To the Editors:

We have heard no denunciation of what we did, and we want to do it. We speak. A terrorist is always violent, but violence is not terrorism. We want to be heard. War is always violent but is never terrorism. Grammar becomes a moral issue.

George W. Bush and Osama Bin Laden. Two men of principle talking past each other. One man praises terrorism and maybe organized the intentional mass killing of civilians in Iraq. Beruit, Palestine, and Iraq.

And what will they take that will love their own lives, to travel great distances, to risk injury, even to prepare to be killed in order to see ultimate sacrifice of their lives. He said: “I recently received a letter from a girl in the United States about the state of America in these difficult times - a letter from a fourth grade girl, with a heart in it, that’s saying: if they will go to war, I want to be there.”

Osama Bin Laden says: “I say that the matter is clear and explicit: the Americanš came out to fight the name of terrorism. Hundreds of thousands of people, young and old, were killed in the farthest point on earth in Japan. The nuclear destruction of the civilian population of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.”

For me, this is not a crime, but rather a debatable issue. They bombed Iraq and consider it a d e b a t a b l e issue.

And now there are the tele images of the great airplane-banking coolly and professional ly into one of the World Trade Center towers and the people implo red by scenes of stag ering catastrophe. The tragedy in the theater produc tion on a world stage. Arab children, humiliation and brutalized in the street. The killing of the West Bank and Gaza and Baghdad are already dreaming of giving their fathers and brothers to Osama Bin Laden.

George W. Bush and Osama Bin Laden. Two men of principle talking past each other. One man praises terrorism and maybe organized the intentional mass killing of civilians in New York City.

The second man who ignores intentional mass killing of civilians in Iraq. Beruit, Palestine, and Japan-who now pursues a war against terrorism.

To the Editors:

I have a plan to end terrorism that I think would be much more effective than George W. Bush’s militar y plans. First, withdraw U.S. forces from Saudi Arabia, which are propping up a corrupt, dictatorial regime and aggravating Arabs by being in the holiest sites of Islam. Next, end the sanctions on Iraq that have caused millions to perish in starvation and disease and allow the spare parts for the sewer system and water purification system to be imported. For ten years now, sewage has flowed through the streets, and Iraqis have been drinking impure water.

The United States should apologize for dropping tons of radiactive uranium on both Iraq and Yugoslavia. This is a war crime. Depleted uranium, or U-238, is used in shells and warheads because it is extremely heavy and pieces armor well. It also vaporizes on striking a target and radi active dust and particles blow far with the wind. If inhaled or ingested, radiation in the vicinity of the particles is intense and can cause cancer and birth defects.

I have a video showing former UN official Denis Halliday spending his own money to treat little children suffering from leukemia in Iraq. Of course, there are so many cases that poor children simply die. Then, there are the heart rending pictures of children with birth defects, a vast increase since the Persian Gulf War. In contrast to the people of the United States, these efforts continue to kill and be passed on to future generations. The half-life of depleted uranium is 4.5 billion years.

If you are wondering what could possibly motivate someone to fly a plane into the World Trade Center, just think about these crimes against humanity. The television coverage of relatives of victims in New York City holding up pictures of loved ones, reminded me of the mothers of the disappeared in Chile and Argentina. These women held up pictures of their sons and daughters butchered by the militaries in those countries with the complicity of the CIA.

Finally, end all IMF structural adjustments, privatization of water and essential services, sweatshops, and the death squads that prey on peasant leaders and union organiz ers.

The anger in the world would decrease markedly and with it, the threat of terrorism.

Gary Sudborough

Director of Special Projects & Multicultural Training
Office of Multicultural Education

To the Editors:

I am writing in response to the Sept. 14 article in the Crusader en titled, “Perspectives on the Odyssey Program.” I congratulate the author’s bravery in coming forward to talk about race matters on this campus. All too often we keep our real thoughts and feelings silent when it comes to race issues.

And while I appreciate the author’s effort to suggest ways to improve the Odyssey program, I would like to comment on the perceptions upon which the article was based.

One of the things we pride ourselves on here at Holy Cross is that at the core of our identity we are a community of people who care and must be a constantly dynamic exercise. Because our beliefs, perceptions, and attitudes are formed in different places, in different times, and in different places, the knowledge we gain is never neutral. I always try to remember this reality. I believe this is especially true when we are addressing issues of human differ ences. I believe that the question of race is not an issue with an issue related to race I have to remember that I have been socialized my entire 49 years on this earth as a white male. And as Sandra Lipstik Bem, professor of Psychology and Women’s Studies at Cornell University, identifies, our conceptions of life, and there were no exceptions. The half-life of depleted uranium is 4.5 billion years.

Amen to the author’s article in question is also a white male. I am convinced that I am being influenced by the article. He doesn’t have to recognize the realities of being white - that is what being privileged in a dominant culture paradigm has taught those of us that are perceived as white. The author also talks in writing about “intersectionality” and essential differences. To me, this is a microcosm of a society that alreadyadvantages whites. This reality extends long before the Odyssey Program. I believe it is a life-long challenge for all of us who are privileged because of race or any other human difference in the dominant culture paradigm to deconstruct dominance and privilege and come to the new learning necessary for our deeper understanding. Again, I want to thank the author for breaking a silence. I would also like to invite anyone interested in doing more work on their understanding of how we relate to each other around human differences (especially as it applies to our efforts to develop community here at Holy Cross) to come to one of the programs sponsored by the Multicultural Peer Educators (MPE’s). Information about MPE programs that are open to the campus is usually sent out via email.

Robert R. Princept
Director of Special Projects & Multicultural Training
Office of Multicultural Education

Middlesex High School
Revere, MA

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