Mideast Expert Vali Nasr Speaks on Global Politics

By Otto Neubauer
ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On April 14, over 200 students and staff attended Vali Nasr’s presentation on Politics of the Muslim World in Xavier Auditorium.

Nasr, Adjunct Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, spoke on the history of the Middle East and where things stand today.

Nasr commented that throughout the Middle East, the merging of religion into public life has "turbocharged" conflicts.

Iraq and Iran are key to the Middle East, he continued. He compared the current situation in Iraq with that in North Ireland not so long ago.

The conflict in Iraq is predominately between Sunni and Shia, he said, the two dominant sects of Islam.

The two separated over a disagreement regarding who the caliph, or political ruler and successor to Muhammad, the founder of Islam.

Sunni believed the caliph should be chosen by the community, and elected Muhammad’s father-in-law, Abu Bakr. Shia, however, believed that the caliph must be a descendant of Muhammad, and that he had considered his son-in-law, Ali ibn Ali Talib, as his successor.

In a bloody fight known as the battle of Karbala, Ali and his supporters were killed.

Nasr explained how the Shia have never held power in the Islamic world, save in Iran. When the US deposaessed Saddam Hussein’s regime and brought the majority Shia to power, they believed it was God’s will that they had been granted power.

Nasr also argued that while Iran has been portrayed as a radical regime in Western media, they are anything but. Iran is the only country from the Middle East with an embassy in Iraq, he said, and they encouraged Iraqi Shia to vote in elections.

Mideast Expert Vali Nasr

Council on Foreign Relations

He also pointed out that while Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of Iran, is extremely anti-Western, America should not view him as a national security concern. In Iran, the President is not the head of state, and has little to no military power.

Finally, Nasr commented on the state of homeland security efforts. Nasr criticised the USA PATRIOT Act, a bill passed in October of 2001 to strengthen government’s ability to intercept and obstruct terrorism. While populations voluntarily give up rights in wartime, he said, they don’t always get them back.

Nasr contended that the USA PATRIOT Act has harmed international students and businesspeople, making it more difficult to travel to and from the US. “You don’t need a sledghammer to crack a walnut.”

Nasr is the author of many excellent books on Middle East Affairs, including The Shia Revival, Democracy in Iran, and The Islamic Leviathan.
The The Other Presidential Election

By Andrew Childers
Guest Writer

The polls open in less than a week to elect new leaders for the Student Government Association (SGA). Two candidates running for the elected position of Student Body President for the '08-'09 academic year are J.J. Atkins and Sean Harrell. Polls open online at http://elections.jwu.edu (not "www.") at 12:00 AM Monday, April 14 and end at 11:59 PM Thursday, April 17.

The two candidates for President faced off in a series of questions and answers at the Meet the Candidates session held last Sunday in the Yena Center. Both have experience qualifying them for the job—each candidate currently serves on SGA and has started projects recognized by the University Senate that effect students across campus. Despite having a history in common, the candidates take opposing viewpoints on how to run SGA. University Senator Sean Harrell said in an interview with the Campus Herald on Tuesday, "I've formed many professional relationships with the administration of JWU throughout my many facets of involvement as a Senator, Diversity Committee chair, and student assistant.

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Focus on Green Plans Activities

By Nick Zanze
Work-Study

On Tuesday, March 25, the group known as Focus on Green met to discuss how to make the University more environmentally friendly. Ideas included a recycling program at J&W, guest speakers, and films to raise awareness for the environment. Professor Patricia Overdeep (School of Arts and Sciences) hopes for an environmental center at J&W.

The group discussed a family that has been living "off the grid." They depend on no one for their survival. There was also talk about activities for the week of Earth Day, courtesy of the Green Collaborative. Among these are a documentary and a campus cleanup. Students are welcome to participate in all of these.

The office of student activities does not have any events planned for this group they are providing the necessary financial support. There are also plans in the work to do an audit of recycling for the dorms here at JWU. This will hopefully provide the necessary information to start a recycling program here at JWU.

SAFETY & Security BLOTTER

SUNDAY, MARCH 16—ARREST / OFF CAMPUS
Resident student arrested and charged in an incident involving a motor vehicle.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21—ALLEGED SEXUAL ASSAULT / SNOWDEN HALL
A student reported that she was sexually assaulted in her residence hall room. The student stated she met the suspect at a local night club and returned with him to her hall where the subject allegedly forced intercourse upon her despite her repeated requests to stop.

The suspect was described as a non-student black male about 6'6" tall, weighing about 150lbs, with a medium build and curly black hair. The suspect was described as wearing a white t-shirt, black pants, and a black waist length jacket with fur trim.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21—ASSAULT / RENAISSANCE HALL
A student reported that a guest visiting her at Renaissance Hall was assaulted and seriously injured by six males, one of whom was involved in a verbal confrontation with the victim earlier that evening. The suspect fled Renaissance Hall in two vehicles. Several suspects were identified by a witness as JWU students. Police were notified and an investigation is continuing.

One vehicle was described as gold in color with RT license plates being driven by a Hispanic female. The second vehicle was described only as silver in color with Connecticut license plates.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28—SEXUAL ASSAULT / OFF CAMPUS
A female student reported to the Cranston Police Department that she was sexually assaulted by an unknown assailant on Harbourside Boulevard in the vicinity of the computer lab. According to the Cranston Police, the victim was approached by the perpetrator while waiting for the University bus outside Gaebe Commons. The assailant reportedly boarded the bus and followed the victim to the Harbourside campus. Cranston Police were notified.

The victim described her assailant as a black or Hispanic male, approximately 5'9" to 5'10" tall with a muscular build and dark hair, possibly a "buzz cut." The suspect was described as wearing a light blue jeans and a dark, short sleeve shirt.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30—ROBBERY / OFF CAMPUS
A student was assaulted and robbed at the Dorrance Street courthouse rear parking lot near Richmond Street. The student reported he left a nearby night-club with two females whom he did not know and while walking through the parking lot behind the courthouse, the females grabbed his pockets and assaulted him. The victim got away from the females and as he was walking in the area of Friendship and Richmond Street, a car stopped and the 2 females along with 2 dark skinned males emerged and began assaulting him again. The victim was robbed of his cell phone and money before the suspects fled the area in the vehicle. Police were notified.
More Than a Game

BY RAYIEL BACALLAR

5,4,3,2,1!!! The buzzer sounds, it is the end of the game, the end of the greatest game in your career. You have been mobbed by kids your own age. The shot has made you a legend, you have beaten your arch-rivals right on the biggest arena, Madison Square Gar- dens. That shot will be remembered in your mind but once you get back to that campus, you are just an ordinary college student. Is that how life usually is? You have that big moment and then once you come back to reality, it will fade.

What does this have to do with anything? Well, what you just heard is March Mad- ness, as it is called, is the biggest month of sports in the whole calendar year. Can one believe, even bigger than the Super Bowl? When you see the TV ratings for the NCAA tournament, one has to know what is it. Simplicity, March Madness is the NCAA Division I men’s basketball tournament. It is a field of 65 of the best Division I teams in all of the country that fight toward the have the right of saying the National Championship.

Before they play the games, a selection committee determines what seeding teams get. They range from the prestigious 1 seed to the lowly 16 seed. The committee gathers once a year to seed where they think everybody should be. The selection committee looks at how the teams performed during the season. It goes down from how tough their schedule was during the season to simply if they won their conference tournaments. Those are usually played after the regular season and captivate imagination throughout the month of March.

I know you do not want to hear about RPI, Strength of Schedule, bracketology and how boring that process is. I understand you just know why throughout this whole month, this is on TV and why it captivates the United States and especially the Johnson and Wales Community.

Take your time and imagine you are being watched with every move you do, every time you walk outside you are being watched. Well these kids who play this great tournament are just like us. They are prospective college students, ones that want to go through college but just have unbelievable talent. It is more than a game because it is more than a game. It is part of the growing multi-billion dollar sports industry. To put things into perspective, according to USA Today, employers lose $237 million in wages every 1.35 minutes because of time workers spend on the Internet tracking games.

In our case, we are betting on these basketball games is somewhat unethical. Workers across the United States love to have little office pools that bring unity among the team. Unfortunately, J&W has that this has happened at his job back home that everybody had a big pool of people. The pool was organized in different rooms and there were about 30 people from three different stores. According to the rimmermaker grouping.com, for fu-
ture employers out there reading this article; it would be a smart thing to actually let your employers have a tournament competition for the three weeks that it lasts. The main reason is that it creates more competition that does not involve gossip about workers but instead about the tourny itself. Think about it; would you rather have someone dis- cuss that this person is a slow worker or have someone talk about how dominant a player can be in the tourny. This, as a result, causes less turnover since everybody will slowly become friends and not leave the company.

The Johnson & Wales sports teams are just the same as any Division I team and are the only one that collectively do not have a conference to be a part of. So, it is the opportunity to bring other players together.

March Madness, besides bringing out the insanity out of any sane basketball fan, can also bring back those same people to their college days. People who are in their 20’s and 30’s and now living their own lives, all of a sudden can see two teams with some friends on TV and see some people carrying around the TV cheering. They are pulling their brackets out laughing at their friends that are losing. The TV’s are in- tense calling the games which make the stu- dents feel like they are part of the game.

According to Geoffrey Long, ‘11, ‘The one thing that is so special about this tournament is that there is no real cut winner. I mean this year you see a lot of upset that are quite unexpected and you have to imagine that its only going to get better. Also I think that its more entertaining. March is all about the Cinderella, you have to expect that someone is going to upset by another team’.

The Cinderella factor is the factor that brings the most unexpected people to follow. It is the basic cliché of David Vs. Goliath that lets people who had never followed the season to watch this tourny, watch it because it is such a big spectacle.

Anybody reading this article, this author gives you a challenge. The challenge is will you remember who wins the tournament this year? Do you remember who won last year? Were you even in a pool? This chal- lenge is to make a pool this year. So people do forget what happened the year be- fore or the year after but do remember how the jousts played out? March Madness is just more than a game. Some say it can be a lifestyle that brings out the best or the worst of us. One thing for sure this whole month of March is that everybody looks forwar- to and has this nation captivated for a long time. It is just us college kids having fun playing and watching. If you need a joke for their bracket, just remember this, “It is just the way it is.”

Softball Splits GNAC

BY DANEAL BOOTH

The Johnson & Wales softball teams split a Great Northeast Athletic Conference doubleheader against Norwich at Piersfield Field on Saturday afternoon. Norwich posted a 10-6 win in the opener with Johnson & Wales earning the split with a 4-3 win in the nightcap.

In the opener, Norwich jumped out to a 5-0 lead after a three run fourth inning, including an RBI single by senior Codi Collins (Water- ville, Vt.). Johnson & Wales responded in the top of the fifth with four runs, including a two run triple by junior Kirsten Griffiths, cutting the lead to 5-4. The Wildcats tied the game at 5-5 in the top of the sixth, an RBI single by sophomore Lima Rivera (Bayside, N.Y.), with the score tied 5-5 after regulation, the game went into extra innings where J&W used a run in the top of the eighth to take the 9-5 lead. The inning was highlighted by a two run double by Griffiths. Norwich re- sponded in the bottom of the eighth, scoring five unearned runs on route to the 10-9 victory.

Sophomore Jasmin Stevens (Cobebuck, N.H.) went 3-for-6 with three runs scored while sophomore Lindsey Fickett (Brock- field, N.H.) was 3-for-6 with two RBI in the win. Norwich pitcheraced J&W scoring 3-for-6 with two runs and four RBI in the setback. Freshman Mackenzie Pratt (Hyde Park, Vt.) picked up the win for the Cadets, allowing eight runs on nine hits with two strikeouts in eight innings of work.

In the nightcap, J&W jumped out to an early 3-0 lead. Freshman Christine Casarella (Middletown, N.Y.) notched an RBI single in the first, the Wildcats tallied an unarmed run in the second and Griffiths put the team ahead 3-0 with a sacrifice fly. Norwich cut the lead to 3-1 in the bottom of the third on an RBI single by Collins. J&W responded again in the top of the fourth when an RBI single by Casarella put the team ahead 4-1. Norwich chipped away at the lead, scoring an RBI on a single by senior Christine Carroll (Westport, Mass.) in the fourth and closing to within two runs in the bottom of the fifth. That would be as close as the Cadets would get, however as J&W held on to win the game. Freshman Bianca Schell picked up the win for J&W, allowing three runs on seven hits with one strikeout in the complete game.

The Wildcats are now 2-7 for the year and 1-9 in the GNAC while Norwich is 9-5 on the season and 5-1 in league play. J&W will return to action on Sunday, April 6th when they travel to Saint Joseph’s of Maine for a GNAC double header, starting at 1:00 p.m.
The Vagina Monologues

BY CAMERON SPEICHER
STAFF WRITER

Walking into Pepli Forum, I wasn’t sure what to expect. I had heard criticism and praise from friends and strangers alike, but there was still some mystery in my mind about the content of the play. I was about to see. After the lights dimmed and the curtains parted, I watched as the actresses on stage embodied different women, all eager to share their stories about sex, abuse and self-respect. The words they spoke were raw, hilarious, terrifying, painful, sad, and definitely uninhibited. But that’s what you would expect from The Vagina Monologues, Eve Ensler’s award-winning play about women and their down there.

The play is comprised of monologues that Ensler created during interviewing 200 women about their vaginas. As you might expect, many of the stories are about sexual experiences as well as sexual abuse, the language used in the play is far from ‘G rated.’ This is one of the themes of the play, and why the JWU Women’s Center, the International Center, the E-Club, the JWU Players, New Student Orientation, and the Student Counseling Center decided to put it on. They believe that so long as talking about sexual abuse is considered taboo, it will still go on. By speaking openly about it to students and the community, they say, violence against women can be stopped.

The play also contains lighthearted monologues, including an angry rant on the injustices done to vaginas by tampons and gynecologists, and many auditory examples of different sexual moans that would make you blush if you weren’t laughing so hard.

As a man, I found it interesting to hear the opinions and ideas of the women portrayed. But at times, I felt that men were portrayed as the enemy. When men are mentioned in the play, they are often described through violence and a desire to control women. The only positive story about a man makes him seem like the exception to the standard, even abnormal. This makes me feel defensive when watching it.

Apart from this, the play was fun and fascinating to watch. The Vagina Monologues is an intriguing look into the minds and souls of women that is valuable for both men and women.

WE WANT YOU

The Campus Herald is looking for dedicated staff members for the remainder of the 2007-2008 academic year and for the start of the 2008-2009 academic year. Contact us at 401-598-2867, or campusherald@jwu.edu.

Elizabeth Hernandez

Cast of The Vagina Monologues

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Christmas: What a holiday it is! It brings out the child in all of us. The inner child, the part of ourselves that brings us to the past but lets us enjoy life. Well, aiming at our students but our faculty could count, think of a new toy that came out in your childhood. Discuss it among your friends if you want to. List five toys that you remember that were new that you would never forget. Were they not found on everybody’s list? The toys that parents would sometimes kill each other for so their children are happy. Is that what most kids want to when they are on Christmas. The pure joy of happiness.

Was that nice or what? To go back to our childhoods and remember things that made us happy. Well now fast forward to 2008, What is the thing that everybody wants? Take a guess: A cell phone, new laptop, IPOD, etc.? Well if you guessed that, you could say you are somewhat correct. However, the new craze that has surrounded our nation and our neighbors in the far east, take a guess now, you have to know what it is: Wii, it is the new system known as the Nintendo Wii. Ok, The Nintendo Wii? Was that a shocker to most people who read this article?

What is the Nintendo Wii? You ask? Simple, to clarify, it is a video game home console developed by one of the leading video game companies in Nintendo. Nintendo has had a broad history ranging from the revolutionary concept of the 1980’s of Super Mario vs. Donkey Kong to the impact that the Wii has made for the current American population. The Wii is the fifth console from this video game giant. Originally named the Revolution which in this writer’s opinion sounds better, it came out in November 19th, 2006 with the hefty price tag that every new system comes out with, $250.00 for a video game system? One that is named Wii? These are questions that came out when it first came out. Nobody really knew what it is.

The Wii is something you can say has made America more fitness savvy. Look, this author is not saying that the Wii will help you drastically lose weight but it can help you be fit. At the same time, it provides entertainment for the family and friends. Well for starters, The Wii has a controller that is unlike any other controller. The controller can be attached at your wrist and can be either set on the side like any controller or can be swung around at the TV screen. It does not mean literally, one throws the controller at the TV screen but the controller comes with a black sensor that can be placed above the TV or below it. It is what basically some people can say gives the Wii its magic of letting the user of the controller boance up and down, jump or even simply swing it like a sword. Well, it is not magic like pulling a rabbit out of the hat but the magic that lets the player think they are part of the game. Besides the normal controller, there is an attachment that comes with the controller called the Nunchuk. What a name huh? The Nunchuk name you can say came from the weapon that made Kung Fu movies famous. Is it what the joystick on which also is another option that you lets control the character that is on the screen.

Like any other video game console, The Wii is a console that relies solely on the games it comes with. The games are like the treasure that make any video game console. Nintendo is definitely no stranger to this. It has its unique games, From Mr. Ito-a Mario to Mr. Link of the Zelda series. Yes, the games are very out there and make even the average American move around. Yes, this video game console does not make you sit around and be lazy which most parents complain about. Yes, it incorporates the whole family and even friends. Imagine walking down Snowden Hall or Morality Hall but seeing kids laughing at a good time. One would think that they are just relaxing laughing at everybody. However, it is them playing bowling. Bowling on a video game console? When one gets the Wii, it comes with a full game called Wii Sports. Wii Sports is basically a five sport package that contains bowling, tennis, golf, bocceball and boxing. It is something that is very unique that has sports lovers at heart but at the same time provides parents a reason to enjoy their kids. The Wii games are usually targeted toward younger children. Recent additions include Super Mario Galaxy, Legend of Zelda and oh yeah Wario! These games provide entertainment for children but parents know that they are safe.

Wii is a unique name. It is pronounced like the word we. We would like to play like one sees in those unique commercials. It provides the message of unity. Wii is something that incorporates friends and family. It is an awesome system that Nintendo knew what they were doing. So next time around campus, looking for something to do on a rainy day, get a group of friends and play Wii all day. Hey, it provides the entertainment and brings friends together.
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SHEET PAINTING - GABE Commons - 4-6PM
ENVIRONMENTAL BINGO - HARBORSIDE REC CENTER - 8PM
TUESDAY 4/22
TREE PLANTING - CAFE Commons - 4PM
WEDNESDAY 4/23
OPEN MIC NIGHT - XAVIER COURTYARD - 7-9PM
FRIDAY 4/25
GABE CLEAN-UP - 6:45AM

Wildcat WAHOO!
Saturday, May 3

Yung Joc
Dashboard Confessional
Ideas and Opinions

Boycott

Olympics

By PATRICK DVL
Editor-in-Chief

With just a few months left before the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, the calls for a U.S. boycott of the games are growing in intensity. But resistance has come from not only the Chinese government and corporate sponsors of the worldwide games event, but also state department officials here in the United States.

I’ll admit that a boycott of the Olympic Games being held in China will not persuade the brutal Chinese government to change their ways, however the idea should not be immediately dismissed either.

Many argue that we should not politicize the Games. I can only hope that the naysayers have forgotten that the Olympic Games have been made political by the United States, and other nations now considered our allies in the past. In 1936, Nazi Germany used the Olympics as a stage to show the world their advancements and cement their place in the accepted world order. Then in 1980, the U.S. led a boycott of the Moscow games to make a statement about the U.S.S.R.’s invasion of Afghanistan. Four years later, Soviet athletes were banned from the 1984 Los Angeles games.

What are my specific complaints against China? One could start with China’s free speech violations. China severely restricts both foreign and local media, jailing journalists and censoring thousands of Web sites.

China also is the most important foreign investor for Sudan, indirectly helping sustain the Sudanese government while it perpetuates the genocide in Darfur. The Chinese government also wields its significant Security Council power in opposing any sanctions against the African country.

The most recent problem to come into the limelight has been China’s oppressive crackdown on dissidents in Tibet.

The European Union is talking about boycotting the Olympics, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel has already announced she will not attend the opening ceremonies of the games.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is calling for George Bush to do the same.

The opening ceremonies always function as braiding rights, and China has spent unprecedented amounts on its games.

If the U.S. doesn’t want athletes to be punished for the problems being fought out on the international political scale, it should at least show the same concern for the millions of people affected by the Chinese government’s brutality. And the Olympics might give the U.S. a chance to do more than just talk.

Quote of the issue...

“This is a monument to executive supremacy and the imperial presidency.”

Yale Law professor Eugene R. Fiddell, on a recently released Justice Department memo from 2003 that sought to establish legal justification for the use of harsh interrogation techniques against terror suspects.

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The Campus Herald reserves the right to edit submissions for space, libelous content, and to conform to publication standards.

Brought to you by

MarketPlace

By EMILIO RODRIGUEZ
Guest Writer

If you want to eat on the downtown campus there are a few options, such as Snowden, City Burger, and the Market Place, and Starbucks and Weybosset Cafe for a quick lunch. All of these places have some good things, and do the job for improvement. One of the newest place due to renovation, and with a wide variety of food, is “The Market Place.”

The new facility, which used to be two old dining centers that got renovated to be this one place now, includes the Nature’s Bound, where they cook less processed food such as natural eggs. The left side of the dining center has the most variety of food offerings every day. Starting with the breakfast, which is my favorite meal in the place, you can get eggs, bacon, hash brown, or any food that goes with a typical American breakfast. Even though it is a little greasy, everything is very tasty.

For lunch and dinner there is more variety in both sides of the facility. Lasagna, meat loaf, rice and beans, and a variety of meats are some of the options that change daily, and sandwiches, wraps, pizza, and salads are the standard items that you can get every day.

But there is one problem that seems to affect everyone who walks into the Market Place, and is the odor that sticks to everything. First of all, I thought that it was only me who could smell, but as I started talking to my friends about this subject I started getting the same reaction from them that no matter down for a dinner in a meal hall without hearing the word at some point during my meal.

I don’t understand why a person would use a term to describe themselves when there is a history of racial violence, oppression and segregation.

I don’t understand how, even if blacks somehow find the word acceptable among each other, how they fail to see that their use of it simply justifies its use by whites as a hateful, bigoted remark.

I don’t pretend to understand well enough to offer a solution. But I can provide some food for thought.

In Japan, there was a similar issue of ethnic bias. During the Edo period, Japanese society was structured into social classes. The lowest of these, the Ezo, was the “untouchable” class. As late as 1859, an Ezo was legally considered only 1/7 of an ordinary person. Before getting married, families of bride and groom would hire private investigators to determine if their prospective son or daughter-in-law was an Ezo. The fight against this bias was not easily won. But they took an important first step—abolishing the word that was at the heart of the ethnic struggle. The word Ezo was literally removed from dictionaries. Another word, burakumin, was substituted as it’s place.

This was only the first step for Japan. It helped end bias against the burakumin. America should do everything it can to end the use of the word “n*****.” Making it use punishable by law would be a good start for how short or long you stay in will always come out smelling like food.

When you are in the place is the feeling that food smells good, but then when you go west to realize that all the food is already impregnated in your clothes, backpack, hair, and whatever it is that comes in contact with the air.

Because of this change, I have decided not to go to the Market Place so often. Usually after lunch I have a meeting or another class to go to and I can not smell something or just do not like to be the smellly one in the group. Is easy to recognize when someone has been in that facility as has happened to me few times, when someone in class says “it smells like food here” or the typical “You were at the Market Place, weren’t you?”

One solution is to improve the ventilation system existing in the building now. Also now that we are in spring we can open more windows, or build more possible. With all the good food offered for breakfast, lunch and dinner in an open buffet style, why would all the students go there for lunch? For Johnson & Wales University is worth it doing the fixtures needed, because students feel more desire to go there, and thus can buy in bigger bulk saving more money. Also commuter students and other university members without meal plans can help maintain revenue for the place. Because after eating at a good restaurant, would you like to come out smelling just as good? A little change would bring in a lot more people to the new Market Place.
Olympics set to be a moment of shame for democracies worldwide

By Anthony P. Benedetti
Harvard-Chinese (Harvard)

On August 8, the 2008 Olympic Games will open in Beijing. The eyes of the world will be upon China, as tourists and television viewers from every country tune in. Hundreds of world leaders, including President Bush, will be in attendance. Medals will be won, records will be broken, and nations will rally around their Olympic heroes.

But for democracies worldwide, it will be a moment of shame. By attending the Olympics, they will be tacitly endorsing China’s autocratic governance, abuse of its own people, and its unsavory alliances. The United States should take a stand against China’s egregious behavior by boycotting the Olympic Games.

When China successfully bid for the Olympic Games in 2001, its government pledged to use them as a stepping-stone to wards democracy. As Liu Jingmin, a top Beijing official, told the International Olympic Committee at the time, “By allowing Beijing to hold the Games, you will help the development of human rights.” But China’s words have not translated into action. Its people lack basic freedoms; thousands of reporters, political prisoners, and religious minorities languish in its jails and labor camps. Amnesty International estimates that China executes more people each year than the rest of the world combined. The government’s preparations for the Olympics have placed great hardship on the Chinese people, as over 400,000 people have been evicted from their homes to make way for stadiums and new highways. Few receive compensation, because in China, most land is “collectivized” and technically belongs to the central government. These injustices have continued to occur despite China’s earlier promises to move towards democracy.

Domestic dissatisfaction reached a crescendo last month with Tibetan protests against Chinese rule. To quell the protests, the Chinese army entered Lhasa, and began firing on protesters, killing over 80 people. The Dalai Lama has called China’s actions a “cultural genocide.”

Worst of all, China, as an ally of oil-rich Sudan, holds the key for any Darfur genocide by association. Its investment dollars and arms sales support the Sudanese regime, enabling it to continue its brutal war against Darfur. There must be meaningful consequences to China’s disregard for human rights.

America faced a similar dilemma before the infamous 1936 Berlin Olympics. Adolf Hitler used the Olympics to positively portray his regime to the world much like the Chinese government is doing today. Hitler intended for the Berlin Olympics to vindicate Germany as a nation of peace and tolerance. The Nazi government softened its racist campaign, removing anti-Semitic posters from tourist attractions. The American Olympic committee, reluctant to mix politics and sport, decided to send a team to the games. Europe’s democracies followed America’s lead. The games went on, and Hitler was lauded for their success. The world in 1936 thus condoned the Nazi regime, just as we condone China’s abusive government today.

Unfortunately, it looks as though events are about to repeat themselves. As Pierre de Coubertin, creator of the modern Olympics, noted, “Holding an Olympic Games means evoking history.” Will President Hu Jintao refuse to congratulate a gold medalist who happens to be Taiwanese? Will China’s own “undesirables” be conveniently moved out of the television camera’s sight?

Although most argue that politics should be kept out of the Games, it is not as though American boycotts of the Olympics are unprecedented. In 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. In response, the United States and most other NATO nations boycotted the Moscow Olympics the next year. By reducing the Olympics to a contest between Communist nations, the West was able to express its atrocity at the Kremlin’s misdeeds. If a host nation’s aggression against a neighbor warrants a boycott, surely a host nation’s aggression against its own people warrants one as well.

Already, public figures have supported an Olympic boycott. Representative Dana Rohrabacher, a California Republican, has put forth a resolution in the House recommending a boycott. Recently, Steven Spielberg, angry over China’s lack of action on Darfur, resigned as artistic consultant to the Beijing Games. Mia Farrow has praised Spielberg’s action, and termed the games the “Genocide Olympics.” Reporters Without Borders supports a boycott because of China’s jailing of dissident journalists. These people all have recognized that participation in the Olympics is a tacit endorsement of China’s current conduct; more politicians and organizations should do so as well.

This summer, thousands of visitors and millions of television viewers will get their first glimpses of modern China. They will see futuristic sporting venues, clean skies, brand-new roads, and smiling hosts. But after the Olympic flame is extinguished, and the victorious athletes return home, China will return to its abysmal ways. Almost 7 years after our initial failure to stand against totalitarianism in the Olympics, we are about to be fall for the same trick. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on us.

The World is not Absolut

The Daily Vetette (Illinois State U.)

In an advertising campaign for the Swedish vodka brand, Absolut, targeted for Mexican map of the U.S. and Mexico is shown. While the actual act of showing a map is probably not very noteworthy, the fact that the map shown was the one from before the Mexican-American War of 1848 is a map shows present-day states within the U.S., such as California, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and a few other states, as still a part of Mexican territories. Overlaid, the words “In an Absolut World.”

Because the ad was targeted toward Mexico, this appeal to the country’s nationalism by bringing up land that was once a part of Mexico that became a part of the United States seems relevant to the campaign’s target audience. However, this type of appeal did not work for Americans, as many of them found this ad campaign offensive.

According to the Los Angeles Times Web site, one person, using the pseudonym ‘New Yorker’, made a comment on MexicoReport.com as follows: “I find this ad deeply offensive, and needlessly divisive. I will now make a point of drinking other brands. And vodka and tonic is my drink.” Similar comments and blogs have been made, some making the point that those territories did not belong to Mexico in the first place.

Admittedly, upon first viewing this ad, members of the Daily Vidette Editorial Board first had the impression that the ad meant that, in an “Absolut world,” no one would want those states to be a part of the United States.

However, upon the realization that the ad was targeted toward Mexico, we found the message to be a clever twist on historical events.

Although many Americans seem offended by the ad, it seems as though the ad was not meant to offend Americans, but rather just give Mexican citizens the feeling of camaraderie with the vodka brand.

Additionally, we could not help but wonder if those Americans are offended because, to them, an “Absolut world” means never questioning the status quo.

This map is not a current map, and those territories now belong to the United States so, in the end, Americans still come out with an advantage. So, do they really have a reason to be upset?

Furthermore, while this might seem offensive to some Americans, perhaps they should keep in mind that the ad was not meant for them, that every advertisement does not consider the needs and feelings of Americans.

Hopefully, those who were offended by the ad will soon realize that this is not an Absolut world, and the map printed does not reflect

A Message from the Student Body President

Someone in one of my classes said that Spring Tri goes by slowly and, with all do respect, I must disagree. We have been very busy since we got back from Spring break with Relay for Life, a New Constitution, the passing of a new bill, preparing for Spring Elections and a Spring Survey.

Recently, Senate voted to ratify a new Association Constitution that was proposed by Chief Justice Evan Lemoine. The new constitution makes the branches more independent and takes the Association in the direction of the federal system. It also provides that Representatives will be elected directly to the House of Representatives (previously they were appointed by the Senate).

You will have the opportunity to vote for the new Representatives during Spring Elections.

Make sure you cast your vote April 14-17 online at elections.jwlaw.edu in SGA’s Spring Elections! Your fellow students will be competing to represent you to University Administration in one of the following positions: Association President, Speaker of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Chief Justice, Senator, and Representative. Use your vote to elect the leaders that will help you to make the changes that you would like to see at the University.

On Sunday, March 30th, the Senate met and passed a Resolution sponsored by Senator Ryan Paul in support of the smoking ban that prohibits smoking in buildings and within 30 feet of the entrance to all buildings. We will be following up with Major Quinn to see what security measures can be taken to enforce the policy.

We still have five weeks before the school year ends, and we are going to make sure that we use them to help improve the university, but we need your help. Soon, we will be holding an online survey asking questions about a few issues that we have heard may be important to you. By filling out the survey, you will be entered in a drawing for a new digital camera. We will be using the data from this survey to propose changes that the University can make over the summer.
Students Discuss Drunkorexia

BY KATIE PAPO
DAILY ORANGE (SYRACUSE)

It’s not a new phenomenon, but it has a new name. Drunkorexia, according to a New York Times article released March 2, is shorthand for “a disturbing blend of behaviors: self-induced starvation or bingeing and purging, combined with alcohol abuse.”

“It’s a vicious cycle,” said Dessa Berger-Cico, a health and wellness coordinator at SUNY Orange. “It often comes down to a whole host of other, more complicated issues. One is looking at the complex aspect of why people feel so pressured to maintain a certain body type or a need for acceptance.”

Though drunkorexia is not an official medical term, it is a studied food-related illness that is a variation of anorexia and bulimia.

“I know that researchers are looking at the co-occurrence of disordered eating and problematic drinking,” said Christina Sanchez, a doctoral student at Duke University, who is studying drunkorexia for her dissertation.

“The two behaviors have been shown to occur within the same person, lead to worse drinking outcomes, and may stem from similar sources of anxiety, impulsivity and emotion regulation,” she said in an e-mail interview.

Berger-Cico said drunkorexia mostly affects women by restricting their eating so they can get drunk easier and to compensate for the calories taken in from alcohol.

“You respond quicker to alcohol on an empty stomach,” she said.

She also said drunkorexia may also perform excessive exercise to compensate for the drinks.

“They also engage in somewhat bulimic-type behavior, by making themselves vomit to get rid of the calories,” Berger-Cico said.

“Or they drink to the point to vomit and lose the calories that way.”

However, drunkorexia also affects men.

Sanchez said recent research has found if you include binge eating and bulimia spectrum disorders, the co-occurrence of binge drinking and binge eating is equally likely among both genders.

She also said it seems the phenomenon is more common among college-aged young adults.

“I would suggest that college students are at particularly high risk because binge drinking is the one of the wellness professions peak during the college years,” Sanchez said.

“I would think of the manifestations as the interaction between the behaviors such as exercising before drinking to save calories, as well as to look good.”

Berger-Cico said drunkorexia has been a problem for a while, although it has become more apparent recently, especially in the media.

“It seems to be a bit more extreme now,” she said. “As much as people are re-accepting of some of the media culture, we do see the health and social sides.”

Drunkorexia is often described as temporary behavior, but that does not mean the health risks do not exist.

“It increases the likelihood of alcohol poisoning if somebody is drinking on an empty stomach and restricting caloric intake,” Berger-Cico said.

There are also health risks that are important, especially for women, to watch out for, Berger-Cico said.

“With high levels of intoxication, you are more likely to be a victim of all kinds of violent crimes including sexual assault. You’re a target when you’re just that intoxicated,” she said.

“You’re also less likely to practice safe sex, to give consent or to be able to mentally and physically be present for what kind of pressure you might be engaging in.”

The health risks involved are often present in both alcohol abuse and eating disorders, and it is important to learn about both, Sanchez said.

“Both lead to preventable deaths,” she said. “I think the tragedy is that most often when these individuals present at clinic, only one of their troubled behaviors is discussed or treated.”

Though there may be several causes of this behavior, there are also ways to help prevent it, Berger-Cico said.

“One of the key things to keep in mind is to help people understand the risks and the things they can do to minimize risk,” she said.

Berger-Cico named some of these things as eating before going out to drink, eating while drinking, choosing not to drink or eating a more balanced diet during the week.

“If you’re looking to give bits of advice, it would be to have people consider it a much more balanced approach to how they eat and plan their diet regularly and to realize the impact when they starve themselves to compensate the calories,” she said.

State may take over dealers’ game

BY RACHEL ARNOT
BROWN DAILY HERALD (BROWN U.)

Like most people looking for marijuana, Bobby Ebert used to turn to a drug dealer. But unlike those who use the plant for recreation, Ebert relies on it for medication and needs a safe supply he can count on.

And though he’s registered with the state as a legal medical marijuana user, he still struggles with finding a trustworthy source for his medication.

Ebert, who is 48, smokes marijuana to help with pain caused by neuropathy and a bad back and to help lessen the nausea caused by his AIDS medication.

He now relies on appointed caregivers for marijuana, but sometimes they don’t come through, and the variability among the plants can be tricky to navigate.

But soon Ebert may no longer have to worry about tracking down his medicine from these sometimes unreliable sources.

Almost two years after Rhode Island began granting legal medical marijuana, the state legislature is looking for a way to get marijuana to patients without relying on the illegal drug trade.

On Feb. 26, State Sen. Rhoda Perry P’91 and State Rep. Thomas Slater, both Democrats, introduced a bill that would give the state’s 357 medical marijuana patients legal access to their medication. The new bill - essentially an amendment to the Edward G. Hawkins and Thomas C. Slater Medical Marihuana Act of 2006 - calls for the creation of a nonprofit, Department of Health-controlled "compassion center." The compassion center would be able to "acquire, possess, cultivate, manufacture, deliver, transfer, transport, supply, or dispense marijuana, or related supplies and educational materials" to patients and caregivers, according to the bill.

To receive a license for medical marijuana today, a patient must have a doctor sign a Department of Health form stating "that medical marijuana will do more good than harm," says Jesse Stout '06, executive director of the Rhode Island Patient Advocacy Coalition, known as "Rhode Island's non-profit grassroots medical marijuana community," according to the group's Web site.

"We register patients who have specific qualifying diagnoses, and they have to be certified by their physician," says Charles Alexandre, chief of Health Professions Regulation at the Health Department.

There is no provision on how to get the marijuana, Alexandre says, so patients must use their caregivers to obtain the marijuana.

A person with a license for medical marijuana can appoint two caregivers. But these caregivers can be unreliable, and the strains of marijuana can vary, Stout says.

The bill was referred to the Rhode Island Senate Health and Human Services Committee and the House Health, Education and Welfare committee, and hearings are set to take place within the next couple weeks, according to Perry.

"We're giving patients somewhere to go by creating this "safe-access mechanism," Stout says. A compassion center would give patients a "store to go to" like they would for any other medicine. They would "also have the benefit of reliability and consistency," he says.

"A lot of people end up going to street dealers," Stout says. "We're trying to address this by making it so sick people have a safe and regulated place to access this medicine."
State Dealers
From previous page
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"I've got a lot of support behind me ... and I'm helping other people
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* Moderate  * * * * Difficulty
** HOO BOY **

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

8 5 2 1
5 7 1 4
3 1 6 7
6 2 4 9

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Dashboard Confidential

Wildcat
WAHOO!
Saturday, May 3

Yung Joc

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After the interview session, students will receive a cap & gown form. Students not conducting an SFS interview will not receive a cap and gown.

Caps and gowns will be distributed at the JWU Downcity or Harborside bookstores Monday, April 21 through Friday, May 2.

NOTE: Caps and gowns will not be distributed without a completed original form.

Visit www.jwu.edu/commencement/prov for continuously updated information.