

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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Let all students honor Coates

"I knew that student government on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was not child's play, that it was just as real and down-to-earth as the government of any county, city, or town in North Carolina . . . I believe it can be fairly said on the facts of record that student officials have done as good a job in governing the student body in Chapel Hill as city, county, and state officials have done in governing the citizens of North Carolina." — Albert and Gladys Hall Coates in "The Story of Student Government in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill."

Student government is sponsoring a memorial Wednesday for Albert Coates, founder of the Institute of Government and chronicler of the history of student government at UNC, who died in late January. Although we respect the intent of the ceremony to honor a great contributor to the University, student fees are being misused in funding a memorial that is closed to most students.

The ceremony is going to cost \$3,000, with \$2,000 coming from student fees. Although the Student Affairs office contributed \$1,000, \$400 is coming from funds appropriated to the Executive Branch from student fees, and \$1,600 is being loaned by the Executive Branch with the possibility that it will be repaid by a special allocation from Student Congress.

Gov. Jim Martin and former state senator Tony Rand are on the list of invited guests, and Chancellor Paul Hardin, Institute of Government

Chairman John Saunders and N.C. Rep. Bertha Holt will be among those making presentations about Coates.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of UNC students will not be able to hear what the dignitaries have to say — only a select 100 student leaders were invited out of a total 500 invitations. On Wednesday any remaining spaces will be open to students, but the Union Auditorium is only supposed to hold 450 people.

Bill Hildebolt, chairman of the student government Special Interests Committee organizing the event, said he hopes they will be able to admit between 75 and 100 uninvited students. But that many students probably won't be interested in coming — especially on last-minute notice — and probably don't even know what Albert Coates did.

And that's the point. If student fees are going to be used, more students should be given the chance to learn about Coates' contributions — perhaps through a completely open, well-publicized memorial service.

It is essential to remember Coates and the contributions he made to this university and, most importantly, to student autonomy through self-government. But there are better ways to spend this money, ways that are more in line with Coates' vision of the University and a student government responsibly run by students for students. Coates must be remembered, not so much by the political dignitaries who have been invited to this memorial service, but by the students of this university who aren't even aware of it.

Reagan not above law

In the latest twist in the Oliver North trial, defense lawyers are attempting to show that former President Reagan knew of North's activities all along, and they have had a subpoena issued for Reagan to testify. On Monday, U.S. District Court Judge Gerhard Gesell announced he would not require Reagan to appear if he objects to testifying or if his testimony is not proven essential to the defense. If the North defense team can prove Reagan's testimony is necessary, Gesell should uphold the subpoena regardless of Reagan's objections.

The main crutch of North's defense relies upon the claim that North's superiors approved the plan, so North can't be blamed. Though Reagan claimed in January 1987 that he did not know his National Security Council (NSC) staff was involved in helping the Nicaraguan Contras, recent testimony seems to indicate otherwise.

Former national security adviser Robert McFarlane has testified that Reagan knew and approved of some of the NSC actions designed to help the Contras. Other evidence presented at the trial indicates Reagan knew and approved of a covert operation to give Honduras \$110 million in covert aid as "incentive" to continue aiding the Contras.

In addition, evidence suggests Reagan approved a plan to airlift weapons to the rebels to help them

sink vessels carrying Sandinista weapons.

Gesell must now decide whether Reagan's testimony is essential to the defense. If it is, Gesell should not let Reagan's personal objections to testifying prevent his summons.

Reagan will probably say he is constitutionally exempt from testifying, but constitutional experts question that claim, saying immunity only applies while the president is in office.

George Bush and Reagan were subpoenaed in December 1988, but Gesell did not enforce the subpoena for Bush and said Reagan would be "subject to call" without issuing a decision.

The prosecution and the Justice Department say there is no precedent for summoning a president or a former president to testify in a trial. Several presidents have submitted depositions to avoid testifying.

But Gesell said Chief Justice John Marshall approved a subpoena of documents from Thomas Jefferson in 1807 and indicated this precedent should authorize him to uphold Reagan's subpoena.

By not making Reagan testify, Gesell would not be protecting North's right to a fair trial, and he would bring Reagan's credibility under serious question. In criminal matters, former presidents don't deserve special consideration. — Chris Landgraf

Creme eggs in the brain, M&Ms in the soul

Laura Pearlman

Casting Pearls

And hasn't the weather been unpredictable lately? Ice falls from the sky before spring break and I fracture my tail bone on the way to English. In front of a lot of people. The next day was so warm that right before RTVMP I lost an eye to a plummeting icicle and missed most of Rebellion in Patagonia because I couldn't read the subtitles. Then came the floods. But now spring is here, and all is well.

For the life of me I can't quit thinking about the weather. You can tell when someone is at a loss for column topics when she starts writing about the weather, but just bear with me on this one and maybe we can salvage a meaningful column from the rubble that is my brain since the sun came out.

Clearly I am not the only frustrated writer who is stricken with a mushy brain around this time of year. Consider Geoffrey Chaucer. He had this great idea for a poem of divine proportions and just couldn't seem to get into it. First drafts of the "Canterbury Tales" show that some of Chaucer's first ideas for the introduction probably fell pretty flat at the local pub. For example: "There once was a band of pilgrims merry/Many of whom were really scary./A nun, a wife, a friar, a knight/They all told tales to get through the evening." Take English 52 — Dr. Leinbaugh will tell you this is true. He will also tell you Chaucer started the Canterbury Tales with "Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote/The droghte of March hath perced to the roote . . ." because his brain was thrust into a functionless neutral gear by the change in daylight savings time. Chaucer couldn't get past the first 20 lines of his poem until fall.

If you don't believe that the springing of spring had such a profound effect on one of the greatest poets in the English language, then look at the first lines of T.S. Eliot's "The Wasteland". He also

lurched to a grinding halt with the spring equinox. He set "The Wasteland," a grim poem about the world drying up and blowing away, at the beginning of April. Obviously Eliot had never been in Chapel Hill during the spring, or his poem would have been about The Great Flood that washed away any trace of civilization.

Eliot probably didn't really hate spring that much. He was just sitting around playing with this new idea of decline and fall of Western civilization and couldn't motivate his brain to concentrate on the task at hand. Sending Mrs. Eliot out for another box of lightly-scented Puffs he rubbed his irritated eyes and cast his gaze on the pollen-drenched landscape outside his window. Finally, tossing caution to the wind, Eliot scrawled — April is the cruellest month . . . and he was off. Planning to go back and revise later, he finished "The Wasteland" and sent it off to an editor who forgot to cut the first lines launching his poet into the ranks of Chaucer as a great writer whose brain atrophied in the spring.

But I digress. If it's not painfully obvious at this point, my concentration is also shot to hell. Spring in Chapel Hill is the ultimate Catch-22. The blue skies, blooming flowers, chirping birds and young men running around with their fancies hanging out could thaw the creative juices of Atilla the Hun, but at the same time, all anyone wants to do is sit outside and compare tanned limbs. At night all I think about is lying in the grass and staring at the stars.

Beside evening spring skies, my thoughts wander to the wonderful world of Easter

candy. I can't quit thinking of Cadbury creme eggs and Reeses peanut butter eggs. And pastel-color M&Ms. And marshmallow bunnies. At night I dream of getting locked in the Drug Emporium for a weekend and having to survive on Easter candy. Freshman year, I stepped on my backpack in a religion class and crushed a creme egg I forgot I had. To this day, there is still residue from that egg, and every time I dig deeply into my backpack for a pen and come up with dried creme egg under my fingernails, I ponder the symbolism of creme egg getting crushed in my backpack in the middle of spring.

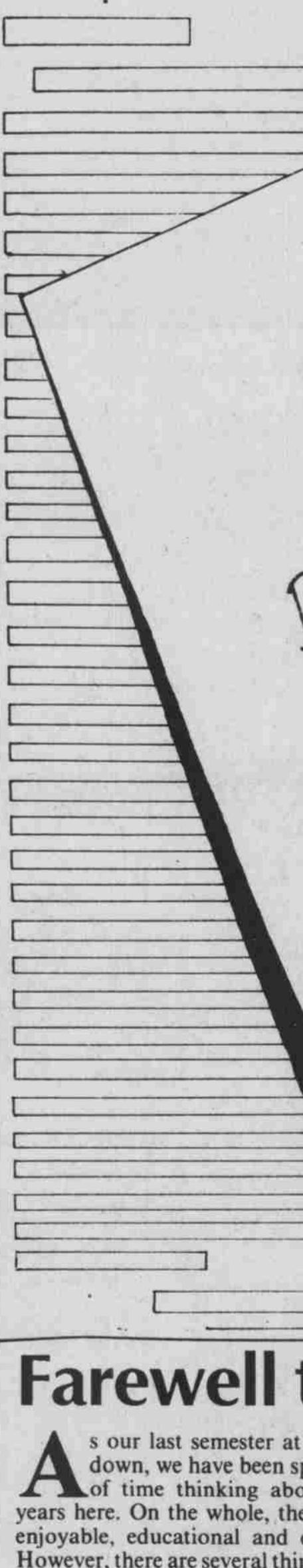
I've been thinking of the creme egg incident for two years and have decided this is a symbol ripe with meaning. Maybe spring really isn't the season of rebirth. Maybe the crushed creme egg represents the death of my GPA because spring fever has fried my brain. Maybe it symbolizes the death of friendships because of graduation. Maybe it just represents the death of any scale I stand on — coming off a whole winter of eating whatever I want and hiding under big sweaters, I enter the season of Easter candy and put off self-denial until summer. In reality, I'm probably reading entirely too much into what was a benign incident my freshman year and in my quest for meaning and order have allowed it to color my outlook every spring.

I think that in honor of Geoffrey Chaucer and T.S. Eliot, patron saints of frustrated springtime writers, all classes today should be held outside. I know the argument about nothing getting done when class is held outside, but nothing should get done anyhow. Just let us depart the artificial confines of buildings and commune in the grass, greeting spring as one. It would do Chaucer and Eliot proud.

Laura Pearlman is a junior English major from Asheville.

Readers' Boredom

Make the sun stop shining



CLOSED
DUE TO
SEVERE
APATHY.

-PETE
Louis
Mary Jo
Sharon

Not enough sports
in the DTH

Farewell to four years at the University

Block/DeSalvo

Guest Writers

As our last semester at UNC winds down, we have been spending a lot of time thinking about our four years here. On the whole, they have been enjoyable, educational and enlightening.

However, there are several things we would like to get off our chests before we leave Chapel Hill.

The first of these issues involves the most basic level of the University's existence — its relationship with the town. For some reason, the people of Chapel Hill actually make the mistake of believing their town could exist in its current state without the University. The town government, its merchants and full-time residents act as if students are a hindrance to their lifestyle. Restrictive noise ordinances are passed that affect one of the largest portions of the town's population against their will; residents look down upon students rather than accepting them as part of the community, and many merchants fail to understand the concept of "putting the customer first" when it comes to students. Although students may be difficult at times, we do provide the town of Chapel Hill with an educated, culturally enlightened atmosphere and an important source of town income.

This brings us to the University's

treatment of out-of-state students. The main attraction at UNC for most out-of-staters is its low-cost relative to the fine private institutions that we could otherwise easily attend. The higher entrance requirements for out-of-state applicants and the positive effect we have had on the University's academic environment is one of the things that has given Carolina national recognition for academic excellence. By continually raising out-of-state tuition at 10 percent per year, the University risks losing some very talented people.

Finally, we will discuss something dear to every Tar Heel's heart — basketball. The Tar Heel basketball program posted a fine year, recording its first ACC Tournament championship since 1982. We congratulate you on that accomplishment (although we selfishly feel disappointed in not experiencing a Final Four appearance in our four years here).

Our problem lies not with the basketball program but rather with the athletic department and the Ram's Club. It has

been stated many times, but never forcefully enough, how much injustice is continually done to the students regarding seating in the so-called "Student" Activity Center. As soon-to-be alumni, we realize that the days of easy access to Carolina basketball tickets are over. That's the way it should be. The basketball team is composed of students and plays for students. The basketball team is not a professional organization playing for the enjoyment of wealthy alumni. The fact that someone was interviewed on national television and openly admitted that he paid \$500,000 for his seats in the "SAC" was positively disgusting. For the brief time a student spends here, he or she should be entitled to the best seats in the "SAC". While it was generous for the alumni to donate the money to construct the "SAC", it was extremely selfish for them to demand the best seats, while the students were given a few token lower-level seats to appease them. We only hope that when we are alumni we will use our money and power to benefit the students of this great university, not just ourselves.

Larry Block is a senior business administration major from Annapolis, Md., and Jason DeSalvo is a senior business administration from Teaneck, N.J.

