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The Blue Banner

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

November 7, 1996

Campus Highlights

■ An excellent cultural event approaches the UNCA campus this weekend when visiting filmmaker Richard Breyer will present his film "Esta Esperanza (This Hope)." Breyer, a professor from Syracuse University, made this hour-long documentary about post war El Salvador after the nightmare of a twelve year war, and will present it at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 8 in the Humanities Lecture Hall. Afterwards, Breyer will also talk about the making of the film, as well as answer questions from the audience. Breyer and his crew traveled to great lengths to make the film, which is narrated by actor Hector Elizondo. Tickets, available at the door, are free to students and \$4 for general admission. He will also conduct a brown bag lunch discussion on "Becoming a Documentarian" from noon-1:15 p.m. on Friday.

■ All sorts of sports involving UNCA teams will be competing this weekend. If you are a die-hard Bulldog soccer fan, the men's and women's teams will compete in the Big South tournament in Greensboro this weekend. This is a great time for a road trip, and the teams could use your support. But, if various circumstances will keep you in Asheville, there's plenty going on here, especially hoops. The women's basketball team will have their first exhibition on Friday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. against the Smoky Mountain Swarm. On Saturday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m., the men's basketball team will play the Bendigo Braves in an exhibition game at the Justice Center. If you missed the Blue-White exhibition, this will be a great opportunity to see the new team and coach. And, the women's volleyball team faces the University of Maryland-Baltimore County at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 10. As usual, the game is free to UNCA faculty, staff, and students with ID.

■ It seems like just yesterday that you went through the ritual of registering for classes. But the spring semester is quickly approaching and early registration begins on Monday, Nov. 11 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Lipinsky Hall. This is early registration, and there will be other opportunities to register later. But with 60 people going for 25 slots, it is definitely to your advantage to register early. If you haven't received an early registration card yet, you need to go to the admissions office to get one. On a similar note, academic advising ends on Friday, Nov. 8, and an advisor's signature is necessary to register early.

■ Remember about a month ago when UNCA was to appear on ABC's "Good Morning America?" Well, if you were looking for yourself, friends, or family on Oct. 21 when it was supposed to air, it wasn't there. The "wave" was actually shown three days earlier, and because of the unexpected change, many people missed it. If this was your 15 minutes (seven seconds) of fame, and you would like to see the spot, contact Merianne Epstein in Public Information at 6526.

Meeting attempts to create racial understanding at UNCA

Alex Self
Staff Writer

Opening Doors, a cooperative program between UNCA and Asheville community leaders, attempts to improve racial harmony through weekly small group discussion. Some university students who attend the Monday night sessions said the program was an ineffective means to change predetermined white racial biases.

"A lot of white people come here(to UNCA) regardless of whether they would admit it or not, because it's highly white," said senior Kenneth Harrell, a participant in Opening Doors. "I don't think that everybody comes here for that reason, but a lot of people do."

Harrell said these attitudes are reflected in conversations between white and black members of the program who claim to be racially aware.

"Even among people who are thinking about these issues, they're not as open as they'd like to think of themselves," Harrell said. "In the class, it seems like people are afraid to say what's on their minds while we're (African-Americans) there."

"If the kind of people who are committed to racial justice have a prob-

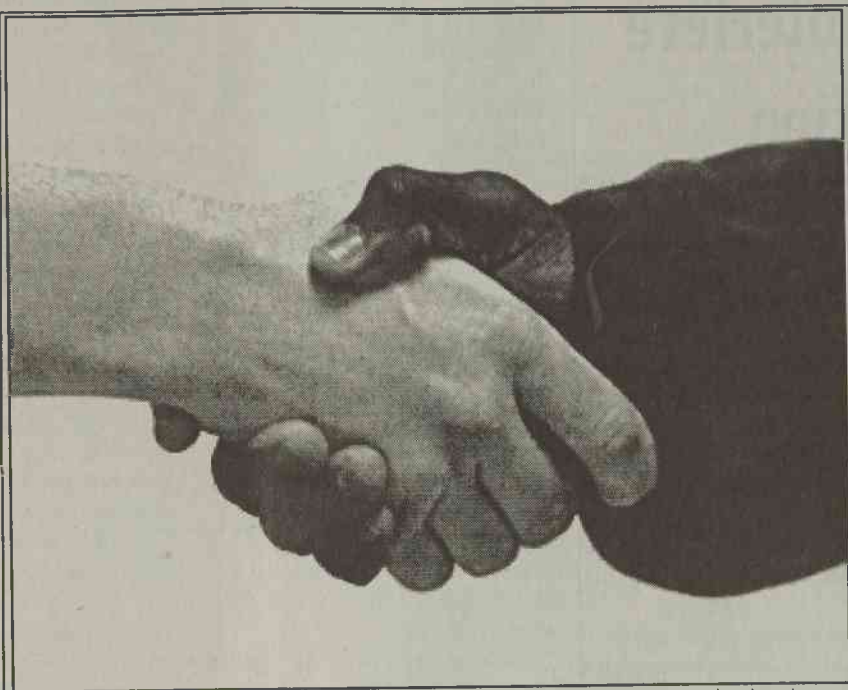


Photo by Del Delorm

For many students, race relations are not a problem at UNCA.

lem communicating," said Harrell, "what about the majority of people who refuse to address the issue?"

Edward J. Katz, chair of the planning committee for Opening Doors, said he looked at the program as a learning experience and a means for whites to become aware of issues "from a minority perspective."

"If you've never had the opportunity to talk to a person about what it's like to be black, then it's not surprising that we have misunderstandings," said Katz.

Katz also said that Opening Doors, offered as a class available to any UNCA student for a pass/fail credit, was helpful for African-American

students who receive less support from the university than white students because of a lack of black role models on campus.

"We only have a handful of black faculty on campus," Katz said. "That indicates a lot about what it is like to be a black student (here)."

Don C. Locke, a guest speaker at Opening Doors last Monday, said in an interview that the program was effective because it provided a safe atmosphere to make racial issues "overt" and "explicit," without resulting in violence.

"Race (and) gender are emotional issues, which is why you have to talk about them," said Locke. "You can't just read about them."

Locke said that discussions on race should be in a "planned program," like Opening Doors, instead of people merely "sitting around shooting the bull about them (racial issues)."

Harrell said he did not think Opening Doors would improve racial relations, but would help him personally understand the world he lives in.

"This, for me, is a good thing because it helps me get a good perspective on the world I'm getting ready to enter into," said Harrell. "But, as far

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ELECTION ENDS WITH FEW SURPRISES AS CLINTON WINS

Student reactions to results mixed, leave many disillusioned

Aimee Campbell
Staff Writer

After Tuesday's elections, students had mixed reactions to the results of their votes. Student reactions to the election results at UNCA varied from disappointment and surprise to anger and frustration with the party system.

"Well, I don't really know what to think one way or another about this whole Bill or Bob thing," said creative writing major Nat Sternbergh. "I guess I'd rather go with the devil I know than the one I don't."

"As for the Gantt-Helms thing, well, I guess I'm not surprised, but I am a little disappointed," Sternbergh said.

Other students agreed that they were not surprised with the results, but not necessarily happy

with them either.

"Neither the presidential nor the senatorial returns surprised me," said senior political science major Stephen Gross. "I didn't vote for either Clinton or Helms, but I figured that they would both win."

"From the way the polls were looking, they seemed to be the best candidates for the job, according to the average American," Gross continued.

"I am very conservative, and I was hoping and praying that Dole would win," said sophomore Ashley Morrow. "I'm not sure I expected him to, but I was hoping he would. I am glad we kept with a Republican Congress."

Despite the presidential loss, conservative voters said they were pleased with the outcome of some of the races, especially the U.S. Senate race.

"Being that I'm a Republican and straight ticket, I was really happy that Helms won," said sophomore Tommy Smathers. "I was very excited about that."

"I also think it's really cool that Thurmond won," said Smathers "and that people didn't hold his age against him."

"And of course I'm happy that the Republicans still control Congress," Smathers continued.

Many student voters seemed displeased with the candidates that were running in this election.

"I knew that Harvey Gantt wasn't going to win because he is too liberal," said Gross. "I think that he's a better candidate than Jesse Helms, but apparently most people in North Carolina don't think so."

"I agree with Gantt on just about everything," Gross said. "I can't think of one thing about Gantt that I don't like. I did not vote for him either, however, because I was concerned about his poor record as an administrator in Charlotte."

"It made me feel bad that Dole lost because I don't trust President Clinton," said Smathers. "I also think it was rather surprising that Hunt got re-elected after not doing anything for twelve years, just by saying he was going to do

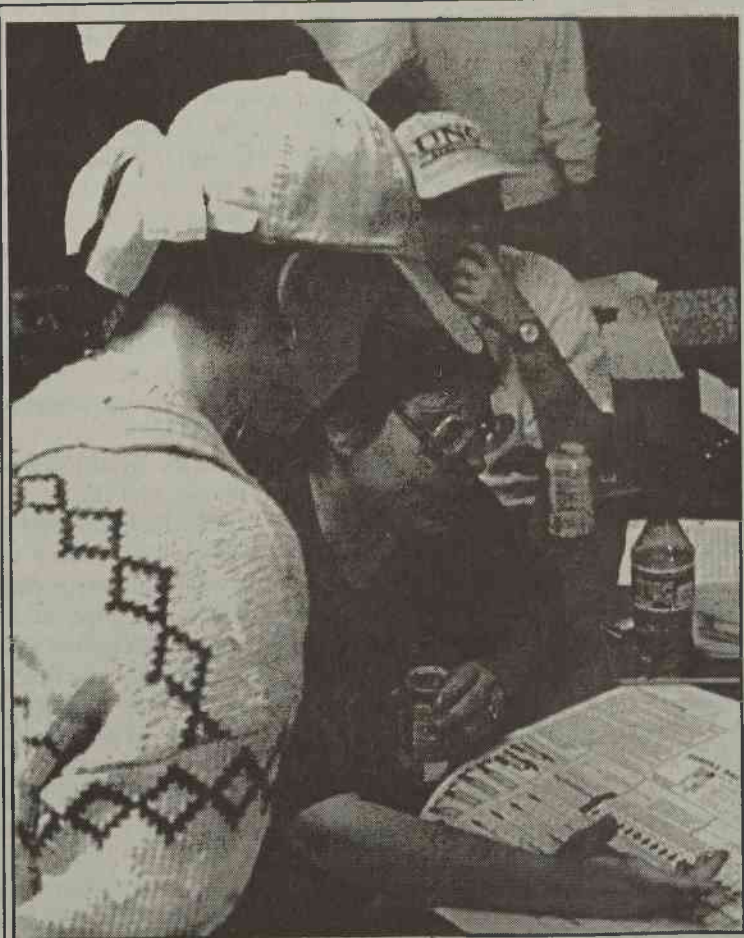


Photo by Michael Taylor

Robin Werner explains a sample ballot to Carrie Howard at the North Asheville Community Center last Tuesday. Werner waited close to two hours to vote. Meg Purchase sits in the background.

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Rally in Asheville comes up short as Gantt falls to Helms again

Monica Williams
Staff Writer

A group of UNCA students traveled by bus to the Harvey Gantt rally held at the Asheville Airport on Monday, Nov. 4. Despite a small turnout by UNCA students, Gantt found time to speak with them and acknowledge their questions.

However, Gantt was unable to convince voters statewide, and lost to incumbent Republican Senator Jesse Helms for the second time in a row. The students that went to the event, though, were excited about attending the rally.

"I am really looking forward to meeting Mr. Gantt," said junior Zach Brown before the rally. "I am glad to be involved in the political process."

Once off the bus, supporters greeted students and handed out stickers and "Gantt for U.S. Senate" posters.

Approximately 75 people attended the rally, and organizers led applause in appreciation to the Clinton/Gore campaign's who provided shuttles to the little publicized rally.

When Gantt finally arrived, there was a wave of cheers and music. People rushed to the entrance gate, shaking his hand and patting him on the back. The color guard from Enka High School presented the colors and three of their students played the "Star Spangled Banner."

After thanking his family and supporters, Gantt spoke about his devotion to North Carolina, and how he thinks it's time for Helms to leave office.

"I want to support (North Carolina)," said Gantt. "Jesse Helms has been in Washington too long, and 24 years has changed him."

"I think that he shows his contempt for you by not coming back here to debate me," said Gantt. "More importantly, (he doesn't allow) you an opportunity to hear where he really stands on a lot of issues."

"I will never forget the teachings of my parents, 'It is ordinary folks who really make up this country,'" said Gantt. "They are the ones that raise the families and go out every morning to put in a day's work. They are the ones who believe in this country, and they too are the ones that can rise up. I expect you to do that tomorrow."

Gantt also stressed the importance of encouraging others to vote.

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