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. Plagues depicting the slain John F. Kennedy still hang in homes across the nation where devoted followers of JFK still mourn his loss. And now President Gerald Ford has been the target of two assassination attempts within 17

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. More than individual policymakers are killed with each assassination; the entire premise of citizen participation in leadership positions is increasingly imperiled.

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. It would seem that this dire prediction now holds for anyone who seeks or holds that office.

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. Either the means to select and preserve the chief executive will alter substantially, even to the point of police-state protection for the president which would isolate him or her from the people, or only irrational and power-crazy individuals will seek the post.

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. A power-mad president could very well jeopardize the welfare of the state and the liberties of the people for his own benefit.

Even the crazies and the rightwingers 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. But it may help advance an evolution to a more repressive

Violence is never an answer.

Offer expires Oct. 6

The Daily Tar Heel

Cole C. Campbell

Editor

83rd Year of Editorial Freedom

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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 (without any definite plans to leave any time soon) and the time and interest to go to official registration

Both today and next Wednesday, the time commitment will be minimized by an official registration center in Woollen Gym's main lobby from noon to 8 p.m.

Recent controversy over the location and expansion of fraternities and sororities underscores the need for student input into town governance. With a mayoral election coming up and several alderman seats and school board posts to be filled, students in Chapel Hill and Carrboro have an immediate chance to push those candidates who will push the student's interest.

In Carrboro, a bus referendum

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Susan

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will be voted on. Bus funding is an issue close to every commuting student's and University worker's heart. The only way it will pass is for those who support a Carrboro bus system to outvote those opposed. That's obvious.

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

For those who can't make it to Woollen 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. and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The hours for registration at the Carrboro Town Hall on Main Street are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

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

John Gitlitz

U.S. should reconsider canal

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. Panama, after all, is governed at the moment by an "unstable leftist dictator" (Mr. Boney's words). Implicit in his case as wellalthough to his credit unstated-is the assumption that the Panamanians would probably prove incapable of running the

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. Should Panamanian personnel be trained for and included in the running of the Canal? How much should the U.S. pay annually for the Canal? How many military bases should the U.S. be allowed to maintain in the Canal Zone (presently the location of the U.S. Army's Southern Command)? Questions such as these are being discussed. On each, the U.S. can make concessions far short of vielding immediate control over the Canal

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

It should not be forgotten how the present treaty was originally obtained. Until 1903 what is today Panama was a province of neighboring Colombia. Throughout the last decade of the 19th Century the U.S. had been negotiating with that nation to obtain the right to build a canal across the isthmus. Colombia, however, was unwilling to meet our terms. On November 2, 1903, a U.S. cruiser appeared off the port of Colon, on the Carribean end of what is today the Canal Zone. The following day a group of rebellious Panamanians declared their

independence from Colombia. With

Panamanian ports blockaded by American

ships, there was nothing Colombia could do.

Fifteen days later our government and the

do we really "own" the Canal Zone?

new Republic of Panama entered into a treaty which was singularly favorable to the United States. 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. As early as 1924 a

prominent Peruvian politician made

internationalization of the Canal a central

plank in his campaign platform. (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. How the Canal may have affected distribution of wealth within Panama is more problematic. In fact, by any

objective standard (and certainly by any comparison with Americans living within the Zone), most Panamanians continue to be abysmally poor. The Canal is Panama's only major resource. Yet much of the wealth it generates-wealth which could be used to develop Panama-is not available to that nation. Moreover, Panama has little choice in the matter.

These arguments are, obviously, far less important than those involving the security of the United States. Is direct control over the Canal vital to our interests, either economic or military?

(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. The more important question is what percentage of U.S. trade currently uses the Canal? The figure is surprisingly small—in 1971 only 8.8% (of total value), in 1972 9.0%. Moreover, for most of this less than ten percent of U.S. ocean trade alternate routes are available and at only marginally more expense than the present one through the Canal. Indeed, the Canal continues to be used as much as it is primarily because fees are artificially low. They have not been increased since 1914.

(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? And, is the Zone vital as the base for the U.S. Army's Southern Command (at whose counterinsurgency schools many a Latin American

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. Robert Cox wrote in "Choices for Partnership or Bloodshed in Panama" that "in 1970 there were about 1300 ships afloat, under construction or on order which could not enter the Panama Canal locks. There were approximately 1.750 more ships that could not pass through the Canal fully laden because of draft limitations. . . A ranking State Department expert in Panamanian affairs now terms the Canal 'a military asset of declining value.'

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. The Canal itself is probably indefensible. Even small guerilla efforts could easily blow up locks or ships and put the Canal out of use for months at a time. It is unlikely that Panama could become another Vietnam, but it is not inconceivable. Many of my Latin American friends are certain that this is in store for the future. Yet even violence of a much lesser nature would be tragic. Moreover, it would probably have effects far transcending the borders of Panama. A serious clash between Panama and the U.S. would produce an alignment throughout Latin America hostile to the United States. It would make the position of U.S. economic investments throughout the continent infinitely more precarious. It might lead to the final demise of the O.A.S., and it almost certainly would produce censure of the U.S. in the United

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 passed by the House of Representatives prohibiting such negotiations. Ambassador Bunker, of course, has no legal obligation to cease negotiating until a similar bill is passed by the Senate and signed by the President. I earnestly hope this does not occur. If a treaty seriously detrimental to the interests of the United States were to emerge from current talks-and I believe this unlikely-it could always be rejected by the Senate, and no damage would have been done. (I see a greater danger that a treaty beneficial to the United States but resented by the powerful and vocal Canal Zone lobby would be rejected.) To prohibit by law that negotiations even be undertaken is to ensure that American interests will be damaged.



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

I am totally stunned at the reactions of certain people to a recent stand taken by Student Body President Bill Bates. I heard these same people not too long ago criticize students for their reactions to the DTH problem on the grounds that the students were forming opinions without "complete information." These same people pronounced the students as biased and unfair because they were only listening to "one side of the story " And so now I find these very same people proclaiming themselves almighty and making the very same irrational and unfair judgments. Do

they know all the facts? Mike O'Neal's resignation was not requested by Bates because of "personal disagreements." Personal disagreement had very little to do with this decision. On the same line, the decision was not based solely on the disagreement over the BSM funds. True, Bates did feel O'Neal was a bit underhanded in his efforts and therefore he disagreed with O'Neal, but this decision has been pending for quite some time. It is only unfortunate that the decision was made during such a stressful period. If anything, Bates has been kind in refusing to fight back with the real and binding reasons for his decision. These reasons could only serve to hurt O'Neal both personally and politically in the future. Do not get me wrong-O'Neal knows why-yet, he refuses in spite of these interesting facts to step down like a gentleman. It will be only unfortunate for him if Bates is forced to reveal the real facts

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

> Debbie Bates 29 Lakeview Mobile Court

The O'Neal ego

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

to have a part in the making of decisions concerning students at this University. Such an interest and willingness to be involved is certainly an important and commendable component in the personality of an office holder. But in order to do an effective job

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. Conflicts, whether with the DTH, the BSM, or Bill Bates, naturally assume a character in which the personalities overshadow the issues, and the likelihood of meaningful discussion and effectively working toward a solution is reduced. O'Neal's perspective seems to be one in which issues are confrontations between himself and the "adversary," in which the successful exercise of power over one's opponent becomes rewarding in and of itself. While this perspective may do wonderful things in the way of extending Mike's dominion of power over others, it is very counterproductive to the proper carrying out of his duties as treasurer, and casts a negative image over Student Government in the eyes of many students. If Student Government exists for anything at all, it is not in order to develop Mike O'Neal's or anyone else's ego, but rather it is in order to most effectively serve the variety of needs of the students at this University. And this function requires that those who would serve possess a sensitivity and a selflessness which O'Neal has yet to demonstrate.

To the editor:

appropriate.

and the administration he works for will be positive is revealed from all the print. valuable in clarifying the issue of the powers of the president to fire as well as hire appointees. However, another issue is involved here, and it concerns the definition that should be used in determining the qualifications for holding an office. In a democratic government, with respect to any position that requires one to work with people, the following general rule might be useful: when one's own self becomes larger in one's eyes than the responsibilities of one's office, one is no longer qualified to serve.

> 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 representsthe students.

While reading the Tuesday, September 23 issue of the DTH, I read about criticisms of our Student Body Treasurer, Mike O'Neal. Ouite a change in tones from the earlier vision of what the new year would bring. I congratulate the DTH on finally bringing us two sides of the story as it has been going on

does not solve the problem at hand. The dissension of the treasurer from the rest of the University is the most important issue, for without cooperation from organizations, the different governing bodies, and especially the one in charge of distributing the funds, Bill Bates' ideal of where the University's potential could take us will remain exactly that -a personal conception. 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

Whether or not Mike O'Neal is doing his

job according to the law, spending countless

hours in his office, or wasting pencil lead

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

administration's internal disorders, namely

the department of the treasury. When he

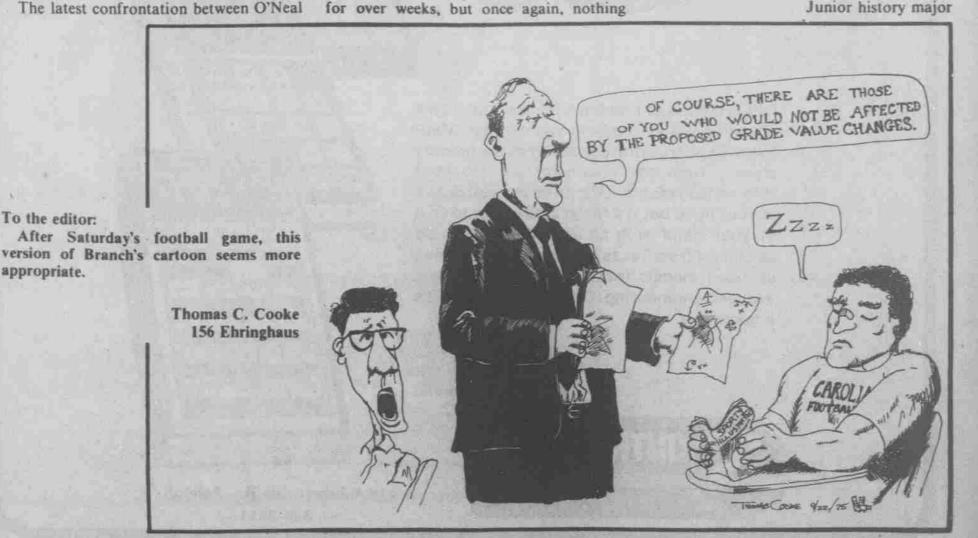
realizes where the symptoms are originating,

I have faith in him to cure the disease and

move forward to an immediate and complete

funds is an even worse crime. It is not too late, but time is fleeting. Mr. Bates, remove the cancer from your administration.

> Larry Segal Junior history major



behind his decision.

To the editor.

The constitutional question posed by whom he is supposed to be working.

O'Neal has demonstrated a strong desire