

OPINION

This column represents the views of the Old Gold and Black Editorial Board.

Winter wonderland turns into wasteland

This past Feb. 26 - 29 saw perhaps the most dangerous conditions of the wild winter North Carolina has seen this year. Classes were delayed Feb. 27 until 9:30 a.m. and until 10 a.m. Feb. 28. With the horrible weather conditions, including iced-over roads and walkways, fallen trees and power lines and the general chaos caused from power outages, why did the university decide to hold classes at all?

Due to an unfortunate coincidence, Bill Bradley was speaking the same day that Mother Nature was giving a performance of her own. While convocation is a long-planned and important event each semester, the safety of the students and staff are not to be compromised. It was a courteous move to keep convocation as scheduled, but it was an erroneous move to not cancel classes. This was not a storm that snuck up on Winston-Salem. A layer of ice covered the roads and trees by Feb. 26, and the storm was bending the trees to its will by early morning Feb. 27.

Fortunately no major injuries were reported, though a tree branch fell through the windshield of a moving car, posing a serious threat to the driver and any surrounding pedestrians. The iced stairs and walkways also made it incredibly difficult and dangerous for students and staff with disabilities to travel around campus. Furthermore, many students living off campus suffered power outages, making their

daily routine and travel that much more problematic.

It is true that if school were cancelled, many students probably would not have harbored themselves away in their rooms all day long. However, the fact that they were obligated to go to classes made outside ventures impossible to avoid.

The university's warning message sent out via voicemail and e-mail was a lackluster and almost comical attempt to ensure safety among the student body. The plan to stay away from trees was nearly impossible for all students walking to and from their mandatory classes.

And if daytime conditions weren't bad enough, those students and staff who had to drive home after nightfall faced another hurdle due to malfunctioning streetlights and stoplights. Granted, the university has had more weather-related cancellations this year than in previous years, but the sheer destruction wrought by this ice storm was worse than anything the area has seen all year.

Kudos are to be given to Facilities Management and University Police for their rapid and impressive response to the horrible conditions by trying to rope off the worst areas around campus, and for the massive clean-up operation they had to endure for the next several days. Hopefully the next time the campus sees such devastation, the students and staff won't be given the cold shoulder.

Last of cavalrymen a true hero

One of the last members of an American tradition speaks to ROTC.

During the first week of February, we here in the Wake Forest University Army ROTC Department were extremely fortunate to host the official visit of a most noteworthy and accomplished American - Lieutenant Colonel Ed Ramsey, U.S. Army Retired. LTC

Major Bob Seals

GUEST COLUMNIST

Ramsey, a very distinguished and highly decorated retired Army officer who led the last horse mounted cavalry charge in U.S. military history, traveled from Los Angeles with his accomplished and delightful wife, Dr. Raqui Ramsey, in order to be our guests of honor at the recent annual Demon Deacon Battalion Military Dining-Out on Feb. 8.

For those students, faculty and staff who were not fortunate enough to meet LTC Ramsey, let me provide a brief synopsis of this remarkable old soldier and his amazing story of courage, sacrifice and overcoming adversity during the darkest days of World War II. Ed Ramsey entered the Oklahoma Military Academy, a cavalry branch specific ROTC institution commonly referred to as the "West Point of the prairie," in the fall of 1936 to pursue his love of horses as a member of the famed OMA polo team.

He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Cavalry Reserve in 1938, began law school soon afterwards, but volunteered for active duty as the international situation worsened in 1941. Unhappy with stateside duty, he volunteered for an overseas assignment in the Philippines on the island of Luzon with the 26th Cavalry Regiment (Philippine Scouts). The 26th Cavalry was an elite horse mounted unit known popularly at the time as the "country club of the Army." It was not to be all polo matches in Manila with tropical drinks as the Empire of Japan became increasingly aggressive during the summer of 1941. Poorly equipped, and in many cases poorly trained, American and Filipino forces under the command of General Douglas MacArthur were responsible for

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defending some 7,000 Philippine islands with over 11,000 miles of coastline, a Herculean task at best. LTC Ramsey joked during his opening remarks Feb. 8 that he had violated the old Army adage, "Never volunteer for anything," and that's when his troubles began some 62 years ago.

War in the Philippines came suddenly with troops moving to their respective beach defenses to await the expected Japanese landings. Then First Lieutenant Ramsey and the 26th Cavalry Regiment became the rear guard for General Douglas MacArthur's Filipino and American forces that fell back upon the Bataan peninsula, performing yeoman like service against the better-equipped and mechanized Japanese Army.

There on Bataan, on Jan. 16, 1942, Lieutenant Ramsey led the last horse-mounted cavalry in U.S. military history, driving back Japanese infantry attempting a river crossing in the village of Moron. He escaped after the surrender of friendly forces on Bataan and Corregidor several months later, thereby avoiding the infamous Bataan Death March. He eventually organized the East Central Luzon Guerrilla Area, a hard-hitting partisan force of over 40,000 officers and men in order to continue the fight.

For almost three years Lieutenant Ramsey played a dangerous cat-and-mouse game behind enemy lines with a price tag of some \$200,000, dead or alive, put on his head by the notorious Japanese "kempei-tai." Guerrilla forces, such as those led by LTC Ramsey, provided valuable intelligence to General MacArthur's forces in Australia, helping them gather strength. Living deep within the jungle, Lieutenant Ramsey was eventually promoted several times, via radio, as his responsibilities and command grew.

He escaped death on numerous occasions during the war years, including an emergency appendectomy performed without anesthesia by a guerrilla doctor in a crude jungle hospital. With the return of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur and U.S. forces in 1945, LTC Ramsey was personally decorated by MacArthur with the Distinguished Service Cross, our nation's second highest decoration. Eventually, he would be honored with some 16 separate American and Philippine awards and medals.

Unfortunately, the war years had taken both a physical and mental toll; thus, it would take a year in a stateside Army Hospital for LTC Ramsey, weighing only 93 pounds, to recover from the combined effects of malaria, amoebic dysentery, anemia and acute malnutrition.

After retirement from the army and completion of law school, LTC Ramsey went onto a successful business career working for the legendary Howard Hughes and the Hughes Aircraft Corporation in Asia. In the summer of 2001 LTC Ramsey was an unconventional warfare guest lecturer to the U.S. Army Special Forces Qualification Course at Fort Bragg here in North Carolina, and was awarded the Special Forces Green Beret and Tab for his World War II service.

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Sadly, this generation that won the war now faces life's lengthening shadows; however, their presence and past deeds continue to inspire us all who currently serve our great nation. Allow me to share the quote by John Stuart Mill, used by LTC Ramsey to conclude his remarks at this recent dining-out:

"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things; the decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks nothing is worth a war is worse. A man who has nothing which he is willing to fight for, nothing he cares more about than he does about personal safety, is a miserable creature who has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

Major Bob Seals is an assistant professor of military science and a member of the U.S. Army Special Forces.

Robbery raises concerns about campus security

The armed robbery of a graduate student in parking lot Q this past week brought back bad memories. While students complain about parking problems, armed robbery rarely enters the equation. The March 4 armed robbery, though, was the second such incident to occur in Q in recent memory, the first occurrence an armed robbery of two students March 30, 2001. While the 2001 incident resulted in an almost immediate apprehension of two suspects, no suspects have been named in the most recent crime.

Undoubtedly University Police is doing all they can to solve the case, but other actions can be taken to help ensure campus safety. Increasing UP foot patrols around campus to establish a greater security presence is the first step. Expanding on-campus shuttle service is another.

While RIDE is a safer alternative to walking on foot at night, this most recent crime happened in the morning outside of RIDE's scheduled hours. Though the academic core of campus is quite compact, many students park off campus or in lots far away from high traffic areas. A continuous shuttle service will establish a routine and dependable security presence in addition to increased police patrols.

Despite the university's relatively compact campus, it is still difficult to monitor every area effectively enough to deter crime. The small student population size also minimizes the possibility of witnesses. Establishing a continuous shuttle service would benefit students, faculty and staff by providing a lift around campus, but more importantly it would decrease the chance of students walking alone and unprotected.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Columnist must live life to comment on it

Dearest Ms. Billings,
So we won the "Sugar Bowl" in Oregon huh? ("TP not just for toilets at Wake," Feb. 27). I am pretty sure we won the Seattle Bowl in Seattle, Washington against Oregon University.

For five months now, this poor campus has been subjected to your misinformed and misguided weekly column. I honestly don't know why the *Old Gold and Black* gives you the space to display your ignorance. Surely they could fill it with an advertisement or a picture or something of value. The only explanation must be that you work for the *OGB* and some how sneak your column in the paper each week at the last second.

You remind me of my SG days, sitting through boring meetings in which the same dorks would raise their hands to speak just so they could hear themselves talk. You know the kind; the freshmen guys and girls who try and contribute anything to a conversation so others will see them and remember them when next year's elections roll around. These idiots bring nothing of value to those that are listening to the jumbled string of words coming out of their mouths. This is the same feeling you give me every time I see your opinion column in the paper.

Please take a break. Get off the internet, close down your computer and make your way through the pile of Papa John's boxes that have accumulated since barricading yourself in your room and doing nothing but writing stupid articles

about 50 cents, dead ducks, "poo poo paper" and Pledge Night. Another suggestion: go out and live a little and possibly date some guys or girls - which ever you prefer - but obviously ones that don't read your articles. Once you do this and actually see what is going on in the "real world" you can come back and write about things you have some experience with or knowledge about, instead of writing some sad sob story about how all sororities suck, all fraternities are evil and all men are the bane of the earth.

I don't know if you are trying to be the female version of "The Horse" and call out all of the groups that have done you wrong in the past. If so, then stop immediately. You are not nearly as entertaining and humorous in your senseless banter. I mean really, get a life and stop living vicariously through other people if you are just going to critique them for whom they are and what they do.

Eric Morris
Senior

Nomination of Estrada a poor judgment call

Those of us who chose to live outside of the Wake Forest bubble and listen to news, other than reports on our nationally ranked Demon Deacons (Go Deacs!) or stories about whether or not our tuition will be raised next year, have probably heard about the presidential nomination of Miguel Estrada to D.C. district U.S. Court of Appeals. I think it is great that President Bush is trying to be politically correct and nominate a person of Latin-American heritage to such an important judicial position;

however, as an American citizen, I do have to question whether Estrada would make a good judge.

When I think of judges, I think of someone impartial, willing to listen to two sides of an argument without bias and someone who is willing to put their own personal views aside to make a judgment based on the law. Estrada does not seem to have any of these qualities. This is not just my opinion either. Paul Bender, one of Estrada's former supervisors and a current Arizona State University professor was quoted in the *New York Times* ("An Unacceptable Nominee," Jan. 29), as calling Estrada an "ideologue" and said that he "could not rely on (Estrada's) written work as a neutral statement." Isn't the whole point of being a judge to rule impartially?

I understand that appointing judges to high courts is one of the key advantages of being the U.S. President, but come on, President Bush, can't you nominate someone that at least has some of the qualifications of a good judge? So, for those of you in our community who do like to know a little about the outside world, I give you this thought to ponder: Is it okay to compromise our rights to a fair and just judicial system for politics?

Katherine Slavin
Freshman

Our letters policy

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