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Gantt Blasts Negative Campaign In Loss Mayor Loses In Upset

By Herb White
Post Staff Writer

Harvey Gantt's bid to become mayor for a third term fell short Tuesday as Sue Myrick pulled an upset to become Charlotte's first female mayor.

Gantt, Charlotte's first black mayor and the first to lose reelection since 1961, congratulated Myrick but said he resents the type of campaign she ran against him.

"I'm bitter in the way the campaign was conducted," he said. "I still think it was a very negative campaign. I thought it was needless, but if that's what it takes to win, then I feel sorry for Charlotte."

With all 99 precincts reporting, Myrick had 47,311 votes to Gantt's 46,296-50.5 percent of the vote to 49.5.

The election hinged on voter turnout, pitting Myrick's support in the Republican-dominated southeast against the incumbent's stronghold in predominately black west Charlotte. As the night wore on, it became apparent that Myrick's big lead would withstand a Gantt rally that made the outcome close.

Both campaigns got last-minute help from outside the city, with Gov. Jim Martin calling prospective voters to cast ballots for Myrick and sides of presidential contender Michael Dukakis coming in from Washington to help Gantt.

Carrying 72 of 99 precincts,

Myrick piled up a big lead with the help of a heavy turnout in predominately white precincts while black precincts turned out in slightly lower numbers. The mayor gathered 34 percent of the white vote.

Gantt entered the convention center around 9:10 p.m. and was greeted with a chorus of "Gantt, Gantt" from his supporters. Gantt watched returns intently with his wife Cindy and son Adam on one side of the convention center while Myrick, who arrived later to a chorus of cheers, watched on another.

As Myrick's lead got smaller, the throng surrounding Gantt got louder, serenading the incumbent with chants of "Harvey, Harvey." Gantt smiled and waved but still had an intense look while watching returns.

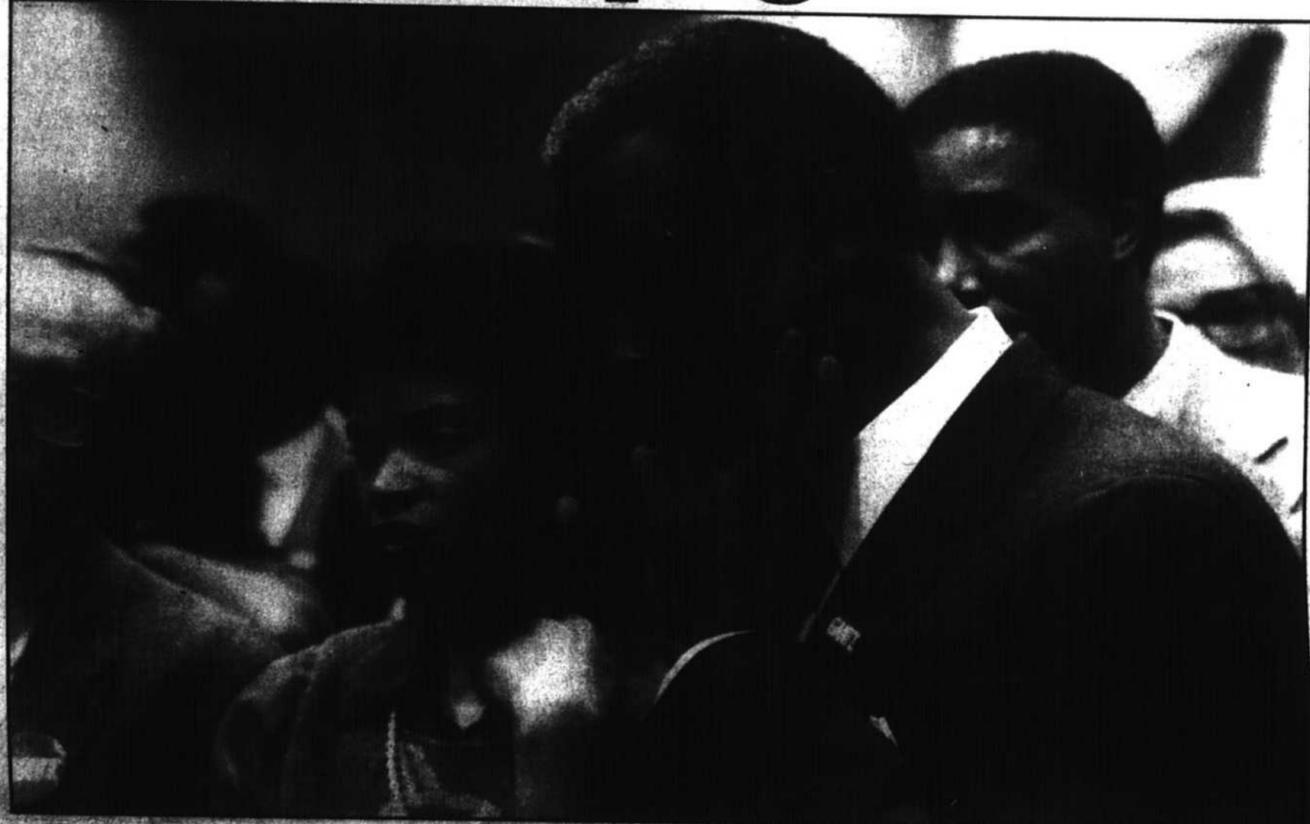
But the cheering exploded around the challenger when the final precinct reported, confirming her upset win. Gantt's supporters went silent after the final tally, with some quietly weeping and consoling each other.

Gantt, looking somewhat stunned by the outcome, said he wouldn't consider a recount although the margin of defeat was slim.

"Why should I ask for a recount?" he asked.

Nonetheless, the mayor said he was "very disappointed" in the way the election turned out. "I

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Dismay etched in his face, Mayor Harvey Gantt, accompanied by wife, Cindy, studied the election returns Tuesday night at the Charlotte Convention Center. Republican Mayoral candidate Sue Myrick sustained her early lead throughout the night and defeated Gantt. Gantt served as mayor of Charlotte for two consecutive terms.

Reactions To Mayoral Election Results:



Ella Scarborough (Councilwoman-elect) said she was "thrilled" to win and will represent District 3 on the city council.



Richard Vinroot (Charlotte City Council Member) said he was "a real surprise" and looked forward to working with her.



D.G. Maxine (Attorney) said he was "real disappointed" and that losing Harvey is like losing a airplane pilot at 30,000 feet.



Pete Cunningham (Member of the N.C. House, D-Mecklenburg) said it will be interesting to see how effective Sue Myrick will be in Raleigh where there are only 34 or 35 Republican Representatives compared to 120 Democrats.



Councilwoman-elect Ella Scarborough (right) shouts her approval Tuesday as returns show Mayor Harvey Gantt catching Sue Myrick. Scarborough will represent District 3 on the city council.

Scarborough Wins

By Herb White
Post Staff Writer

Black candidates for Charlotte city council had mixed results Tuesday, with Ella Scarborough winning her first election and incumbent Ron Leeper nosed out of an at large seat.

Democrat Scarborough will be the first black woman to serve on council after her convincing win over Republican Roosevelt Gardner in the District 3 election.

Scarborough succeeds Leeper, who vacated the seat to run at large. He didn't fare as well, finishing just out of the running for the fourth and final at large position to fellow Democrat Cyndee Patterson.

Patterson gathered 45,917 votes to Leeper's 45,070 for the fourth seat among eight candidates. She will join Al Rouseo, Richard Vinroot and Gus Campbell on the council. Patterson, Vinroot and Rouseo were incumbents while Campbell, a former Mecklenburg County commissioner, will join the group for the first time.

wasn't close as the 41-year-old Duke Power supervisor carried all 10 precincts in racking up 6,258 votes against Gardner's 1,752.

Scarborough captured a broad range of support, carrying 93 percent of the vote in predominately black precincts and 72 percent in white precincts, including some newly annexed areas that are dominated by Republicans.

During her campaign, Scarborough pledged support for current city policies on public housing and transportation. Gardner, on the other hand, was critical of those policies and supported more public-private ventures to relieve the city's housing shortage in addition to trying to redevelop Wilkinson Boulevard and eliminating drug-related crime and prostitution on the west side.

Scarborough, who has served on several neighborhood causes, stressed her ability to work with other council members to help improve the quality of life in District 3.

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GOP Can Increase Black Support, Gallup Poll Says

By Rita Beamish
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON--The time may be ripe for a strong Republican push for black support because blacks' traditionally strong ties to the Democrats are growing weaker, a new study suggests.

But the GOP still faces an uphill struggle to overcome its "disastrous image" in the black community, said Eddie Williams, whose Joint Center For Political Studies commissioned the Gallup organization to conduct the survey. The center is a non-partisan think tank specializing in black issues.

of blacks to the Democratic Party is weakening, they nevertheless remain in that party," Williams said Wednesday in a speech to the Council of 100, an organization of black Republicans. "They have not as yet been persuaded to join the GOP."

"The GOP has enormous image problems in the black community. But at the same time it has enormous opportunity." Only 10 percent of the blacks identified themselves as Republicans in the random survey sampling of 900 whites and 900 blacks nationwide, while 77 percent identified with the Democratic Party, continuing the pattern of recent years.

But the survey also found that only 41 percent of the blacks said they were strong Democrats, compared with 49 percent in 1986 and

54 percent in 1984.

Among young blacks, who have no direct link to the Democrat-led civil rights strides of the 1960s, the lukewarm attitude toward the Democratic party was more pronounced. In the 18-to-29 age group, 18 percent identified themselves as Republicans and only 28 percent said they were strong Democrats.

In addition, 20 percent of the younger blacks approved of the way President Reagan has done his job, compared with only 13 percent of blacks overall.

Conversely, however, the study showed that this group believes strongly in the role of the federal government to ensure employment and a good living standard for everyone, Williams said. And to make matters tougher

for the GOP, 72 percent of the respondents in the 18-to-29 group support Jesse Jackson's bid to be-

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