

Ya wanna Kwanzaa?  
12-16-09

It is common knowledge that I know very little about anything. Even in this age of information and internet, I still find that my understanding of our world is extremely small. For instance, I don't know how electrical tape works. And I know even less about how to tear electrical tape without it bunching up and sticking to itself.

I also know practically nil about Kwanzaa. So, to find out a little more about Kwanzaa—true story—I decided to type “Kwanzaa” in the URL bar on my Mac, as I apparently have no idea how to use a computer, either. After working out the necessary kinks and finding the fountain of all knowledge, Wikipedia.org (Jeeves was busy answering other questions), I decided to research, and I'm hear to share my findings with you, so you too can spread Kwanzaa joy to the world:

- Kwanzaa is celebrated every year for a week, beginning on December 26 and ending on January 1. This officially makes Christmas what I will henceforth call “Kwanzaa Eve.”
- Kwanzaa was first celebrated in 1966. I know, back up and say it again. 1966. My entire life, I have been under the impression that Kwanzaa was founded somewhere in the range of—I don't know—before my parents were born.

To put this into perspective, Scientology is older than Kwanzaa.

- Kwanzaa consists of seven principals, each for another day in the week of Kwanzaa. They are:
  - *Umoja* (Unity), like the James Brown song.
  - *Kujichagulia* (Self-Determination), which I initially mistook for ‘self-discrimination’ and had to do a double-take.
  - *Ujima* (Collective Work and Responsibility), which I fully support, and because I support it, you have to as well.
  - *Ujamaa* (Cooperative Economics), because who doesn't enjoy discussing finances during the holidays?
  - *Nia* (Purpose), which I initially mistook for ‘propose,’ and I immediately thought, ‘Whoa, Kwanzaa. Weren't that serious yet.’

- *Kuumba* (Creativity), whose African name reminds me of Pumba from Disney's "The Lion King," which I suppose was a creative movie.
- *Imani* (Faith), which I take to mean any kind of faith, such as Faith Hill.
- Estimates of people who celebrate Kwanzaa are somewhere between 5-28 million, making it smaller than some Facebook groups.
- Some people charge Kwanzaa as being fraudulent, attempting to take African-Americans away from Christm—I mean, Kwanzaa Eve. These are generally the same people who claim that Harry Potter is the spawn of Satan and that plastic cling wrap can be made into a delicious casserole.

This is a preposterous idea anyways, as Kwanzaa Kwanzaa Eve's schedules don't even interfere with each other. If anything, people should be upset that Kwanzaa is attempting to take African-Americans away from Boxing Day. I still have no idea what Boxing Day is or what it entails, and therefore promote your unwillingness to celebrate it in favor of other, more Kwanzaa-y, holidays.

- If you remove the 'w' and 'n' from 'Kwanzaa,' you get the name of a former peer-to-peer file-sharing website. While Kwanzaa is not a holiday to celebrate illegal downloading practices, I'm sure that it's not *discouraged*.

Kwanzaa was merely the first holiday to have a file-sharing network named after a misspelling. Others included Snapsterd, Groukstern, and Plimefwire, but were less successful as celebrated holidays than illegal websites.

So, whatever holiday you celebrate, be it Kwanzaa Eve, Festivus, Hannukah, Kwanzaa, or even Plastic-cling-wrap-casserole Day, make sure it is with loved ones. It is important to celebrate unity and togetherness, especially in these difficult economic times. Teamwork is important, especially when hanging up lights on your house. I mean, *someone's* gotta know how to work the electrical tape.