## **ARTS and FEATURES**

# Two UNC Gantt supporters share his beliefs, blood ties, surname

By MARY MOORE PARHAM

I met Angela Gantt by accident. Sure, I knew an Angela who sat beside me in French and whose language labs had less red pen on them, but she and I complained about the passe compose, not about low voter turnout or

political mudslinging. It wasn't until we got our first quizzes back that I noticed her last name.

Gantt. As in Harvey, U.S. Senate, November 6th. Then came my barrage of awkward questions. "Are you Gantt's daughter? Have you met Helms? How would you feel about summers in Washington?"

By our second meeting, I'd regained my composure, and Angela was still as low-key as ever. Waiting to talk with her before her tennis practice, I counted five Gantt bumper stickers before she

Angela, a freshman political science major, said she preferred pediatrics, not politics, as a possible career.

"Idon't think I want to go into politics, but (it does) interest me," she said. "I would rather provide medical care for disadvantaged children, as they are the future of society."

political science and biology major, does not plan to follow in her father's footsteps either. "I don't plan to get into politics," she said, "but I do consider myself an activist in that I'm interested in making sure things happen in society, whether in developing nations or here in Chapel Hill."

As chairwoman of Students for Gantt, Erika works with fellow chairmen Brian Allen and Regie O'Rourke to keep students informed through information tables in the Pit, letters to the editor and a Buddy Program encouraging students to vote.

"The premise behind the Buddy Program is that anyone can do it," said Angela, who also works for the campaign. "All it requires is that you find five, six, seven friends you know well and persuade them to register and vote."

Erika said many students did not realize the impact of the issues at stake. "If students had a definitive understanding of the issues, they'd realize that education spending has been cut for the past 18 years, and it would hit home."

Although the deadline for in-state voter registration has passed, those individuals registered out of state may vote in their state's U.S. Senate race by Her sister, sophomore Erika Gantt, a means of an absentee ballot or may

"I support my father because he speaks for everything I believe in." — Angela Gantt

transfer their registration to North Carolina.

"Getting out to register and vote is hard because students have so many prior commitments, but voting is essential to maintain a democratic system," Angela said.

Both of Gantt's daughters were impressed by the sold-out benefit for their father held Wednesday, Sept. 19 at Cat's Cradle. "Rock for Gantt" raised more than \$5,000 for the campaign. Yet that was only a fraction of the funds Helms

received from sponsors across the state. "If there's one thing that I've learned from my father's involvement in politics," Angela said, "it's that campaigning takes a lot of money." Americans miss out because many excellent candidates cannot afford to run or don't have the affluence required to get financial backing, she said.

This becomes evident the intelevision

campaign advertisements, she said. "Television is a necessary medium in campaigning because you simply can't go out and meet every single person, but the amount Helms is spending to cover the airways is ludicrous," Angela said.

Angela said she preferred to read newspapers than to watch commercials. "It's difficult when it's your father they're doing a negative commentary on," she said. "Especially when you've lived with him and know that's not the truth. We keep in touch with the family for campaign information."

Ironically, Erika and Angela's older sister Sonja is a reporter for a Charlotte television station.

"We have a running joke in our house about hating journalists," Angela said, "But I'm always for freedom of the press. If an article is slanted, hopefully someone will write it another way."

Since their father has held public

office in Charlotte since 1975, both Angela and Erika are used to the concept of having their name in the public eye. "Gantt is my last name, but my father's the one running. I'm basically another

student," Erika said.

Angela agreed. "It's not really my name anymore, but at least people are able to pronounce it correctly now. I usually introduce myself as Angela and most people don't make the connection. Those that do really don't treat me much differently," she said.

Angela does remember one incident when she was standing in line at The Cutting Board in Lenoir Dining Hall, and a student was staring at her. He finally approached her and asked why she supported Gantt. "I wanted to say, 'Because he's my father,' but that would have totally undermined the purpose," she said. "I support my father because he speaks for everything I believe in."

When asked if her political beliefs mirrored those of her father, Erika made the point that while growing up with him, she had absorbed his values. "My father didn't come home and drill us on politics, but at home he practices what he believes. I do agree with most of his political views, especially the need to unusual job.'

provide health care to those who need it,

regardless of their financial situation." The recent discovery of a Gantt campaign poster defaced by racial slurs caused both Angela and Erika to speak out about the incident.

"It bothers me that the idea of someone running on their own merits is not enough for some people," Erika said. She added that when people reduce a campaign to race, it means is that we haven't progressed very far.

"The act was useless and disgusting," Angela said. "So what if this person was not going to vote for Gantt, go vote for the other candidate. Race shouldn't be a factor in an election, but unfortunately when two people of different races run

against one another, it will be one." Despite the incident, both Angela and Erika continue to campaign before

What would a win mean to the Gantt family?

the November 6th election.

"My mom and brother Adam would be moving to Washington and things would just go from there," Angela said. "If my dad lost, he'd probably go back to being an architect, but he's never been a normal home-at-5 p.m. father."

According to Angela, "He just has an

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## Jurors say Mapplethorpe photography distasteful, but still qualifies as art From Associated Press reports CINCINNATI - Jurors who ac-

quitted an art gallery and its director of obscenity charges said although they personally found some of Robert Mapplethorpe's photographs to be lewd and distasteful, all agreed they are serious works of art.

"The pictures were not pretty. No doubt about it," juror James Jones told The Cincinnati Enquirer in a story published Sunday. "But, as it was brought up in the trial, to be art it doesn't

have to be pretty."

The jury deliberated two hours on Friday before acquitting Dennis Barrie and the Contemporary Arts Center of misdemeanor pandering obscenity and child-nudity charges in the first case of its kind against an art institution.

Three jurors interviewed by the newspaper said they were surprised by the swift verdict. On both charges, the first jury vote was 7-1 in favor of ac-

"We felt that the prosecution did not prove its case," said Jones, a warehouse

Five of the pictures in the 175-pic-

ture exhibition, "Robert Mapplethorpe: The Perfect Moment," depict sexually explicit acts involving men; two others showed children with their genitals ex-

The jurors told the Enquirer they believed the five pictures of sex acts to be offensive and designed to appeal to prurient interests. But they said expert witnesses convinced them the photographs had artistic value.

To be considered obscene under Supreme Court guidelines, photographs must depict patently offensive sexual conduct and offend the average member of the community. They also must have no literary, artistic, political, scientific or social value.

"I think there's something to be learned by these pictures," said forewoman Stacey Burton, a secretary.

"I learned more about that type of lifestyle than I ever thought I could possibly know," said Jennifer Loesing, a hospital supervisor.

Six art experts and museum directors testified that the photos were important work by a respected artist. One prosecution witness testified that the pictures had no redeeming value.

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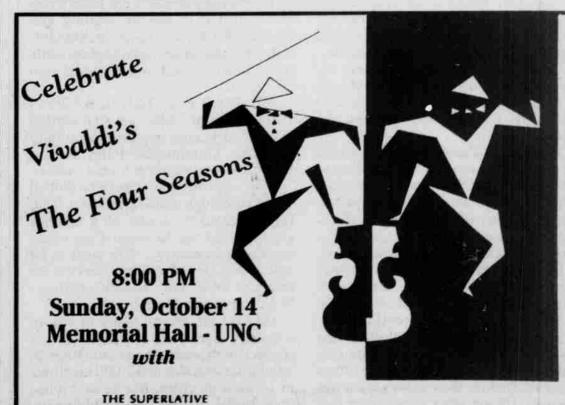
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