

Second Opinion

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Is the world's view of the United States worth the price of satin sheets?

I know that
Meredith women have
more on their minds
than Prada and Pamar.

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Managing Editor

Recently I had a friend approach me with what I thought was a really good question. She asked me why Osama Bin Laden and his followers hate Americans.

I proceeded to explain to her what I knew about the United States' backing of Israel and how that angered predominantly Muslim countries like

Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia, Bin Laden's homeland.

Later that same day, I noticed some bright green posters that adorned many walls of the buildings on campus. These posters made me realize there is another reason why the terrorists hate us.

The poster read: "Meredith Girl's Christmas Wish List," and it listed such items as a Gucci bag, Prada shoes, a cashmere sweater, a satin sheet set and Pamar jewelry. Granted, I am aware that this was an advertisement for a jewelry company. However, the point is still the same: This is not the wish list that mirrors the list of some of the Meredith women I

know.

One reason why Islamic radicals hate Americans is because of the materialistic society that we live in and encourage.

This poster's message is as materialistic as any, not to mention the horrific image of Meredith women it conveys, and the stereotype of Meredith students it encourages.

Last year, according to a report posted by Human Rights Watch, no child under the age of two-years-old survived the harsh winter of Afghanistan.

This heart breaking circumstance was caused by lack of food, clothing, and shelter that are all necessities to endure temperatures that can drop as

low as 20 degrees below Fahrenheit, in weather conditions that beckon wind storms and snow storms.

If you add the prices of the "Meredith Girl's Christmas Wish List," it would come to approximately \$1,000.

The number of young Afghani children that could have lived if that amount of money were donated to give them the basic necessities of life is astounding.

If two-year-olds in the United States were dying every winter because they could not eat, did not have proper clothing to endure the elements, and did not have adequate shelter to escape the winter weather

while Afghanis asked for materialistic possessions such as top of the line handbags, shoes, clothes, sheets and jewelry, chances are, I would probably hate them, too.

What is on your
Christmas wish list?

Joni Smith wants to
know.
Email her at
smithjc@meredith.edu

A Meredith Woman's Wish List



Economic stability

Goodwill toward others

An ending to hunger and poverty

An ease of racial and ethnic tensions

Global awareness of international issues

HOUSE FOR RENT
CARY – renovated duplex on
cul-de-sac. 2 BR, 2.5BA, 1100 sq.
ft., FP, w/d, deck, nice yard,
\$750/month negotiable. #795-1537



The Campus Forum

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