

# The Panama Canal: 1903 to 1977

By Sandra Spear

Second of a Series

Since the signing of the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty in 1903 certain adjustments have been made in the terms under which the U.S. operates the Panama Canal. Annual payments from the U.S. to the Republic of Panama for the use of the Canal Zone have increased from \$250,000 to \$2.3 Million. Additionally, by a treaty signed Jan. 25, 1955, the U.S. agreed to give Panama \$28 million worth of buildings and real estate no longer required by the Canal Zone Administration, and to guarantee equality of pay and opportunity to U.S. citizens and non-citizen employees in the Canal Zone. Contrary to the terms of the 1955 treaty, U.S. citizens still enjoy a 15 per cent pay advantage.

Violence has periodically plagued the Canal Zone since its creation. As the result of an incident in 1959, neither the American nor the Panamanian flag is flown in front of Canal Zone schools. After 21 Panamanians and 4 American soldiers were killed in an incident in 1964 over the attempt by American students to raise the American flag over the Canal Zone high school, the U. S. and Panama initiated negotiations to redefine the Canal Zone's status. The negotiations culminated in 1974 with the signing of an agreement outlining the basic principles for the eventual transfer of sovereignty over the Canal Zone to the Republic of Panama. The two treaties which President Carter signed on Sept. 7 of this year are designed to fulfill the commitment we made in 1974.

The terms of the two treaties, which concern the operation and defense of the Canal and the establishment of permanent neutrality for the Canal, respectively, are: (1) the U.S. will relinquish control of the Panama Canal at noon, Dec. 31, 1999, at which time the Republic of Panama will resume full sovereignty and responsibility for the Canal; (2) the U.S. will have the right to share in the defense of the Canal with Panama permanently; (3) the Canal Zone will cease to exist 6 months after the exchange of instruments of ratification. At that time all U.S. government territory will be transferred to Panama with the exception of land, water and installations which are needed for American operation and defense of the Canal; (4) the U.S. Acknowledges Panama's sovereignty over the former Canal Zone; (5) the U.S. will provide Panama with \$345 million in economic and military aid over the next few years and will increase annual payments to approximately \$60 million, depending on the volume of traffic through the Canal; and (6) a new Panama Canal Commission will replace the Panama Canal Co. as the body in charge of operating the Canal.

Next week, in the final part of this series, I will discuss arguments for and against ratification of the treaties.

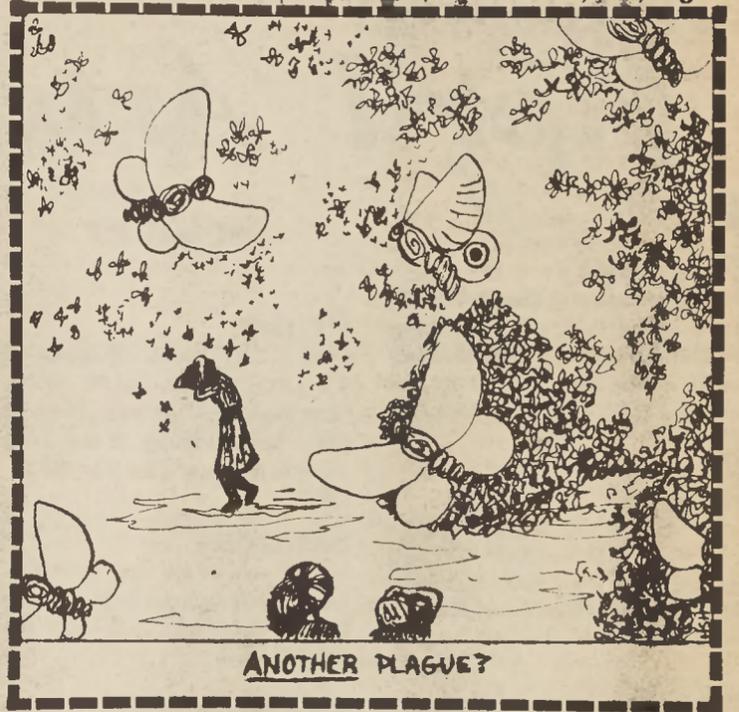
## Students work With Helms

Laura M. Castellanos del Valle

The work "nepotism" had always conjured up sinister images in my mind, so, last spring when my brother asked me to work for him during the summer, I balked a little. Persuasion, however, is one of the most desired qualities in his line of work. Soon, he had not only procured a "yes" from me, but also from my roommate, Jane Sparks. With that "yes", we become "babes in the woods" of politics; Jane and I became part of the young, enthusiastic Helms for Re-Election staff in Raleigh.

Neither Jane nor I had ever worked in an office before this summer. We were somewhat awed by all the bustle for the first few minutes, but soon we were too busy for awe. In no time, we became Jacks-of-all-trades within the office. Someone always seemed to need us, and by the end of the summer, we had become acquainted with all facets of the organization. We did such things as: process contributions, type, file, go-for, chauffeur, argue with IBM computers, wade through hundreds of newspaper clippings, develop cauliflower-ears from hours on the phone, and camp out in front of the Xerox machine. But, we would not have traded a minute of it for any other job. It was fascinating to see how a political organization develops and is maintained. Being a part of such an organization was an invaluable learning experience.

The North Carolina Congressional Club is a bipartisan conservative organization working with the Helms' staff. They sponsor a series of dinners each month throughout the state at which Senator Helms and special guests speak and meet the public. As staff, we helped with



ANOTHER PLAGUE?

organizational work before the dinners, such as sending out 35,000 flyers in two days. Hectic? That was nothing compared to the hour before the dinner as we made sure everything was in place. Senator Helms is one of the leading conservative spokesmen in America today, and I was impressed with his abilities as an orator. Each of his speeches gave us a new awareness and concern for conditions in our country.

The major project of our summer was the organization of a Student Leaders Caucus in Raleigh for Aug. 5. We worked to bring together high school and college students from almost every school in the state. A series of meetings and speeches, the weekend was the kick-off for the Helms Youth Campaign. Very few statesmen are as concerned with youth as is Senator Helms. His youth campaign is evidence of his interest in youth activity within the political community. Congressman Phillip Crane of Illinois, Congressman Jack Kemp, of New York, Al Long, the only four-letterman in the history of UNC-CH; and Ray Schrupp,

former POW, were only a few of the guest speakers. The weekend was tremendously successful—bringing together over 700 students from across the state. The highlight of the weekend was the opportunity for each student to meet with Senator Helms. Salem College was represented by Caroline Moore, Iva Lee Winstead, Jane Sparks and me. This was one of the best turnouts of any school.

This year, Caroline, Jane, and I are working on campus with the Helms Youth Campaign. As the year progresses, we hope to stimulate interest in the conservative cause and in the importance of personal involvement in the politics which affect each of us.

### NEW ARCHWAYS

Diana Jolliff, president of The Archways, has announced the following members for 1977-78: Juniors, Jayne Craig, Susan Crothers, Sabra Harper, Susan Miller; Sophomores, Diana Jolliff, Jean Fleming, Patsy Miller, Arie Tubb; Freshmen, Katarina Bonde, Laura Collins, and Julia Owens.

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