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# Panama treaty may quell memories of colonialism

By **CHUCK ALSTON**

Speaking of the negotiations between his country and the United States over the Panama Canal, Gen. Omar Torrijos Herrera, the Panamanian chief of state, once likened them to the "princess who had big feet and asked a shoemaker to find her a shoe small on the outside and large on the inside."

After 13 years of negotiations, the two nations finally found a shoe that suited both parties. And while passage approval of the treaty seems certain in an upcoming plebiscite in Panama, whether two-thirds of the U.S. Senate will see fit to wear the new shoe is a different matter.

President Carter has begun a two-prong

attack on the Senate to push for approval, putting Hamilton Jordan, his top political aide, in charge of the project. One part of the strategy is a direct appeal to the Senators, with Ambassadors Sol Linowitz and Ellsworth Bunker, the treaty negotiators, conducting the briefings. In addition, the phone calls and personal letters from the President and staffers have begun. Every member of Congress has received a letter stressing the importance of the treaty's passage.

The other prong will consist of an indirect appeal to the senators through a direct appeal to the American public. Carter will take to the TV screen with another fireside chat to explain the treaty. A gala signing ceremony is also planned, with a vast array of Latin leaders coming to the U.S. to watch

the signing and to sign an accompanying pact with all nations in the Western Hemisphere.

But ramming the treaty through the Senate promises to be no easy task for the Carter administration. Considerable opposition from conservatives has already mounted, led by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., and Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C. Among other tactics, a filibuster has been promised when the treaty comes up for consideration. Helms also sports a poll citing considerable opposition to the treaty, but when the poll was taken, the conditions under which the canal would be given up were not specified.

Conservatives have already lost two allies who normally would be opposed to such a treaty: Senators Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., and S.I. Hayakawa, R-Calif. Goldwater has

said he favored the treaty because of lessons learned from Vietnam.

Gerald Ford, too, has thrown his support behind the new treaty. Still to decide is Howard Baker, Republican spokesperson. Baker is reserving judgment until the treaty is debated in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and may hold off until it is debated on the Senate floor.

The treaty provides for a gradual takeover of the canal by the Panamanians, with full control held off until the year 2000. The 51-mile canal will remain under U.S. control during the transition, with Panamanian personnel gradually moving into the top management spots.

During the interim, the U.S. will pay Panama \$10 million in rent and another \$10 million as a flat fee, canal revenues providing.

The rent is more than \$7 million above what the U.S. currently pays in rent, but it is far short of the figures Gen. Herrera discussed. A letter from Carter to Herrera explained the reality of the money situation, bringing the figures down. The less money, the greater the chances of Senate ratification, the letter said.

The conservative opposition to the canal centers on three major points. The first is the "we bought it, it's ours" view. This makes for good fiery rhetoric and will most certainly be exploited by Helms and Thurmond as it was during Ronald Reagan's bid for the presidency.

Second is the question of national security. The conservatives argue that turning the canal over to Panama limits our options in the event of a security crisis.

Third, they argue that the instability of Latin American politics may lead to a situation we will regret later.

But one thing is certain. The methods under which we originally obtained the canal are dubious at best. And the treaty represents a way for Americans to clear any smoggy conscience they may have over past treatment of Latin American allies. The treaty will go a long way toward making our ties with Panama stronger, and at the same time will help quell memories of our once fraternal colonialism.

Chuck Alston, a junior political science major from Greensboro, N.C., is state and national editor for the Daily Tar Heel.

## Hide-and-seek parking hits the streets of Chapel Hill

It's a little hard to understand, but parking in one of Chapel Hill's newly restricted zones can cost you a bargain \$1 — or an exorbitant \$27 — depending on whether or not you're caught redhanded.

Police chief Herman Stone has announced that \$1 tickets will be left on illegally parked cars — as long as the owner is not present. But if the owner returns to the car while an officer is around, look out, that's another \$26 for court costs. In person, you get a citation. In absentia, you get a ticket. Convenience has become a tenet of jurisprudence.

Judge Henry McKinnon's restraining order against the town prohibits only towing, not ticketing of any sort. McKinnon ruled that the inconvenience and costs incurred by towing were the only irreparable damages the new plan might cause before he rules on a test case filed by UNC law student Philip Williams. Williams has challenged the parking plan as unconstitutional and discriminatory in restricting the use of public streets. Until McKinnon makes a final decision, the town is free to enforce its ban with any means except towing. Students must give up the parking spaces covered by the ban or risk tickets (\$1) or citations (\$27).



So, if you spy an officer with an interest in your illegally parked car, don't run up and volunteer to move it in hopes of saving a dollar. Don't apologize or argue. Don't even admit it's yours. Just lay low until the heat has passed. You may feel silly on the lam, but you'll save money.

Now, you say to yourself, this certainly seems an infantile activity — a hide-and-seek, cops-and-robbers sort of game — that has little place in modern society, much less in a seat of learning and enlightenment like Chapel Hill. But then it is also hard to believe that Chapel Hill's leaders have nonchalantly discriminated against an entire class, denying students vital parking spots in a town where they are almost as dear as water.

As long as the town at large and the University community continue a cowboy-and-indian conflict, with parking places instead of land at stake, then hide-and-seek might just as well entertain us.



## letters to the editor

### Parking law needed to encourage bus ridership

To the editor:  
By filing suit against the town of Chapel Hill, Mr. Williams has obscured the main issue behind the parking problem in Chapel Hill. The question is not whether a town ordinance against parking by nonresidents on certain streets is lawful or even constitutional. The question is what policy the government of Chapel Hill ought to be pursuing with regard to transportation and whether the ordinance furthers that policy.

Chapel Hill seems to have embarked, however hesitantly, upon a policy deemphasizing the use of the automobile, in favor of mass transit (and the bicycle). That this policy is sensible and correct is arguable, but narrow streets, rush hour congestion, danger to pedestrians, and unreasonable nuisance to tax-paying residents all weigh the argument in favor of it. Continued reliance upon the automobile as the chief mode of transportation (during the daytime, at least) can only worsen what is already a bad situation as the town continues to grow.

While placing a ban or limit on the use of cars at certain times and in certain places may now be viewed as unacceptably severe, other attempts to discourage the use of the automobile are laudable and benefit all who must move from place to place in this town.

I would rather see legal action initiated against further increase in the number of parking spaces, both on campus and in town. Chapel Hill may one day learn by sad experience what much larger towns already know: that while your parking lots may hold 20,000 cars all at once, your streets won't. Further increase in parking spaces also discourages ridership of public buses. However, if business warrants and traffic permits, buses can be the most economical and the quickest means of getting lots of people from here to there. But it seems that

people just won't use the buses in great enough numbers until they are forced out of their cars, either by law or by inconvenience. The ordinance in question appears to be an attempt to be a gentle admixture of both.

I hope that Chapel Hill will be successful in defending the legality of the ordinance, and that it eventually will expand its coverage to most of the downtown-university area, while it simultaneously improves the bus service to include more routes, longer hours and more satellite "park-and-ride" lots to serve those displaced (thankfully) from their cars.

Christopher A. King  
1st year student, UNC Law School  
and commuter from Carrboro by bus.

#### Checkout procedure defended

To the editor:  
I read with growing fear and loathing Beth Lueck's letter of Aug. 31, which concerned the textbook department of Student Stores.

As one of the two cashiers on checkout number two on Monday, I appreciate one of her comments, but that is about as far as I can go in agreeing with her.

We do our best to keep the long lines moving quickly, however, one might hope that standing in front of a three-foot sign which proclaims "checks only" or "cash only" for fifteen minutes or more, most students would figure that the sign means what it said. When a student in the check line learns that he cannot present cash, he often becomes belligerent and harasses the cashier. At least two cashiers have been addressed with four-letter words by students in this position. Many times, a student refuses to understand that he cannot cash a check

without some form of identification. By nine o'clock, cashiers begin to tire of being ridiculed; thirteen hours of standing in front of a cash register is not the most restful or creative task that can be thought of.

As an answer to Ms. Lueck's other comments, I truly disagree with her. Granted, locker space is sparse, but during rush hours there is someone on hand to keep an eye on possessions which are left by the entrance to the sales floor. I find it difficult to believe that one of us would hide a freshman's I.D. and then laugh at her. We're far too busy for that. Her card probably fell between two books or in her bag. Our running commentary on prices is purely functional; the bagger calls the prices to the cashier. We cannot tell a student that he is buying a more expensive model of a book, for two reasons. First, we are only temporary cashiers and know nothing of the stock; second, all copies of the same book are priced at the manufacturer's list price unless some are used. (Used books are 75% of the new price.) We are only employed by Student Stores for a few days, and it is virtually impossible to memorize several thousand textbook titles in that length of time.

Many cashiers are students elsewhere and must buy their own books. They understand what the lines and the prices are like. It is important to us that the students we check out are our friends. If we seem rude, impersonal or discourteous, it may be attributed to our long work day of dealing with all sorts of people and problems. Please cooperate with us; we've done our best to serve you during the book rush.

Blair A. M. Tindall  
Book rush cashier  
Student, N.C. School of the Arts

#### Lights should have been free

To the editor:  
This past Sunday, Aug. 28, a group of local musicians donated their time and energy to present a benefit concert in Forest Theatre. WXYZ helped to put on the show; others gave their services to produce the concert and over 1,500 people attended, donated money and had a great afternoon.

Stephenson's Music was generous enough to provide a free piano for the show. What was all this about? It was to raise funds for a Burn Center at N.C. Memorial Hospital, a badly needed treatment center for burn victims in North Carolina. This particular concert (there are plans to make the benefit show a semi-annual event) was to provide a library for the child burn victims there. This, of course, is a legitimate enterprise and a laudable display of generosity on the part of organizers and audience alike. I think anyone would agree to this. Then why did the University charge thirty dollars to turn the power on at Forest Theatre? This is a joke. Thirty dollars to send a man down to flip a switch. This fund-raising project deserves more consideration, and thousands of people, including the North Carolina Jaycees, have been willing to give it theirs. Why can't the University? To whomever it is that made the decision to charge thirty dollars, you will have another chance at the concert next spring. Even if it does cost that much to turn the power on, next time why not to do it for free? Better yet, why not give thirty dollars back to the Burn Center; they need it more than you.

Scott Ellett  
608 Airport Road

## Many routes open for students to counter job discrimination

Editor's Note: This advice is prepared by Student Legal Services which maintains an office in Suite C of the Carolina Union. All UNC students may obtain free legal service at this office.

Employment discrimination can often be practiced when a potential or employed worker is not aware of his rights under the law. Although North Carolina does not have its own equal employment opportunity or equal pay legislation, the federal government provides ample protection to the person who feels he is the object of discrimination. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits employers from discriminating in hiring, training, firing or other employment practices because of race, sex, national origin, color or religion. The President's Executive Order 11246 prohibits sexual discrimination in employment for all federal contractors, including state and local governments who receive federal funds.

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, establishes minimum wage, overtime pay, equal pay, record keeping, and child labor standards for covered employment. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 requires employers covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act to pay women and men equal pay for equivalent work.

Each of these statutes does have qualifications and exceptions under the law, but if you feel that you may have been the object of discrimination, you owe it to yourself and others similarly situated to investigate possible remedies to your complaint.

ADVICE FOR THE DAY: 1) If you feel that you are the victims of discrimination you can get legal aid services in Chapel Hill from the State Employment Standards Division of the North Carolina Department of Labor or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington.



## Forgotten but not gone

The water shortage is definitely here. But even more disconcerting is the fact that residents and students of Chapel Hill don't seem to believe the problem is severe.

According to Chancellor Taylor, "Students have a false sense that there is not a water shortage." Student Body President Bill Moss echoed the Chancellor's sentiment, noting that "people just don't realize how little water we have. Last year students were willing to pitch in and try to ease the problem. But this year that attitude has not developed."

It is true that the spirit of conservation has not taken hold with the fervor of last fall. The failure to adopt such measures — voluntarily or by edict — is especially alarming when one realizes that the level of University Lake is 20 inches lower than it was during the trying times of last year.

Town and University officials are rightfully reluctant to impose mandatory conservation measures, particularly in dormitories, which suffer the greatest hardships by water cut-backs. But the belt will be tightened legally if the members of this community continue to consume water as if there were no tomorrow. Two days ago, Chapel Hill used 5.7 million gallons of water. That demand cannot be met much longer, especially given the nebulous future of water from Durham, which has been flowing to Chapel Hill at an average of more than 3.7 million gallons per day.

The Hillsborough pipeline is a welcome sign for the future, but the present water shortage — a shortage more desperate than past droughts — cannot be forgotten. Residents and students alike must bring themselves to this realization. Stringent conservation of the little water we do have is a necessity. Each and every one of us must take steps immediately to both curb waste and curtail the use of the water.

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