

Even after election, students continue to stand by their man

By DAVID ETCHISON
Staff Writer

Although there were many different expectations for Tuesday's Senate election, there was only one result.

"I really didn't expect (Harvey) Gantt to win," said Stephanie Head, a junior from Raleigh. "But I was pleased that he did as well as he did."

"I had no doubt in my mind that (Jesse) Helms would win," said Pete Zifchak, a freshman from Clemmons.

"I thought it would be much closer than it was," said Susan Garwood, a senior from North Wilkesboro.

Although Jesse Helms won the senate race, it was Democratic challenger Harvey Gantt who received more votes in Chapel Hill, leaving many disappointed — but not surprised — UNC students behind in the election aftermath.

Among the students, both Helms and Gantt supporters have different views of certain aspects of the election and the campaigns.

A majority of students voted for Gantt for a number of reasons, one of them being Helms himself.

"I would have liked to have seen Gantt win just because I think Jesse Helms has been around for much too long," said Rebecca Allison, a sophomore from Plymouth, Mich. "In my mind, we need some liberalism. Eighteen years is an awful long time to be in the Senate."

"I think we need a fresh face in Washington," said Beau Fisher, a senior from Greensboro. "It's time for Helms to move on. He's gotten a little too old in some ways."

Garwood, a registered Republican, said, "Education is an important issue, and Jesse Helms doesn't really address that. I think in order for education to improve in this state we definitely need federal support."

Helms, however, was not without his supporters.

"Gantt would have been a junior

senator and couldn't get the things done for North Carolina that Helms could," Zifchak said.

"A lot of people are just afraid of change," said Brian Hutson, a sophomore Helms supporter from Rocky Mount. "They want the traditional ways and that's what they see when they look at Helms."

Opinions varied as to whether the negative campaigning was as bad as had been expected.

"One thing that's always turned me against Helms is he has always run his

campaign based on hate, and Gantt talked about issues," said Rolf Sundwall, a sophomore from Greenville.

"Even after the race, Helms came on TV and talked about beating the liberals, and all he was talking was the game, the political game. Gantt ... talked about things that were important to him and to North Carolina," Sundwall said.

"The commercials were really getting pathetic in the end," Hutson said. "They were just back and forth. Most people were getting tired of watching them."

Head said the campaigning was

"typical of anything that has Jesse Helms' name on it. I'm sick of it."

Marie Patterson, a freshman from Troy, said, "I don't think Helms really had too many hate ads out about Gantt. I think the campaign was fair."

"I didn't think it was as negative as I would have expected from Jesse Helms," Garwood said. "In the final weeks (of the campaign) he used the racial quota issue. I think that scared a lot of white voters."

Most people believed that saying Gantt supported racial quotas was an

advantage to Helms and that Gantt's denial of the charges was ineffective and virtually unnoticed.

"I think Helms' bringing out the racial quotas pretty much did away with the closeness of the race," Zifchak said.

The issue of racial quotas highlights what some have seen as the racial aspect of the campaign.

"I think in North Carolina they're still unwilling to let go of that conservative attitude," Patterson said. "It's all a matter of race. If Gantt were white, it would have been a different story."

Supporters inspire Gantt up to final minutes

By WENDY BOUNDS
Staff Writer

Nov. 6 was a night of spirited words and strained hearts at the North Raleigh Hilton.

As Democrats began trickling into the media-packed convention room, they learned their Senate hopeful, Harvey Gantt, was pouncing the Durham pavement, campaigning for last-minute votes to unseat Jesse Helms. "We need some of you to help Harvey," came the call over the loudspeaker. "Buses will be leaving for Durham in 15 minutes and we want the press and supporters to be on those buses to follow Harvey in his walk."

The people who stayed behind milled around, visiting the bars, discussing the poll breakdowns in Durham and watching as the returns came in on television screens around the room.

With only 2 percent of precincts reporting at 8 p.m., Helms led Gantt 56 percent to 44 percent. No one in the Hilton appeared to let these first results

bother them.

Upstairs in room 636, incumbent Rep. David Price met with his supporters to prepare for his third victory in the 4th district. Though returns already showed Price with a 10 percent lead over his opponent, John Carrington, the congressman refused to speculate a win.

"I never guess margins," he said, smiling.

Down the hall from Price, James Exum awaited returns on his bid for another eight-year term as chief justice of the N.C. Supreme Court.

"It looks positive, I'm just happy with the way things are going now," said Exum, who ultimately won.

Back downstairs, however, Gantt supporters were not as happy as Exum with the way things were going. By 10:30 p.m. news anchor Dan Rather had declared Helms the winner. Amid the din of groans and boos, a tension began to weave its way through the crowd. Denial was the first reaction, followed by an anxiety for Gantt to appear.

David Price made his victory speech at 11:20 p.m., and the crowd's attention gratefully focused on the congressman.

"I'm proud to be a Democrat ... I'm proud of each and everyone of you in this room ... and I'm proud of Harvey Gantt," Price said.

Encouraged, everyone waited shoulder to shoulder under the glaring TV camera lights. Rumors that Helms' lead had dropped to 4 percent began to circulate as one supporter misread the television screen 40 feet away.

But then there was Jesse. Gantt supporters watched Helms declare victory at 11:27 p.m. five miles away at the Brownstone Hotel.

"The mighty ultra-liberal establishment — the liberal politicians and editors ... have struck out again," Helms said. "And of course I shall always be grateful for the hundreds of thousands of North Carolina Democrats who today gave us their support."

Trying to feign indifference, some Democrats turned their backs, others watched silently shaking their heads.

Many began to cheer "Harvey, Harvey" but the conviction was dwindling.

And almost as if he heard their calls, Gantt entered the room to the left of the stage with his wife. He smiled at the crowd, not looking like a defeated man.

"I hurt a little bit inside, I hurt quite a bit, because we gave our very best," Gantt said once on stage.

A woman's shout of, "Keep striving, Harvey," sliced through the cheers.

"That's right, you've got to keep striving," Gantt answered, smiling.

After Gantt's departure, some Democrats continued to celebrate with Price and the many other Democrats who claimed victories that night.

But as the media packed up their equipment, and reporters called in their final quotes, there were heavy hearts lining the walls outside the convention room. For these Democrats, the next six years will be long ones as they seek consolation from Gantt's final words.

"Let's hold out hope — let's hold out hope — that there is going to be a better day in North Carolina tomorrow."

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Campus Calendar

FRIDAY
1:15 p.m.: The Institute for Research in Social Science will offer an IRSS Faculty Seminar: "Introduction to Longitudinal Data Analysis," with George McCarthy in 2 Manning until 4 p.m.
7 p.m.: The Baha'i Club: The diversity of the human family should be the cause of love and harmony as it is in music where many different notes blend together in the making of a perfect chord. We will host a workshop exploring the nature of prejudice in the Black Cultural Center. All are welcome.
8:30 p.m.: The Carolina Union Special Projects Committee will sponsor a Diversity Dance in the Cabaret until midnight. Come for different people, different music and different dances. Free refreshments will be served.

SATURDAY
9 p.m.: Morrison Minority Student Union and Omega Psi Phi will hold a Talent Nite and Party in the Morrison Social Lounge. \$1 for show and party. \$2 for just the party.
10 p.m.: CGLA will hold a mixer with DGLA and LGSU. For more information call 962-4401.

SUNDAY
2 p.m.: The Campus Y announces that Footfalls, a 10K road race and fun run, will begin in today. Runners of all abilities are welcome and prizes will go to raise money for Campus Y programs. More information at the Campus Y. We need you!
The Campus Y Big Buddy Program invite children of all ages to see Walt Disney's "Pete's Dragon," in the Cabaret. Admission is free and young children are welcome to attend.

ITEMS OF INTEREST
Human Rights Week: T-shirts (\$10) and raffle tickets (\$1) will be on sale through today in the Pit (10 a.m.-2 p.m.). Over 15 great prizes being raffled off. Monies are used to pay for speakers such as Randall Robinson and Winnie Mandela during Human Rights Week.
Tarheel Recycling Project announces that the mobile drop-off site for today is beside the dumpster next to the Law School Snack Bar parking lot.
GPSF offers information on the application process for in-state tuition. See the bulletin board outside Suite D of the Union.
The 1991 Yackety Yack, UNC's official yearbook, is on sale now through today in the Pit from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Order your copy today!
The Student Union Gallery Committee present "Extremely Visible: Art and Artifacts of the Helms Era," an exhibit of work by local artists and artifacts from national artists expressing concerns about scapegoating and censorship, in the Union Gallery until November 17.
PlayMakers Repertory Company will present the Southeastern premiere of "Nothing Sacred," by Canadian playwright George F. Walker, Oct. 24-Nov. 11 at the Paul Green Theatre in Chapel Hill. For more information, call 962-PLAY. We need ushers for these performances. Usher sign-up sheets are located outside 203 Graham Memorial building. For more information call Mary at 962-2489. PlayMakers will also present "The Nutcracker: A Play," Nov. 28-Dec. 22 at Paul Green Theatre.

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