

Racism was evident in Gantt-Helms Race

On November 6th, it became clear that racism in the political arena is a sad reality.

Whites came out in record numbers to support Jesse Helms and Blacks came out in record numbers to support Harvey Gantt.

If the supporters of either of these men were asked about the pertinent issues, how many could discuss the issues? The sad reality is that people defied the teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who believed in "the content of the character and not the color of the skin." Many would argue that the election was not based on race, but how could a Republican Senator Helms get re-elected? The answer is obvious. White Democrats support the party, but not Black candidates.

It is high time that blacks and whites become more educated on issue-oriented politics. Many Black leaders were pushing a straight Democratic ticket. How can these leaders could be so blind? If Blacks vote a straight ticket, the vote will be continually taken for granted. No political party is going to work for people who are not politically, economically, and socially responsible.

I am a Republican. It is my intention to send a message to the Democrats that

their non-support of Jesse Jackson and Harvey Gantt will not be rewarded by my membership. In learning issues that are advanced by Republicans, Louis Farrakan, and other leaders agree that if we wait on government to uplift our race, we will remain in dire straights.

I could not possibly support a Democrat who wanted social programs without emphasizing education of the people who use social programs as well as training programs to improve their situation. It would also be hard for me to support anyone who agreed with governmental waste such as the \$800,000 research project that was passed in the Democrat-controlled House that was supposed to study why people fall in love.

I classify myself Republican because of issues and not race. The political brevity rests in the willingness of our people to participate in issue oriented politics. This is a plea for all people to become more politically aware. We cannot continue to be as politically backwards as we are. We must all strive to enhance the political climate not only in the state of North Carolina, but throughout the country.

- J. Elliot Pritchett

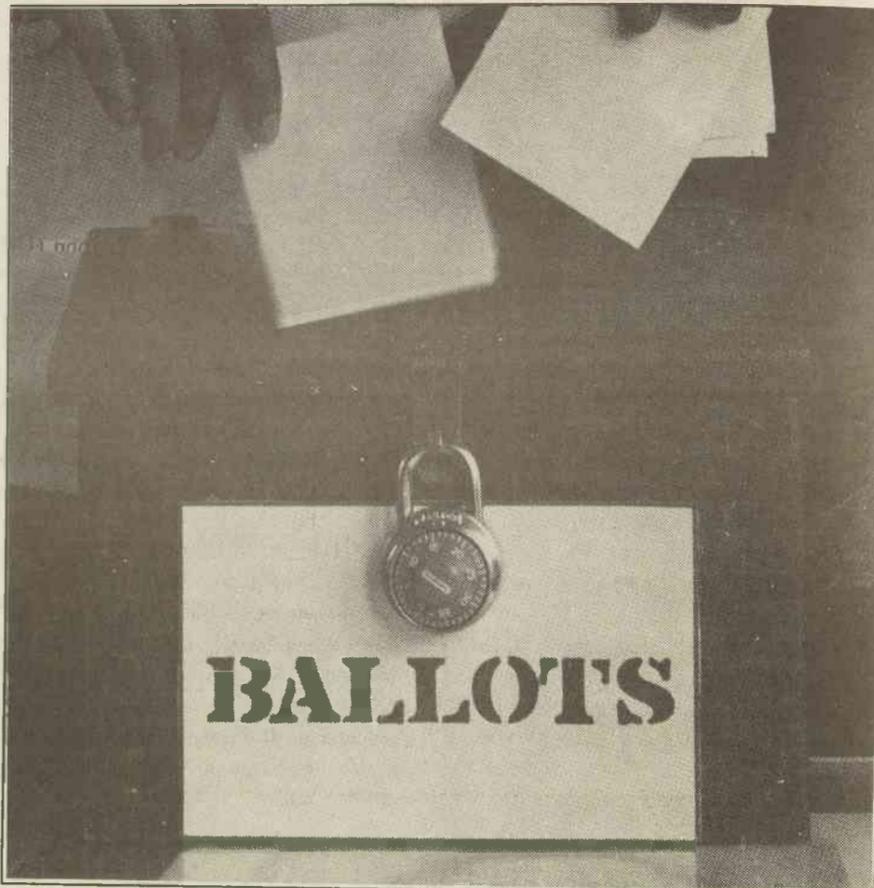


Photo by Rolando Bennington

Those who didn't vote have no reason to voice complaints

BY MICHAEL E. PARKER
STAFF WRITER

Last month, North Carolina experienced an historical moment—the United States Senate race between former Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt and Senator Jesse Helms. Harvey Gantt could have been the first Black senator in North Carolina, but something terrible happened on election day. Some people just didn't take time to exercise their right to vote.

It seems to me that in such crucial times as these, you would want to make

a difference. Such issues like abortion, social security, and educational funding are problems facing this state. Yet, we failed to register and the registered failed to vote. Nevertheless, when taxation comes and funding is short, those people will be the first to complain.

Many people just failed to take the time out of their busy schedules to go vote. That seems like a very frail excuse to me unless you work from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. I doubt very seriously that was the case. Some people even said that their vote would not count. Do you

realize that if everyone who said that would have voted, maybe Gantt would have won? The worst of it is that these people act like the election did not even phase them in the least. Trust me, when financial aid is short, your grandparent's social security is cut, or when the state dictates when a woman can have an abortion, it will affect you.

How can something so important and valued (the right to vote) be taken so likely? Our forefathers suffered long and shed blood and tears just so we can have the right to vote. Yet, many of us failed

to take advantage of this right. Great Black Americans have even died just for the right to vote, but we take the privilege too lightly.

Gantt maybe could have won and been the guiding force that North Carolina so badly needs. You could have made the difference if you would have voted. So if you did not take advantage of the right to vote, a lot of loss is due to you. Your conscious should be feeling guilty. Black Americans redeem yourselves. Register and vote in the next election. It may already be too late!!!

Let's not forget those who are protecting us in the Middle East

BY JOANIE TUTTLE
News Argus Editor

As our country prepares to celebrate Christmas 1990, many Americans feel like they should be contributing more than they are to "Operation Desert Shield".

I think this need to do something stems from the helpless feeling many people are experiencing now.

With the number of troops that America has serving in the Middle East, there are plenty of service men and women to go around for everyone to help. All of the news reports have told us how much it means to the service people to receive mail from anyone at home. So Ram

family let's show the people who are willing to put their lives on the line for us, how much we care!

Individuals, groups, and corporations like AT&T are lending a helping hand by donating a one-page fax sheet free of charge to any person who has immediate family or friends serving in the Middle East. If you would like to take advantage of this generous offer, visit one of the 400 AT&T Phone Centers around the country and ask for a "Desert Fax Form." AT&T will deliver the faxed copy within 48 hours. The only unfortunate part of the "Desert Fax", is that it is a one-way service; Armed Forces people can't respond by fax. For additional information,

call 1-800-555-8111, ext. 36.

Those who are interested in sending a greeting or package to any serviceman or woman spending Christmas in the Middle East, may include any of the following: disposable razors, shaving soap (aerosol products will not stand the heat), sun screen lotion, pre-sweetened, powdered drink mixes, playing cards, puzzles, crossword books, toiletries (lip balm, toothbrushes, stick deodorant, travel-size shampoo and conditioner, soap, pre-moistened towelettes), insect repellent (for sand fleas), hard candies (no soft centers), gum, baked goods that age well, such as poundcake.

Packages and or letters being sent to a service person that you do not know personally should be addressed to Any Soldier or Airman or Marine, Operation Desert Shield, APO New York 09848-0006. For Sailors: Any Sailor, Operation Desert Shield, FPO New York, 09866-0006. If you are writing to a specific person, include his or her name, rank, Social Security number, military unit and APO or FPO ZIP Code.

One final reminder, Saudi Arabian customs prohibit non-Muslim religious or suggestive material, as well as pork products, and alcohol. Additionally letters and packages must not exceed 70 lbs. and must have first-class postage.

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