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# The Blue Banner

"Where there is an open mind, there will always be a frontier." — Kettering

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## Helms and Gantt compete UP's role in benefit questioned for student votes

LeeAnn Donnelly  
Staff Writer

When thousands of North Carolina college students go to the polls Nov. 6 to cast their vote in the U.S. Senate race, they will choose between Democratic challenger Harvey Gantt and Republican incumbent Jesse Helms.

The Blue Banner invited each candidate to give his views concerning financial aid for college students and to explain why he should get the college student's vote.

Gantt told the Blue Banner he thinks the government is responsible for helping parents who can't afford to send their children to college.

"The federal government ought to be making an investment in the future by investing in our youngsters. We need our young people to be more knowledgeable," he said.

Beth Burrus, Helms' press secretary, responded for Helms, who was attending to Senate business in Washington. She said college students should vote for Helms because he believes they can benefit from less government.

"Harvey Gantt stands for bigger government, more taxes, and inevitably, less opportunity," Burrus said.

Gantt said he thinks it is important to make college loans available to anyone who wants to further their education.

"I hope to increase making universal college student loans and grants to eligible youngsters who are able to get into a four-year college, a junior college, or a vocational school," he said.

According to Burrus, Helms says funding for our college students is available and that it should come from people who haven't paid off the balance of their student loans.

"Loans can be provided if the government will make a better effort to collect the \$2 million in college loans that are being defaulted on," she said.

Gantt said students who find it difficult to make their loan payments should have options.

"If you can't pay the loan back the normal way, you should be able to engage in some kind of community service," he said.

Gantt said college students should vote for him because of his emphasis on education.

"I feel it is important to have a highly-trained work force," he said.

According to Burrus, Helms thinks students have a big stake in a strong economy, and will suffer after graduation if the national debt and high taxes are not reduced.

"Sen. Helms is working to strengthen the economy so jobs will be available when students graduate," she said.

## UP's role in benefit questioned

Steve Peake  
Staff Writer

The role of Underdog Productions (UP) in an Oct. 27 fund-raiser for U.S. Senate candidate Harvey Gantt has drawn criticism from some members of the UNCA community, who say UP's involvement suggests partisan politics.

College Democrats, a student organization, and UP are jointly sponsoring "Gantt Thing," a planned 12-hour concert featuring six bands, along with a scheduled appearance by Gantt.

According to advertising, cost of admission will be \$5 for students and faculty, and \$7 for others. All proceeds from the event, say the ads, will go to Gantt's campaign.

UP provided College Democrats with a loan of approximately \$500 to cover start-up and advertising costs of the event. That loan has prompted questions about campus funding of political events.

"It's ethically objectionable for student fees to go to the sponsoring of a political event," said Rob Young, a senior philosophy major. "By putting the UP logo on the poster, they imply that they're for Gantt."

Young helped organize Students For America, a UNCA student organization that supports Republican candidates in local and national elections.

William Thurman, professor of classics and ancient history, said he is opposed to UP funding for any partisan group. "Where student fees are mandatory, we'd be better off not spending any funds on anything even remotely involving a conflict of interest."

U.P. receives its funding from the Campus Commission, which, in turn, draws its budget from student fees.

The fact that some of those funds were lent to College Democrats, said Hampton Hopkins, UP advisor, does not mean that UP is endorsing Gantt.

"The College Democrats approached us with a proposal. We decided, based on the fact that they are a recognized campus

group, to accept their proposal," said Hopkins. "We did, however, stipulate that the money was a loan to be repaid on the day of the event, so there wouldn't be any question about UP's involvement."

Hopkins said the amount of the loan was "about \$500."

Hopkins also cited the fact that six bands are set to perform. He said that UP had to look at "Gantt Thing" as an entertainment event, as well as a fund-raiser.

College Democrats were not singled out for funding, said Hopkins. "We've never turned anyone down. Any other campus organization with a valid reason can bring it to us and we'll look at it. We even offered to help College Republicans with a similar event, if they were interested."

"College Republicans was offered equal treatment," said Young, "but it was decided to decline the offer. For one thing, College Republicans were contacted at a time when it would have been difficult to organize an event, this being so close to the election."

Young characterized UP's loan as "giving money to special interest groups," but William Sabo, associate professor of political science, offered another view.

There are many ideologically-oriented groups on campus who benefit from Campus Commission funds. The Baptist Student Union, for instance, is another ideological organization on campus. The university permits all sorts of organizations. It's public property. I really think this question is a relatively minor point."

"It's not like we've endorsed anyone," said Traci Ross, president of UP. "We will get paid back, but that's not the point. UP is here to offer support to campus organizations. The Campus Commission supports everything

from the Chemistry Club to cheerleaders."

"Gantt Thing" is scheduled to kick off Saturday at noon. The concert will last until midnight, according to handbills posted throughout the campus.

## Legalization of drug advocated



Photo by LeeAnn Donnelly

Jack Herer speaks to a group of students Wednesday on the benefits of legalizing marijuana.

Leslie Gilliam  
Staff Writer

Jack Herer, spokesman for H.E.M.P. (Help End Marijuana Prohibition) spoke to UNCA students Wednesday on the benefits of legalizing marijuana or hemp.

According to Herer, hemp can take the place of trees in the manufacturing of paper. "One acre of marijuana can make as much paper as four acres of trees and produce one-fifth to one-seventh less pollution," Herer said.

Herer said the depleting ozone layer is a partial result of trees being lumbered for paper and paper products. He said America could halt the ozone layer depletion by planting and harvesting hemp instead.

He also said hemp could replace fossil fuels such as coal and oil and be used in place of plastics and synthetic fibers.

According to Herer, hemp also has medical benefits which have been supported by government studies, yet not revealed to the public.

"Pot is actually going to extend my life," Herer said. "I would live longer if I smoked marijuana every day than if I didn't do any drugs what-so-ever."

Herer also said studies show daily marijuana smokers live eight to 24 years longer than daily tobacco and alcohol users.

Herer believes hemp aids the body by lowering blood pressure, easing tensions and relieving pain. He also said hemp was safe for the body to use and had no adverse side-effects on the brain. "You don't lose brain cells," Herer said. "You gain brain cells (by smoking hemp)."

He said certain brain cells can only be activated by hemp. According to Herer, these cells cause the brain to have a psychedelic experience which he said is nothing more than a mind-expanding experience.

Herer believes the U.S. government is refusing to acknowledge hemp's potential benefits to the earth. "Our government, for whatever its reason, lies about the No. 1 product probably on earth for paper, fiber, fuel and food," Herer said.

"Hundreds of thousands of people have had their properties, crops and children taken away from them because of marijuana usage," Herer said. "In any sane society they would have been rewarded."

## \$60,000 given to research program

Vicki McCoy  
Editor

Glaxo Inc., a pharmaceutical manufacturer based in Research Triangle Park, has donated \$60,000 to UNCA's Undergraduate Research Program, according to John Stevens, director of the program.

According to Stevens, the funding stemmed from a visit earlier this month from Thomas Haber, Glaxo's senior vice-president for finance and administration and a member of UNCA's Board of Visitors.

"The Undergraduate Research Program takes a lot of community resources," he said. "There are other parts (of the program) in

need of funding, but we aren't able to get support because our first priority is the research fellows."

Stevens said Glaxo's contribution will alleviate UNCA's need to look outside the Asheville community for funding. "The contribution is \$60,000 less than we have to look for in the surrounding areas," he said.

Haber said his company believes in the future of UNCA's Undergraduate Research Program.

"Providing original research opportunities for undergraduates is an excellent way to create a meaningful college experience, Haber said. "UNCA has created a program we believe is a model of the nation."

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Photo by LeeAnn Donnelly

The campaign trail

Harvey Gantt campaigns in an Asheville neighborhood. See related story on page six.

## AT&T sponsors nationwide contest

Bonnie Phillips  
Staff Writer

Beginning Nov. 1, more than 15,000 students from over 500 universities and colleges nationwide will begin competing in the Third Annual AT&T Collegiate Investment Challenge.

During the next four months, each student taking part in the Challenge will be set up with a fictional brokerage account worth \$500,000. Participants will purchase stocks through a toll-free service line provided by AT&T.

Every Monday, USA TODAY, a co-sponsor of the event, will provide coverage of the competition in their Money section.

Over \$200,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded. The ten students with the highest portfolio values will win Bahamas vacations.

Ten cash scholarships will also be awarded, with the top student receiving \$25,000. Monthly prizes

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