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TRYON, N. C. 28782

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The weather Thursday: high 90, low 66, hum. .68 percent.

North Carolina has the best manufacturing climate among the country's industrial states, says a study of business costs released Friday by an accounting firm.

Low wages, few unions and modern unemployment benefits were cited as the reasons. Ranked second was Vermont, followed by Wisconsin, Mississippi, Alabama, Virginia, Georgia, Arkansas, Tennessee and South Carolina.

Manufacturers surveyed were very concerned about the educational level of their employees, much more so than in past years, the company said.

"Manufacturers are feeling the pinch of educational systems that produce workers who can neither read, write, nor perform simple arithmetic. Teaching their employees such skills is a substantial expense," the company said.

Education was second only to wages among the concerns tallied by the survey, up from an eighth place ranking last year.

North Carolina picked up points for improving its weak education ranking. The state improved from No. 27 last year to

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Gantt Campaigns In Columbus

Harvey Gantt brought the U.S. Senate campaign to a crowd of about 74 early-risers at the Polk County Democratic Headquarters in Columbus Friday morning.

"This election is not about obscenity, where I stand on the death penalty, or about patriotism. It is not about bashing one group of people in our society," Gantt said.

He said Helms' style of campaigning, hammering on voters "worst fears and instincts," is "unique in America."

"Even though he won't debate me, and even though he can raise \$20 to \$30 million, this is still America. This is still America," Gantt said.

Gantt said he believes voters in North Carolina, when they work hard to reach out for his campaign, will "bring Jesse home this year."

Gantt outlined his campaign themes for the audience, which appeared enthusiastic. He said the end of the Cold War will make possible a redistribution of the federal spending priorities from defense to deficit reduction and domestic programs.

Even though tensions are high now in the Middle East, Gantt said he believes the threat is nowhere near what it was during the Cold War. In time, he predicted, the crisis surrounding Iraq today will likely appear as a "minor blip on the radar screen"

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Chris Bartol of Christopher Bartol Photography is pleased to announce Jim Kennedy as a partner and also to announce that the studio name has changed to Bartol & Associates.

Jim has a degree in photography from the Southeast Center for Photographic Studies, one of the most prestigious photography schools in the country. His 13 years experience as a professional photographer includes Photography Supervisor for the South Carolina State Development Board and Manager of Photography for the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tenn. He owned and operated a lab and studio in Spartanburg, S. C., for 3 years before coming to Tryon. Jim is a member of Professional Photographers of America, who have recognized him for his outstanding portraiture. Jim will provide the best in distinctive portraits as well as glamour/fantasy portraits, seniors, bridals and weddings. Jim and Chris look forward to a long and prosperous association together.

AFS Students Arrive In Polk

American Field Service student Katherine Raftopoulou from Athens, Greece arrived on Friday, August 10 to live with the Clint and Harriett Blanton family of Columbus. Her host sisters, Joy and Julie have been busy showing her around Polk County and surrounding areas.

Troels Rasmussen will arrive on Saturday, August 25 from Aahenraa, Denmark to make his home with James and Beth Culbreth and son, Scott and Charlie of the Stotts Corner community.

Both students will spend a year here and will attend Polk Central High School. A reception is planned in their honor in September. More on this later. — Reporter

Buys Country Place

Roger and Marlene Collins of Winnemueca, Nevada, have purchased the fifteen acre mini-farm of Phillip and Wanda Fischer of Moore Road in Polk County.

Roger is a former resident and native of the Green Creek area and his wife will be moving to their new home sometime in 1991. He is employed by the construction industry there and will be transferring to the Rutherfordton area with the same firm.

The listing agent was Stokes Shehan of the Walker Agency. Glenn Otto Mittelstadt of AM:Realty was the selling broker.