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Thanksgiving overshadowed by deals

By Hanna House
Staff reporter

Being thankful is something that we should do year round but, to give us a little 'thankful boost,' we have set aside a specific day to count our blessings more thoroughly and be even more thankful for the things we have.

You all know what time of year I am talking about-Thanksgiving and of course with Thanksgiving comes Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

Thanksgiving started off as a time to thank God for a place to call home after years of hard times. Slowly this time of year has turned into getting more worldly possessions at a discounted rate.

Sure getting things on sale is fun and something to do with

family and friends but all this Black Friday mayhem has started to overtake the real meaning of Thanksgiving.

Now, there is a time and place for everything and Thanksgiving Day is just not the time to go buy more items.

We just gave thanks for all we have for goodness sake! I understand that companies want to put things on sale before Christmas-time but why not a week or so after Thanksgiving so we can focus on the real meaning of these

holidays?

Black Friday began as a good thing and has since expanded into chaos. Sure it makes more money for the companies and saves money for participants of the event but think of all those people recruited to work Thanksgiving Day. They

get little to no family time in order to please all the Black Friday enthusiasts. Black Friday has turned into Black Thursday and Friday.

It is always helpful to have extra sales going on, even more helpful to a broke college student. In college we are all about saving money.

Black Friday is the prime time to save as much as we can to start paying off all these loans.

Nothing says the only time we want to save money is on the Friday after Thanksgiving, I would be perfectly fine with saving money a week or two later instead.

All in all, I am not opposed to the idea of Black Friday; I am opposed to limiting other peoples' time with family on Thanksgiving just because I want to find the best deal of the year.

Hanna House is a sophomore majoring in communication. You may email her at hanna.house@sckans.edu.



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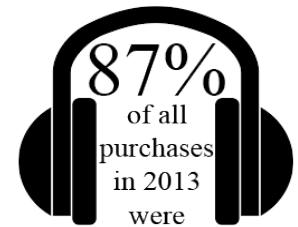
total spent in 2013
source: statisticbrain.com

1 IN 3



Americans plan to shop on Black Friday

Source: Entrepreneur.com



Electronics

Source: Entrepreneur.com

Black Friday becomes family tradition

By Jonahs Joudrey
Staff reporter

Holiday all-nighters, for some, might consist of eating leftovers, watching movies, snuggling up with loved ones, sipping hot chocolate, making kissy faces and talking about fall.

Puke.

As every American knows, the holidays are all about the deals. I'll take that flat-screen for a hundred bucks. Or

the tablet that's on **EDITORIAL** sale. Sure would fulfill most of Santa's list.

Holiday shopping is a sport and like most American sports, there has to be a winner and a loser.

Starting the day after Thanksgiving, I shop to win. I print blueprints of stores, made available by numerous websites, to figure out where they are stashing the good stuff. I prepare a week early stocking

up on hand-warmers, to-go-snacks, portable coffee cups, and two-way radios.

Our pack travels in teams of three to five. We hit the stores that have the most desirable door-busters (our family calls them jackpots).

Following a close itinerary, our family moves quickly and with precision. In and out, no lollygagging, so we can quickly make our way to the next destination.

Black Friday has become a tradition for my family. We celebrate Thanksgiving conventionally: turkey, extended family, pumpkin pie and movies. We laugh, drink mimosas and gorge on cookies. We give thanks to each other, for the food we have and the people around us.

I have to say that of all the holidays, Thanksgiving is my favorite. But Black Friday is a different beast. It's a different way to bond and enjoy each

other's company; over consumer slashes, clearances and sales.

Black Friday has become a tradition that our family refuses to give up.

There are a few of the large retailers who have decided to start "door-busting" on Thanksgiving. This, as most know, caused quite the stir last year. Shopping patrons shamed these companies with concerns of employees who wouldn't be able to spend time with their families.

Websites, such as TheChange.org, created popular online petitions for people against the opening.

Working retail is not always an easy job to have. Being part of a consumer-based job means working at times that is not always convenient to work. I, as many, have worked on certain days that I haven't always wanted to work.

Target, one of the largest companies open on Thanksgiving,

has elected a schedule that is primarily volunteered based. Additionally, they have chosen to open at 9 p.m. and plan on giving Thanksgiving dinners to employees who would like to eat, according to NBCnews.com.

For consumers who fear missing the good deals and advertised door-busters, many of the big companies will be releasing their featured sales at incremental times. That is, some of the discounted items will be released on Thanksgiving and then again on Black Friday when the stores re-open.

I will not be shopping on Thanksgiving this year. But when the clock hits 3 a.m. best believe I'll be snuggled up outside of Target with my warm cup of coffee asking my mother if she has the creamer.

Jonahs Joudrey is a junior majoring in communication. You may email him at joudrey@sckans.edu.