

U.S. should reconsider canal

Wednesday, September 24, 1975

The assassination of U.S. democracy

Assassination is an ugly word. Citizens of this country have expressed shock and dismay over reports of CIA-backed plots to kill unfriendly heads of state.

A free society cannot long survive waves of assassination. With every slain leader of a free state, democracy loses its appeal for the talented and those with leadership potential.

Many political analysts believe that if Edward Kennedy seeks the presidency, he will be assassinated by some nut who wants the infamy of slaying the remaining Kennedy brother.

Nelson Rockefeller correctly labeled the first of the two attempts against Ford as one of the risks of

the job. If that risk increases much further, no rational person will gamble all for the momentary power and influence of a 4- or 8-year term.

Neither development would serve the interests of the electorate. An isolated president would become an increasingly insensitive president, perhaps to the point of placing personal safety far above collective rights and freedoms.

Even the crazies and the right-wingers and the left-wingers and all other dissidents would lose under these circumstances. One bullet will not overthrow the capitalist, democratic, middle-class dominated system.

Violence is never an answer.

On Friday the DTH published an article by Mr. Tom Boney arguing vehemently that the United States should not negotiate a new treaty with the Republic of Panama.

As I understand Mr. Boney's case, it rests on four principal arguments: (1) we own the canal; (2) we have made a more than generous contribution to the economic growth of Panama; (3) continued direct control of the canal is vital to our economic security; and (4) continued control is also vital to our military security.

Before responding to these arguments, it should first be made clear that what is at issue is not giving the Canal Zone back to Panama, at least not in the immediate future (figures discussed include 25 and 50 years), but only revising the present treaty.

Returning to Mr. Boney's arguments, (1)

do we really "own" the Canal Zone?

It should not be forgotten how the present treaty was originally obtained. Until 1903 what is today Panama was a province of neighboring Colombia.

The Canal treaty did not suddenly become an issue after the riots of 1964. It was probably never accepted by many Panamanians, and it was certainly rejected by other Latin Americans.

(2) Have we been more than generous enough already to Panama? Mr. Boney notes that the average Panamanian (that mythical being who exists primarily as a statistic) lives far better than do most Latin Americans.

objective standard (and certainly by any comparison with Americans living within the Zone), most Panamanians continue to be abysmally poor.

These arguments are, obviously, far less important than those involving the security of the United States.

(3) Economic security. Mr. Boney's argument that twenty percent of all shipping through the Canal either originates or ends in U.S. ports is, of course, irrelevant.

(4) Military security. Two issues can be raised. Is the Canal itself vital for rapid movement of American ships between the Atlantic and the Pacific?

dictator has been trained). I personally do not understand why the Southern Command must remain in Panama or why most if not all of its functions cannot be transferred to either Florida or California.

The Canal is perhaps more valuable as a means of transit between the Atlantic and Pacific. Yet, many navy vessels are too large to use the Canal.

In summary, even immediate complete return of the Canal to Panama would not be a disaster for the U.S.

Now let me reverse the question. Are U.S. interests hurt in any way by not negotiating a new Canal Treaty? If the U.S. persists in an intransigent attitude on the Canal Treaty violent clashes such as those of 1964 will become increasingly likely.

Both Mr. Boney and Mr. Greg Porter have criticized on this page the Secretary of State for continuing to negotiate with Panama in spite of an amendment to the State Department Appropriations Bill.

Offer expires Oct. 6

Voter registration isn't hard. It doesn't hurt. All it takes is some form of identification, residence in Orange County for at least one day.

Both today and next Wednesday, the time commitment will be minimized by an official registration center in Woolen Gym's main lobby.

Recent controversy over the location and expansion of fraternities and sororities underscores the need for student input into town governance.

In Carrboro, a bus referendum

will be voted on. Bus funding is an issue close to every commuting student's and University worker's heart.

And the only way for any of this to be accomplished is for students and University workers to register and vote.

For those who can't make it to Woolen Gym today or next Wednesday, registration is possible at the Chapel Hill Municipal Building (behind the fire station on Airport Road) on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The prudent will make haste, for this offer expires on October 6.



I'VE SOLVED THE Busing-for-integration problem—I'm busing all the federal judges to Podunk, Iowa.

letters

Bates vs. O'Neal—more than meets the eye

To the editor: I am totally stunned at the reactions of certain people to a recent stand taken by Student Body President Bill Bates.

Mike O'Neal's resignation was not requested by Bates because of "personal disagreements." Personal disagreement had very little to do with this decision.

I only wish to add that I think it only appropriate that these people declaring "Bill is wrong and Mike is right" weigh the fact in their minds, that there are always two sides to every coin.

The O'Neal ego

To the editor: The constitutional question posed by Student Body Treasurer Mike O'Neal as to his immunity from removal is an important one, but what is more important is the insight which this latest move as well as previous ones gives us into Mike's apparent attitude toward those for whom and with whom he is supposed to be working.

O'Neal has demonstrated a strong desire to have a part in the making of decisions concerning students at this University.

there is also required a basic sensitivity toward those with whom one must work, and Mike O'Neal has not allowed this component to develop, or at least, to surface.

Treasurer O'Neal seems to have injected too much of his "self" into his job, and as a consequence appears at times unable to distinguish between the two. What has resulted is a situation in which issues are perceived as battles of wills, rather than as opportunities for cooperation.

The latest confrontation between O'Neal

and the administration he works for will be valuable in clarifying the issue of the powers of the president to fire as well as hire appointees.

Bill Patterson
214 Glandon Drive

Remove the O'Neal cancer

To the editor: In one of the first issues of The Daily Tar Heel, I remember reading a pledge to the students from the President of the Student Body, Bill Bates, promising better relationships with the administration, organizations, and a one-to-one correspondence with those he represents—the students.

While reading the Tuesday, September 23 issue of the DTH, I read about criticisms of our Student Body Treasurer, Mike O'Neal. Quite a change in tones from the earlier vision of what the new year would bring.

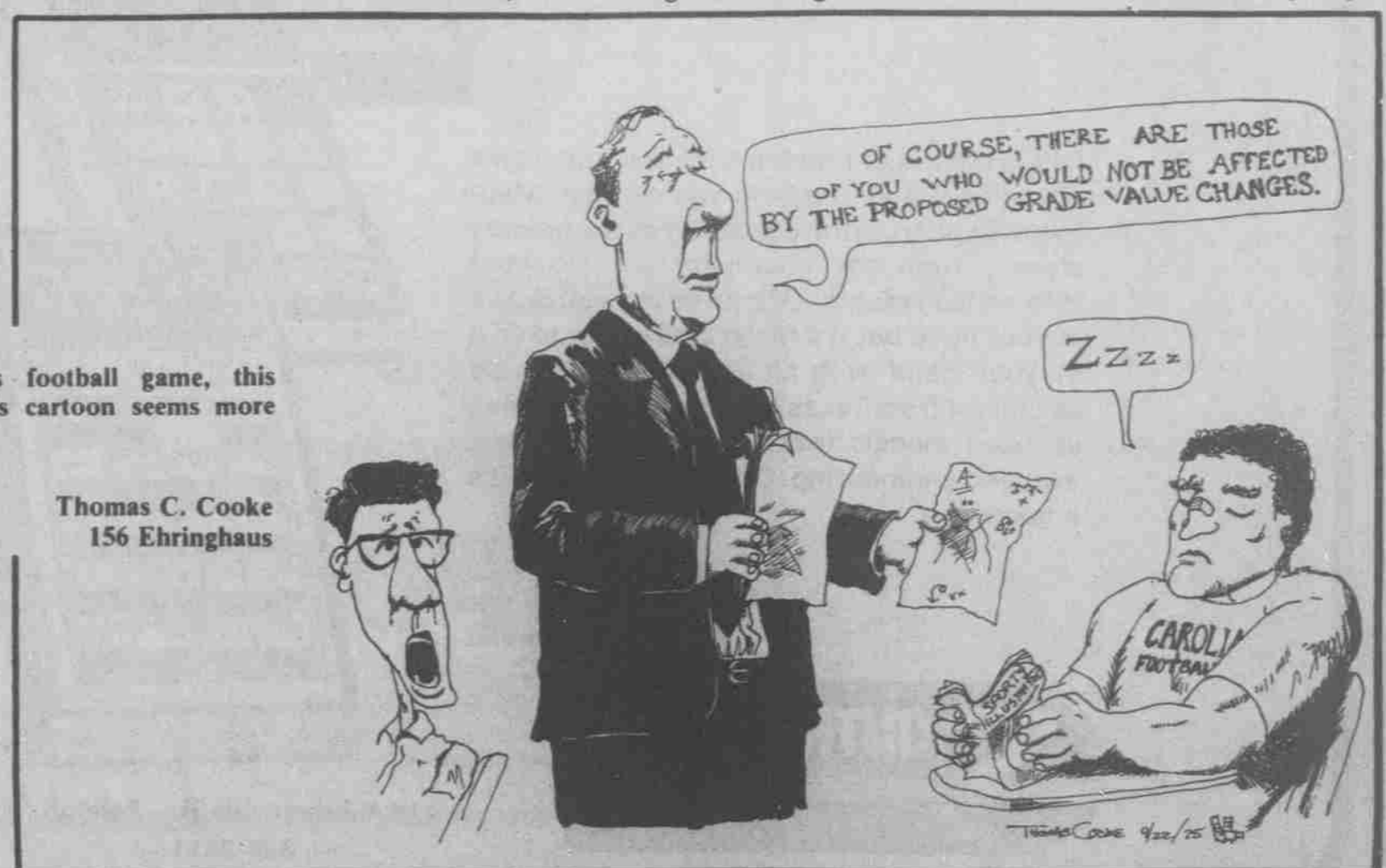
positive is revealed from all the print.

Whether or not Mike O'Neal is doing his job according to the law, spending countless hours in his office, or wasting pencil lead does not solve the problem at hand.

To hold the office of treasurer is enticing. As we have witnessed, O'Neal's power is unique—and unyielding. In order for Bill Bates to achieve even the first phase of his master plan, he should solve his administration's internal disorders, namely the department of the treasury.

This University has too much to offer, and for any one person to have the power to take our rights into his own hands is a crime. To investigate an organization is his alternative, but to convict it before the evidence has been obtained by freezing its funds is an even worse crime.

Larry Segal
Junior history major



To the editor: After Saturday's football game, this version of Branch's cartoon seems more appropriate.

Thomas C. Cooke
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