

GANTT

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posals in national campaigns because they are so screwed up right now," Beyle said. Political observers say Gantt has also lost support from many 1990 campaign backers and some of the state's most influential black political leaders who have decided to endorse Gantt's May 7 primary opponent, Charles Sanders.

"Gantt has a tricky problem," said Duke University political science Professor John Brehm. "He's already labeled as somebody who lost to (Jesse) Helms. The Democrats will remember that. So he may need to adopt some more conspicuous issues." Beyle said the education package aims to pull in middle class families and drive them to the polls in the primary elections. "He needs every vote he can get, especially

in the Democratic primary," Beyle said. "We know Harvey Gantt. We recognize his face. We know what he stands for, and we know that he lost to Helms. But everybody loses to Jesse Helms," Beyle said.

Mortman said the education package itself is a feasible plan, if Harvey Gantt is elected. "He wants to make sure that Americans can get all the education they want, all the education they need and all the education they deserve."

Brehm said that Gantt may be sincere about the tax cut proposal. However, he said, "Candidates are always promising things that Congress, as an institution, is not willing to do."

Sanders has come out with some education initiatives of his own, but has said he does not support the college tax deduction. Sallie Stohler, Sanders' press secretary,

said, "Charlie has been clear all along that we can't afford tax cuts of any kind until we balance the budget. But college does need to be affordable to everyone who needs, or wants, to go."

Sanders has come out in support of increases in the direct lending program, the AmeriCorps public service initiative and increases in the Pell Grant expenditures.

Joel Packer, a lobbyist for the National Education Association, said that his group is generally supportive of tax deductions for the families of college students but that the issue is not at the top of its priority list. "It's been proposed by several people in the past, and nothing's happened yet," Packer said.

Packer explained that families must have a sufficient tax liability to qualify for the deduction. "If you are poor, you probably

don't pay enough in taxes to have this make a difference," he said.

The NEA would like to see Congress increase the Pell Grant program before it tackles the tax deduction issue. "The Pell Grant was supposed to pay about half of most students' college costs, but it's not coming anywhere near that now. It hasn't

RALLY

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"Where privatization is misleading is in the area of wages and benefits," he said. "A private company, to appear like they are saving the taxpayer money, will reduce housekeeper wages and sometimes cut benefits completely. The majority of the savings don't come from more efficient service but from a cut in how much they pay us."

According to Norwood, Wednesday's protest is just the first event in a movement protesters hope will have a lasting impact on future privatization discussions.

A memorandum delivered to the legislature from the UNC Housekeepers Association and the Coalition for Economic Justice called for increased voter registration drives to "build the political power of the disenfranchised elements of our communities."

"We want to do more than just this rally today," she said. "We want to make people realize that everyone is involved here. By increasing voter registration, housekeep-

kept pace with inflation."

With or without the college tax cut, the winner of the primary will have to prepare for a tough battle against North Carolina's senior senator.

"I would not bet against Jesse Helms," Beyle said. "It's like betting against the house. You don't bet against the house."

ers and students alike can stand up to politicians."

Housekeepers and coalition members from UNC-CH joined protesters in Raleigh after assembling at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday in the Pit.

Gerald Horne, director of the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center, congratulated students on their decision to protest privatization.

"The privatization of housekeeping jobs is something that we must all resist," Horne said. "I think when you (students and housekeepers) go to Raleigh to fight privatization, you are acting in the finest interests of the country's political future."

Horne urged students and housekeepers to view privatization not as an issue that affected only housekeepers but as one that affected everyone.

"Privatization presents a clear and present danger to the higher education that we as students and professors enjoy," he said. "If privatization persists, then public education as we know it may also be affected. Privatization will not rest once it gets started."

GRADUATE INSURANCE

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students, said N.C. Sen. Fred Hobbs, D-Moore. "I support increased funding, which brings the best and the brightest to the university system," Hobbs said. "We need to continue to increase our investment in the future. We need to be competitive on the graduate level, as well as on the undergraduate level."

But Hobbs also said it might be difficult for the increase in funding to pass through both houses. "I think the University has very good friends in the Senate," Hobbs said. "But I think its passage in the House is a little harder to predict."

C.D. Spangler, president of the UNC system, said although providing health insurance for TAs and RAs is the BOG's priority, he fears the General Assembly will try to satisfy the masses rather than the few. "We've got 10 things on the agenda for the short session, and this is one that's very important, the most important matter as far as the BOG is concerned," he said. "I think we will be successful in presenting our case. Whether we will be successful in getting money depends on the state of the economy of North Carolina. There are very few TAs compared to the amount of people living in North Carolina, so we are going to have to fight pretty hard."

Katherine Kraft, president of the Graduate and Professional Students Federation, said Republican opposition to increased funding for graduate and professional students was contrary to the party's ideals.

"I think so many of the Republicans do not necessarily have a solid grasp of the reality of education as an investment as both a personal and a community improvement," she said.

Kraft said not providing graduate teaching assistants and research assistants with health insurance, a benefit given to all other state employees, puts the UNC system one step behind other state universities in the fight for the brightest graduate students.

"The issue is that health insurance is provided to state-employed individuals and is considered a basic benefit," Kraft said. "Our outlook on health benefit provision is that it is absolutely necessary for UNC to offer health benefits to students who come in. Currently, graduate students who work as TAs or RAs for UNC-CH must pay \$623 per school year for health care, which is free for graduate students in similar programs at many comparable public research institutions, such as the Universities of Michigan, Virginia and Wisconsin. In a 1993-94 comparison of graduate TA salaries at 26 public research universities, UNC-CH ranked last."

Tom Spittoe, a TA in the Communication Studies Department, "People from out of state really can't afford to come to North Carolina because of the low stipends," he said.

"We're losing the best candidates because the best candidates have offers from several different schools, most of which provide health care. They are looking for their best deal."

Campus Calendar

THURSDAY

NOON BLACK CULTURAL CENTER PLEDGE DAY in the Pit. Come out to show your personal commitment to the BCC and to give your financial donation for the free-standing BCC.

NOON "CHALLENGING MINORITY PRESENCE GRANTS": ANITA HODGKINS, an attorney with Ferguson, Stein, will be discussing the lawsuit brought by her first-year law student, Jack Daly. In Classroom 5 of the Law School.

12:30 p.m. PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY BROWN BAG FORUM ON TEACHING with speakers Steve Shafroth and Eugen Merzbacher in 258 Phillips Hall.

3:30 p.m. HIGH ENERGY/COSMOLOGY THEORY SEMINAR: "Light Photons as Dark Matter" by E. W. Kolb in 258 Phillips Hall.

4:30 p.m. BLACK UNDERGRADUATE-GRADUATE MIXER PLANNING MEETING in the Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center.

5 p.m. CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS MEETING in the faculty lounge in Howell Hall. New officers will be elected. All interested students may attend.

7 p.m. ALL MALE MISS PHARMACY in 111 Beard Hall. Come see your classmates in drag. Tickets \$3 in advance, \$4 at the door. Proceeds to benefit Carolina Parents Network. Sponsored by Phi Delta Chi Fraternity.

7 p.m. UNC OUTING CLUB MEETING in 304 Woolen Gym. Officers will be elected.

8 p.m. ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS MEETING in 103 Bingham Hall.

8 p.m. "A NIGHT OF SONG AND DANCE" AIDS House benefit in Carmichael Ballroom. Admission is two cans of food or a small donation. Sponsored by Carmichael Dorm Government.

9 p.m. MIKE GARRIGAN AND FRIENDS at the Newman Center.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Today is the last day for graduate students, faculty, staff and administrators to R.S.V.P. for **THE BLACK UNDERGRADUATE-GRADUATE MIXER**. Call 962-9001.

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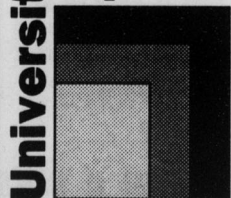
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SENIOR WEEK '96

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sí.

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TUESDAY...\$1.50 Texas Beers

WEDNESDAY...Draft Night \$1 Domestic & \$2 Microbrews

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