

Christmas is a spirit, not a consumption frenzy

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Feature Co-Editor

Worried people, frantically trying to hold on to as many shopping bags as their hands can grasp, their faces revealing mixed feelings of frustration and satisfaction at once, are trying to make their way through a crowd of people while bumping into fellow shoppers who are equally loaded down.

It's a common sight this time of year. Christmas is coming and everyone is trying to get ready for the holidays with one thought in mind: buy as many presents as you can carry without getting in trouble, and

spend as much money as you can fit in your wallet.

Shopping centers are filled with parents buying the most expensive computer games for their kids, men trying to find that one particular perfume that was imported from France and costs a fortune, women looking for that desired toolbox for their husbands and older citizens getting that \$100 scratch-off post for their cat.

But is that what Christmas is really about? Buying expensive gifts and spending money on things we don't necessarily need? Originally, Christmas, a Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, was an event for which family and

friends decorated their homes, gathered around a tree, exchanged little gifts to show their gratitude and just enjoyed the company of their loved ones.

Today, in a society in which materialism has become an important aspect of our being, we tend to forget that it is not the presents, not the money spent and not the long wish list children like to give to their parents that makes-up Christmas.

It is a time when we should be nice and kind to other people, spend more time with our family and friends and just not worry about whether it is more important to ask for a DVD player or a TV for Christmas.



MIKE POLLOCK / Clackamas Print

Decorated and musical Pioneer Place in downtown Portland bustles with holiday shoppers last Saturday.

What are you doing this holiday break?



Jennifer Bieker

"I'm working and getting prepared for the next term, and having lots of fun while I'm on break."



Jamie Christensen

"I have no idea. I have no idea at all. I just do whatever happens."



Alvaro Molina

"I'm a working man, I need the money. My family's coming (from) Chile. They're coming for Christmas."



Chris Tysinger

"I'm going to be going back to California. Spend time with my mom."



Mike Smith

"A lot of sleep. That's about it."

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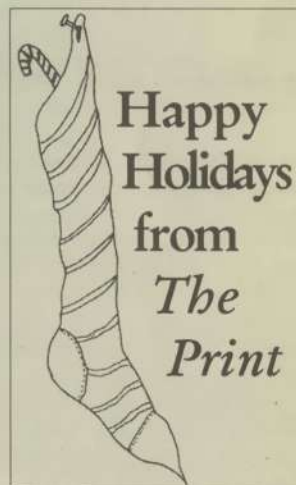
James Black

"I will be doing a lot of work (remodeling) for my family. And I will be hoping to get through with this term of school, completing satisfactorily all my classes."



Nichole Mabe

"I'll be hanging out with Dave, ...I'll visit all my friends... Just partying a lot. Just kinda getting everything out of me before next term."



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