

**Journal #2652**

**from sdc**

**12.26.12**

*Idle No More - snippets*

*HUNAP: Fellowships and Scholarships*

*Call to action sounded on Colorado River's future; stakeholders ready to respond Europe's Best Recycling and Prevention Program*

*The Pilgrims' "War On Christmas"*

**'Idle No More' – Around the World**

December 31 at 9:30pm in CST

On your Facebook wall... this is a virtual event

**Global National Spence enters 3rd week of hunger strike** [www.globalnational.com](http://www.globalnational.com)

Mon, Dec 24: There are growing calls for Prime Minister Stephen Harper to meet with Attiwapiskat Chief Theresa Spence. Jacques Bourbeau reports.

**Flash mob at Northtown Mall - The Spokesman-Review**

[www.spokesman.com](http://www.spokesman.com)

On Sunday, one of the busiest shopping days of the year, natives peoples from Canada and the United States held a "unity dance" around the Christmas tree at Northtown Mall in north Spokane. While leaders tapped hand drums, hundreds took part in the event, which was organized by the activist group Id...

Jayde Thomas - Tiny Tot Princess 2012-2013 Sacred Visions Pow Wow posted in Round Dance Flash Mob

[http://farm9.staticflickr.com/8354/8270964125\\_7e97f9254c\\_b.jpg](http://farm9.staticflickr.com/8354/8270964125_7e97f9254c_b.jpg)

[farm9.staticflickr.com](http://farm9.staticflickr.com)

**IDLE NO MORE REACTIONS MUST SEE!!!!** [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

THE IDLE NO MORE MOVEMENT IS SPREADING AS THE MESSAGE GETS LOUDER AND LOUDER OF AN OPPRESSED PEOPLE LOOKED UPON AS INFERIOR AND TREATED LESS HUMAN.

**Idle No More** [www.idlenomore.com](http://www.idlenomore.com)

...as long as the grass grows and the sun shines...

Canada's plight that spurred Idle No More should be a wake up call to Natives in the US... It's happened already to certain tribes losing their status... Natives no longer practice their cultural ways or speak their language some by choice and some through no fault of their own. Make it your priority to learn your ways... Ask an elder, attend classes, lobby your tribe to find or allot funding for these classes. As soon as the government decides we are no longer a tribe because our children no longer meet blood quantum and we have lost our language and ways they will take away our tribal recognition. It's a fact. ~Lesley Hawley

\*\*\*\*\*  
A Breathtaking Sight This Morning As We Watched The Dakota 38 Riders Come In To Morton Minnesota. Dakota Warriors Of All Ages Make Their Way To Fort Ridgley Today With Chilling Temps. ♥. Photo Rights Reserved For [www.Dakota38.com](http://www.Dakota38.com) P  
\*\*\*\*\*

## FELLOWSHIPS

**Title:** Susan Kelly Power and Helen Hornbeck Tanner Fellowship (Shirt-Term)  
**Sponsor:** Newberry Library - D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies  
**Deadline:** January 15, 2013

**Information:** Supports residential research in any field in the humanities using the collections of the Newberry Library; \$2,000 monthly stipend.

**Eligibility:** Ph.D. candidates and postdoctoral scholars of American Indian heritage.

**Application:** Applications are submitted through the website; letters of reference must be sent electronically. For further details: <http://www.newberry.org/fellowships>

**Contact:** PH: 312.255.3666 E: [research@newberry.org](mailto:research@newberry.org)

**Website:** [www.newberry.org/short-term-fellowships](http://www.newberry.org/short-term-fellowships)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Title:** Frances C. Allen Fellowship for Women of American Indian Heritage  
**Sponsor:** Newberry Library - D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies  
**Deadline:** January 15, 2013

**Information:** Allen Fellows expected to spend a significant part of their tenure in residence at the Newberry Library. Stipend is up to \$2,000/month; supplemental funding may be available on case-by-case basis.

**Eligibility:** For women of American Indian heritage. While candidates for this award may be working in any graduate or pre-professional field, the particular goal of the Allen Fellowship is to encourage American Indian women in a field related to the Newberry's collection.

**Application:** Applications are submitted through the website; letters of reference must be sent electronically. For further details: <http://www.newberry.org/fellowships>

**Contact:** PH: 312.255.3666 E: [research@newberry.org](mailto:research@newberry.org)

**Website:** <http://www.newberry.org/short-term-fellowships>

**Title:** Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program

**Duration:** 9-week summer program: May 27, 2013- July 26, 2013

**Application deadline: Thursday, February 14, 2013**

The **Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program** is a CDC funded summer program providing educational and professional development opportunities for students from underrepresented populations and those interested in addressing health disparities related to infectious diseases. The program begins **May 27, 2013**, with an orientation at Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Maryland (Students assigned to CDC will have their CDC orientation in Atlanta on Thursday and Friday of the first week.) During the remaining eight weeks of the program, students receive mentored research and professional development experiences at the CDC in Atlanta, Georgia or in Baltimore, Maryland at Kennedy Krieger Institute, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Bloomberg School of Public Health, or the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Students who are members of under-represented populations (as defined by the federal government) are strongly encouraged to apply!

**Program Benefits:**

- A \$4,000 stipend is provided for all participants.
- Housing and round-trip travel are also available for out-of-state students.
- Sponsorship to attend a national scientific meeting following abstract submission
- Sponsored membership in the American Public Health Association (APHA)

**Qualifications:**

- Be currently enrolled as a full-time student in a medical, dental, pharmacy, veterinary, or public health graduate program.
- Have at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Have the ability to commit to the length of the fellowship

**Application:** To be considered for admission, students must complete an [application package](#). For additional program information, please contact [Ferguson\\_Fellowship@kennedykrieger.org](mailto:Ferguson_Fellowship@kennedykrieger.org)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Title:** The ACHIEVE Research Partnership

**Duration:** Summer 2013

Application deadline: February 13, 2013

**Qualifications:**

- PhD completed within the past 3 years OR Health professional degree + Master's level degree (Master's degree completed within the past three years)
- 2 year term: September, 2013 – August, 2015
- Stipend: Based on CIHR guidelines for qualified candidates
- Fellows are required to complete all training program components within the two years
- 3-5 Fellows may be accepted for the 2013-2015 term
- Fellows are required to work onsite in Toronto, Canada

**Required Curricular Elements**

1. Mentorship in Developing an Independent Program of Inner City Health Research

2. Collaborative Team Research Project for Inner City Health
3. Learning Modules in Research Methods, Knowledge Translation and Research Ethics
4. Professional Enrichment

**Competencies**

ACHIEVE is designed to equip new researchers with competencies that are typically unavailable through traditional research training, yet are necessary for closing the gap between *measuring* urban health inequities and *reducing* them.

- *Population Health and Health Services Interventions Research*
  - o Research skills to understand and monitor the health of inner city health populations
  - o Research skills to understand and evaluate complex program and policy interventions
- *Community-Engaged and Partnered Research*
  - o Capacity to participate in and lead integrated knowledge translation projects to inner city health research
  - o Capacity for transdisciplinary and interprofessional teamwork, including engaged research partnerships
  - o Knowledge of critical ethical/cultural/legal issues relevant to inner city health research collaborations.

**Description:**

ACHIEVE is a [Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research Training Program](#) housed at the [Centre for Research on Inner City Health](#) in the [Keenan Research Centre of St Michael's Hospital](#) that aims to equip new researchers with the competencies necessary for closing the gap between *measuring* inner city health inequities and *reducing* them. The program has two main foci:

- *Population Health and Health Services Interventions Research*
- *Community Engagement, Partnerships, and Knowledge Translation*

We are motivated by the CIHR's goal to produce the next generation of "creative agents for change," and by the Institute of Population and Public Health's call for interventions research, defined as "the use of scientific methods to produce knowledge about policy and program interventions that operate within or outside of the health sector and have the potential to impact health at the population level.

**Contact:** [ACHIEVE@smh.ca](mailto:ACHIEVE@smh.ca) **Website:** [www.achieveresearchtraining.ca](http://www.achieveresearchtraining.ca)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Title:** Summer Research Diversity Fellowships in Law and Social Science for Undergraduate Students 2013

**Duration:** Summer 2013 **Location:** Chicago **Application deadline:** February 15, 2013

**Qualifications:** Eligible are American citizens and lawful permanent residents including, but not limited to, persons who are African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, or Puerto Rican, as well as other individuals who will add diversity to the field of law and social science. Applications will be considered only from sophomores and juniors, that is, students who have completed at least the sophomore year and who have not received a bachelor's degree by the time the fellowship begins. Applicants must have a Grade Point Average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) and be moving toward an academic major in the social sciences or humanities.

**Description:**

The American Bar Foundation sponsors a program of summer research fellowships to interest undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds in pursuing graduate study in the social sciences. The summer program is designed to introduce students to the rewards and demands of a research-oriented career in the field of law and social science. The program is supported in part by the Kenneth F. and Harle G. Montgomery Foundation, AT&T, and the National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates. Located in Chicago, Illinois, the American Bar Foundation is an independent nonprofit research institute dedicated to the study of law, legal institutions, and legal processes. The Foundation conducts empirically based research on a broad range of civil and criminal justice issues. Current research areas include: professionalism and the transformation of the legal profession in the United States and abroad, the dynamics of employment discrimination disputes, the impact of civil rights law on the economic progress of minorities, jury decision making, public interest lawyering and social reform, historical analyses of labor, group libel, and regulatory law, and the role of law in racial relations, postcolonial settings, and globalization. The Foundation's research is conducted by a multidisciplinary resident research faculty with academic training in law, sociology, psychology, political science, economics, history, and anthropology. Many ABF Research Professors hold joint appointments at Chicago-area universities. Recognized as a major institution in the field of law and social science, the Foundation offers a rich environment to students considering an academic or research career.

**Contact:** Ph: 312.988.6515 E: <mailto:fellowships@abfn.org>  
**Website:** [http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/fellowships/Call for Summer Research Diversity Fellows.html](http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/fellowships/Call%20for%20Summer%20Research%20Diversity%20Fellows.html)  
[Visit the Summer Research Diversity Fellowship on Facebook!](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Title:** Native American Environmental Leaders of the Future

**Description:** SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) will offer five fellowships to students of Native American heritage, attending ESF beginning in Fall 2013. The goal of the Fellowship program is to educate a new generation of indigenous environmental leaders. The Fellowship includes a \$5000 annual scholarship for 4 years---as well as a program especially designed to provide Native students with a supportive cultural community, challenging academic courses and educational enrichment such as field trips, research experiences and opportunities for applying your environmental education in community service. Students will join a weekly small, focused seminar which supports academic, personal and professional growth

in a close knit group of students and mentors from the ESF Center for Native Peoples and the environment. The mission of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment is to bring together the wisdom of both indigenous knowledge and environmental science, for our shared concerns for the earth.

**Application:** If you are applying for the spring 2013 semester or as a fall 2013 Early Decision freshman applicant and the effects of Hurricane Sandy have impacted your ability to submit your application materials, please call the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at the number below to speak to an Admissions Counselor about your application.

**Qualifications:**

- High school grades of at least 85%
- Combined science and math SAT scores of 900
- Participation in extra-curricular activities or community affairs
- Letters of recommendation
- Strong motivation to study natural resources and environment
- Both freshman and transfer students are encouraged to apply

**Contact:** Dr. Robin Kimmerer PH: (315) 470--6760 E: [rkimmer@esf.edu](mailto:rkimmer@esf.edu)

**Website:** <http://www.esf.edu/nativepeoples/NativeScholarships.pdf> <http://www.esf.edu/>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Scholarship Opportunity announcements**

**Title:** College Speech Contest Awards Scholarships

**Application Deadline:** January 15 through February 15, 2013

Suquamish, WA [December 7, 2012] – Cut Bank Creek Press, a Native-owned publishing company, will award two \$1500 college scholarships to the winners of its first speech contest titled “*Speakin’ in Indian.*”

Currently enrolled college students will upload 5-minute video entries to YouTube in response to one of two theses: 1) “Native people and Tribes should expend substantial resources on the preservation/restoration of Native languages and make it a top priority because...,” or alternatively, 2) “Native people and Tribes should not expend their limited resources on the preservation/restoration of Native languages and make it a top priority because...” One scholarship will be awarded for each argument – the best argument in favor of language preservation and the best argument against making language preservation a priority. Ross created the scholarship specifically to increase the amount of young Native people that feel confident speaking for themselves and for Native people. “It’s a small step. Tiny. People that can speak persuasively and passionately tend to our leaders. We are, and always have been, perfectly capable of speaking for ourselves, yet we haven’t had a formal pipeline to develop strong Native speakers and leaders. Now, of course we have some great Native leaders, but they succeeded without formal training. This scholarship is a start to creating a formal program because the leaders of today need to take the initiative to help mentor and cultivate tomorrow’s leaders.”

**Application:** Contest rules will be announced on January 1, 2013. Submissions will be accepted from January 15 through February 15, 2013 and will be reviewed from February 15 to April 1, 2013. Finalists will be announced the first week in April.

**Contact:** Michelle Waits E: [speakininindian@cutbankcreekpress.com](mailto:speakininindian@cutbankcreekpress.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Title:** The Gates Millennium Scholars Program

Every year the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program, funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, provides outstanding African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, and Hispanic American students with significant financial need an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in any discipline area of interest. The application for the 2013 class is now available online.

**Qualifications:**

- Are African American, American Indian/Alaska Native\*, Asian & Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American
- Are a citizen, national or legal permanent resident of the United States
- Have attained a cumulative high school GPA of 3.3 on an unweighted 4.0 scale or have earned a GED
- Will enroll for the first time at a U.S. located, accredited college or university (with the exception of students concurrently pursuing a high school diploma) in the fall of 2013 as a full-time, degree-seeking, first-year student. First-time college enrollees can also be GED recipients.
- Have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service, extracurricular or other activities
- Meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria
- Have completed and submitted all three required forms: the student's application (Nominee Personal Information Form), an evaluation of the student's academic record (Nominator Form) and an evaluation of the student's community service and leadership activities (Recommender Form) by the deadline.

\*American Indian/Alaska Native Requirements: American Indian/Alaska Natives must be enrolled in a U.S. Federal or State recognized tribe or be able to document descent from an enrolled tribal member.

**For more information or to learn how to apply, [click here](#). The application deadline is Wednesday, January 16, 2013 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Call to action sounded on Colorado River's future; stakeholders ready to respond**  
**Tovin Lapin, Las Vegas Sun**

Execution of a Colorado River Basin Study, the first of its kind, took three years and was met with delays and criticism along the way.

**Jim Steinberg, San Bernardino Sun**

A biologist for a conservation group involved with the preservation of the Santa Ana sucker fish said Friday that a decision by a federal judge doubling the protected area of the Santa Ana sucker fish was "completely on target" and that the group will likely intervene in an appeal to ensure

"that all sides are represented."

\*\*\*\*\*

**First salmon in 50 years now migrating upstream to Marsh Creek**  
Rarey, Contra Costa Times

Karen

It was once said, "If you build it, he will come," and he did -- the "it" being a fish ladder, and the "he" being salmon.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Europe's Best Recycling and Prevention Program

Sunday, 23 December 2012 10:41 By [Cecilia Allen](#) and [Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Other Worlds](#) | Report

- *"Environmental Possibilities: Zero Waste" features new ways of thinking, acting, and shaping government policy that are circling the globe. Each week, we highlight a success story in the zero waste movement, excerpted from the report [On the Road to Zero Waste: Successes and Lessons from Around the World](#) by the [Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives \(GAIA\)](#). GAIA is a powerful worldwide alliance of more than 650 grassroots groups, non-governmental organizations, and individuals in over 90 countries. Their collective goal is a just, toxic-free world without incineration. Other Worlds is excited to promote the work of GAIA and the organized communities it works with, and hopes that the stories inspire you and others to begin moving your home, town or city, nation, and planet toward zero waste.*

The Flemish region of Belgium boasts the highest waste diversion rate in Europe. Almost three-fourths of the residential waste produced in the region is reused, recycled, or composted. Since the first Waste Decree was approved in Flanders in 1981, regional goals (for overall residential waste generation, separate collection, and residual waste after source separation and home composting) have been met and then exceeded, allowing more ambitious goals to be set in subsequent waste plans that are developed every four to five years. With these successes, the emphasis of waste management policies transitioned from disposal to source separation and recycling, and finally to waste prevention. Per capita waste generation in Flanders has held steady since 2000, showing a rare example of economic growth without increased waste generation.

The first plan for vegetable, fruit, and garden (VFG) waste, developed between 1991 and 1995, led to the creation of the non-profit Flemish compost organization, VLACO. VLACO encourages organic waste prevention, promotes composting at all levels, certifies compost, and operates as a reference and assistance entity on organic waste materials.

Organic materials are treated through composting and anaerobic digestion. In the beginning, there was one centralized compost plant that received mixed residential waste, but the compost quality was so bad that source separation was made a requirement in the regional plans for organic materials. The second plan for organic materials required separate collection of green waste (produced in public parks and areas as a result of pruning) or VFG waste, and advocated home composting. Subsequent organic materials plans have focused on promoting further home composting and cycle gardening, and encouraging businesses to compost.



By 2010, 35 compost plants in Flanders (8 for VFG waste and 27 for green waste) and 29 anaerobic digestion plants were processing organic residential waste together with manure and agricultural waste. Approximately 4,900 tons of organic materials were composted or treated through anaerobic digestion every day. VLACO estimated the energy savings and reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions resulting from compost production, compared to a scenario in which the organics were treated through incineration with energy recovery: in 2007, 480,000 fewer tons of CO<sub>2</sub> were emitted due to separate collection and composting of 833,000 tons of organic materials.

The Flemish government mandates source separated collection throughout the region. In order to encourage improvements in separation, it also sets targets for per capita residential waste production, home composting, and maximum residuals, which must be met by all municipalities in the region.

In 1998, landfilling of unsorted waste, separated waste suitable for recovery, combustible waste, and all pharmaceuticals was banned, and incineration of separated recyclables and unsorted waste was also prohibited. In addition to incinerator and landfill restrictions, financial mechanisms are used to discourage burying and burning. There is an environmental tax for residual waste treatment that ranges from \$9 per ton for incineration to \$95 per ton for landfilling. In 2009, the revenues from these levies totaled \$36 million.

One of Flanders' central strategies to prevent waste goes to the root of the waste problem: the very design of products. To address this, the agency has created a set of tools to promote clean production and sustainable design. These include:

- “ECOLIZER” – a tool for designers to estimate the environmental impact of products. It includes a set of indicators relating to materials, processing, transport, energy, and waste treatment, allowing designers to identify opportunities to reduce those impacts by changing the design.
- Eco-efficiency assessment – a program to evaluate the efficiency of small and medium companies. It identifies points of intervention for reducing waste, improving energy and water efficiency, increasing recycling, and so on. The test is free of charge.
- Inspirational online database – a collection of case studies of businesses that have implemented clean production and eco-design methods.

In 2008, \$1.19 million in subsidies were given to reuse and recycling centers. In 2009, Flanders had over 110 second-hand shops employing a total of 3,861 employees and serving over 3.6 million paying customers. The government also organizes “Ecodesign awards” for students and professionals as a way to encourage innovations in waste prevention. The prizes range between \$508 and \$5,080.

Flemish waste legislation makes it mandatory for producers, importers, and retailers of certain items to take back waste products and meet collection and recovery targets. These obligations apply to batteries and accumulators, vehicles, printed matter, tires, electrical and electronic equipment, lubricating and industrial oils, lighting equipment, animal and vegetable fats and oils, and medicines. People can return broken or obsolete products to retailers free of charge. Producers are then responsible for management and treatment of the products according to specific requirements that include recovery targets. By law, new construction projects that generate over 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> of debris must present a “deconstruction” plan and waste inventory and

are responsible for recycling this waste. According to OVAM, 90 percent of construction and demolition waste—11 million tons—was recycled in 2010.

### **Waste Prevention Strategies Directed at Households and Individuals**

**Pay As You Throw (PAYT).** The hallmark of this significant waste prevention strategy is the application of graduated taxes to different types of waste. Most expensive is the collection of residual waste, followed by the collection of organic materials, with the lowest taxes applied to plastic bottles, metal packaging, and drink cartons. Collection of paper and cardboard, glass bottles, and textiles is free. Tax on bulky waste varies depending on the quantity.

**Home composting.** Successful approaches to promote composting have included annual charges for the collection of organic materials (\$51 for a 120 liter bin), educating citizens about home composting through communication campaigns, promoting “cycle gardening” to reuse yard waste, encouraging composting at schools, and composting demonstrations at community compost plants. An estimated 100,000 tons of organic materials were kept out of the collection and management system in 2008, thanks to home composting. In densely populated areas, the government encourages community compost plants, where citizens can take their organic materials. These facilities usually use compost bins, and so do not take up much space. By 2010, approximately 34 percent of the Flemish population—almost two million people—was composting at home.

**Green event assessment and guide.** Online tools are available for organizers to calculate the ecological footprint of their events and to prevent waste during events. The agency also maintains an online list of places that lend reusable tableware for events and parties. Additional waste prevention campaigns for citizens include promoting the use of tap water instead of bottled, encouraging bulk purchasing, discouraging the use of packaging and disposable bags, and providing “Please No Publicity” stickers distributed to citizens to reduce junk mail.

### **Regulating Products That Enter the Market**

Although waste management is a local and regional responsibility, the Belgian federal government sets the standards for products that enter the market and eventually become waste. These policies include an Eco-tax Act for items like beverage containers, some packaging, and disposable cameras and batteries; a federal act that discourages producers from manufacturing items that increase waste problems or pose health or pollution risks; the adoption of standard labels for products meeting certain environmental and social criteria; and the publication of a green procurement guide.

Throughout Belgium, packaging is the producer’s responsibility. Nearly all the companies that produce household packaging are grouped in a single organization known as FOST Plus. Each participating company pays a fee based on the type and amount of packaging they are responsible for introducing into the market. The organization funds the public collection, sorting, and recycling of these materials. According to FOST Plus, the recycling rate for household packaging in Belgium has increased from 28 percent in 1995 to 91.5 percent in 2010.

Flanders accounts for 60 percent of the total household packaging recycled in the country (415,763 tons in 2010). FOST Plus estimates that compared to incineration, recycling prevented the emission of 860,000 tons of CO2. A 2006 study estimated that the total cost per inhabitant for the packaging management system in Belgium, accounting for income from recycling sales, was \$7.34 per year.

By dividing responsibility appropriately between municipal, regional, and national governments, Flanders has successfully implemented a comprehensive strategy for waste prevention, recycling, and composting. The results speak for themselves: stable waste generation and the highest diversion rate in Europe.

<http://truth-out.org/news/item/13496-europes-best-recycling-and-prevention-program>

\*\*\*\*\*

For Your Day After.....

### **The Pilgrims' "War On Christmas"**

Submitted by David Drumm (Nal), Guest Blogger NYT 11.24.12

It's that time of year again. That time when many Christians imagine themselves persecuted by a secular "War on Christmas." Interestingly, the "War on Christmas" has Christian roots. Pilgrims, who were strict Puritans, believed that "[t]hey for whom all days are holy can have no holiday." Those holidays also included Christmas and Easter. Thanksgiving to the Pilgrims would have not been a holy day.

The Puritans saw Christmas as a pagan holiday, co-opted by the Roman Catholic Church, from the birthday of the sun god Mithra, which occurred on the winter solstice on December 21. Apples were added to Christmas trees, later to become ornaments, to represent the Garden of Eden. Pagan wreaths of holly were said to represent of the crown of thorns worn by Jesus at his crucifixion.

In 1645, Puritans in the English Parliament got Christmas eliminated as a national holiday. When Puritans came to Massachusetts, they continued their boycott of the Christmas holiday for decades. The boycott applied to non-Puritans as well. When a group of non-Puritan workers were found playing sports in celebration of Christmas, [Gov. William Bradford](#) took away their sporting implements and told them "there should be no gaming, or revelling in the streets."

In 1710, Cotton Mather, a politically influential Puritan minister, now best known from the Salem witch trials, told his flock: "the feast of Christ's nativity is spent in reveling, dicing, carding, masking, and in all licentious liberty...by mad mirth, by long eating, by hard drinking, by lewd gaming, by rude reveling!"

While the Pilgrims' independence and work ethic is represented as an ideal of America, the religious tolerance present in today's America and enshrined in the First Amendment, would have been unthinkable to the Pilgrims.

The contradistinction between the top four, of the Ten Commandments, and the freedom of religious expression guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, gives lie to the claim that this country was founded on Christian principles.