

What is Kwanzaa?

By: Representative Glenn Grothman

It's great the holiday season is upon us. Being a Christian I associate it primarily with Christmas, the day on which the birth of Jesus Christ is celebrated. Out of respect of Americans of the Jewish faith, commentators also mention Hanukah, a Jewish holiday celebrating the victory of the Maccabees over the Greeks thereby freeing the Jewish people.

During the last few years, a new holiday is being given undeserved respect and attention. It is Kwanzaa. Frequently mentioned as an African American holiday, many people probably think it is an old holiday with some religious significance. In fact, Kwanzaa was nonexistent until 1966. Ron Karenga, an African American Marxist, invented Kwanzaa. Karenga disliked the United States and he disliked Christmas, which he thought of as white. He, therefore, made up a holiday that he wanted for blacks.

Karenga went to prison shortly after inventing Kwanzaa. He tortured women who were part of his cult, the United Slaves, who were not sufficiently obedient. He held hot irons against them and forced detergent and hoses in their mouth. Karenga tightened a woman's toes in a vice and held a gun to other women's faces. For the above he was convicted of two counts of felonious assault and one count of false imprisonment and sentenced to one to ten years in prison in California in 1971. The cult, which he formed, was involved in murderous competition with the Black Panthers in Los Angeles in the late 1960s. The Panthers were considered the more moderate of the two groups.

There is some humor in Karenga's inept attempt to create a holiday for African Americans. Kwanzaa is a Swahili word. Swahili is spoken in East Africa and almost all African Americans have their roots in West Africa. It purports to celebrate the corn harvest, but corn is native to the Mayan civilization. In a 1978 interview with Washington Post, Karenga himself admitted "I came up with Kwanzaa because black people in this country wouldn't celebrate it if they knew it was American. Also, I put it around Christmas because I knew that's when a lot of (blacks) would be partying." Who would hire a rogue like Ron Karenga today? He's a professor of African American Studies at California State University-Long Beach. (No wonder California has a budget deficit.)

To allow this violent, anti-American radical to create a "holiday" and mention it along side of Christmas and Hanukah is deplorable. Fortunately, there are reports Kwanzaa is losing popularity among black Americans. It is intellectually dishonest of the mainstream media to mention this holiday without its odious roots. Nevertheless, the primarily white politically correct crowd including the newspapers, television stations, and schools continue to shove this down black people's throats. The left wants black Americans to consider themselves different from the rest of America. Hallmark sells Kwanzaa cards. The Post Office sells Kwanzaa stamps. The rest of us should treat Kwanzaa with the contempt it deserves before it becomes a permanent part of our culture.

Please let me know what you think on this issue.

Contact me here in Madison---

- please call 1-888-534-0058.
 - Madison Address: P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708-8952
 - Home Number: (262) 338-8061
 - E-Mail: Rep.Grothman@legis.state.wi.us
 - Madison Office Toll-Free: 888-534-0058
 - Madison Fax: 608-282-3658
 - WWW: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm58/news/index.html>
-