

...learn that they can endanger their
 and their lives.
 sk force at the academy has provided a
 altering the way the staff deals with
 earing issues that concern cadets and,
 ly, making the academy a better place.
 stitution, even one as prestigious as
 my, is only as good as the individuals
 e up the population. Like other insti-
 he academy has cadets who, for one
 another, fail to live up to the high
 s expected of officers in training.
 y life is full of pressures and ten-
 ping cadets handle the stress, meet
 g schedules and attain the scholar-
 ssary to graduate from the academy
 r goal the administration must con-
 rk on. At the very least, the acade-
 ced its problems head-on. That is a
 toward improving an already excel-
 lation.

lith

rs over government's
 st-denial point to the good
 negotiating with Iran, not
 it with threats of war.

ist occurred.
 any of those who signed the state-
 outside Iran, some do not. This was
 y sign of dissent with the govern-
 nd policies. Members of parliament
 sed outrage over the government
 and pronouncements.
 ample evidence that Iran is not a
 d that it makes sense for the U.S.
 y to negotiations with the country,
 ligerent actions that drive even the
 to the arms of the government.

inner

wing organizers of the immigrant
 rticularly Young Americans for
 id Young Republicans — have
 usly that they're just trying to
 . At that, they have succeeded.
 fending immigration and human
 outnumbered the game's players
 sity of Michigan, Michigan State,
 a State and other campuses,
 nost recently, at New York

n from schools has been mostly
 istrators are in a tough spot, try-
 ce free speech with offensive
 e speech is the answer, including
 oripity pointing out the nastiness
 is small as the ink...

...between Matthew Shepard's death
 and those of our fallen soldiers, nor
 do I see how Westboro Baptist
 Church has chosen to make this
 connection. Shirley Phelps-Roper
 states that this country was duped
 into war by God as a punishment for
 its tolerance of gay relationships. If
 you use that train of thought, I as-
 sume there will be other wars com-
 ing to cover other perceived moral
 defects.

Deuteronomy 7-21 lists 10 other
 important reasons (The Ten
 Commandments) that God's wrath
 will be felt; however, I see nowhere
 in the Bible where it says we should
 protest at a funeral.

Americans have many platforms
 in which to air complaints,
 concerns and beliefs — newspapers,
 television and radio. One's sacred
 resting place should not be one of
 them. Service men and women con-
 tinue to afford us the opportunity
 and right to express ourselves as we
 see fit. Many soldiers, such as Capt.
 Jason Hamill, have given the
 ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Phelps and his followers
 might want to consider this the next
 time they plan to protest the very
 people who gave their lives so that
 they can continue their disruptive
 protests. My father used to say, "Just
 because you can doesn't mean you
 should." One of the protesters dis-
 played a sign at the funeral that read
 "The World is Doomed." When I see
 that groups like Mr. Phelps don't un-
 derstand common decency, I guess
 we are.

Norman Williams
Mystic

Jewish rights supersede those of Palestinians?

To the Editor of The Day:

In his U.N. Human Rights Com-
 mission report, John Dugard from
 South Africa said that Israel's laws
 and practices, such as restrictions
 on Palestinian movement, house
 demolition and preferential
 treatment given to Jewish settlers,
 resemble apartheid. ("U.N. human
 rights expert likens Israeli occupa-
 tion to apartheid," Feb. 24.)

The purpose of the Israeli govern-
 ment action is to maintain domina-
 tion by one racial group over another.
 Here in the United States, proper-
 ties in the occupied territories are
 marketed at synagogues. Congrega-
 tion B'nai Yeshurun, for example,
 advertises an opportunity, the
 Amana Campaign, that will enable
 young settler families to continue to
 re-populate (occupy) the West Bank
 at Yehsa. Jewish federations send
 large tax-deductible donations to Is-
 rael to assure that separate schools,
 swimming pools, roads and lifestyle
 choices are maintained on occupied
 land for the benefit of Jewish people
 only.

Groton

Time for new watershed commission in Groton?

To the Editor of The Day:

Did anyone notice a strange
 incongruity between the behavior of
 Groton Utilities, which has responsi-
 bility for protecting our drinking
 water supply, and that of the Groton
 Town Planning Commission with
 regard to the proposed Wal-Mart su-
 perstore on Gold Star Highway?

Some time ago, Groton Utilities
 created a draft memorandum of un-
 derstanding with the Wal-Mart de-
 veloper to allow Wal-Mart to proceed
 to build a superstore in our drinking
 water conservation zone, a mere
 1,600 feet from the source of our
 drinking water, the Poquonnock
 Reservoir.

Yet on Feb. 16, the town planning
 commission rejected Wal-Mart's
 new superstore plan, 4-1, giving nine
 very powerful reasons why the store
 as planned would jeopardize our wa-
 ter and our environment. I'm won-
 dering why Groton Utilities thought
 this store in the shadow of our
 reservoir would be OK.

It's hard to escape the possibility
 that Groton Utilities would very
 much like to sell electricity to this
 new superstore and, therefore, has a
 serious conflict of interest. How
 many new huge developments in
 our drinking water watershed —
 such as the Marriott hotel, the new
 Hyatt hotel, the existing Wal-Mart
 and the proposed new Wal-Mart —
 will it take before our drinking wa-
 ter is so degraded that we have to
 foot the bill for some huge new filtra-
 tion plant?

Groton citizens, beware. Our out-
 standing drinking water is precious,
 but vulnerable to polluted runoff
 and must be protected. Maybe it's
 time to create a new watershed com-
 mission whose only job is to
 safeguard our drinking water sup-
 ply for the future.

Elizabeth Raisbeck
Groton

Debit cards for illegals wrong on several levels

To the Editor of The Day:

In last week's Day, there was an
 article about permitting banks to is-
 sue debit cards to illegal immigrants
 who, naturally, did not have Social
 Security numbers. ("New enterprise
 is banking on immigrants with debit
 card," Feb. 22.) Relatives of these
 criminals living in foreign countries
 could withdraw from these
 accounts.

Am I missing something here?
 First, these people are criminals (il-
 legal). Second, we are allowing them
 special conditions to further break
 our laws. And, mostly, does this not
 smell of money laundering?

I wonder who is getting the
 biggest kickback to even consider

lunch boxes from China being
 taminated with lead. ("How it
 decided lunch-box lead levels
 OK," Feb. 19.)

Our girls use them for field
 They were bought at Wal-Mart
 of their goods come from Chin
 felt we should check them. Out
 four; two turned the bright pin
 cating lead.

Are they trying to poison ou
 dren? I condemn China and als
 own country. They should be cl
 ing the stuff they allow into th
 country.

Nancy Hende
Uncas

Urban could put effort into meaningful bills

To the Editor of The Day

Is state Rep. Diana Urban spo
 ing bills to protect our kids agai
 sexual predators, protecting citi
 from violent gangs, helping to
 relieve the burden of ever-rising
 costs of heat, fuel or taxes? No, s
 wants to pass a bill to protect th
 three elephants in the state that
 ly aren't being abused.

Rep. Urban wants to pass a bil
 ban the use of an ankus, a tool u
 to guide elephants. This tool cau
 enough discomfort to the elephai
 make it obey your commands, sa
 as a bit and bridle does to a horse
 Rep. Urban gives horseback ridin
 lessons. It's OK for her to stick a
 al bit in a horse's mouth, a bridle
 its face, strap on a saddle so tight
 that it doesn't slide, then sit on th
 horse and pull on the reins to forc
 the poor animal to go anywhere s
 wants it to go. Sounds pretty hypc
 critical to me. Maybe horseback r
 ing should be outlawed also. And
 what about walking a dog on a lea
 forcing it to go with you?

Rep. Urban is wasting valuable
 legislative time on animal rights
 groups' agendas instead of protec
 ing and helping the people of this
 state. She also has sponsored a bill
 ban the force-feeding of birds for
 foie gras (goose liver pate), which I
 don't think is even taking place in
 this state.

Rep. Urban should start working
 to help the people who elected her
 and stop wasting our state govern-
 ment's time on non-issues.

Jeff Pollan
Noan

Letters to The Day

The Day encourages original
 letters to the editor not sent to
 other publications.

Because The Day wants to
 publish as many letters as possi-
 ble, the writer should limit
 the length to 250 words and
 submit no more than one letter
 every 30 days.

The Day does not publish eul-
 ogies, poetry, thank-you notes,