

Guest Editorial

With Elections Come Sensitive Issues

by Mary Beth Owen

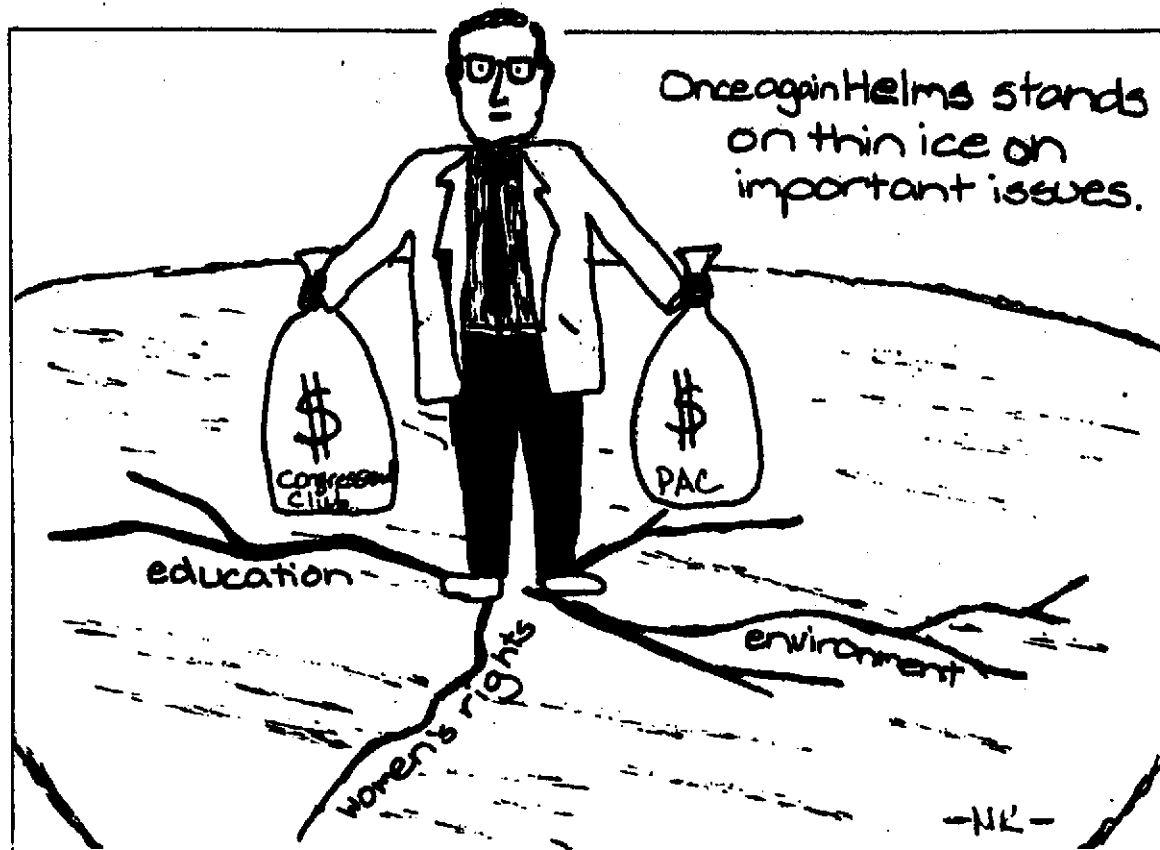
With the November 6th elections approaching, television and radio stations are awash with campaign commercials. Most prevalent among these are Harvey Gantt (D.) and Jesses Helms (R.) senatorial segments. The two senatorial candidates have aired commercials on education, the environment and, of course, their individual credentials for the office of U. S. Senator. But the central debate among these two candidates seems to be a bitter tirade over the issue of freedom of choice.

Harvey Gantt's campaign has aired a commercial which states that he trusts the women of North Carolina to make their own decisions concerning abortion, while Jesses Helms wants the government to dictate what women and their husbands can and cannot do.

In one of Mr. Helms' commercials, an older woman in a red dress explains that Harvey Gantt is asking the women of North Carolina to do some pretty horrible things, such as having an abortion in the final weeks of pregnancy. Mr. Gantt denounced the commercial as "a lie." "I have never advocated abortion in the ninth month of pregnancy. That is against the law in the state of North Carolina."

Another commercial that the Helms camp has run states that Harvey Gantt believes that abortion should be allowed for sex determination. The segment shows Harvey Gantt saying that abortion should be allowed "for sex selection or for any other reason." This statement is repeated several times and once in slow motion. Beth Burrows, a Helms campaign worker, told the Herald that the segment came from a press conference held in August, 1990 in Wilmington, N.C. Mr. Gantt denied that he would "allow abortion for sex selection when parents want a boy and not a girl." This seeming contradiction in Gantt's stand is caused by Helms' ad quoting Gantt out of context. Though Mr. Gantt also says he has never advocated abortion, he has consistently maintained that abortion is a woman's personal choice. Gantt said, "I don't have a position on why a woman should have an abortion."

Jesse Helms' stance would eliminate the option of abortion, force women to carry an unwanted child to term even if the pregnancy had resulted from rape or



incest, limiting her opportunities in life exponentially. In contrast, Mr. Gantt's campaign as stated by Harold Webb, coordinator for the 2nd, 4th and 5th congressional districts, is "about opportunity, hope and improving the quality of life for all North Carolina citizens. It is not about distorting the facts, dividing people or promoting

emotional issues.

Freedom of choice is an issue which affects women, particularly those of child-bearing years, which includes the students of Meredith College. While being afforded the privilege of a fine education, the elimination of personal choice could close the doors that an education has begun to open.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank you for so cleverly, yet evasively opening up the discussion that everyone is so hot to have an opinion about.

The question of [public] funding [for artists] should not depend on the finished product, but most definitely on the artists' genuine talent. Art is a representation of the society in which the artist lives, and how he/she perceives the world; without history we would be nothing. Many artists are homosexuals, like [Robert] Mapplethorpe. Is it not true that they are persecuted in American society? He could have worked for porno magazines and made plenty of money, and nobody would have ever noticed him. He expressed in the eternal medium of art.

Luckily, many people in various areas of society are talented artists, so our descendents can know the truth about our lifestyles. Unfortunately, right wing fundamentalists would like to erase all human history except for their profoundly twisted interpretation of the Bible.

In the words of our recent visitor Dr. Harold Best, who is more educated in areas of theology and art than any of us could ever hope to be, "Christians don't censor anything."

Patricia Underwood

Letters to the Editor/Article Submissions Policy

Everyone in the Meredith community is invited to write a letter to the editor or submit an article concerning any subject of interest to the Meredith community.

All published letters and articles must be typewritten with contact name and telephone number; letters to the editor must be signed by the author, who may request that her name be withheld from publication.

Submissions may be dropped in the *Herald* box beside the box office at Cate Center, sent through campus mail to

Box X133, or delivered to the office in person. Office hours will be posted outside the *Herald* office on the second floor of Cate Center.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon. All letters and articles received after that time will appear in the next edition of the *Herald*, which is published every Monday during the school year. When school holidays fall on Monday, the *Herald* will be distributed on the next full day of classes after the holiday.

Thank you for your participation.

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