

## Sanders

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quoted Sanders accurately. "We stand by our story," he said.

Sallie Stohler, the spokesperson for the Sanders campaign, said that Sanders had spoken with the trio about his campaign, but they had not officially endorsed him.

"He did not want to put words in their mouths, but we would love their support," Stohler said.

Mendez, pastor of the Emmanuel Baptist Church, said that he was leaning toward Sanders in the primary because he believes Sanders can defeat Helms in the general election.

"I have talked to Charlie Sanders, but I have not heard from Gantt," he said. "Sanders has a lot of support in the African American community. The people I have spoken to statewide say Sanders has a good reputation."

Sanders attended the CIAA basketball tournament in February in Winston-Salem as well as other black events statewide, Mendez said.

"I want us to defeat Jesse Helms and not just have a good showing," Mendez added. "It is going to take money and an organization to do it. I'm not sure that Harvey is that well organized to compete with Helms."

Chambers, chancellor of N.C. Central University and a former Charlotte resident, appears in one of Sanders' 30-minute TV commercials, but is supporting Gantt in the May 7 primary.

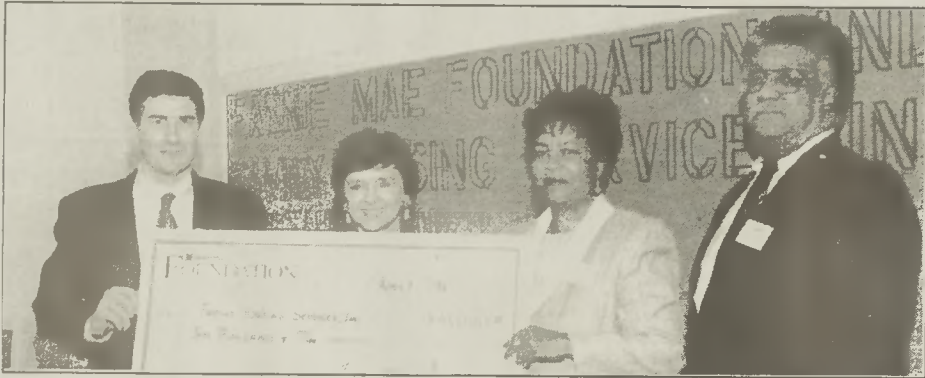
In Sanders' spot, Chamber says that both Sanders and Gantt are strong candidates. He also says Sanders is a good person and would be a better Senator than Helms.

"He supported NCCU and education in general," Chambers told the Chronicle.

If Sanders wins the primary, Chambers said he will support his candidacy against Helms in the general election. But he also said Gantt has a strong chance of winning the primary and the November election.

"I think a black candidate can win," he said.

## Fannie Mae contribution



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Fannie Mae Foundation gave Family Housing Services and Charlotte Housing Partnership \$10,000 recently for programs in Charlotte. On hand for the presentation were (left to right): Jon E. Gauthier, director of Charlotte Housing Partnership, U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick, Gwendolyn L. Roberts, executive director of the Housing Partnership and Ellis Jones, president of Family Housing Services Inc.

## Senate foes disagree on allegiances

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national attention.

"We ran a strong race," he said. "We didn't get buried."

Gantt has dismissed the idea that a black man can not beat Helms.

"People have been saying that all my life," Gantt told the Associated Press. "They've said, 'I don't think a black man can go to Clemson. I don't think a black man can be mayor of Charlotte. I don't think a black can be the Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate.'"

Across the state, there are 696,328 blacks registered to vote. They constitute about 18 percent of the state's voting rolls and could make up about 25 percent of the primary vote-large enough to swing the May primary, the AP reported.

Gantt also mentioned that Sander's company, Glaxo, had donated \$19,750 to Helms' campaign in 1990, that he personally donated money to the Republican candidates in 1994, that Sanders did not vote in the 1990 elections, and

that he was first registered as an independent in North Carolina.

"There is some question as to whether he is a Democrat," Gantt said. "He's no more an outsider than I am. And he didn't give my campaign a dime in 1990."

Stohler said Sanders was the president and CEO at Glaxo when its political action committee donated to Helms' 1990 campaign.

"He had no control of whom the PAC gave money to in 1990," she said. The committee's board of directors decided which campaigns to fund and Stohler and a spokesperson for Glaxo, Nancy Pekarek, said Sanders wasn't a member of its board of directors.

Sanders donated more than \$72,000 to Democratic candidates in North Carolina and

nationwide over the years, Stohler said. She denied that he contributed to any Republican candidate during the 1994 elections.

Gantt never asked Sanders for a political contribution in 1990, Stohler said. "If Gantt would have asked, he probably would have given him money," she said.

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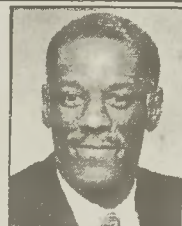
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