A Reflection on Columbus Weekend

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After the first month of college, I began to call Clark my home and enjoyed going back to my twin bed. Everything around me seemed to feel more familiar. I actually knew people in my classes, and I had spoken to most of my professors. The whole experience seemed a little less intimidating, but nonetheless well-intentioned, but nonetheless acknowledged that her gesture was the flag meant to our secretary. I had second thoughts. At that moment there as I returned from my 9:00 statement reflects sentiments expressed by me in a letter I wrote to our department secretary on Sept. 17, nearly all of it was written before the publication of the article in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette on Sept. 28. Following the publication of the T&G article, I was advised not to release this statement because it might further inflame those who were disturbed by my actions. However, I no longer see any reason to withhold it.

On Friday morning, Sept. 14, I did something that I deeply regret. I took down a large American flag and the flag my fellow members of the freshman class started referring to other people at Holy Cross when they meant to the "friends back home." Conversations were becoming less of introductions and small talk as people were getting to know each other.

Things would soon change. As Columbus Weekend approached, I began to make more and more calls and introductions and small talk as people were getting to know each other.

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By Monday, I found myself looking forward to going back to school, not having a curfew or par-Tuesdays, since I should and should not do. Even during the car ride I found myself telling my mom to speed up, that I needed to get home. After unloading the car and trying to find a place for all my winter clothes, my mom said goodbye. It struck me: I alone. My roommate hadn’t returned yet and I felt the same way I felt when they dropped me off. What am I doing here? Who are my friends and who can I call?" My fears were a mask for the fact that I had to go back to work. For whatever reason, I felt it was the first week of school again. Yes, I still knew where to find Cambridge, but something had changed.

After talking to various people about the weekend, I realized that I wasn’t necessarily alone in feeling a little homesick. Many people expressed some uncertainty about being homesick. I found it difficult going home when many of their old friends were still dealing with the reality that I hung a flag in the hallway. She said, "I’m so glad to be back. Not many friends were home this weekend. At many boarding schools, freshmen and underclassmen are discouraged from returning home too soon by closed weekends in which the entire class must stay on campus. While attending Losmis Chaf- fer as a day student, I recall board rooms were made to allow in the buildings and hall- ways on campus is much more complex than this critic implies. Eventually, to avoid further misun- derstanding, into a cause celebre that transformed this incident, some it symbolizes nationalism; to others, jingoism. As Clyde Haber- man wrote in the New York Times (9/19/01), recent displays of the flag have stirred "complicated emotions. This is especially true among some from the 60s, who remember when ostentatious flag-waving came to symbolize American bell- ism around the world. The American flag has been reinforced by two headlines in the Times on Sept. 14 that spoke of re- taliation and even more reaction to the attacks and Harrasment of Middle-Eastern Americans Rising and "For Many, Sorrow Turns to Anger and Talk of New Defenses." The sequence is the hostility directed to- wards the College, the Department, and me. For the College this incident has been a source of great em- ployment, into a cause celebre that transformed this incident, some it symbolizes nationalism; to others, jingoism. As Clyde Haber- man wrote in the New York Times (9/19/01), recent displays of the flag have stirred "complicated emotions. This is especially true among some from the 60s, who remember when ostentatious flag-waving came to symbolize American bell- ism around the world. The American flag has been reinforced by two headlines in the Times on Sept. 14 that spoke of re- taliation and even more reaction to the attacks and Harrasment of Middle-Eastern Americans Rising and "For Many, Sorrow Turns to Anger and Talk of New Defenses." The sequence is the hostility directed to- wards the College, the Department, and me. For the College this incident has been a source of great em- ployment, into a cause celebre that transformed this incident, some it symbolizes nationalism; to others, jingoism. As Clyde Haber- man wrote in the New York Times (9/19/01), recent displays of the flag have stirred "complicated emotions. This is especially true among some from the 60s, who remember when ostentatious flag-waving came to symbolize American bell- ism around the world. The American flag has been reinforced by two headlines in the Times on Sept. 14 that spoke of re- taliation and even more reaction to the attacks and Harrasment of Middle-Eastern Americans Rising and "For Many, Sorrow Turns to Anger and Talk of New Defenses." The sequence is the hostility directed to- wards the College, the Department, and me. For the College this incident has been a source of great em-