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OPINION

Holiday stress - is it about Christmas anymore?

By **JEROME ENGELBERTS**
Opinions editor

And there we are, rolling toward the holidays again. No matter what denomination (if any at all) you fall under, this time of year is a renowned source of stress - usually long before the actual holidays are really upon us. First, for most of us, we're in the middle of finals. And since a lot of us are procrastinators there's that frantic rush to make our

brain suddenly absorb all that stuff we decided not to read up on earlier this semester (admit it).

I'm as bad as the next person, when it comes to that. Next, we get to sit in anticipation while our grades are being decided - which, in light of the procrastination - may turn out to be pretty stressful, too. Registering for classes next semester, and making sure that they don't collide on your calendar, is also something that should be

dealt with before they all fill up.

NOW we get immersed in the actual holiday stuff, which involves (once again, still not really a part of the holidays) being forced by culture into places with very distant parking, pushy mobs of people who all want the same deal, and (worst by far) being exposed *ad nauseam* to the rap version of "The Little Drummer Boy;" Frank Sinatra's clone singing "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer," and many other

old chestnuts that have been electronically altered to sound "hip." And this is the backdrop with which YOU have to pick out suitable gifts for people whom you know will get on your nerves long before Santa slides down any chimneys. In the land of consumerism, the actual Christmas thought has been buried under brochures, credit card statements (soon to arrive in your mailbox), and the obligation to spend money. Not to sound smarmy, but

"peace on earth" and "good will to all mankind" seem to be pretty low on the list these days. The holidays seem to have taken on so many material obligations that the most long-lasting beneficiaries may be the pharmaceutical companies who wind up dispensing the necessary tranquilizers. This year, maybe we should just sit back, enjoy the company of those we like or love, and forget about the big spending and bigger stress for just this one time.

Are students willing to put up a fight for their education?

By **ALTANETTE FORD**
Correspondent

Most students in college do not pay attention to politics, unless they're majoring in business, political science, or journalism. Back a few years ago, when the stakes weren't so high, it wouldn't have made too much of a difference. However, now is not the time to ignore government decisions regarding your educational future.

President Bush has your college

budget in his hands. Judging from the significant cuts to education in the proposed budget bill that passed in the House of Representatives, things are not looking too bright in the future for college students, at least not for those who are middle-class and poor. A college education for them could become a thing of the past. The bill would reduce financial aid and raise the interest rates on student loans.

Whatever happened to those fired up students who would come out in droves to protest unjust and unfair decisions that would affect

millions of people? In the past, the students were the ones to lead or be in the forefront protesting. They would organize their different groups, come out and march, holding signs, giving speeches, shouting their beliefs until it reached the ears of those who needed to hear it.

It was because of college students protesting that the war in Vietnam ended. It was college students who were instrumental in fighting for civil rights, women's rights, gay rights, or whatever rights needed to be fought for at that time. Students were at the forefront, fight-

ing for every cause that came about back in those days. Millions of people enjoy and participate in the results of those causes today.

Back then, it was Black power, Brown power, Asian power, women power, gay power, and student power, you name it, everyone was fighting for some type of power. Students made a difference and had more power than they think. After all, students are the ones with the fresh minds - new ideas. They're our future. What goes on in the world of politics is going to affect their future, and that is why

they shouldn't sit back in silence.

There are just as many causes worth fighting for today as there were in the 60's and 70's. College teaches you to become an independent thinker. Why let all that brainpower go to waste, when you can go out and exercise your mind fighting for a right to have an education. You might even earn a place in history. What would happen if today's young people got up from their TV programs, put down their video games, and went out in the street to make the world a better place? Maybe we will find out.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

What do you think about the Campus Comment?



CHEWIE PATEL
Radio/TV/Film

"They're informative. Like local news according to the school."



SANDRA WANG
Nutritionist

"They're cool. I like them. You get to find out what students think about a certain subject."



JAMES WARREN
Psychology

"It's interesting to read everyone's views on topics. The questions just seem random."



EVA GRIFFEN
Physical Therapy

"It's a nice way to say whatever you want without censorship, as long as you're not misquoted."



JEFF CAVALARO
Undeclared

"I think a lot of students are naive because they're young."