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Clemson College Students Tolerating Harvey Gantt

By KEN MINK

Clemson College students are accepting the presence of Negro Harvey Gantt with "quiet patience," according to a Bristolian who is attending the South Carolina school.

Virginia High School graduate Bill Burnette says Gantt's presence on the campus is seldom discussed.

The 20-year-old Gantt, an honor student while in high school, made history recently by enrolling at Clemson. The occasion marked the end of South Carolina's distinction as the only state which had never allowed a Negro student to enroll in an all-white school.

"Gantt comes and goes as he pleases," said Burnette. "We don't bother him and he doesn't bother us."

Burnette, speaking by phone from Clemson, says Gantt is majoring in architecture.

"He is in a tight course that requires a lot of lab work in the afternoons," said Burnette. "That doesn't leave him any time for anything."

Burnette, a star on the Clemson baseball team, says Gantt is not participating in any intramural sports.

"He got here right in the middle of our intramural basketball season. With his busy schedule, he will have a hard time trying to find time for intramural softball."

Clemson students have taken Gantt's presence with the proverbial grain of salt, says Burnette. Even so, they have not been as violent as some state officials in South Carolina. A furor recently erupted in the South Carolina political ranks over the purported "lack of resistance" demonstrated by Clemson officials concerning Gantt's admission to the school.

"I guess Clemson students learned a lesson from the mistakes made during the Ole Miss battle over James Meredith," said Burnette.

"As far as I know there hasn't been any organized student protests planned by anyone here," commented Burnette.

"He is very inconspicuous," said Burnette. "I've seen him but once. I was coming from a drill class and he was leaving a classroom building."

He was alone," said Burnette.



HARVEY GANTT