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The new Harvey Gantt

Democrat shows toughness in primary; rematch with incumbent Jesse Helms set

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

In beating back a challenge from drug company executive Charlie Sanders, Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Harvey Gantt proved to himself and voters that he is a "new, tougher Harvey Gantt" who

knows how to win a fight.

And a fight he'll face when he takes on 24-year incumbent U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms in the November general election.

Gantt handily won the Democratic nomination Tuesday to face the staunchly conservative Helms, a

Republican, in what will be a repeat of the 1990 election Gantt lost.

Mecklenburg County Elections Supervisor Bill Culp said the primary win gives Gantt a needed boost going into the general election.

"Gantt probably disappointed some of his supporters, but on the other hand, he showed that he is willing to take the fight to Jesse Helms, that he will attack and will respond to

attacks," Culp said. "That's one of the things he was criticized for in 1990.

"He was very aggressive in his campaign against Sanders. He went on the attack fairly early and stayed on the attack. That was a change from '90. It shows he will not take anything for granted."

Gantt and Sanders appeared

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PHOTO/CHARLES CLARKSON

Former Charlotte mayor Harvey Gantt, flanked by wife Cindy, faces 24-year incumbent Jesse Helms for a U.S. Senate seat.

Cruising for a bruising debate



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Officer T. Robinson directs traffic along Beatties Ford Road Sunday as cruisers make their way to Hornets Nest Park. Cruisers and community leaders are trying to figure out a solution to the spring ritual.

Solutions seem fewer, farther away

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

About 5 p.m. Sunday, Beatties Ford Road looked like the hour before the Christmas Parade, except for the bright sunshine and warm humid air.

Orange-striped barricades and dark-suited police officers lined the northwest Charlotte roadway. Sprinkled among the officers were a few of the local citizenry, members of Westside Watch, according to their police-provided T-shirts.

Mostly they waited - enjoying, or perhaps cursing the sun - for the flood of cars expected to ooze down Beatties Ford in the rite of cruising, a part of the American scene since teenagers started driving.

About 6 p.m., with Hornets Nest Park overflowing with young people and their cars, the ooze began.

The "cruise" is a leisurely drive down Beatties Ford Road to Five Points, near Johnson C. Smith



Cruisers Charles Harris, Gary Cooper and Robert Morris are among the hundreds of young people who drive into Hornets Nest Park every Sunday during the spring.

PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

University, and back. Drivers and passengers yell to friends and strangers they'd like to be friends, listen to music, occasionally loud. Mostly they just enjoy riding in what might be their most prized possession.

Cherokee Hines, 40, who cruised in a turquoise 1990 Grand Am, said the ritual is a way for cruisers to get out and meet people. Hines said she went because her 20-year-old son and her young friend cruise.

"They are out there, having a nice time," Hines said. "The guys are looking at girls. The girls are looking at

the guys. They are out of their mother's house. They are not bugging their parents.

A round trip Sunday, with the traffic diverted by police, took most of two hours for those who could make it to Five Points and back. Several N.C. Highway Patrol troopers wrote as many traffic tickets as they could during random stops.

Police officers and their "westside watchers" broke up the snake-like pattern Sunday, diverting cars su-

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Survey connects racism with armed radicals

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUPERIOR, Wis. - There seems to be an increasing link between racism and radical armed groups, University of Wisconsin-Superior researchers say.

Mike Ball, an associate professor of sociology, and students enrolled in his course on hate groups solicited material from the Ku Klux Klan, White Aryan Resistance, Christian Identity, Central Michigan Regional Militia, the Militia of Montana, White Patriot Movement and several Nazi groups, including the American Front and Skinheads USA.

Students studied how members of the groups described themselves and analyzed the materials to find common themes.

Ball said the study revealed some clear patterns:

- The groups generally espouse they are doing the will of God.
- They believe racial minorities are inferior.
- They believe the United States is being run by a "Zionist occupational government," as some literature termed it.

"Are they militia that just happen to be racist or are they racists that carry guns?" Ball said. "This all tends to mix together. The ideologies tend to overlap to a large extent."

Ball and students involved in the study will participate in a public panel Wednesday on campus examining hate groups in the country and the region.

By Ball's estimate, about 20 percent of the "militia" organized in the United States are racist. "But that number is growing," he said.

While membership has declined in groups traditionally connected to racism, such as the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi groups, the new radical groups have increased in popularity, Ball

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With federal budget deal done, Rep. Watt can finally shave

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

next year."

U.S. Rep. Mel Watt can break out his razor now.

Watt, who represents N.C.'s 12th District that includes Charlotte, will shave the beard he's been growing to protest Congress' budget impasse. Watt's growth - which he trimmed regularly - will come off May 11, 174 days after his pledge.

"I was beginning to worry that my beard would span 1995, '96 and '97 because there were times that it seemed very likely that a budget deal would not be reached until after the election and a new Congress was sworn in



Watt before and (perhaps) after impasse

Since Watt decided not to shave on Nov. 20, the federal government shut down twice for a total of 21 days and 13 continuing resolutions were signed before a budget agreement

was signed by President Clinton on April 26. Watt blamed congressional Republicans for making the budget process difficult by taking a hard line against

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Northwest boosters open door to area development

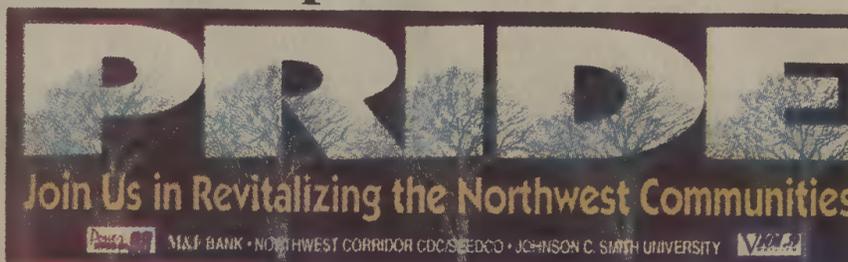
By Winfred B. Cross
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Northwest Corridor Community Development Corporation is putting on a media blitz to entice people to move back to the Beatties Ford road area.

The campaign, dubbed "PRIDE: Join Us in Revitalizing the Northwest Communities," is being funded by a grant from SEEDCO, a private New York foundation.

The campaign was kicked off with a billboard at Five Points intersection, above the Two Way convenience store. WPEG/WBAV FM and Mechanics & Farmers Bank co-sponsored the billboard.

Billboards, radio commercials, and print advertising



This billboard is part of the Northwest Corridor CDC's efforts to spur growth.

will be used to tout the opportunities for home ownership in the area.

"This is to attract eligible home buyers to check out the housing stock available through our agency or other real estate agencies," said Gwen Jackson, community liaison for NCCDC. "We want to further stabilize the communities which have been

affected by young people not moving back to the communities and the overabundance of leased properties in the area."

And that area is not the westside, according to Jackson.

"The image perception of the westside is not the best one," she said. "Wilkinson Boulevard, West Boulevard and the Remount Road area is

the geographically correct westside."

The area NCCDC serves runs from Interstate 77 at Trade Street to Interstate 85. The 12 neighborhoods which NCCDC serves are Wesley Heights, Oakview Terrace, Smallwood, Washington Heights, Taylor Avenue/LaSalle, University Park, Seversville, Dalebrook,

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