

# Q-NOTES

Switchboard, Charlotte (704) 525-6128  
 AIDS Hotline, Charlotte (704) 333-AIDS  
 PFLAG Hotline, Charlotte (704) 364-1474  
 AIDS Hotline, Columbia (803) 779-PALS  
 Switchboard, Wilmington (919) 675-9222

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## Harvey Gantt Interviewed "You've Got a Very Strong Ally"

By David Stout  
 Q-Notes Staff

The following interview was conducted with Harvey Gantt by telephone on Wednesday, October 17, as he checked in at his campaign headquarters between two public appearances.

Mr. Gantt was very pressed for time, but was more than willing to stop for 15 minutes to allow me to ask him a few questions. Our conversation went as follows:

**Q.** Jesse Helms has consistently portrayed your campaign as being spearheaded by various liberal special interest groups and especially by the gay community. What is the validity of that statement and are you concerned by that type of characterization?

**A.** Well, first of all, I generally tend to ignore those kinds of statements which are designed to divide people and are used to bash people who are supporters of mine. We appreciate all our supporters. Our campaign is being run by North Carolinians; and we also have some outside consultants, which is not atypical for most campaigns. Besides, we don't check people at the door as to whether they're gay or not. It's not important.

**Q.** How strong of an ally does the gay community have in Harvey Gantt?

**A.** Given my own history and my strong feelings about discrimination and given what I have seen happen in this part of the country with people trying to label you as the plague of society, I would suggest that you've got a very strong ally.

**Q.** When did you first become aware of the special needs of gays and lesbians and was there a particular event or set of events which brought about that awareness?

**A.** I think that I've been sensitive to that all along since I've been in public life, and that goes all the way back to the 70's. But, more specifically, the re-start to that was in response to the AIDS crisis in this country and some of the kinds of things that happened as a result of it. The rise of the kinds of homophobic attitudes which are a part of people like Helms has made it much more imperative to combat this thinking. We have to show that these ideas are the same kind that divided blacks and whites.

### First Tuesday Name Change

First Tuesday has a new name. At the October general meeting, the membership present approved changing the name under which it does business to "First Tuesday Association for Gay & Lesbian Equality." The corporate name will remain First Tuesday, Inc.

The new name is the result of the belief among some members that the name of a group which fights against the invisibility of lesbians and gays should make its mission more apparent in its name. It was agreed that the "First Tuesday" portion of the name should be retained because of the level of recognition which it has attained both inside and outside the gay community.

The name "First Tuesday" was originally proposed by the late Don Scherrow at the organizational meeting of the group in 1988. The name was chosen and stuck because it underlines the group's emphasis on voting in elections, which are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, and because meetings were (and are) always held on the first Tuesday of the month.

**Q.** How important has North Carolina Senate Vote '90 been to your campaign?

**A.** Well, that's an independent organization. I obviously have not been looking in very closely to what they've been doing because I can't, by law, get involved in their campaign. I've heard a couple of commercials run that were, I thought, pretty good commercials that are supportive of our cause. We want to be elected and we'd like our friends to help us.

**Q.** Would you be willing to support a gay rights bill in the Senate?

**A.** I have said to many of my friends in the gay community that I am going to be open to any bill that would clarify and make certain that no one is going to be discriminated against. I don't know all of the details of the gay rights bill that some folks have told me about and cannot say with certainty that I would support every aspect of it; but, it sounds like something I would be inclined to support.

**Q.** Would you be willing to sponsor a gay rights bill?

**A.** I don't know about that . . . but I wouldn't be adverse to it. I would certainly want to find out what is in that bill and I'd want to make sure that nobody's human rights or civil rights are abridged. And if it's okay, yeah, I'd probably be a sponsor.

**Q.** With less than a month to go until the election, where is your confidence level really at?

**A.** We're going to win. You could say it's 100% — no doubt about it.



Harvey Gantt

**Q.** Is there anything in particular you want to say to the gay and lesbian community of North Carolina?

**A.** Well, . . . I think it's important that we send people to Washington who really do care about people and who care about bringing people together rather than about building walls that divide certain segments of our population.

That to me is very important, in addition to electing people who are willing to stand by the tenets of our Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. We have the right to "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" and as long as we pursue those things without violating the rights of others or jeopardizing the public health then we should have the right to privacy.

## FTAGLE Polls Candidates

First Tuesday Association for Gay and Lesbian Equality (FTAGLE) conducted its annual poll of the candidates seeking office in the upcoming November elections.

For over a three-day period, members of FTAGLE telephoned all of the candidates running for Mecklenburg County Commission and the candidates for the North Carolina House of Representatives and the North Carolina Senate. Of the eleven people seeking a seat on the County Commission, FTAGLE recorded a response from six of the candidates. Of the twenty people seeking a state-wide seat, FTAGLE recorded a response from five of the candidates.

Because of its tax status, FTAGLE cannot endorse any political candidate. However, it can report to the community the responses from the candidates which fairly states each candidate's views. The corresponding chart shows how each candidate answered the questions.

Below are some comments that the candidates made while talking with FTAGLE. All effort was made to accurately report what each candidate said during the interviews.

FTAGLE asked the following question of all the candidates:

1. Do you support equal rights for gays and lesbians including laws against discrimination in housing and employment?

### FTAGLE Poll Response

Candidate	Question #1	#2	#3
<b>NC SENATE</b>			
Jerry Blackmon (R)	Y	NA	N
Martha Alexander (D)	Y	NA	U
<b>NC HOUSE</b>			
Diane Davis (R)	Y	NA	Y
Pete Cunningham (D)	U	NA	Y
Howard Barnhill (D)	Y	NA	U
<b>MECK. COUNTY COMM.</b>			
Rod Autrey (R)	Y	Y	NA
Peter Keber (R)	N	N	NA
Ann Schrader (R)	N	Y	NA
Patsy Kinsey (D)	Y	Y	NA
Neil Leach (D)	Y	U	NA
Bob Walton (D)	Y	Y	NA

Y = Yes N = No U = Undecided  
 NA = No Answer

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## Uncle Sam Needs You — Whether He Likes It Or Not

Any veteran, regardless of sexual orientation, who would like to reenlist, and who has an Honorable or upgradeable discharge and who is interested in serving in a reactivated, but segregated, active duty regiment, please contact The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America at (414) 342-6543, Fax: c/o Havlicek and Associates (414) 271-8884, Attn: Annabelle Havlicek. You may also

write: Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America, 1350 North 37th Place, Milwaukee, WI 53208.

Information you should send must include your name, branch and dates of service, SSN, MOS's held, and final rank/discharge status. ALL of this information will be

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### BEST BETS

Nov. 2-3-4 GLAD District Conference (Metropolitan Community Churches)

Nov. 4 Miss NC World

Nov. 6 VOTE  
 First Tuesday Election Watch

Nov. 7 Names Project Benefit "Shadow Box" at Theatre Charlotte

Nov. 10 10 AM - 4 PM  
 Lambda Connections Business Expo

Nov. 11 6 PM Integrity Meets With Bishop

Nov. 13 Charlotte Coalition Meeting

Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Dinners MCC Charlotte and New Life MCC  
 Call for locations . . .

Nov. 23-24-25  
 Miss NC USA Pageant

Dec. 2 4 PM MAX Images at White Rabbit

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