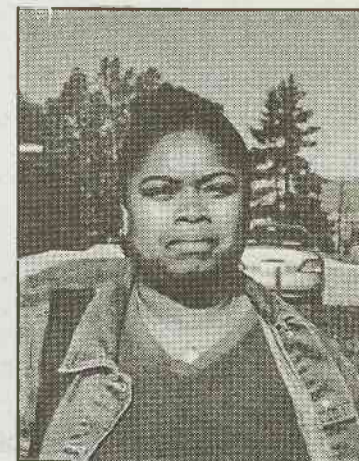
Thanksgiving is no longer about getting together with family and friends to give thanks to God for His blessings. People today use Thanksgiving as an excuse to eat, and ignore the true meaning.



ABRA PACE
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I do not believe in this day and time that the history of Thanksgiving is being captured by our generation because I hear a lot of people talking about how good they are going to eat and not thanking God for what He has done and is still doing for them.

I believe this holiday's true meaning is captured because every Thanksgiving, families across the country gather in a great fellowship over a feast and enjoy the idea of family and the time of sharing with each other.



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I think that the holiday, Thanksgiving, was intended for the Europeans and the Native Americans to come together. I think that it is a great time for feasting and to bring family and all nations together to be thankful.